

## CHAPTER 21

Lucas stopped looking at those people. Instead, he walked toward Charlotte, reached out to carry Amelia into his arms, and comforted her. "Amelia, everything's okay now. Don't be scared. I'll take you home now."

"Daddy!" Amelia buried her head in Lucas's chest and hugged him tightly. Only then did she gradually stop shivering.

Holding Amelia in his chest, Lucas covered her ears with one hand and walked straight toward the gates of the kindergarten.

"Damn it! Are you blind... Ah!" The bald man leading the team was just about to stop Lucas, but he suddenly shrieked as Jordan sent him flying with a hard kick.

It was followed by continuous cursing and screaming.

Lucas ignored all of them and simply focused on coaxing Amelia, preventing all the uncouth curses from tainting her ears.

From the corner of her eye, Charlotte watched the group of burly tattooed men getting kicked away, secretly frightened. However, she followed closely behind Lucas and only heaved a sigh of relief when they got inside the car.

When she saw Lucas again, she no longer saw him as a good-for-nothing like she used to.

Lucas's dominance just now, and Jordan, the young man who addressed Lucas respectfully and could beat up so many people...

She was now very curious about what Lucas had been doing during the six years. Why did he seem like a gang leader?

Lucas fastened his safety belt and was just about to start his car when he suddenly thought of something and lowered the car window. He said to Jordan, "Don't get anyone killed."

“Yes, Lucas,” answered Jordan, who was having a whale of a time beating them.

Charlotte was speechless. She suddenly felt that he was really scary!

However, Amelia didn’t feel the fear that her aunt was feeling because she was gazing at her dad with admiration and awe. Lucas couldn’t help but scratch her little nose gently when he stopped at a red light.

Soon, they arrived back at the entrance of the Carter residence.

Carrying Amelia in his arms, Lucas alighted. But as soon as he turned around, he met Karen’s angry eyes.

“You actually dare to come back? Do you know how huge of a mess you’ve created, you piece of trash?!” Karen cursed and almost poked Lucas in the face with her finger.

Lucas simply moved backward slightly, lest Karen go overboard and poke Amelia instead.

However, Charlotte was overwhelmed with terror, and she hurriedly grabbed Karen’s finger in fear of her provoking Lucas. “Mom, let’s talk when we’re inside. We’ll talk things over calmly, alright?”

She hurriedly went inside the house, shoving Karen along.

“Talk things over calmly? What’s there to talk about with him calmly?! He’s a troublemaker and a jinx who’s going to cause us to get kicked out! We were doing fine without him. But ever since he returned, he has created so much trouble! If I had known earlier, I’d wish for him to die out there!”

Cheyenne happened to come home at this juncture. Seeing her mother scolding Lucas again, she couldn’t help but sigh deeply.

Amelia had finally gotten to see her father, so she couldn’t tolerate hearing him get scolded. Pouting angrily, she exclaimed, “Daddy’s not going to die!”

Daddy is awesome! Just now, someone bullied me and Aunt Charlotte and even threatened to hit us, but Daddy saved us!”

Shocked by her words, Cheyenne hurriedly asked, “What happened?”

Karen couldn't be bothered to continue berating Lucas and instead quickly asked about what happened.

Charlotte told them about everything that happened at the kindergarten before saying with lingering fear, “That couple is too disgusting. Not only did they falsely accuse us, but they even tried to beat us without hesitation. If not for...” She paused and stopped herself from saying ‘good-for-nothing.’ “If Lucas hadn't arrived in time, I would have been slapped by that fat woman!

“Later, thanks to his friend's help, we returned safely.”

Karen gritted her teeth again and started to curse at that couple. The scion of the richest family in the county has taken a fancy to my daughter. What would happen if her pretty face was ruined by that fat woman?!

Cheyenne frowned. “Seems like that person has a significant status. Stay at home for the next few days in case they exact revenge on you.”

“No!” Charlotte and Karen opposed in unison.

Karen naturally hated Lucas like she always had and couldn't wait to kick him out. On the other hand, Charlotte said no because she was afraid of Lucas.

“Mother, what if he encounters a mishap out there?”

“If he dies, so be it. In fact, it'd be even better because you can then marry Seth,” Karen said nonchalantly.

“Mother! Must you force me like this? If you insist, I can’t stay in this family any longer,” Cheyenne said with a look of displeasure.

“Okay, okay. You’re really something. I’ll stop, alright?” Karen glared at Cheyenne angrily.

“He can stay, but we won’t feed any loafers. He has to pay a monthly rent of fifteen hundred dollars excluding utility bills and daily expenses!” Karen demanded, deliberately making things hard for Lucas. If this good-for-nothing can afford fifteen hundred dollars, pigs will fly! By then, he’ll only have himself to blame when I chase him out!

“Sure. It’s settled then!” Lucas agreed immediately with a gleeful expression.

He merely had to pay fifteen hundred dollars for a chance to spend time with his wife and daughter. What a pleasant surprise!

Fearing that Karen would back out, he immediately returned to the car and took out a thick wad of bills from the bag under the backseat.

“There’s fifteen thousand here for half a year’s rent and utilities. I’ll top it up if it’s not enough.”

## **CHAPTER 22**

Karen didn’t expect that Lucas could really take out so much money on the spot. She stepped forward, grabbed the stack of bills, and took a few of them out while muttering, “Where did this good-for-nothing get so much money? Surely they can’t be fake, right...”

After realizing there were no issues with the bills, she looked at Lucas in bewilderment again. “Where did you get the money? I saw you take it out from the car. You didn’t take Charlotte’s money, did you?”

Charlotte obviously didn't dare to let her mother continue and frantically pushed Karen. "Enough, Mom. This money does belong to him. Since you've received the money, why do you care where it comes from? I'm hungry. Go make dinner quickly."

Having received fifteen thousand dollars for no reason, Karen entered the house in a wishy-washy fashion.

Cheyenne breathed a sigh of relief and looked at Lucas, who was holding the joyous Amelia and looking at her with a gentle and expectant gaze. Not knowing what expression to make, she led Lucas upstairs with a solemn expression.

She decided to let Lucas stay at her home entirely for the sake of her daughter.

Soon, Amelia's gleeful giggling came from the room upstairs.

Karen was whipping a spatula around and making loud, clanking sounds. "She's so noisy. I really don't know what's good about that father of hers. She just loves sticking to him."

That night, Amelia clamored to go to bed in Lucas's arms. Being no match for her daughter, Cheyenne had no choice but to place an extra mattress for Lucas in her room.

However, Cheyenne was full of frustration and couldn't fall asleep for a long time. She was not just vexed about the Stardust Corporation but also about Lucas.

Holding his fast asleep daughter and listening quietly to Cheyenne's breathing near him, Lucas felt his heart ache.

The two of them each had their own thoughts and couldn't fall asleep for a long time.

The next morning, Lucas got up and went out to call Davis.

At this moment, it was only past six in the morning, and Davis was feeling frustrated because the ringing of his cell phone was disturbing his sleep. When he saw the caller ID, he immediately shuddered and sat up in shock. "Good morning, Mr. Gray."

"How are the negotiations going with the potential partners of the Stardust Corporation?" Lucas asked calmly.

Davis didn't expect Lucas to call him bright early in the morning to ask about work. He frantically answered, "There are many companies that want to cooperate with us, such as..."

"Is there anyone from the Carter family?" Lucas interjected.

"The Carters? Oh, yes, yes. A Cheyenne Carter came several times yesterday afternoon, but I haven't met her yet. After all, the Carters' company is small and not qualified to cooperate with us."

After a moment of silence, Lucas said tersely, "Cheyenne Carter is my wife."

Davis could sense the penetrative chilliness in Lucas's voice over the phone! He immediately panicked and apologized in fear, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, Chairman! I didn't know about that. I'm really sorry. The Carters..."

"Add them to the list. Send them a contract later, but don't reveal my identity."

"Yes, Chairman!"

After Lucas hung up the phone, Karen happened to be going out to get milk while stifling a yawn. When she saw Lucas, she immediately questioned with animosity, "What are you doing loitering at the door early in the morning? Are you a thief?"

Lucas didn't bother with her and helped carry the milk into the house.

After breakfast, Lucas accompanied Cheyenne to send Amelia to the kindergarten and then accompanied her to the Brilliance Corporation.

Cheyenne wanted to refuse because the Carters hated Lucas, and he would only be berated by them if he accompanied her to work. However, Lucas insisted. After staring at him for a long time, Cheyenne had no choice but to give in. She said dejectedly, "Suit yourself."

When the two arrived at the Brilliance Corporation, Bryce was sitting in the conference room and listening to the loud chatter. Of course, they were gossiping and laughing about Cheyenne, whom he had always disliked.

"Ah, some of you have no idea that some people just like blowing their trumpets even though they're actually incompetent. Cheyenne Carter made several trips to the Stardust Corporation yesterday, but she didn't even get to see the general manager. I saw her standing there for a long time on the verge of tears. It's such a shame she couldn't even get into the office!"

"Haha, does she think she's still the former chairman of the Brilliance Corporation? She's now just a low-level manager. The Stardust Corporation won't be impressed with her. However, it might work if she tries to make use of her good looks and sells her body. After all, she's quite the beauty!"

"Hahahaha, that's right. But unfortunately, that good-for-nothing got away with her..."

Bang!

The door of the conference room was kicked open and slammed against the wall with a loud bang, giving everyone in the room a great shock.

Cheyenne was standing outside the door with a pale face while Lucas stood beside her, his expression cold and menacing.

"What are you doing?! How dare you throw a fit at the Carters' company?!"

Lucas glared at the people in the conference room and was just about to give them a warning, but Cheyenne pulled him back. "Enough. Don't cause a stir here."

Lucas took a deep breath and didn't say anything.

Seeing that Lucas was 'chickening out,' Bryce and the others were about to sneer and mock him, but a senior executive hurriedly walked over.

"The chairman is here with Mr. Wilson. Hurry up and prepare all the documents and contracts. Don't make any mistakes!"

On the other side of the corridor, Dominic Carter was walking over with a middle-aged bespectacled man. "Mr. Wilson, I haven't congratulated you on inheriting your father's legacy. You're young and promising! Regarding our cooperation..."

Before he finished, the bespectacled man interrupted him and pointed at Lucas, who was standing near the door. Gritting his teeth, he hollered, "It's you?!"

## **CHAPTER 23**

Upon sight of his grandfather entering with a VIP, Bryce tidied up his suit and tie and was ready to greet them with a smile, only to be caught off guard when Mr. Wilson pointed in his direction with exasperation all over his face.

Bryce was puzzled at first. But when he saw Dominic and Mr. Wilson glaring at Lucas, who was beside him, with extremely hostile expressions, he finally realized that the one who had offended Mr. Wilson was the wastrel Lucas!



Lucas squinted and thought, Enemies often meet. The VIP, Mr. Wilson, was James Wilson, the extremely haughty man he had met at the kindergarten yesterday.

Bryce hurried forward and smiled at Wilson subserviently. "Mr. Wilson, ignore that good-for-nothing. I'll get rid of him right away! Come on, let's go to the conference room to discuss our cooperation."

Wilson flung Bryce's hand away forcefully and snapped, "Screw that! Is this person one of the Carters? Hah, just you wait and see!"

After issuing the threat, Wilson turned around to leave!

Although he wished he could dash forward immediately to kill Lucas and take revenge for what happened yesterday, his chest still hurt from Lucas's kick, and most of his underlings were still hospitalized. Thus, he couldn't find anyone to help him take revenge for the time being.

"No, please wait, Mr. Wilson. Let's talk things over calmly!" Dominic and Bryce panicked and hurriedly tried to hold Wilson back while persuading him.

"That rascal has nothing to do with the Carter family. I'll get security to come and chase him out now!" Bryce exclaimed.

Wilson slapped Bryce and retorted, "Do you take me for a three-year-old you can fool easily? Why would he be standing in front of the conference room of your company if he has nothing to do with you?"

After receiving a slap from Wilson, Bryce dared not voice his displeasure at all and had no choice but to cover his face while putting the blame on Lucas.

"Mr. Wilson, this loser really has nothing to do with the Carters. If you're upset, I will get him to apologize and make it up to you now!" Dominic glared at Lucas in disdain and yelled, "How did you offend Mr. Wilson? Hurry up and apologize to him now."

When Wilson saw how hostile the Carters were toward Lucas, he felt much better. Raising his head high smugly, he sneered, "I don't care for an apology. If you're still sincere about cooperating, tell this bastard to kneel down to me. If I'm happy, I'll consider the matter of cooperation again!"

Without saying a word, Dominic barked at Lucas, "Didn't you hear what Mr. Wilson said? Hurry up and get your ass here to kneel and apologize."

Lucas naturally ignored him. He obviously wouldn't kneel and apologize.

Staring at Dominic and the others coldly, he questioned, "You don't even know what happened between me and him, but you want me to apologize to him? Besides, didn't you say that I have nothing to do with your family? Who are you to order me to kneel and apologize to him?"

"You!" Dominic was enraged. "If you don't kneel and apologize, I will kick your family out!"

Cheyenne's pupils constricted. Grandpa is threatening to kick us out again. Does he not care about us at all?

Lucas's face was gloomy as well. Threatening me with that, does he think I'll be scared?

If he were alone, he wouldn't bother staying with the Carters at all!

At this moment, a receptionist hurriedly ran over. Panting heavily, he exclaimed, "Mr. Davis of the Stardust Corporation is here. He's waiting in the reception room downstairs!"

"Stardust Corporation? Mr. Davis is here personally?" Dominic and the other Carters were astonished. Even the haughty Wilson was stunned.

"What are you waiting for? Hurry up and receive Mr. Davis!"

Dominic hurried down with a group of people, but since they didn't have enough time to wait for the elevator, they decided to go down the stairs.

Seeing that Wilson was following them too, Lucas couldn't help but sneer.

Cheyenne tugged Lucas and exclaimed anxiously, "Let's hurry down too!"

In the reception room on the second floor, Dominic stepped forward to greet Flynn Davis. With an enthusiastic smile, he exclaimed, "Mr. Davis, my apologies for failing to receive you well!"

Wilson hurriedly extended his hand. "Nice to meet you, Mr. Davis. I'm James Wilson of the Wilson family that helms the Titanium Corporation..."

Davis glared at him dismissively without extending his hand. "The Wilson family? Titanium Corporation? What nonsense is that?"

Wilson's expression immediately stiffened.

Although the Titanium Corporation was nothing compared to the Stardust Corporation, the Wilson family was at least at the bottom of the ranks of the first-tier families. Even the Carters had to suck up to them!

Wilson's face stiffened, and he dared not be hostile toward Davis.

Seeing that Lucas and Cheyenne were here too, Wilson found an outlet to vent his anger. He lashed out at Lucas, "You bastard, who let you come? Dominic Carter, didn't you say that you would chase him out?"

"Hmph!" Davis humphed and questioned, "James Wilson, helmsman of the Titanium Corporation, you're so mighty, huh? Who are you to interfere with the matters between the Stardust Corporation and the Carters?"

## **CHAPTER 24**

Wilson paused and dared not speak anymore. It would be bad if he angered Mr. Davis and made the Stardust Corporation and the Huttons who owned it boycott his family.

Davis quickly glanced at Lucas, but he did not go up to greet him and instead pretended not to know him.

Since Lucas wanted to keep his identity secret from the Carters, he had to follow instructions because he was his subordinate.

Davis took out a document and placed it on the desk in the reception room.

Dominic immediately looked over. When he saw the word 'contract,' his eyes immediately widened, and he said in a shaky voice, "Contract?"

Davis chuckled. "Yes, this is the strategic cooperation contract drawn up by the Stardust Corporation. Miss Cheyenne Carter looked for me several times yesterday, and I was touched by her sincerity, so I want to give your company a chance to cooperate with us. I have already signed this contract. As long as you have no other objections, you can sign it after taking a look, and it will take effect immediately."

The Stardust Corporation actually took the initiative to offer them a chance to cooperate!

It was a godsend!

However, when they heard that they obtained the contract because of Cheyenne, their faces turned grim, and many of them subconsciously glanced at Bryce several times.

Dominic had promised to give the position of general manager of the Brilliance Corporation to the person who managed to clinch the cooperation agreement with the Stardust Corporation.

Now that Cheyenne had clinched the contract, was she really going to make a comeback and become the helmsman of the Brilliance Corporation again?

Bryce looked extremely upset too. He was originally already confident that Cheyenne wouldn't be able to handle the cooperation agreement with the Stardust Corporation and wanted to take the opportunity to drive her, her good-for-nothing husband, and her useless parents out of the family. He didn't expect her to really clinch the cooperation...

Cheyenne was stunned too. Yesterday, she had asked to see Mr. Davis at the Stardust Corporation office several times but to no avail. In the end, she almost thought that she no longer had any hope. To her surprise, Davis was touched by her actions and even brought the contract to the Brilliance Corporation personally.

Needless to say, Dominic was overjoyed. Without even taking a careful look at the contract, he hurriedly signed his name at the bottom and stamped the Brilliance Corporation's official seal on it, for fear that Davis would change his mind and withdraw the contract.

Having finished the task given by Lucas, Davis felt relieved and turned to leave.

Seeing that the Carters had actually signed a contract with the Stardust Corporation, Wilson felt bitter and infuriated because the Carters were too busy rejoicing, so no one attended to him. He stormed off in a huff.

Having signed the contract, Dominic was extremely pleased. He looked at the joyful Carters in the room and suddenly cleared his throat. "Since everyone is here, I shall announce something."

Here it comes!

Everyone came to a sudden realization. It seemed that it was time for Dominic to announce the new helmsman of the Brilliance Corporation.

Countless envious gazes were cast at Cheyenne. Even many of those who had mocked her loudly previously began looking at her with awe and tried to suck up to her.

If not for the fact that Bryce, the eldest scion of the Carter family, was staring at them hostilely, many of them would have run to Cheyenne immediately to show their loyalty to her.

Cheyenne was extremely excited too, and she was staring at Dominic with glistening eyes.

“I hereby announce that Bryce Carter will be the new general manager of the Brilliance Corporation from today onward. He will be fully responsible for all affairs of the corporation, including the cooperation with the Stardust Corporation. Everyone else must fully cooperate with him!”

After Dominic said this, everyone else was stunned.

Lucas’s face turned gloomy, as he didn’t expect Dominic to go back on his word!

After being shocked for a while, Bryce looked pleasantly surprised as he walked over and exclaimed loudly, “Okay, Grandpa! I’ll do a good job and make sure that I don’t let you down!”

The other Carters soon turned their heads over, thinking to themselves that Dominic was just making an empty promise previously. Why would he hand over the company to a granddaughter who wasn’t related to him by blood instead of his biological grandson?

They were muddled!

In particular, a few of them who almost wanted to express their loyalty to Cheyenne felt extremely thankful that they didn’t. Otherwise, Bryce wouldn’t have let them off!

“Okay, this is all. You are dismissed. Get back to work.” Dominic turned around to leave.

Unable to tolerate it any longer, Cheyenne chased after Dominic and stood in front of him. “Grandpa! Didn’t you say that you would give the Brilliance Corporation to the person who clinched the cooperation agreement with the Stardust Corporation? Why did you let Bryce become the general manager instead?”

Dominic glared at Cheyenne apathetically. “Are you upset? If not for you, the Carters wouldn’t have become a second-rate family in Orange County. If not for your loser husband offending Mr. Wilson, we would have signed a contract with him too. You’re so incompetent! What right do you have to be indignant?”

## **CHAPTER 25**

Dominic berated Cheyenne without any mercy, making her feel as though she had been struck by lightning, and her face paled immediately.

Cheyenne didn’t expect that to be the way Dominic had been thinking of her...

Lucas walked to Cheyenne and stared at Dominic indifferently. “You previously said that you would hand over the Brilliance Corporation to whoever clinches the cooperation agreement. Turns out you’re not a man of your word at all.”

Dominic humphed coldly. “Who do you think you are? How dare you question me? I’ll make it clear today. No matter how many contracts Cheyenne Carter secures, I will never hand over the Brilliance Corporation to her! One should know their place!”

After saying his piece, he left with the contract in his hand.

The remaining Carters looked at Cheyenne with a gaze that was worlds apart from earlier.

“Hah, do you still think you can become the chairman of the Brilliance Corporation again? You must be dreaming!”

“At the end of the day, Mr. Carter Senior is wise. He could tell at a glance that she’s a jinx. How can the Brilliance Corporation be handed to her?”

“Bryce is the rightful successor. Some people here are nothing compared to him. How dare she contend with Bryce?!”

“One should know where they stand. Mr. Carter Senior is right!”

“Hahaha, my thoughts exactly. She ought to realize that she can’t hold a candle to Bryce!”

Their mockery was like daggers piercing Cheyenne’s heart.

Cheyenne had founded the Brilliance Corporation singlehandedly with her hard work. Not only did they snatch it away from her, they even berated her like she was the villain coveting the company. They even blamed the family’s poor development on her while ignoring everything she had done for the company, which she had put her heart and soul into.

Why?

Bryce walked up to Cheyenne and stared at her pale face with a smug grin, full of a sense of superiority. “Cheyenne Carter, don’t waste your efforts anymore. From now on, the Brilliance Corporation belongs to me entirely. As long as I’m around, you will never get ahead, and you will have to be at my beck and call. Otherwise, don’t blame me for being nasty to you!”

Lucas suddenly walked over and stood in between the two of them, shielding Cheyenne behind him.



“What are you doing?!” Bryce was instantly displeased. They were standing close to each other, and due to Lucas’s height, he immediately felt a great sense of oppression and reluctantly took two steps backward.

Staring at Bryce with a straight face, Lucas said, “Don’t think that no one knows the sordid things that you did in the past.”

Although Lucas didn’t have much of an expression on his face, Bryce still felt a chill in his heart as he was overwhelmed with fear. Feeling guilty, he said, “What nonsense are you spouting? Damn it! One day, I’ll make sure I kick you out of the family, you trash!”

Bryce hurriedly left.

The other Carters left too.

Lucas glared daggers at Bryce’s back.

Back then, Bryce was the one who gave Dominic Carter the idea to frame Cheyenne and Lucas so as to snatch the Brilliance Corporation away.

Having done such a disgusting thing, he definitely had to pay the price one day!

Lucas and Cheyenne were the only ones remaining in the reception room.

Cheyenne fell helplessly onto the couch with a blank expression and a soulless gaze. At this moment, she looked extremely vulnerable.

“Cheyenne...” Lucas squatted beside her and whispered.

Upon hearing his gentle voice, Cheyenne burst into tears, unable to hold them back any longer. Her tears slid down her cheeks like the beads of a broken bracelet.

Cheyenne looked at Lucas and broke down, weeping silently.

Feeling immense heartache, Lucas reached out to pull her into his arms.

Cheyenne clenched her jaw and sobbed before pounding Lucas's chest again and again.

"It's all your fault... It was your fault then... and now too... What am I lacking? How did I offend you?"

Lucas hugged Cheyenne and allowed her to pound his chest continuously, regardless of how hard she was hitting him.

After a long while, Cheyenne finally calmed down. She was sobbing, and her nose had turned red. She wiped the tears on her face and immediately felt embarrassed when she saw the mess on Lucas's clothes. It had been years since she cried so hard. To make things worse, she was crying in front of Lucas.

"I'm sorry..." It was unclear if she was apologizing for her actions or for dirtying his clothes.

Lucas didn't bother about that. He asked Cheyenne seriously, "Do you really want the Brilliance Corporation back?"

Cheyenne was stunned for a while. "I don't want the Carters' other companies, but the Brilliance Corporation is different. I established it step by step years ago, and I put my heart and soul into every stage of development. It will only be ruined in the hands of those who are incompetent! I just don't want..."

"Okay, I understand." Lucas nodded.

"As long as you wish, I'll get the Brilliance Corporation back for you."

## **CHAPTER 26**

“What?” Cheyenne froze, almost suspecting that she had misheard him.

“I said, as long as you wish, I can give you the Brilliance Corporation and even more,” Lucas repeated clearly again, his tone confident and firm.

Cheyenne looked at Lucas with great disappointment in her pretty eyes.

She stood up coldly and said to him, “I can accept that my husband is a mediocre person who isn’t too capable, but I don’t want Amelia’s father to be an empty vessel who does nothing but brag and lie all day.”

Cheyenne stared at him with a deep glance and then left the reception room silently.

Lucas smiled quietly and thought, It’s alright. She’ll find out one day that what I said is true.

He took out his phone and called Davis. “Conquer the Brilliance Corporation immediately. You know what to do.”

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The news of Dominic Carter appointing Bryce Carter as the new general manager of the Brilliance Corporation quickly spread throughout the entire company. In less than half a day, all the appointment letters, seals, nameplates, and other miscellaneous items were prepared.

Sitting in a spacious office, Bryce spun around a few times on the swivel chair and laughed heartily.

When Dominic entered, Bryce immediately went up to him. “Grandpa.”

Looking at his grandson, who was clad in an immaculate suit, Dominic nodded in satisfaction. “Not bad. You do look like a general manager. Bryce, I’m handing the Brilliance Corporation to you now. Train hard and gain more experience. In the future, the entire Carter family will belong to you too.”

Bryce looked euphoric. Actually, he was Dominic Carter's only biological grandson, and his father had already passed away. It was only a matter of time before the entire family would be handed over to him. He knew that his grandfather wouldn't hand over the Carter family to those who were not related to him by blood.

However, he still had a grateful look on his face. "Yes, thank you for your trust and for grooming me, Grandpa. I'll definitely do a good job!"

However, when he thought about Cheyenne, who used to pose a threat to him, Bryce was immediately displeased. So he said to Dominic, "However, Grandpa, I saw that Cheyenne was incredibly upset over you handing the Brilliance Corporation to me. I'm afraid she'll deliberately retaliate against the company and do something to harm the family."

"If she dares to do that or harbor any ill intentions, I'll kick her and her family out immediately!" Dominic shouted.

Bryce was at ease. He wished he could chase Cheyenne away immediately.

At this moment, his cell phone on the table suddenly rang.

Filled with joy and vigor after assuming his new position, Bryce picked up the phone and asked, "Hello, who's speaking?"

However, his smile soon stiffened, and the more he thought about it, the more he felt that something was amiss. He even began to stammer. "W-wait a minute! I-is there a mistake somewhere? How can that be?" The cold sweat on his forehead instantly dripped down.

"What's the matter?!" Sensing that something was wrong, Dominic immediately snatched the phone away instead of questioning Bryce. Unfortunately, the caller had already hung up.

"What exactly happened?" Looking at Bryce's face, Dominic knew that something terrible must have happened.

Bryce looked at Dominic anxiously. "It was a call from the Stardust Corporation, saying that they want to terminate the cooperation with us. They also said that we've breached the contract and want us to pay massive compensation! Grandpa, what should we do?"

"What?! How did that happen?" Dominic panicked and stumbled, almost losing his balance and falling onto the ground.

Bryce hurriedly stepped forward to hold him. He was caught off guard by the sudden notification and had to let Dominic make the decision.

"Grandpa, have a seat and drink some tea. How could this happen all of a sudden? The contract was just signed this morning, so how could there be a breach of contract? Something must have gone wrong somewhere!"

"Yes, we've just signed the contract, and we haven't taken any action yet. How is there a breach of contract? Did they mention in what way we breached it?"

"No. They merely stated that there was a breach of contract and that we have to compensate in accordance with the terms. The compensation is a huge sum of money, and we definitely can't afford it. Why don't I call the Stardust Corporation again?" Bryce asked.

"Yes, call and clarify with them," Dominic instructed firmly.

Unfortunately, none of Bryce's attempts succeeded, as the other party would simply hang up after thanking him for calling. They obviously didn't want to speak to him in detail.

Dominic was extremely anxious, but he dared not flare up because he was facing the Stardust Corporation.

"Tell everyone to come here for an emergency meeting!" Dominic ordered.

Soon, all the Carters gathered in the conference room.

They were initially still smiling gleefully, but as soon as they entered and saw the displeasure on the faces of Bryce and Dominic, they immediately stopped smiling and sat down conscientiously.

Almost all of them were present, except Cheyenne.

Dominic frowned. "Everyone's here. Bryce, tell them."

"Yes, Grandpa." Bryce sat in the general manager's seat and repeated the news that he heard over the phone once more.

After hearing his words, the Carters were flabbergasted!

## **CHAPTER 27**

"Really? How did that happen?"

"We just signed the contract with them this morning. How can there be a breach of contract this afternoon? We haven't done anything yet!"

"Yeah, the Stardust Corporation isn't playing a trick on us, right?"

"Did they deliberately set us up? But why are they targeting us?"

"They're really shameless. I thought that the Stardust Corporation was a huge enterprise that wouldn't resort to such tricks!"

Everyone was babbling continuously in indignation.

They thought that it was a godsend opportunity that fell into their laps, but it turned out to be harmful to them. How could they tolerate it?!

Dominic smacked the table and roared, "Enough! I asked you to come here to discuss some strategies and countermeasures, not to listen to your

nonsense. Hurry up and think of some solutions. If you don't have any, shut up!"

The people in the conference room immediately fell silent.

"So, do all of you have nothing to say? Have I been feeding a bunch of garbage?" Seeing that no one was saying anything, Dominic got even more infuriated.

"Um, did we offend someone at the Stardust Corporation? That's not right either. If we really offended them, Mr. Davis wouldn't have made it a point to come over to sign the contract with us this morning. In other words, did someone offend the Stardust Corporation after signing the contract?" someone asked carefully.

His conjecture was likely to be true.

Dominic glanced at them coldly. "So, did any of you do something to offend anyone today?"

All the people present felt a cold chill down their spines when they saw Dominic's gaze and hurriedly shook their heads.

One of the Carters discovered that Cheyenne, who usually acted as cannon fodder when Dominic was furious, wasn't here and immediately felt dismayed. He started whispering.

"What are you talking about?" Dominic glared daggers at him.

Taken aback, he hurriedly said, "No, I'm just wondering why Cheyenne Carter isn't here yet. She's always missing when there's trouble."

Cheyenne Carter?

Yes! This must have something to do with her!

Everyone suddenly thought of something, as if they had received a reminder.

“This matter must have something to do with Cheyenne Carter! Mr. Davis of the Stardust Corporation said that he offered the contract to us because of her sincerity. However, in the blink of an eye, he said that we breached the contract and wants us to compensate. Cheyenne Carter should be the one to resolve this matter!”

“Yes! She was the one who clinched the contract, so she should be the one to solve the problem!”

“Besides, everyone is here for the emergency meeting except her. Is it because she’s deliberately avoiding us? Or is it because she’s done something that goes against her conscience?”

The more the Carters talked, the more excited they got, and there were more and more conjectures.

Bryce smacked his hand on the table and exclaimed, “Ah, I know!”

With a look of excitement, he said to Dominic, “Grandpa, I know! Today, Mr. Davis said that he signed the contract with us only because of Cheyenne’s sincerity. I think he must have taken a fancy to her!

“Previously, you said that whoever can clinch the contract with the Stardust Corporation will take over the Brilliance Corporation. Everyone knows that Cheyenne is bent on taking away the Brilliance Corporation, so she must have tried to clinch the contract by resorting to all means. So...

“So, she must have gone and made some kind of deal with Mr. Davis!”

The more Bryce spoke, the more certain he was of his guess, as if these were not just his wild guesses but truths.

“No matter what, Cheyenne is still the most beautiful woman in Orange County. That’s probably why Mr. Davis decided to sign the contract with us.



However, he went back on his word and changed his mind after seeing that you didn't hand the Brilliance Corporation to her! Mr. Davis must be infuriated. That's why he suddenly sued us for breach of contract!"

The Carters came to a sudden realization.

Yes, that must be the truth! It's all Cheyenne Carter's fault!

"Get Cheyenne Carter to come to the office to see me immediately!" Dominic ordered with a hostile expression.

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After leaving the office today, Cheyenne went straight home, where she cooped herself up in her room and refused to see anyone. Her phone was on silent mode too.

Karen kept probing, but Cheyenne refused to say a single word.

The events that occurred today and, in particular, Dominic and the other Carters' attitudes toward her made her feel disappointed.

At this moment, Karen's phone rang. Seeing that it was a call from Bryce, she immediately picked up.

"Hello, Bryce. Yes, she's in. You need to talk to her about something urgent? Okay, I'll get her to go to the office immediately."

After hanging up, Karen immediately pounded hard on the door of Cheyenne's room. "Cheyenne, hurry up and come out. Your grandfather wants you to go to the office for something urgent!"

Cheyenne didn't really want to go. but thinking that perhaps there was something important that she had to deal with at the office, she forced herself to get up.

Soon, Cheyenne arrived at the conference room of the Brilliance Corporation and was greeted by a bunch of people staring at her with furious and peculiar gazes.

Cheyenne's heart dropped. What's going on? Does it have something to do with me too?

"Cheyenne, I didn't expect you to be so shameless. Since you've hooked up with Mr. Davis to get the contract signed, why did you go back on your word and cause us to be sued by the Stardust Corporation for breach of contract?" Bryce was the first to stand up, and he immediately lashed out at Cheyenne.

Cheyenne was instantly stunned!

## **CHAPTER 28**

Hook up? Go back on my word? Breach of contract? What?

"What nonsense are you spouting? Didn't the Stardust Corporation just sign the contract with us this morning?" Cheyenne asked with a frown, her eyes still red from crying just now.

Bryce humphed coldly. "Hmph, drop the act! Just come clean. Were you the one who caused the Stardust Corporation to sue us for breach of contract and demand compensation? How will it benefit you if the Carters suffer heavy losses?"

Only then did Cheyenne somewhat figure out what he meant. She was extremely astonished too. The Stardust Corporation is suing the Carters for breach of contract? What's going on?

"Cheyenne Carter, I'm telling you, no matter what shameless conditions you promised Mr. Davis in exchange for the contract, something has gone

wrong now, and you have to solve the problem!” Bryce exclaimed sternly while pointing at Cheyenne’s nose.

Cheyenne’s face turned red with exasperation because of what he was implying. “What do you mean shameless conditions? I didn’t promise anyone any conditions. Don’t slander me. Aren’t you the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation now? You should be the one to solve any problems that arise!”

“Shut up!” Dominic slammed his hand on the table in anger. “Bryce is now the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation, so you’d better talk to him respectfully! Furthermore, are you showing your disgruntlement about my decision this morning?”

Cheyenne clenched her jaw and said after a long time, “No.”

“Say it yourself. What rights do you have to make me hand over the Brilliance Corporation to you? The scandal you were involved in previously has already brought shame to the family and caused us to incur severe losses because of the stagnation of the company’s development. You refused to marry Seth Miller, and today, your good-for-nothing husband offended James Wilson, causing the cooperation with the Wilsons to flop. I thought that you were at least a little useful, but as soon as we clinched the contract with the Stardust Corporation, this happened!”

Dominic stared at her accusingly. “Cheyenne Carter, I’m really disappointed in you.”

Cheyenne felt extremely aggrieved, but she knew that her grandfather was just biased against her and trying to push all the blame to her. No matter what she said, he would just think that she was making excuses.

“No matter what, you have to solve the issue with the Stardust Corporation, or else we will go bankrupt if we really have to compensate a huge sum of money for the breach. Are you going to watch the Brilliance Corporation fold?”

Dominic was well aware of how attached Cheyenne was to the Brilliance Corporation. Previously, he often threatened her with the fate of the Brilliance Corporation too, making her slog her guts out for the company.

This time, he was doing the same thing once again. Cheyenne's heart was full of misery, but she really could not bring herself to watch the Brilliance Corporation wind up.

She clenched her fist and suddenly raised her head to say to Dominic, "Okay, I can promise to go see Mr. Davis and try to talk him around, but you have to promise me one condition."

"This is your responsibility to begin with. How dare you make Grandpa promise you a condition?" Bryce immediately chided.

Dominic frowned. "Tell me."

After taking a deep breath, Cheyenne said seriously, "If I can solve this issue and save the Brilliance Corporation from the crisis, I hope you will return it to me, Grandpa."

"Don't even think about it! Impossible!" Before Dominic even spoke, Bryce immediately sprung up as if his tail had been stepped on. What a joke! The Brilliance Corporation already belongs to me. Who is Cheyenne Carter to take it away from me? Grandpa will never agree to it!

"I single-handedly established the Brilliance Corporation. After I gave birth to Amelia, you said you'd help me manage it, but you never returned it to me. I'm just taking back what rightfully belongs to me." Cheyenne refused to budge as well.

"You!" Overwhelmed with anger, Bryce turned to face Dominic. "Grandpa, what is she saying? Is she trying to say that we snatched the Brilliance Corporation away from her?! It belonged to the Carters in the first place! Besides, it's indeed true that she colluded with Mr. Davis with the intention to take the Brilliance Corporation away!"

“You actually have the cheek to say that the Brilliance Corporation belongs to you. You’re so shameless!”

“I was wondering why we got sued for breach of contract right after signing it. It turns out Cheyenne Carter has long colluded with others!”

“Cheyenne Carter, if not for our family’s reputation, would you have been able to establish the Brilliance Corporation? We helped you, but not only are you not grateful, you even have the audacity to say that we stole it from you!”

“Exactly. We worked hard for so many years, and if we hadn’t taken over the Brilliance Corporation, it would have long folded! Such big talk! This company belongs to the Carters!”

The other Carters began pointing fingers at Cheyenne, as if the Brilliance Corporation should have belonged to the Carters in the first place and that Cheyenne was just trying to rob them of their asset.

They were twisting facts!

Cheyenne was infuriated, but there was no way she could outargue more than ten people who lived off of the Brilliance Corporation.

“Enough, all of you!” Dominic roared to stop the commotion going on in the conference room.

Glaring at Cheyenne with a stern gaze in his eyes, he threatened, “I don’t care if you deliberately schemed against us this time or what. Regardless, if you can’t settle this issue with the Stardust Corporation within two days, I will remove your names from the family records!”

## **CHAPTER 29**

After Dominic said that, the Carters couldn't help but look at each other.

It had been a long time since anyone was disowned and kicked out of the family.

Although people placed less emphasis on familial ties these days, and being disowned by your family would not warrant public hate, it was still a serious matter for a major family like the Carters.

After being disowned and chased out of the family, they would no longer be entitled to all the dividends and benefits of the companies owned by the Carters, and even their residence would be confiscated.

After all, being disowned by your family was an extremely embarrassing thing, as it usually meant that you had committed a heinous offense and had a problematic character that caused you to be chased out of the family.

Cheyenne didn't expect Dominic to threaten her without getting to the bottom of the truth.

At this moment, Cheyenne's heart turned cold.

She had done so much for the family in the past, but what was it for?

Was a family like this really worth her effort...

Over the next two days, Cheyenne went to the Stardust Corporation countless times and begged to see Flynn Davis but was rejected every single time.

"I'm sorry, Miss Carter. The general manager is busy at the moment. Do you have an appointment with him? If you don't, I'm sorry, but you can't see him."

At a loss, Cheyenne walked out and stood outside the Stardust Corporation office tower, not knowing where to go.

Her slender figure was so thin and fragile that she looked like she was unable to hold on any longer.

Lucas stood on the top floor of the Stardust Corporation office tower and gazed at her figure for a long time, feeling a heartache with misery in his eyes.

“Mr. Gray, are you really not going to see her... She’s your...” Davis asked.

“No, we’ll act according to the original plan. Only when she sees how heartless the Carters are to her can she truly be ruthless and sever ties with them.”

He thought that Cheyenne would only end up getting ruined if she continued to stay in that toxic family where everyone humiliated her and exploited her to no end.

“Cheyenne!” Charlotte hurriedly ran over and hugged Cheyenne with a gleeful expression. “Cheyenne, I just received the notice that I passed the Stardust Corporation’s interview, and I’m now an official employee! This is my nameplate. Don’t worry anymore. I’ll go in and ask Mr. Davis.”

“Charlotte, no!” Cheyenne hurriedly stopped her sister. “You’ve just been recruited, so don’t get involved in this matter, lest it affects your job. That’d be worse! Ah, I haven’t congratulated you on joining the Stardust Corporation yet. Let’s celebrate tonight,” Cheyenne said, forcing herself to put on a lopsided smile.

“Why are you saying this? Cheyenne, I’m not a kid anymore. I can share your burden. Actually, why should you be the one to solve this matter? Grandpa and the others just think you’re a pushover, huh? If I were you, I would just put this matter aside and let them worry about it themselves! What do the company’s risk of winding up and losses incurred have to do with you? Anyway, no matter how much effort you put in, they won’t return the Brilliance Corporation to you!” Charlotte rattled on nonstop like a drum, feeling extremely unjust for her sister.

Feeling terrible, Cheyenne said, "I just can't stop worrying about the Brilliance Corporation. I don't want to watch it get destroyed like this."

Charlotte knew that her sister had always had a strong attachment to the Brilliance Corporation. Stomping her feet furiously, she exclaimed, "In that case, I will ask for you!"

Before Cheyenne could stop her, Charlotte dashed into the Stardust Corporation with her work pass, pressed the elevator button, and rushed straight to the general manager's office on the top floor. The secretary outside didn't stop her at all.

"Are you the general manager, Mr. Davis? I have some questions for you." Charlotte stood in the office and looked at Davis, who was sitting in front of his desk.

"Sorry, Mr. Davis. This new employee isn't aware of the rules and barged straight in. I couldn't stop her," the secretary hurriedly apologized to Davis after glaring at Charlotte.

Ever since he learned that Cheyenne was Lucas's wife, Davis had investigated some of Cheyenne's connections and naturally recognized the new employee in front of him to be Cheyenne's sister.

"It's okay. You may resume your duties." Davis waved his hand at his fear-stricken secretary.

After the secretary left, he looked at Charlotte and asked, "What do you want to ask me?"

"Mr. Davis, I just want to ask you why you signed a contract with the Carters' Brilliance Corporation only two days ago, but you sued them for breach of contract this afternoon? I want to know why there is a breach of contract or if the Carters have offended you in any way. My sister has been waiting for you outside the entrance for two days over this matter. Even if you refuse to see her, it would only take a minute for you to send someone



to make your intentions clear to her, right?" Charlotte's heart ached for her sister whenever she thought about Cheyenne, who was on the verge of fainting outside.

"Since you've asked, I'll tell you. Go back and tell the Carters that they have done something wrong and offended someone, so they must bear the consequences," Davis said.

"Who? Isn't it you whom they offended?" Charlotte asked in great surprise.

Davis shook his head. "No, that person holds much more authority than me, and I can't afford to offend him at all, let alone the Carters. That's all I have to say."

### **CHAPTER 30**

Davis's words put Charlotte in disbelief. The Stardust Corporation had a great reputation in Orange County because it had the support of the Huttons. It was famous, and the companies of the families of all sizes in Orange County dared not offend it and instead vied to cooperate with it. As the general manager of the Stardust Corporation, someone who held authority in the upper-class circle of Orange County, how could there be someone who had higher authority than him?

Who exactly is that person? How did the Carters offend such a person?

Charlotte was full of doubts as she headed downstairs to tell Cheyenne about the news. "Cheyenne, I just asked Mr. Davis. He said that we didn't offend him but someone whom even he doesn't dare to offend."

She didn't doubt the truth of Davis's words.

When Cheyenne heard her words, her face turned pale. Someone even more authoritative than Mr. Davis...

Cheyenne was in despair. Her motivation to stand there vanished, and her knees grew weak, causing her to almost fall onto the ground. "Is... the Brilliance Corporation going to be ruined just like that?"

"Cheyenne!" Charlotte hurriedly held her and exclaimed worriedly, "Don't force yourself anymore. You've already tried your best!"

At this moment, Cheyenne's phone began ringing.

Cheyenne calmed herself down before picking up. "Hello?"

Bryce asked in a hostile tone, "Cheyenne Carter, the two days are up. Have you settled the issue with the Stardust Corporation yet?"

Cheyenne's lips twitched, and she was at a loss for words.

Bryce immediately knew that the matter was not resolved yet and said haughtily, "Hey, you're incapable, so don't blame me for being merciless! Just wait to be thrown out together with your family!"

He hung up.

Charlotte and Cheyenne looked at each other, both having an ominous premonition.

"Charlotte, let's hurry home! We don't know what Bryce might get up to!"

"Yes!" Charlotte nodded and hurriedly pulled Cheyenne into the metallic red Lamborghini. As she sped through the streets to the Carter residence, the sports car roared like a swift bolt of lightning.

Lucas, who was standing on the top floor of the Stardust Corporation office tower, also sensed that something was amiss when he saw how troubled the two of them looked before leaving. Did something happen?

He headed downstairs and followed them.

At this moment, Karen was sitting in the living room of the Carter residence and watching TV. All of a sudden, there was a loud bang from outside, giving her a great shock.

“Who’s there?!” Karen walked out of the house in displeasure, only to see a bunch of people standing in front of the courtyard. The fence of their residence had also been pushed away, forming a gap in the ground!

“Which bastard did this?! Are you blind? Didn’t you see the fence here? I’m telling you, if you don’t compensate...”

Karen flew into a rage and cursed in a high-pitched voice with her hands on her waist. She suddenly saw Bryce walking out from behind the crowd while staring at her with a smug expression on his face.

Karen realized that this group of people at the entrance of the courtyard seemed to be the security officers of the Brilliance Corporation, and Bryce had led them here.

“Bryce... what’s going on? Why are they...” Karen spluttered as pangs of panic engulfed her.

Hearing the commotion and sensing that something was wrong, William hurriedly came out of the residence too. “Bryce, what’s going on?”

“Hah, what’s going on? Don’t you know yourselves? Two days ago, Grandpa said that if Cheyenne Carter couldn’t resolve the contract issues with the Stardust Corporation, he would throw all of you out and disown you! Now, time is up. What do you think is going on?”

Karen and William immediately panicked.

They had heard about this matter before but didn’t pay much attention to it because they knew that it was Cheyenne who had clinched the contract between the Brilliance Corporation and the Stardust Corporation. They reckoned that it should have been a simple task for her to clarify the

misunderstanding and convince the general manager of the Stardust Corporation to cooperate with the Brilliance Corporation again.

They never expected that Cheyenne would fail to resolve it and that Bryce would be so merciless that he would bring his men over to chase them away!

“Throw them out together with all their belongings!” Bryce waved his hand and ordered his subordinates.

“Stop!” William hollered loudly in anger. He looked at Bryce. “Bryce, I’m your uncle. Aren’t you going to take that into account at all?”

“Hmph, you’re just a bastard that Grandma brought into the family. How are you considered my uncle? Back then, Grandpa only allowed you to take on the Carter last name because of Grandma. You took advantage of the Carters and lived in the lap of luxury for a long time. Have you forgotten who you are? People like you and your family should have long been thrown out!” Bryce retorted harshly with derision.

The word ‘bastard’ made William turn beet red, and Bryce’s remarks made him furious, but he was at a loss for a rebuttal.

“Throw them out!”

Hearing Bryce’s command, the security officers dared not be negligent, and they smashed everything they could. While struggling and yelling, Karen and William were dragged away. A huge commotion broke out in the small courtyard.

Cheyenne and Charlotte hurried into their residence, only to be greeted with the chaos.

“All of you, stop!”