

## **CEOs Baby 701**

### Chapter 701: Another Problem Follows (Back To The Main Storyline)

Fortunately, it would not happen again.

“Someone was following you, but he didn't do anything to you. So, I think you should know that this person was just making sure that something happened. As expected, he probably wanted you to have sex with Sarah. Once you've slept with Sarah, that would be the end of your and Monica's relationship.”

Finn agreed with Jeanne's logic.

“I think we both know who this person is.”

Yes. They both knew that Michael had ulterior motives.

However, Monica did not believe it.

Hence, Monica would be hurt by Michael in the end, or Michael would give up a lot for Monica, but it was not his problem to consider anymore.

That was Monica's choice.

“You don't care if Monica was deceived, right?” Jeanne did not get Finn's reply, so she asked him.

“That was her choice, and she has to bear the consequences.”

Jeanne did not try to persuade him further because Finn was right.

She always felt that between Finn and Monica, Finn had tried very hard to keep the relationship. Otherwise, he would not change his mind so drastically.

She said, "Alright. I'm just telling you that Michael might do something to you. Be careful."

"Thank you," Finn thanked her politely.

Then, Jeanne hung up the phone thoughtfully.

Right now, she really did not want to stir anything between Finn and Monica. What she was worried about was that Monica might not be able to accept the truth when she found out as Monica had not experienced anything difficult.

Outside the room, there was a sudden knock on the door.

Jeanne's eyes darted to the door. "Come in!"

Amy reported in a hurried voice, "President Lawrence, something bad has happened. Our agents are now openly protesting against you, saying that you deprived them of their hard-earned money and that you forced them into a dead end. Now, all the agents are causing trouble at the entrance of the company, and the media and reporters are coming!"

Jeanne's expression darkened.

What kind of trouble was it again?

She hurriedly got up and walked out of the office.

Before she could settle one problem, another problem followed. It seemed like some people's methods were endless!

Together with Amy, she walked directly to the entrance of Lawrence Enterprise's hall.

At that moment, many people had gathered at the entrance and were making a fuss. They were holding up banners and signs, agitatedly denouncing Lawrence Enterprise for their unkindness and injustice to them. The finger was even pointed directly at Jeanne, saying that she was backing them into a corner and forcing them to die...

Jeanne could hear the curses directed at her from far away at the entrance.

Quite a number of reporters had gathered at the scene and were excitedly conducting interviews.

The security guards at the entrance had been stopping the troublemakers from rushing into the hall. It was a mess.

Jeanne took a deep breath.

"President Lawrence," Amy called out to her. "If you go over like this—"

"They can't hurt me," Jeanne said.

Without any hesitation, she walked straight to the door.

Just as she walked out, the crowd was in an uproar.

"Jeanne, I can't believe you still have the nerve to come out! You're the cold-blooded businessman who has destroyed my family!"

"You forced us to a corner and caused us to have nothing. If you don't give us an explanation today, we won't leave even if we die!"

"I've been with Lawrence Enterprise for 20 years and invested all of my capital into the Lawrence Enterprise, yet this is what becomes of me. I can't accept this!"

...

Everyone was very agitated.

In reality, Jeanne did not know what they were making a fuss about.

Moreover, who were those people? Lawrence Enterprise's employees? Employees from other branches?

It did not seem like it, though.

"Jeanne, why aren't you speaking? Do you think you can dismiss us just because you don't speak? Dream on! We will be here until we die!" A middle-aged man cursed at Jeanne.

Jeanne glanced at him and said, "Who are you guys?"

"Ha." Another man laughed out of anger. "She doesn't know us! No wonder she managed to trick us so badly."

Jeanne really did not know who they were, but she tried her best to act calm.

She said, "Should I know you guys?"

"I'm the physical store agent of South Hampton City's largest Lawrence Electrical store. I'm Rick Gordon!" The man introduced himself fiercely.

Then, the few people around him introduced themselves.

"I'm the south region's general agent, Greg Norton."

"I'm the western region's..."

It turned out they were all physical store agents.

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No wonder they were so angry.

Ever since Lawrence Enterprise's online project started, the results had been remarkable.

Currently, online transactions were much more than offline transactions, and online transactions were Lawrence Enterprise's direct operations. Retail store agents had no benefits to speak of, so they were starting to make trouble.

According to common sense, even if those people wanted to make trouble, they should have come to her first rather than making it known to the entire city.

It was to garner public attention, and someone was behind it.

Jeanne's expression did not change. Anyway, she would be able to know who was secretly causing all that trouble.

However, this was good too.

She was still trying to figure out how to get Eden out of Lawrence Enterprise, and if there was no solution to the issue, some people would take the initiative to send themselves to their graves.

She said, "So you guys are Lawrence Enterprise's business partner. I'm sorry. I just returned to Lawrence Enterprise, so I might not be familiar with everyone. That was why I didn't recognize you."

“Cut the crap!” Rick did not appreciate it at all, “Lawrence Enterprise is doing so well now. In terms of the sales of electrical appliances in the country, you guys are almost catching up to the first place. According to the current trend, I think you will be able to catch up with the previous foreign brands and return to the top position in the electrical appliance market! You guys are in such a hurry, but have you thought about the life and death of us brick-and-mortar shop owners? Our business has been slow, to begin with. Now that you've established an e-commerce platform, you want us, agents, who have been with Lawrence Enterprise for so many years to declare bankruptcy?”

Jeanne really did not consider the profits of the brick-and-mortar agents.

After all, when she returned to the Lawrence Enterprise, the real economy was already very weak. In fact, many of the agents had already begun to transition because they knew that if Lawrence Enterprise continued on that way, they would be doomed. Hence, some of the larger agents acted as agents for many other electrical appliance brands at the same time. Moreover, due to the fact that Lawrence Enterprise's sales were declining year by year, the original exclusive agreement with the agents had also become a decoration. The senior management was afraid to anger those large agents, and once those agents give up on carrying Lawrence Electrical's products, Lawrence Enterprise's market share would drop lower and lower. Therefore, they let the issue slide for fear of offending the agents.

However, Jeanne could also understand that as a businessman, the agents would definitely look at the profits.

Lawrence Enterprise may have developed anew, but being in the real economy, the agents did not receive any benefits. Since it upset the balance of the situation, issues would arise once anyone advocated for it.

Although Jeanne did not expect those people to come and cause trouble, she was not surprised they did.

She said calmly, “The Lawrence Enterprise's e-commerce project reform follows the trend of the times. I believe everyone knows very well that if Lawrence Enterprise continues to use the traditional sales model, we will die without a doubt. However, the transformation of the company has indeed neglected our various partners. Even if we, Lawrence Enterprise and you agents, are only in a partnership. We do not have labor relations. However, as one of the enterprises in Harken, Lawrence Enterprise will fulfill its corporate social responsibility. They will assess everyone's losses and, at the same time, find a better way to cooperate offline.”

Her words successfully clarified the relationship between the Lawrence Enterprise and its agents. It was just a business collaboration and there was no so-called labor responsibility. Therefore, the Lawrence Enterprise could have ignored those people. Even so, the Lawrence Enterprise still chose to take responsibility to create a positive social image of the Lawrence Enterprise.

To put it more bluntly, all the people who came to cause trouble today were being unreasonable.

Lawrence Enterprise was taking a humanistic point of view and was willing to step forward to solve their problem.

The media naturally understood the underlying meaning in a second, and so did the agents.

However, Rick was unconvinced. He shouted at Jeanne, "What do you mean? Do you mean Lawrence Enterprise has nothing to do with this? You don't need to be responsible for us?"

"Legally, we don't have to," Jeanne said bluntly, her tone threatening.

Rick was angry but could not find the words to refute her.

Jeanne said, "However, I just said that Lawrence Enterprise will fulfill their social responsibility and find a better way for us to work together to solve your current problems. I hope you'll give us some time, and I believe that we will give you a perfect answer soon."

"You're clearly brushing us off!" Rick did not accept Jeanne's proposal at all.

"You were the ones who suddenly appeared and accused our company of wrongdoing without giving me any time. Do you think that I should have thought of a solution in advance?" Jeanne asked in return.

Rick was stunned.

"Mr. Gordon, by using such an extreme method to achieve your goals, what kind of answer do you want me to give you now?" Jeanne's sarcasm could not be more obvious.

The media understood what she meant as well.

One of the reporters could not help but ask out loud, "President Lawrence, do you mean that instead of going to you in private, these people directly came to the company to make a fuss?"

"Yes." Jeanne replied, "That's why I can't give them a clear answer."

The reporter hurriedly asked Rick beside him, "Why didn't you choose to communicate with President Lawrence first and instead chose this method to make a fuss?"

"Because... Because..." Rick was a little speechless.

Hence, Greg quickly said, "We were also forced into a corner. We always thought that Lawrence Enterprise treated us, partners, well. Hence, when we saw our sales getting worse while Lawrence Enterprise was growing bigger, and they didn't seem to want to solve our problems after a long time, we had no choice but to use such an extreme method."

Jeanne naturally did not believe them.

However, in order to calm things down at that moment, she said, "I understand, but I also hope you can understand my situation. Please give me some time to deal with your matters. As I said, I will give you a satisfactory reply."

Since Jeanne had said that, Rick had nothing more to say.

Rick was the leader, and if he had nothing to say, Greg did not say anything more either.

"In that case, may I'll ask everyone to return first? Once we have settled the matter, I'll inform everyone."

"A week's time." Rick said, "We can't exceed a week's time. We can't continue to suffer losses like this."



“Alright.” Jeanne agreed immediately.

Finally, the matter was temporarily resolved, and the troublemakers left. The hall at Lawrence Enterprise returned to normal.

On the high-rise building, Eden watched the scene downstairs and sneered.

Jeanne's ability to settle the matter was really beyond his imagination.

She chased those people away so quickly, but, of course, the matter was not over.

This time, he would definitely kick Jeanne out of Lawrence Enterprise!

Chapter 703: A Dangerous Fight, the Appearance of a Big Shot

Jeanne returned to her office, with Amy following closely behind.

Forrest was also called in.

Since Jeanne was promoted to the position of Lawrence Enterprise's executive general manager, the people in her project team also got a promotion.

“What's the deal with Lawrence Electrical's retail agents?” Jeanne asked.

Forrest quickly answered, “Lawrence Electrical has a general retail agent in every region and is distributed in various stores across all parts of the country through them. Each place has its own direct-sale store under Lawrence Enterprise's management and stores under the retail agents. 20 years ago, when Lawrence Electrical was at its peak, the retail agents had stores almost all across the country and in overseas countries. However, with the outdated sales of Lawrence Electrical, foreign electrical appliance brands gradually moved into Harken ten years ago, and the sales volume of Lawrence Electrical decreased significantly every year. Up until now, Lawrence Enterprise's physical stores have downsized by two-thirds compared to when it was at its peak. We have also analyzed the remaining one-third. The turnover is not high, and most of the stores are barely keeping up.”

Jeanne was deep in thought as she listened to Forrest's report.

“Now that the house prices are getting increasing, the rents of the shops are also rising. I have analyzed a few of the retail agent stores that used to do well, and their annual net income doesn't exceed 50 thousand dollars. However, 20 years ago, their income exceeded 100 thousand dollars. With inflation going on, their income did not increase but instead was reduced by half. From a fair and just point of view, we are indeed in the wrong when it comes to the business of these retail stores.”

Jeanne nodded, “Back when I was overseas, their development of the internet was ahead of Harken for many years, so the real economy took up a very small proportion of the national economy. Hence, the people didn't depend much on the real economy. I had almost never considered the marketing of physical stores when I was at MUK Group, so when I returned to Lawrence Enterprise this time, I never thought I would have to develop or support the sales of physical stores.”

“According to the current development of Lawrence Enterprise's e-commerce business, I've done a rough analysis of it. If we were to reduce half of our current physical stores, it wouldn't have much of an impact on our sales. But now, our reputation has been greatly affected. I've also done some investigating. Back then, because the internet wasn't developed, Lawrence Enterprise's success was actually due to the owners of these physical stores and the agents who kicked up a fuss just now. Apparently, it was your mother, Penelope, who opened the chain of Lawrence Enterprise physical stores. That was how Lawrence Enterprise become one of Harken's top enterprises at that time and saved the so-called economic development of the twelve families back then.”

Jeanne's eyes moved slightly.

In that case, it meant that those people worked for her mother back then.

Every era had its own way of developing.

In the past, when Internet technology was not yet developed, one had to open chain stores and constantly recruit retail agents if one wanted to hold market share. Moreover, the investment in physical stores was greater than in the Internet in the first place, hence attracting investment and business opportunities was the best way to grow the company. Moreover, Lawrence Enterprise did not have much money back then. If it were not for the retail agents sharing some of the costs, Lawrence Enterprise would not have developed so smoothly. Moreover, at that time, Lawrence Enterprise had an

advertising slogan that said, “80 percent of the household appliances are from the Lawrence Enterprise.”

One could imagine how high Lawrence Enterprise's market share was back then.

Her mother had developed Lawrence Enterprise to its peak, only to end up being framed by someone.

Jeanne pursed her lips.

Some things were easy to get into a dead end if one thought too much about them.

She went straight to the point. “What is the biggest struggle in the real economy right now?”

“Firstly, there are too few people. Currently, the rate of people entering the physical or retail store business is very low. It is about 30 percent of the original rate. Moreover, most of them are middle-aged and over 50 years old, and the sales volume is mostly for low-end products. Secondly, the rent is too high. President Lawrence, you should know how crazy the rent prices in South Hampton City have been in recent years. I have seen many reasons for the closures before, and 80 percent of them wrote it's because rent is too high to be affordable. Thirdly, the profit is too low. Physical stores sell at slightly higher prices than our online products because of human labor, rent, and other reasons. However, in recent years, because most people choose to shop online, retail agents have had to lower the prices to keep up with the online prices, which naturally reduces their profit. Some stores even make discounts on top of our online prices to attract people to buy from them. Then, they'll use their revenue to cover the cost.”

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“Okay.” Jeanne said, “I roughly understand the current situation of the retail agents. Next, we need to solve all of their problems.”

“To solve their problem, we need to invest a lot of money. After all, the sales of the physical stores are not of high value to us. If we support them now, we will restore our reputation, but it won't produce too much economic value. I'm worried that the company's senior management and shareholders won't agree with our approach.”

"We can't forget our roots. You just said those people helped our company to grow, so we shouldn't burn our bridges with them. However, we're not a charity enterprise. We can't make a loss on projects that aren't profitable. Not to mention Lawrence Enterprise's senior management and shareholders, I wouldn't agree to it either. So now we really have to think about how to truly raise the sales volume of the physical stores." Jeanne said bluntly, "This is a tough one, but the more difficult it is, the more we should do it!"

"Yes."

"You go out and think about how we can go about this issue with the physical retail stores first. Tomorrow, give me a rough draft, and we'll discuss the next plan."

"Yes," Forrest said respectfully.

Jeanne gave more instructions before Forrest left her office.

Amy served Jeanne black coffee.

Jeanne took a few sips and felt a little down for some reason.

The chain of physical retail stores was started by her mother. Back then... did her mother work day and night to make Lawrence Enterprise better?

In her memory, her mother often did not come home and was mostly on business trips.

She spent her life's effort on Lawrence Enterprise, only for her to die an untimely death.

Jeanne slowly drank her coffee, trying to adjust her sad mood.

If Kinglsey had not told her that her mother's death was not a simple car accident, she might not have returned to South Hampton City.

Even though the Lawrences hurt her very badly, she did not hate them so much that she had to kill them.

The corners of her mouth curled into a cold smile.

The people she wanted to take revenge on were still alive, so she did not have the right or the time to reminisce about the past.

...

The dispute between Lawrence Enterprise and its retail agents was soon on the front pages of all the major news.

Once that matter was out, all the senior people had the same opinion.

A rational person would think that it was a result of the survival of the fittest in the industry, so it was unreasonable for the retail agents to kick up a fuss. The development of business had never stayed the same, and there was no such thing as a secured job. Once the business model was not suitable for the mainstream public, it would either transform or go bankrupt. At the end of the day, that was their own business. They could not blame others for their own mismanagement. That was completely unreasonable.

Of course, there were also some people who felt that an enterprise should develop with the various retail chains instead of damaging the retail chains' interests because of their own development. Lawrence Enterprise's development in the e-commerce economy clearly had a fatal impact on the real economy, so Lawrence Enterprise should plan ahead for a future of the real economy or a joint transformation. To burn their bridges with the retail agents was a violation of social morality, and such a business development should not be approved and promoted.

Both sides had their own opinions and were quarreling with one another on the internet.

That kind of news did not impact Lawrence Enterprise badly. It even gave them exposure and allow their stock market to increase a little.

However, on the third day after the retail agents kicked up a fuss, a piece of shocking news suddenly appeared.

Something happened to South Hampton City's biggest agent, Rick. He was lying on a hospital bed and had gathered many reporters to accuse Jeanne of getting someone to threaten him and even beat him up to stop him from causing trouble. Now that his injuries were serious, he wanted to accuse Jeanne of intentional injury and, at the same time, demand an explanation from Lawrence Enterprise.

That afternoon, Jeanne was brought to the police station to be investigated.

However, because Rick's statement was one-sided, and there was no evidence to prove that the matter had anything to do with Jeanne, the police released Jeanne.

When Jeanne walked out of the police station, a group of reporters swarmed over.

Jeanne did not back away either.

Amy and Forrest followed her to the police station, so they instinctively shielded Jeanne behind them, blocking the reporters from besieging her.

Facing more than a dozen reporters, the two of them were still somewhat powerless.

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Amy's high heels had fallen off, and Forrest was in a sorry state, with the buttons on his suit all fallen off.

Jeanne pushed them away and stood in front of the reporters, looking imposing.

That move stunned both Amy and Forrest.

“Step back one meter, and I'll answer your questions. If you come any closer, don't even think about getting any news from me in the future,” Jeanne said, threatening them with authority.

The originally noisy and chaotic scene was suddenly shocked by Jeanne's words.

All the reporters exchanged glances with each other before stepping back and keeping a distance from Jeanne.

Amy and Forrest were both shocked by the scene.

Just now, they had risked their lives... Well, in front of President Lawrence, it was nothing.

Jeanne said, "I'll try my best to answer your questions."

The reporter quickly asked, "Ms. Lawrence, is it true that Rick Gordon accused you of threatening and beating him in public to the media?"

"If it's true, would I be able to leave the police station?"

"There has been a lot of drama about the matter between the Lawrence Enterprise and its retail agents, but Lawrence Enterprise hasn't said anything about it. May I ask if Lawrence Enterprise intends on solving the problem of Lawrence Enterprise's physical retail stores?"

"It is being solved. Within a week, we will give an explanation to all of our retail agents and publicly announce our solution."

"Regarding Rick Gordon's accusation against you, do you have anything to say about that?"

"Truth will speak for itself, and I will do my part."

Jeanne answered the reporter's questions with ease.

"Ms. Lawrence, may I ask if Fourth Master Swan has been away from South Hampton City recently?" A reporter suddenly changed the topic.

Jeanne still replied, "That's right."

"It has been more than half a month since the incident with your family, and you've been carrying the burden of your family matters this entire time. Fourth Master Swan has not once shown up for you since then. Although work is more important, won't you have any complaints about his indifference, Ms. Lawrence?"

"Every couple has their own way of getting along. Edward and I are destined to be different from the usual couple, and we can't do whatever we want. Besides ourselves, we have to be responsible for our own families. In fact, everyone has their own things to do. I don't think it's wrong for Edward to be busy with the matters of the Swans. I think the best way to treat each other is not to trouble our partner."

"Ms. Lawrence, what you mean is that the two of you only need to take care of yourselves most of the time."

"I bring my best self to my marriage, and so did Edward. There's nothing to be picky about, and the best marriage is to support each other's success instead of losing ourselves in the relationship." Jeanne's understanding of marriage made the reporters present a little surprised.

"Ms. Lawrence, do you mean that your current marriage with Fourth Master Swan is the best type of marriage? Both of you are the cream of the crop in your respective fields."

"All I can say is that I don't regret marrying Edward. Regardless of whether he married me with rows of cars filled with flowers or because of the various reasons he can't return to my side when I need him, Edward is the best to me."

"Is Ms. Lawrence confessing in public?" The reporter joked.

It could be considered that, but she and Edward could never be so innocent.



Be it their relationship or their career, between them... perhaps they did not even know how far apart they were.

Jeanne said, "Marriage can be cold and warm. If there are no other questions, please make way. As you can see, I still have many things to deal with."

The reporter quickly made way for her. After all, Jeanne had answered all the questions today, and they could not be so shameless.

When Jeanne returned to the car, Forrest was tidying up his suit jacket while Amy was putting on her high heels.

"Next time you meet a reporter, don't try to be brave," Jeanne said.

Forrest and Amy were embarrassed.

"The clothes and shoes can be considered as work-related injuries. Go and claim it from the finance department."

"Thank you, President Lawrence," the two of them quickly said.

Jeanne smiled faintly.

For a long time, she had learned to be cold like Kingsley's many assassins, who were cold and heartless.

However, at the end of the day, she had a son and an uncle.

She felt that she was no longer alone in this world.

Hence, she could not be completely indifferent to everything.

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In an old town, Nox was playing with his phone with nothing to do.

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Then, he saw Jeanne's news.

What had Jeanne been doing in South Hampton City for her to be in a small piece of news for two days and one big piece for five days?

Was Jeanne trying to turn the world upside down?

He clicked open the contents of the news and said to the man smoking beside him, "Edward, your wife is on the headlines again."

Edward's eyes paused.

"This time, it's because she confessed to you in front of the reporters, saying that you're the best," Nox said.

It sounded a little sour when he said it out loud.

The two of them were so far apart, yet they could still show off their affection.

Edward's hand that was holding the cigarette paused, and the smile on the corner of his mouth could not be more obvious.

Nox glanced at Edward and dampened the latter's enthusiasm. "Don't forget Jeanne's identity."

"It won't stop us from loving each other."

"Tsk, tsk, tsk." Nox snorted.

When the day came when Edward and Jeanne had to point their guns at each other's heads, he would like to see if Edward could still say such cheesy words.

Then, his eyes moved as the phone suddenly rang.

He took a glance at the incoming call and answered it with a serious expression. "Are you ready?"

"We'll cross the border at midnight tonight and make the deal face-to-face at 1 a.m."

"Okay. See you at 1 a.m."

Nox hung up the phone. "The other party said 1 p.m. tonight."

"Okay," Edward replied.

"Are you sure you don't want to deal with those people who are following us?"

"All they want is a result, so we'll let them see the result of our deal." Edward's eyes were cold.

"No one can be more cunning than you."

Edward put out his cigarette and instructed, "Get everyone ready for tonight."

"Okay."

Nox responded and left the room while Edward stood on the balcony and looked into the distance.

He had been away for more than half a month now, and it was time to go back.

...

On the Delta Islands, in a room in a luxurious and modern manor, sounds of panting filled the room.

Lucy pushed the door open, but the people behind Lucy dodged. That was because on the big bed in the room, two people were... having sex.

Kingsley seemed to be doing it a little too frequently recently.

Was it because Millie's new body gave him a different experience?

Anyway, Millie often came and went in this room, regardless of day or night.

As Lucy walked to the side of their big bed, Millie was a little scared, so she hid behind Kingsley's body. However, Kingsley seemed used to it. He said, "What's the matter?"

"I received news that Fourth Master Swan will make a deal with the other party tonight at local time 1 a.m. tomorrow," Lucy reported.

"Send a few assassins over," Kingsley instructed. "And keep an eye on Fourth Master Swan."

"Yes," Lucy said respectfully. Then, she glanced at the shy Millie under Kingsley's body and said bluntly, "Millie should go on a mission."

Millie looked unwilling and hugged Kingsley's body as if she was reluctant to part with him.

Of course, Millie would not dare to resist.

She was very clear about her identity, and being able to lie under Kingsley now was because Kingsley was infatuated with her body. It did not mean that Kingsley would develop feelings for her.

She was just using her actions to make Kingsley attached to her.

After all, she would rather lie under Kingsley than go out on a mission. At the very least, there would be no danger.

Kingsley seemed a little impatient under Millie's seduction.

He said, "Send someone else."

"Okay." Lucy did not say anything else.

She had always obeyed Kingsley's orders, so she turned around and left.

Millie had a victorious smile on her face.

She stood out from the Hills's rookie training, and when she first entered the manor, she heard that the head of the Hills had a confidante named Lucy. Only she had been by Kingsley's side the longest, and only she could get close to Kingsley. Therefore, her status was above everyone else!

The assassins really oversold Lucy, so Millie was also curious about how outstanding a woman could be to obtain such great power when she was just an ordinary assassin. Now that she had interacted with Lucy, she realized that was all there was to Lucy.

Kingsley did not treat Lucy particularly well or badly. It was clear that the rumors before were all falsely deifying Lucy.

It made her feel that after some time, she might be able to replace Lucy's position.

Hence, she worked even harder to please Kingsley. Fortunately, during her training, she focused on seducing Kingsley. That was how she made it hard for Kingsley to forget her.

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Lucy left Kingsley's room.

There were many assassins in the Hills. Every year, they would train a large number of them, and some had been trained since they were young. However, due to the high risk of being an assassin, there were too many deaths and injuries. Those who were left behind were only a limited number of people.

Moreover, in order to protect Jeanne, Kingsley already sent many top-notch assassins to South Hampton City.

Some top-notch assassins were also carrying out the Hills' normal business. Hence, very few people could be selected for a last-minute mission.

However, testing Fourth Master Swan this time was not a small matter, so she could not randomly pick one.

She thought for a moment before saying to her assistant, K06, "I'll go this time."

"But what about Mr. Thorn?" K06 was a little surprised.

Lucy had always accompanied Mr. Thorn, and K06 had never seen her act alone in the past few years.

“We have limited manpower now. I'll be more at ease if I go alone.” Lucy instructed directly, “Inform K09 and the Vermillion Bird to set off in half an hour.”

“Yes, ma'am,” K06 replied respectfully.

Lucy raised her head and glanced upstairs. In the end, she did not have much emotion.

...

In the dark night, the ancient and remote town was as quiet as it could be. It was the most remote place in Harken, but the border region had never been peaceful.

At that moment, a row of black cars was parked on the sparsely populated dirt road.

Everyone seemed to be waiting.

At 1 a.m., Nox turned off his muted cell phone, and the screen was flashing.

He looked at Edward, who nodded.

With that, Nox picked up the call.

“We're here.”

“Ten minutes,” Nox answered before hanging up the call.

Nox said, “The other party is here.”

“Go over.”

“Okay.”

Nox told the driver to start the car and drive them to the destination.

They then arrived at a forest with grasses and trees. The surroundings were overgrown with weeds. It was a suitable area to hide in.

Since the cars could no longer drive in, the group of people got off the car and walked toward the trading area.

Slowly, the group of people also appeared on the opposite side.

Under the dark night sky, it was quite the situation.

“Fourth Master Swan, it's been a long time.” The leader of the group stepped forward respectfully.

Edward shook hands with him. “Mr. Locke, it's been a long time.”

“Have you brought the money?”

“Of course.” Edward made a gesture, to which Nox had a few of his men open the briefcases full of money.

Locke was very satisfied. He said, “It's always a pleasure working with you, Fourth Master Swan. Bring them over.”

The people next to him quickly took out a wooden box, opened it rudely, and took out the things inside. “Harken definitely doesn't have this weapon. It's new.”



Edward gestured to Nox.

Nox stepped forward, took out a weapon, and aimed it directly at Locke.

Locke's face darkened, and the people around Locke instantly raised their weapons.

Suddenly, Nox put down the weapon and played with it skillfully a few times before disassembling it.

Locke's expression changed.

After Nox disassembled the weapon, he placed it back in the wooden box. Then, he turned to Edward.  
"It's the real thing."

Edward nodded.

Locke looked at Edward. "How is it?"

"It's indeed a good item," Edward replied.

Locke smiled coldly and said, "Hand over the money, and we will pass you the goods."

"Sure," Edward agreed immediately.

"Boys, bring them down."

At the same time, Edward was also instructing Nox to hand the money over to the other party.

The transaction seemed to be going smoothly.

However, when the people on both sides were about to meet, Locke's men suddenly shot at Edward's men.

Edward and Nox were quick to react and dodged the bullets.

In an instant, the people on both sides started to fight, and twice the number of people showed up from the other side.

They had no chance of winning if they fought head-on.

As such, Edward said, "Evacuate!"

"Yes." At a crucial moment like that, Nox always stayed obedient to Edward's orders.

The two of them quickly left the scene of the fight and got into a black car, with Nox driving the car while Edward sat in the back seat.

However, two bodyguards were sitting in the front passenger seat and the back seat who left together with them.

With that, the car sped off, leaving the scene.

After leaving, a few people who were hiding in the depths of the forest came out.

Lucy did not expect that Fourth Master Swan would be schemed against during that deal.

The situation was that the other party wanted to extort the money without handing over the goods.

Yet, Fourth Master Swan left just like that?

Lucy made a call. "Mr. Thorn."

"Are you in that old town?!"

"We have limited manpower."

Chapter 708: A Dangerous Fight, the Appearance of a Big Shot

"What's the situation now?" Kingsley did not seem to care too much.

"Fourth Master Swan was schemed against and has left without completing the deal."

"Follow Fourth Master Swan," Kingsley ordered.

"Yes."

Lucy instructed the assassins hidden in the surroundings to follow Fourth Master Swan and left the site.

...

In the car, Nox looked at the black car behind him. "It should be those people who have been following us."

Edward nodded.

"What should we do?"

"It's settled."

"Alright." Nox nodded.

Then, he stepped on the accelerator and sped up.

The black car behind him also sped up to catch up with them.

The two cars sped along on the uneven road for a long time until the car in front suddenly stopped, and everyone in the car left.

The car behind arrived a few minutes later. When it saw the car stop, it also braked and quickly stopped.

"Ms. Harmon, their car has stopped," an assassin in the car reported over the phone.

"Is anyone in the car?"

"I'll go and make sure."

"Be careful."

"Yes." The assassin ordered the people beside him to get out of the car and check on the situation of the car in front.

The assassin approached cautiously and then turned around to signal that there was no one in the car.

The assassin in the car reported hurriedly, "No one is in the car."

"This place is so remote. There's no way you can get out of the car and leave on foot, so don't act rashly now. I'll rush over immediately."

"Yes."

As soon as he finished speaking, gunshots suddenly sounded outside the car.

At the same time, the assassin who went to check if anyone was in the car was suddenly shot dead.

The assassin in the car hurriedly opened the car door and hid behind the car.

The surroundings of the car were now filled with the crackling sounds of gunshots firing one after another.

Lucy heard it on the other end of the phone, so she got the assassin who was driving to speed up.

However, no matter how fast they were, the two assassins who had been following Fourth Master Swan were dead when they arrived at the scene.

Lucy told everyone to be careful before raising her weapon and getting out of the car.

Just as she got out of the car, another burst of gunshots sounded.

Lucy quickly hid behind a car, and the others quickly followed.

Despite that, Lucy remained calm as she tried to listen to the sound of the bullets, trying to predict where the bullets would come from.

There were two people in the southeast direction, one in the southwest direction, and one in the north.

The people who had just left in Fourth Master Swan's car were Fourth Master Swan, Nox, and two of his subordinates.

Fourth Master Swan and Nox should be together, so logically, they would be in the southeast direction.

If she captured the bandit, she would capture the king.

Lucy instructed the communicator, "Everyone, attack the southeast direction."

"Roger."

"On the count of three, K09 and Vermilion Bird will fire in that direction while K06 and I will approach under the cover of bullets."

"Yes."

"Three, two, one..."

Two black figures appeared from the car and quickly headed in the designated direction.

The moment they went over, they spotted two figures in the darkness.

Lucy and K06 quickly aimed at the two of them. "Bang! Bang!"

The bullets hit the two figures, and the two of them fell.

After that, Lucy and K06 carefully approached them in the darkness. However, at close range, they realized it was not Edward and Nox.

That meant the two independent people in the southwest and north were Edward and Nox.

Lucy's expression was unsightly as she ordered, "Chase after them."

However, only K06 responded to her.

Did that mean K09 and the Vermilion Bird had been killed?

The second Lucy and K06 looked at each other, a few gunshots suddenly rang in their ears. Without hesitating, Lucy and K06 ran in the direction of the gunshots.

The moment they caught up, Lucy suddenly paused for a second, thinking, 'Can it be a diversion?'

In that split second, she made a prompt decision. "You can go ahead. I'll go to the other side."

K06 was surprised.

After Lucy gave K06 instructions, the latter immediately ran in the southwest direction.

At the same time, Nox stayed in contact with Edward as he ran forward. "I'll distract them. Be careful."

"You, too."

Edward was also very fast.

Soon, they arrived at a hidden bush, where they found the motorcycle that they had put away in advance. He lifted it up and quickly got on it. Then, he stepped on the accelerator and left.

Lucy heard the sound of the engine and saw a figure speeding past, so she gritted her teeth and quickly chased after him on foot.

However, Edward's motorcycle was going very fast.

The deal was just a smokescreen for him.

He had long received the news that the other party would kill him during that deal. He was merely taking advantage of the situation and using that deal to achieve his goal.

Chapter 709: A Dangerous Fight, the Appearance of a Big Shot

He arrived at his destination on his motorcycle in no time, and what awaited him was a black car.

Seeing him arrive, the people in the car quickly got out.

Edward stopped the motorcycle.

The person who got out was old, but at that moment, he was extremely respectful to Edward. "Young Master."

Edward nodded as he walked over to the back seat of the car.

Then, the car door opened, revealing a man sitting in the back seat.

Under the night sky, the figure was blurry and could not be made out clearly.

His voice was cold. "You're here."

"Yes." Edward appeared respectful.

"Let's go." With that, the man got down from the car and stood in front of Edward.

At a close distance, Edward could see the black mask on the man's face. It covered everything below his eyes, and there was a cap on his head that covered his forehead. Edward could only vaguely see his deep, calm eyes.



The man walked in front, and Edward followed behind him.

“Young Master.” An old voice sounded from behind.

Edward turned his head around.

“I’ll leave the Eldest Young Master to you.” The old man entrusted Edward with the man.

“Okay.” Edward agreed solemnly.

After that, he sat on the motorcycle while the man sat behind him.

Then, they left on the motorcycle.

The old man looked at their backs and watched them disappear into the crowd. He sighed and said, “Things in Harken are about to change again!”

In the dark night, the motorcycle was traveling at lightning speed.

No one spoke on the way until Edward’s phone rang.

He looked at the incoming call and connected it to his Bluetooth. “Nox.”

“I only have one person on my side.”

Edward frowned.

“If I’m not mistaken, there should be six people. However, we’ve only taken out five of them. In other words, one of them has been caught.” Nox went straight to the point. “That one person might have followed you here, or they might have escaped themselves.”

"It can't be the second one." Assassins would never give up halfway. Otherwise, they would die if they went back.

"If they followed you here, they would have found out our purpose for coming here," Nox said bluntly. "Have you picked him up?"

"Yes."

"In that case, what should we do now?"

"Find them and kill them!"

"I'll come and pick you up." Nox did not say much.

"Okay."

As soon as Edward hung up the phone, the person behind him asked, "Have you been found out?"

"I can solve it," Edward replied.

The person behind him did not say anything else.

With that, Edward continued on with the motorcycle.

Lucy was indeed in Edward's vicinity at that moment.

She was chasing after Edward's motorcycle. Of course, her walking speed was much slower than Edward's motorcycle, but she had a feeling that Edward was not leaving on the motorcycle. In fact, he had another purpose, and since he was escaping, he would definitely come back.

Therefore, as she chased, she was also waiting.

Lucy became the number one assassin back then not only because of her strong skills but also because of her amazing logical reasoning ability. That was also the reason why Kingsley kept her by his side. She was indeed very useful.

When she saw the motorcycle appear again, she could vaguely see that Edward was not alone.

Suddenly, her heart started beating a little faster.

Even an assassin would instinctively feel nervous when he or she discovered new information at that moment.

She raised her pistol and aimed it at the motorcycle.

To be able to make Fourth Master Swan spend so much effort and set up such an extensive scheme to rescue him, his identity was definitely not simple.

If her guess was correct, that person should be the person they were looking for now.

She pointed at the motorcycle, and suddenly, a gunshot rang out.

The motorcycle's tires were instantly blown off. Following that, the speeding motorcycle fell, and the two of them immediately fell to the ground.

When they fell, one of them was obviously protecting the other under his body.

As they both rolled on the ground several times, Lucy ran over quickly without even stopping for half a second.

This time, her goal was not to kill but to determine who the other man was.

After all, Kingsley had been tracking them for so long, and now they were finally close.

When Lucy got closer, the two people were seriously injured and had fallen unconscious.

She squatted down to check on the man that Edward was protecting. It was only at a close distance that she could see that the man's face was covered by a black mask, which made it impossible to see who it was.

While Lucy took out her phone and was prepared to take a photo, she reached out to remove the man's mask...

“Ah!” Pain shot through Lucy's body.

At that moment, someone kicked her away ruthlessly.

At the moment of the kick, Lucy's hand tore open the man's mask and scratched the man's cheek. However, she did not see his face.

That was because Edward's hand blocked her line of sight the second his mask fell off.

In the next second, they started fighting crazily.

Lucy and Fourth Master Swan exchanged a few blows with their bare hands.

Lucy knew very well that she was no match for Fourth Master Swan. She could hold on for a while but not for long.

Moreover, she also heard the sound of a sedan from afar. It was likely that Fourth Master Swan's men had arrived, which meant that she had even less of a chance of winning.

She made a prompt decision and immediately retreated from the fight by turning around and leaving quickly.

Edward's eyes narrowed.

He picked up the pistol that had fallen to the ground, aimed at the figure that had left in the darkness, and shot it accurately on that person's back.

Lucy suddenly fell to the ground.

The moment she fell, she could hear the sound of footsteps approaching her.

Then, an ice-cold black muzzle was aimed at Lucy's head.

"Fourth Master Swan," Lucy called his name. "I'm Lucy!"

The hand that pulled the trigger paused.

Chapter 710: Frighten, Edward's Return

In Harken, dawn had just broken in Bamboo Garden when Jeanne was woken up by her phone ringing.

Jeanne picked up her phone and looked at Kingsley's call. She picked it up. "Hello."

"Lucy is dead," Kingsley said.

His tone sounded neither sad nor indifferent.

Jeanne held the phone tightly. She was shocked.

"Fourth Master Swan killed her," Kingsley added.

Jeanne's throat moved slightly. She was silent, and her vision was blurry.

"I received news yesterday that Fourth Master Swan had a gun deal with an underground organization led by Locke. The location was in a remote area near the border of Harken. The Sanders wanted us to follow Fourth Master Swan to see if he was up to something else, so Lucy went," Kingsley explained why Edward killed Lucy.

"Did Lucy discover anything?" Jeanne held herself together and asked.

"She discovered the existence of the Duncans' descendant," Kingsley said straightforwardly.

Jeanne pursed her lips.

Kingsley said, "The Sanders have been investigating the whereabouts of the Duncans' descendants, and some time ago, they found some clues. They found that the personal butler of the former head of the Duncans was being protected by some unknown forces. But after a thorough investigation, they found that those forces were not protecting the butler but someone else. With that information, they speculated that this person should be a descendant of the Duncans. However, because they had alerted the enemy before the Sanders could take any action, those people suddenly disappeared right under the Sanders' nose without leaving any traces behind! However, we can be 100 percent sure now that the descendants of the Duncans do exist."

Jeanne maintained her silence, silently listening to Kingsley recount the incident to her.

"The Sanders are sure that this person exists. The Duncans' descendant must have known that their identity was exposed, so they had to hide it again and even choose to fight back. And at this time, Fourth Master Swan suddenly went to the border. It's definitely not a coincidence, so the Sanders told us to follow Fourth Master Swan to see if he was playing any tricks." Kingsley's tone had always been very cold when he was calmly explaining something. "Before Lucy died, she reported to me that Fourth Master Swan's deal had failed. The other party suddenly broke the deal, and Fourth Master Swan and Nox escaped. After that, Fourth Master Swan and Nox parted ways, with Nox luring everyone away. That was when Lucy discovered that something was wrong, so she chased after Fourth Master Swan and

discovered that Fourth Master Swan, who had disappeared, had an additional person by his side. If I'm not wrong, that person is the Duncans' only descendant."

"I told Lucy to think of a way to get a clear look at that person's appearance. For so long, everyone only knew the existence of that person but not who that person was. Once we had a clear look at that person's face, it would be much easier to find that person." Kingsley continued, "Lucy carried out my orders and went to fight Fourth Master Swan and that person. In the end... the news of her death came."

Jeanne held her phone tightly, and her hand was trembling.

That meant Edward killed her teacher.

"I've fought with Fourth Master Swan before. Although he was injured at that time, I know the level of his skills. Lucy may not have been able to beat him, but with Lucy's skills, injuring him shouldn't be difficult. Moreover, Lucy was smarter than all the assassins under me. Before she died, she would definitely have left a clue for us to find that person. I'm guessing there must be traces of injuries on that person's body." Kingsley analyzed, saying, "Fourth Master Swan has spent so much effort to hide the fact that he took away the Duncans' descendants. Based on my personal analysis, he will bring them back to South Hampton City without anyone noticing. The so-called most dangerous place is the safest place. On top of that, the Swans are currently very powerful, so the Sanders dare not touch them so easily. Furthermore, I suspect that the Duncans' descendant is getting impatient. They will return to South Hampton City and seize back the Duncans' power. This is what will happen next, and what we need to do now is to kill the Duncans' descendant before anything happens."

"So, you want me to find this person and kill them?" Jeanne understood what he meant.

Kingsley did not deny it. He said, "Right now, my assassins at the border have been completely annihilated. News about Fourth Master Swan stopped the moment Lucy died, and I have lost traces of Fourth Master Swan's group. Even if I were to send people over again, there would be nothing I could do with Fourth Master Swan's strength. We've failed our mission this time by letting the Duncans' descendant go without doing anything. We didn't even get any useful clues, and for that, we have to bear the responsibility. At the moment, you're the only one who is closest to Fourth Master Swan, so you are the best person to probe the people around him."