

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

Chapter 139 – 170

: Living Hell

Chapter 139: Living Hell

“You!” Grace was extremely upset, but Logan was indeed an immoral person who would make things hard for Amelia, a five-year-old girl. He even threatened her using such a despicable reason. Although he maintained a gentlemanly appearance in front of her, he was actually horrendous!

“I don’t have much patience. I’ll give you ten seconds. If you don’t go to the bedroom, I’ll do you right here and right now! If this kid sees something she shouldn’t, it’s none of my business!” Logan smiled sinisterly.

Grace was enraged. Behind his gentlemanly facade, Logan was simply a beast!

She would rather die than give herself to such a beast!

“... Five, four, three, two, one, time’s up! It seems you like thrilling stuff too. Let’s do it in the kitchen then!” Logan took off his shirt and walked toward Grace.

“Stop! Don’t come over!” Grace grabbed a boning knife from the knife rack behind her and put the sharp blade directly at her own neck. Looking as though she was ready to die, she shouted, “If you try to force me, I’ll die here immediately!”

The fact that a woman Logan had taken a fancy to would rather die than let him touch her made him feel infuriated. But he soon saw Amelia, whom Grace was shielding. He could only see her face, and she was glowering at him.

Logan laughed out loud. “You’re threatening me with your life, huh? Sure, go ahead and slit yourself. As long as you slit yourself and die in front of me, the scene of blood flowing nonstop and splattering everywhere is definitely going to look horrifying. If that little girl behind you gets frightened to the point of losing her mind, you can’t blame me!”

Logan deliberately made the scene sound extremely terrifying, causing Grace to pale. Her hand holding the knife began to tremble.

“Enough! Stop! You’re a devil!” Grace dropped the boning knife and broke down in tears.

She would rather die than let someone like Logan defile her. She wasn’t afraid of dying, but if she really died right in front of Amelia, that scene would certainly become a nightmare that would traumatize her forever.

Although she had only spent two hours with Amelia, she felt that Amelia was adorable, smart, and obedient. She even stood out bravely to protect her just now. How could Grace bear to let her witness such a horrifying scene?

The things that the devilish Logan said were like daggers piercing through Grace’s heart and leaving her with no way out!

Although Amelia couldn’t fully understand what they were saying, she could totally sense the maliciousness in Logan’s words and the fear and resistance of Grace.

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However, Amelia was just a five-year-old child. She was powerless and could only bawl loudly out of fear, “Mm... Daddy! Daddy, where are you... There’s a baddie here...”

Grace’s eyes were full of tears, and she hurriedly squatted down to hug Amelia, fearing that Logan would lose his temper with Amelia again. While wiping her tears, she comforted, “Amelia, don’t cry, don’t cry. I’m here with you...”

Seeing that two of them were crying and hugging each other while the boning knife was on the ground, Logan smirked and immediately said in annoyance, “Enough. Are you done crying? I’m waiting for you to get the deed done. Hurry up!”

Grace looked up and stared at Logan with eyes full of hatred. But she knew that she couldn’t avoid it at all.

Grace wiped the tears on her face, slowly stood up, and said with a look of determination, “You can have me, but you must send this child home.”

Logan smiled contemptuously. “Grace, do you think you still have the right to bargain with me? Today, I will tell you the truth. This kid is very important to me. I will never return her! But if you obey me, I will let her stay here and accompany you. Otherwise, I will hand her over to others, and I can’t guarantee if they’ll abuse her or hit her.”

Grace bit her lower lip hard. She knew that he would never let Amelia off.

In that case, she only had one option.

Grace closed her eyes in agony and only opened them again after a long while. She gently wiped the tears on Amelia's face and said in a tender voice, "Amelia, go play in your room for a while, okay? You can watch cartoons, play with the teddy bear, or read some storybooks. I... have to chat with this uncle for a while. We'll bake a cake later, alright?"

Amelia's large eyes were brimming with tears. She was smart enough to guess that there was definitely something wrong between Grace and Logan, the ultimate villain.

"Aunt Grace, let's go find my daddy, okay? My daddy is super strong. He can definitely defeat this bad guy!" Amelia whispered into Grace's ear.

Although she thought that she was whispering, she wasn't exactly soft, especially since they were standing so close to each other.

Logan naturally heard everything she said. The corners of his mouth twitched, and he strongly felt that the tender-looking Amelia was as detestable as her father!

Grace had a bitter smile on her face. Amelia was still too young to know what it meant to be held hostage. If she could, she would take Amelia away immediately!

She forced herself to smile and shook her head. "This uncle is fierce, but he's not actually a bad guy. Amelia, go to your room and watch some cartoons. Once I'm done, I'll come keep you company. By then, your father may be here to pick you up!"

When Amelia heard that her father would come over soon, her eyes instantly lit up. After hearing that Logan wasn't a bad guy, Amelia pouted. "Okay then. You have to hurry up and finish chatting soon! I don't like being alone."

"Okay, I promise that I'll be there with you soon." While speaking, Grace pulled Amelia into a small room beside her. She then turned on the television and placed Amelia's teddy bear and fairytale coloring books next to her. Then she closed the door and headed to the master bedroom with Logan.

As soon as they entered, Logan pounced onto Grace!

Chapter 140: The Fool Leads the Way

Grace shrieked in shock, crossed her arms in front of her chest to protect herself, and dodged to the side to avoid Logan.

Logan's face immediately darkened. He asked in displeasure, "What are you hiding for? Do you still think that I'll let you off?"

Grace's heart was pounding hard. The man in front of her made her feel terrified and disgusted. The thought of submitting to him made her feel miserable.

She opened her big watery eyes and looked at Logan sorrowfully. "Previously, you said you would treat me well and let me feel your sincerity so that I would fall in love with you and give myself to you willingly. Actually, during this time, I did change my opinion about you and developed good feelings for you. Are you trying to ruin all of that by doing this to me now?"

Logan Hale snorted with disdainful laughter. "Forget it! Don't even think about trying to fool me with those words. I've been toying with women since I was a teenager, and I've seen more tricks than you, so save it! Love? That's bullshit. I've never believed in true love. That's just something I say to coax you silly women into getting intimate with me! I'm not interested in talking about love and romance with you now. I just want to sleep with you!"

As he spoke, he forced her into the corner and pounced at her again.

Bang! Bang!

The bedroom door was suddenly knocked on a few times.

The only one who could knock at this time was Amelia.

Furious at being disturbed again, Logan turned around and roared, "Damn it! Why is that brat so recalcitrant?! This time, I have to kick her hard a few times to make sure she knows to behave herself!"

Logan walked toward the door menacingly.

Although Amelia was his trump card, he just had to keep her alive. Lucas wouldn't be able to do anything to him even if he taught her a lesson to make her behave herself!

"No! Don't lose your temper with her! I'll get her to go to her room immediately!" Grace hurriedly dashed over to stop Logan.

Amelia was young and vulnerable. If Logan kicked her hard in a moment of fury, she would definitely be severely injured. Her life might even be in danger!

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However, Grace couldn't stop Logan in time. He had already pulled open the door of the room while cursing incessantly. "Little brat, I told you to be quiet. Don't you understand..."

Logan abruptly stopped cursing as a look of horror instantly appeared on his face. He looked straight at the door, and his leg that he thrust outward was clamped down by a hand.

This hand obviously didn't belong to the little girl Amelia. It belonged to a man!

The person who suddenly appeared in the doorway turned out to be Jordan, Lucas's underling!

"You... you... why..."

Logan was dumbstruck. He was overwhelmed with astonishment and fear, and his mind went blank. He couldn't form a complete sentence at all.

Only when he felt a sharp and excruciating pain in his ankle did he snap back to his senses and shriek in horror.

Jordan squeezed Logan's ankle hard, tightening his grip, instantly breaking Logan's ankle with a loud cracking sound!

"Ah!" Logan Hale shrieked at the top of his lungs as he fell onto the ground, unable to stand on his feet anymore because of the immense pain.

"How dare you try to harm a child, scum! I really want to kill you!" Jordan hollered in fury. He dragged Logan out of the room by his broken ankle and then slammed him hard against the coffee table in the living room!

Various sounds rang out and clattered as the wooden coffee table with thin legs was instantly smashed, and the vases and teacups on the coffee table immediately fell onto the marble floor and shattered into pieces!

Logan was dizzy from the slam, and the bones in his back seemed to be on the verge of breaking. He couldn't get up for a long time.

He shrieked continuously in pain, which was spreading all over his back, waist, and other parts of his body. The pain in his ankle was especially intense, as it made him feel faint and about to black out.

Unfortunately, he didn't even have the right to faint now.

With cold sweat covering his head, Logan forced himself to look at Jordan. "H-how did you find this place?"

This villa, which Logan had secretly bought in someone else's name, was specifically meant for hiding the women he liked and for him to commit some sordid acts. Since it

wasn't under his name, Logan had always treated this place as the safest place. In that case, how did Jordan and Lucas find this place?

Jordan laughed derisively. "It's all thanks to you leading the way, dimwit!"

"Leading the way?" After pondering for a while, it dawned on Logan that Jordan and Lucas had followed him here and that everything that he heard them say through the listening device was deliberately said to make him let his guard down!

At this moment, his heart was full of regret! *Why was I so careless and easily fooled by that bastard Lucas?!*

In fact, there were several bodyguards whom Logan had arranged to guard the villa so that Grace wouldn't escape. They were also Logan's personal bodyguards who were responsible for his safety here.

But the fact that Jordan had entered meant that the bodyguards outside had been dealt with! After all, Logan had personally witnessed Jordan's terrifying combat skills in the bar earlier.

The thought of this made Logan's face turn paler. At the same time, an incredible sense of fear surged in his heart stronger than before!

I'm finished!

Logan dared threaten Lucas at the bar only because he was still holding Lucas's Achilles' heel, Amelia, hostage.

But Lucas and Jordan had now found him, and his greatest trump card, Amelia, was gone!

Previously, Lucas managed to get rid of Scarlet Wright silently with just a single command. He really dared to kill!

Thinking about the terrifying power that Lucas showed, Logan clenched his teeth, so horrified that his face was bloodless.

If Lucas wanted him to die now, he would be able to get him killed with a single command...

"I-I was wrong. I'm sorry, I will compensate you as much as you want! But you can't kill me... I'm a Hale. If you kill me, my family won't let you off!" Logan begged miserably while weeping and bringing up his family in hopes of deterring Lucas and Jordan.

"Hmph, the Hales are no big deal," Jordan said in disdain.

At this moment, someone exclaimed coldly, "Break his legs, knock him out, and drag him away!"

Chapter 141: You've Misunderstood

As soon as Logan heard Lucas's cold and merciless voice, he instantly shuddered, especially because Lucas's words made him feel terrified.

But before he could say anything to beg for mercy again, Jordan responded loudly, "Yes, Lucas!"

Jordan pinched Logan's still-intact left ankle and tightened his grip, breaking his ankle immediately!

"Ah! Ah! My ankle!" Logan shrieked miserably with tears and mucus all over his face. The pain of having his ankle broken made him almost die of pain, but he couldn't faint.

"Ugh, you sound like a pig getting slaughtered. You're so noisy!" Jordan glanced at Logan in disdain and then kicked him on his nape. Logan's eyes rolled into the back of his head as he passed out.

Jordan dragged Logan out of the house by his leg as though he was a dead dog. Soon, they vanished.

Only then did Lucas move his hands away from Amelia's eyes and ears and carry her over.

Ever since Jordan suddenly appeared and clamped down on Logan's leg, Grace had been standing at the door of the room, dumbfounded and zoning out. After witnessing the scene in front of her that seemed like a dream, she was speechless for a long time.

The hypocritical and vicious scum Logan Hale, who had imprisoned her and even tried to force himself on her, was actually dragged away like a dog. He was powerless, and all his desperate begging was to no avail.

And the powerful person who put him in such a state was Amelia's kin...

Amelia was sitting on Lucas's arm with one of her arms wrapped tightly around his neck. When she saw Grace standing dumbfounded at the entrance of the room, she exclaimed gleefully, "Aunt Grace! Daddy really came to pick me up! That big bad guy was beaten up and taken away. You don't have to be scared anymore!"

Only then did Grace figure out that the handsome man in front of her who looked extremely young was Amelia's father, whom the latter had been clamoring about.

Besides, Amelia's father was indeed very powerful, as he had taught Logan a lesson and gotten rid of him.

From now on, she would finally be free from the shackles of that devil. She would now be able to enjoy freedom!

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Grace was so excited that tears welled up in her eyes uncontrollably. She started choking and sobbing and was at a loss for words as she looked at Lucas with her eyes full of gratitude.

After Lucas saw Grace, he was a little surprised. The woman in front of him looked extremely young but gorgeous. Moreover, she was sophisticated and elegant, and her waist-length hair gave her the refined and gentle air of a classical beauty.

It was no wonder that the scumbag Logan would want to hold her captive here.

Just now, when he and Jordan were making their way over stealthily, they had overheard the conversation between Grace and Logan and also saw how much she liked and defended Amelia.

"Daddy, Aunt Grace is really nice. She was playing with me just now, and she was even going to teach me how to bake a large cake. Too bad that bad guy suddenly came over, and we didn't get to bake the cake... If Aunt Grace hadn't protected me just now, that bad guy would have beaten me up!" Amelia hurriedly said to Lucas with her round cheeks puffed up.

"Thank you for taking care of my daughter." Lucas thanked Grace solemnly.

When he found Amelia in the small room just now, she was obviously in a good state and wasn't too badly frightened. Furthermore, there were dolls, coloring books, snacks, and other things that children liked around her, which were obviously thanks to Grace.

Grace had agreed to Logan's request mainly because she was concerned about Amelia. A stranger whom she had not known for long actually went that far for his daughter. Lucas was indeed very grateful.

Grace raised her hand, wiped the tears running down her face, and said embarrassedly, "You don't have to thank me. I actually didn't do anything... I ought to thank you and Amelia instead. If it weren't for you guys, I might have been violated by that... You guys saved me, so you're my benefactors. I will always remember your kindness!"

Grace bowed to Lucas.

Lucas hurriedly helped Grace up. "It was just a small favor. I can't accept this."

Lucas then took out a business card from his pocket and handed it to Grace. "This is my business card. My name is Lucas Gray. No matter what trouble you encounter in the future, you can call me and I'll help you."

Lucas didn't mind helping Grace since she had been very kind to Amelia.

Grace took the business card, which only had his name and contact number on it.

"Mr. Gray, I'm Grace Keller," Grace said. She didn't have a business card with her.

"Alright, Miss Keller, you can go now. Logan Hale will never be able to threaten you again in the future. I'll take Amelia home first. Goodbye," Lucas said with a smile. Then he turned around to leave while carrying Amelia in his arms.

"Goodbye, Aunt Grace! You're welcome to come and play at our house!" Amelia twisted her body in Lucas's arms and waved goodbye to Grace.

With a joyful smile that she hadn't had in a long time, Grace waved at them. "Okay! Goodbye!"

At the door, Jordan had already taken Logan away, but there was a car left for Lucas.

Lucas drove while Amelia sat obediently in the back seat with her seatbelt fastened. During the journey, she kept chattering nonstop about how nice Grace had been to her.

Lucas smiled while listening to Amelia. It seemed that she wasn't frightened today. He was thankful for that!

Soon, they arrived back home.

Charlotte, who had also been worried for a long time, immediately dashed out when she heard the sound of the car being driven into the driveway. She saw Lucas carrying Amelia in and sighing before putting her down.

Cheyenne had been working overtime at the office, but she had already returned home. Upon seeing Lucas and Amelia, she was a little bewildered. "Where were you guys? Why did you come home so late?"

Lucas and Charlotte hadn't told Cheyenne that Amelia had been taken away by Scarlet Wright and that Charlotte had been forced to go to Logan Hale's bar for fear that she would be worried.

Now that he had brought Amelia back home safely and nothing had happened to Charlotte either, they planned to hide the dangerous situation that happened just now from Cheyenne.

Lucas was trying to find a random topic to talk about when Amelia leaped into Cheyenne's arms merrily and exclaimed, "Mommy! I played at Aunt Grace's place today. She's as pretty as a fairy! She's so nice. She played dolls with me, told me stories, and was going to teach me how to bake a huge cake!

"But before we got to bake the cake, a bad guy came. Mommy, let's invite Aunt Grace over next time. I like her so much!" Amelia blinked her large, watery eyes again and looked at Lucas. "Daddy, let's go to play with Aunt Grace tomorrow, okay?"

When Cheyenne heard Amelia say these words in her puerile voice, her expression changed. She looked at Lucas with a complicated gaze, her heart full of a mix of emotions that was hard to describe.

Chapter 142: The Hales' Banquet

When Lucas saw Cheyenne's face, he knew that she must have misunderstood something.

But if he wanted to explain, he would inevitably have to expose the fact that Amelia had been abducted. Once he said that, Cheyenne would definitely be worried and scared. In the future, she might even be unable to sleep well because of how worried she was, so he didn't intend to tell her about it.

While Lucas was feeling troubled, Karen suddenly appeared at the side and yelled at him, "Great! You good-for-nothing, you're lucky that Cheyenne was willing to marry you! How dare you have the guts to get involved with some other woman called Grace out there! Lucas Gray, you're such scum! Since you have an affair, you should divorce Cheyenne and get out of this house!"

Karen had been hoping that her daughter would divorce this loser Lucas and then marry a rich young man. Now that she heard that Lucas had been fooling around outside, she immediately wished that they would hurry up and get divorced.

Charlotte looked at her mother, feeling utterly speechless. She knew what happened and was naturally aware of why Lucas had brought Amelia home so late. She knew that the Aunt Grace whom Amelia mentioned must be the person Logan Hale put in charge of taking care of Amelia.

Although Charlotte didn't know how well Grace treated Amelia, she was certain that Lucas definitely didn't betray Cheyenne and had nothing to do with that woman!

Seeing Karen cursing incessantly and wishing that she could come in between them, Charlotte hurriedly spoke up to stop her. "Mom, you don't know anything, so don't spout nonsense, okay?"

Then Charlotte hurriedly said to Cheyenne, "That Aunt Grace Amelia mentioned is actually a friend of mine. You had to work overtime today, and Lucas happened to be busy at that time too, so he asked me to go pick up Amelia. But something urgent cropped up for me, so I asked my friend to look after Amelia for a while. That's what happened. Cheyenne, don't get the wrong idea!"

Without saying a single word, Cheyenne glanced at Charlotte and then at Lucas apprehensively.

Karen laughed in a high-pitched tone. "Charlotte, don't cover up for this good-for-nothing. Since when do you have a good friend called Grace? Why don't your sister and I know? You're still young. You don't know how nasty these men are! This good-for-nothing can fool you today and take Amelia to see that shameless woman, so who knows what else he can do next?!"

Then Karen raised her hand and poked Amelia's head. "And you, little one, you don't know any better. You start singing praises about her just because she gave you some sweets and played with you. You'll know it when she becomes your stepmother one day!"

Her words made Amelia pout unhappily, and Cheyenne's face turned sullen as well.

Amelia was as precious as Cheyenne's life, but Lucas took her to meet another woman who managed to get into Amelia's good books within just a few short hours. Amelia even sang praises about her. Clearly, that woman wasn't an ordinary person either.

If... they really...

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At the thought of the possibility Karen just mentioned, Cheyenne felt as if her heart had been stabbed by a knife. Staring at Lucas, she said, "You must give me a detailed explanation for what happened today. Don't think of finding a random excuse to fool me."

Lucas didn't expect Cheyenne to really suspect him after Karen fanned the flames. He couldn't help smiling bitterly.

However, he couldn't reveal the truth now, and he didn't want to give a random excuse either. Although he was smart, he was clueless about what to say now.

Seeing how speechless he was, Cheyenne humphed coldly, picked Amelia up in her arms, and turned around to leave. She headed upstairs without even turning back.

Standing at the side, Charlotte panicked and hurriedly urged Lucas, "Oh no, Cheyenne is angry! Hurry up and explain to her!"

Lucas thought about it and was just about to go upstairs to explain things to Cheyenne, but his phone suddenly rang. It was a message from Jordan.

He stopped in his tracks and shook his head at Charlotte. "The matter hasn't been settled yet. I'll go handle it and explain to Cheyenne when I'm back."

With that, Lucas turned around and left.

The matter remaining unsettled was naturally referring to Logan Hale and his family.

Jordan mentioned an important piece of information in his text.

The baby of Connor Hale, Logan's older brother, had just been born, and the baby shower happened to be today. The entire Hale family was in high spirits and had sent out various invitations.

The Hales were one of the four top families in Orange County, and they were on par with the Sawyers.

Thus, the invitations sent by the Hales were extremely valuable, and various families were all scrambling to congratulate them in a bid to get closer to the Hales.

Flynn Davis had mentioned it to Lucas once before. But at that time, Logan had already tried to drug Charlotte, which made Lucas incredibly displeased with the Hales. So he naturally didn't consider accepting the invitation to go to the Hales' celebration.

But Lucas was now driving to the cluster of villas where the Hales resided.

However, he wasn't going there to congratulate them.

At this moment, the Hale residence was decorated lavishly, and there was a large crowd, as well as numerous luxurious cars at the entrance.

Although the baby shower began in the afternoon, the formal celebration banquet didn't start until evening.

Logan had long disliked his elder brother, Connor Hale, who was very likely to clinch the position of the head of the family. He was disdainful toward Connor's baby shower and had been still loitering in his bar in the afternoon with Scarlet, which resulted in the matters earlier.

The black Jaguar pulled over in the parking lot in front of the Hale residence, and Lucas led Jordan out of the car. Looking at the lively scene in front of him, he smiled coldly. "It just so happens that all the people of the Hale family are present today. How wonderful!"

Chapter 143: Meeting the Watchdog

Lucas was about to step into the Hale residence when a hand suddenly stretched out in front of him to stop him.

He looked over and saw that the person who stopped him was a young man of about 27 years old. His hair was greasy, and his face was powdery. There were even bruises on his face that the powder couldn't conceal. Moreover, he was clearly intoxicated.

Lucas knew who this young man was. He was the first person he met on the first day he returned to Orange County.

He was Seth Miller, the youngest son of the Millers who had been harboring designs on Cheyenne. He even went to her office to propose to her with flowers and a ring despite having been blatantly rejected by her. He had pestered Cheyenne continuously on several occasions.

Lucas narrowed his eyes slightly, and there was a dangerous glint in them. He didn't have a good impression of Seth, a man who was coveting his wife.

However, Seth didn't realize how dangerous Lucas was and instead stopped him and said proudly, "I was just thinking that someone here looks out of place. So it's really you, Lucas Gray! This is the Hales' baby shower, not an occasion that any Tom, Dick, or Harry can attend!

"Lucas Gray, you're just a live-in son-in-law of the Carters, who are just nobodies. Oh, no, I remembered wrongly. Even the insignificant Carters have already expelled you from the family. What right do you have to be here? You garbage, you've really dirtied the entrance of the Hale residence!"

After Seth finished making his malicious remarks, he glanced at Lucas's extremely ordinary clothes and laughed out loud. "Could it be that after you were kicked out by the Carters, you're so poor that you can't even afford to pay for your own meals, so you're here to ask for food? If you really need some food, I can give you some help. Here you go!"

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He took out a few greens bills from his pocket and deliberately scattered them around Lucas's feet. "What are you waiting for? Hurry up and pick them up. Hundreds of dollars is enough to feed you for a few weeks! Pick them up, then hurry up and leave. Don't be such an eyesore here!"

Finding it an insult to his status to be talking to Seth, Lucas glanced at him coldly. "Get lost! A good dog doesn't block the way, or are you here specifically to be a watchdog?"

"You!" Seth's face instantly reddened. He was the scion of the Millers, admired and respected by many since he was a child. Yet Lucas was now mocking him and calling him a dog!

If it were someone of noble status like a Hale who insulted him, he would have accepted it. But he felt that Lucas, a live-in son-in-law and a loser who was sponging off a woman, had no right to do so!

Moreover, Lucas was also his enemy who was married to the woman he fancied!

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There were many other guests around who were invited to the baby shower. After hearing the conflict between the two of them, they couldn't help but stop in their tracks and start watching the dramatic scene with great interest, which was only human nature.

Sensing the glances being shot at him, Seth got even more furious, as he felt as though they were laughing at him. It was a huge insult to be called a dog by a live-in son-in-law!

The humiliation of being rejected by Cheyenne repeatedly in the past also surged in his heart as he pointed at Lucas and barked viciously, "Damn it! Who do you think you are? How dare you shout at me! Are you sick of living? I'll get someone to come here and cripple you!"

Lucas immediately looked like he was looking at a fool. At the same time, he was bored and amused. *Why are there always fools who don't know any better and hurl the same few insults at me all the time?*

Lucas was already sick of it.

Standing behind Lucas, Jordan was sneering in derision, and he was obviously excited.

Almost every time, fools like this one would be taught a hard lesson for issuing useless and empty threats to Lucas. But they just didn't know how to use their brains and kept vying to be taught a lesson.

Jordan moved his toes slightly and couldn't wait to stretch his muscles.

Seeing Lucas not say anything, Seth really thought that he had scared Lucas with his threat, so he said smugly, "Are you scared now? If you are, hurry up and kneel down, kowtow three times, and slap yourself while admitting your mistakes. Then I'll let you off. Or else... hmph!"

Lucas's eyes lit up as he smiled. "Or else what?"

"Or else I'll immediately call a group of men here and break your legs! I'll cripple you so that you'll have to crawl in front of me forever!" Seth clamored loudly. He already had his phone in hand. Once he placed the call, a bunch of his men would come immediately.

Although it wasn't good to create a bloodbath at the baby shower of a Hale descendant, Seth reckoned that the Hales wouldn't hold it against him if he got his men to drag Lucas farther away and then break his legs.

The Millers were now on good terms with the Hales, and the two families had already started some corporation projects. So the Hales naturally wouldn't be bothered about an insignificant wastrel like Lucas.

After hearing what Seth said, the people around them couldn't help but frown slightly.

It was just a minor verbal conflict. Besides, Seth was the one who started it. But in the end, he demanded that Lucas kowtow to him or have his legs broken and become a cripple. He was really being too overbearing and vicious.

However, they wouldn't stand up for Lucas and step out to stop Seth.

After all, although the Millers weren't considered a top family and couldn't compare to the uppermost echelons of Orange County, they were still a second-rate family and rather powerful. None of them were willing to offend the Millers for the sake of a nameless live-in son-in-law.

There were some who were watching the fun and enjoying the gossip. Seeing Seth threatening to get people to deal with Lucas and break his legs, quite a few of them started cheering merrily.

"Mr. Miller, you should break both of this punk's legs since he had the audacity to offend you. Let him know where he stands!"

"Haha, he's just a good-for-nothing. How dare he show up at the Hales?! He deserves to be taught a lesson!"

"Punk, you'd better kneel down, kowtow, and slap yourself to make amends to Mr. Miller! That'd be much better than having both your legs broken!"

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Lucas and Jordan heard everything the people around them said.

Seth naturally raised his head arrogantly and stared at Lucas as he waited for him to kneel and kowtow.

Lucas sneered and said to Jordan beside him, "Did you hear that? Kneel down, kowtow to me, and slap himself or have his legs broken. Go ask him what he wants."

Chapter 144: Two Options

"Yes, Lucas!" Jordan instantly understood what Lucas meant. A tinge of excitement flashed in his eyes as he stepped forward.

Seth's face darkened. He was clearly the one who had given Lucas two options, but why was Lucas making him choose instead?

Before Seth could figure it out, Jordan, who was standing two meters away, suddenly dashed toward him and stopped in front of him. Immediately afterward, Jordan raised his leg and kicked Seth hard on his face and ear.

Seth felt a hard impact on his head, which immediately turned numb. While being kicked away, he even vomited a mouthful of blood in midair.

If this scene could be recorded with a camera and replayed in slow motion, the changes in Seth's facial muscles after getting kicked would be seen clearly. The trajectory of his teeth and blood splattering would be artistic too.

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Unfortunately, this scene happened too suddenly, and no one could record it in time. Everyone felt a blur before their eyes, and the next thing they knew, Seth's tall and muscular body flew up into the air and smashed against a large tree trunk about five meters away. He then stopped again and rolled down before laying on the ground and vomiting mouthfuls of blood.

The scene looked extremely terrifying!

Everyone was dumbfounded!

The people who were just urging Seth to beat up Lucas felt a chill run through their bodies, and they instantly broke out in cold sweat.

Jordan walked toward Seth step by step, making the latter feel horrified because Jordan was just like a devil to him!

He didn't expect Lucas's underling really to have the guts to hit him, the scion of the Millers. Moreover, his move was so terrifying too!

Seth felt that half of his head was buzzing, and he was in so much pain that he couldn't close his mouth at all. Blood and saliva kept dripping down from the side of his mouth, and he felt like all his bones had been broken. The pain was so excruciating that he couldn't even get up on his feet.

In fact, Jordan had already shown him a lot of mercy. Otherwise, he would have long kicked Seth's head into mush.

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With a smile that seemed creepy to Seth, Jordan walked to him and squatted down.

"Lucas asked me to tell you to make a choice between kneeling down, kowtowing, and slapping yourself or having both your legs broken. Have you thought about which one you're going to choose?"

Only then did it dawn on the surrounding spectators that the two choices Seth was given were exactly the ones that he gave Lucas!

Seth's head and face were covered in blood and cold sweat, and he was naturally indignant! Lucas should have been the one to choose between these two options. Why did he have to do it?

Seth clenched his teeth and said sternly, "I am a Miller, and my father is the chairman of the Miller Corporation, which is in a cooperative relationship with the Hales. If you dare to lay a finger on me, the Millers will never let you off! If you're smart enough, hurry... Ah!!!"

Before Seth could finish speaking, Jordan suddenly stood up and stepped on his ankle with his foot. "Seems like you want to choose to have both your legs broken, huh? I'll fulfill your wish now."

Then Jordan put some weight on his leg, as if he was going to stomp on Seth's ankle.

"Ah! No, no, no! No!" Seth immediately shrieked loudly like he was a pig getting slaughtered. His face was covered in mucus and tears, and he no longer seemed like the handsome scion of a wealthy family.

Jordan pursed his lips in disgust. "Weren't you very arrogant just now? You have to choose one out of the two options. You have ten seconds. Otherwise, I'll take it that you've chosen the second one and step on your legs!"

Seth's heart began pounding rapidly.

The first option was to kneel and kowtow to Lucas while slapping himself. It was too humiliating, and Seth Miller couldn't bring himself to do it at all!

The other option was for both his legs to be broken. Given the strength of this terrifying young man in front of him, his legs would definitely be broken if he stepped on them, and they would never heal completely again. He would have to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

Neither of the options was acceptable to Seth! He felt that Lucas was too vicious!

However, he forgot that both options were first proposed by him!

He didn't want to be humiliated, nor was he willing to have his legs broken, but the people he had bullied didn't deserve such treatment either.

Suddenly, someone nearby tried to ease the tension. "Ah, forget it. Just be forgiving. Mr. Miller has already been kicked and severely injured. Why don't you let him off?"

"That's right! After all, the Millers are a big family. If you really force Mr. Miller and cause some terrible consequence, the Millers won't let you off either. What's the point then?"

"Exactly. Mr. Miller was just making a casual remark. He didn't really do anything to you, yet you beat him up badly. That's enough! Why do you have to be so calculative?"

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Facing these people who were biased toward Seth, Lucas kept a straight face while Jordan spat some saliva and glared at them scornfully.

"Hah, you people are really interesting. Why didn't anyone stand up for what is right and tell Seth Miller not to hold it against us when he issued those threats just now? Besides, he's the one who started this. Are all of you blind and mute?"

"Just now, some of you were still fanning the flames. Don't think I didn't see what you did. I remember all your faces! You'd better watch out at night from now on!"

Jordan glanced at all of them coldly. Everyone who saw his gaze felt a chill surging from the bottom of their hearts, and they didn't dare to meet Jordan's eyes at all. In particular, those who had been fanning the flames wished that they could hide as they took a few steps back, fearing that Jordan would settle scores with them.

The scion of the Millers had been kicked badly by him. They would definitely suffer a tragic fate if he dealt with them!

Seeing that they didn't dare to speak anymore, Jordan turned to look at Seth. "Hey, have you chosen yet?"

Chapter 145: The Hales' Banquet

Hearing what Jordan said, Seth shivered violently, as if he had heard a call from hell.

His phone had been knocked away when he got kicked just now, so even if he wanted to find someone to save him now, it was too late.

Seth heard the members of smaller families speaking up for him just now, but he didn't expect that Jordan and Lucas wouldn't buy it at all!

All of a sudden, Seth was alone and powerless!

His heart was awash with despair and fear! At this juncture, Seth felt extremely regretful about his decision to stop Lucas and force him to choose between those two options!

Unfortunately, there is no cure for regret in this world!

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Seeing Jordan raise his foot again and about to stomp on his leg, Seth couldn't care less about his image and simply shrieked loudly. He then got up and crawled toward Lucas.

Since he had already knelt down, the process after that was much simpler. He went all out and raised his hand to slap himself twice on the face. "I'm sorry... Mr. Gray, I'm sorry for offending you. Please let me go on account of the Millers!"

Seth's heart was full of grief and humiliation. Kneeling down in front of Lucas and slapping himself in public was the worst humiliation he had ever suffered in his so many years of life!

Seth's apology was indeed insincere, and he even brought up the Miller. Moreover, the two slaps he gave himself were also light, and he didn't kowtow either.

Jordan was incredibly displeased. He frowned and was about to ask Seth to apologize properly, but Lucas suddenly said, "Enough. You're in this state today, not because I'm humiliating you but because you brought it upon yourself. You're reaping what you sow! Also, don't think about threatening me with the Millers. I actually do want to meet them. You have half an hour to get your father to show up in front of me. Otherwise, I don't mind tearing your family apart!"

With that, Lucas walked straight to the gate of the Hale residence while Jordan followed closely behind. The two of them soon vanished in the light.

The people outside looked at each other in dismay, frightened by Lucas and Jordan so much so that they were utterly silent.

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Meanwhile, his face full of resentment and menace, Seth was propping himself up against the ground and getting up on his feet with a shaky gait. "Lucas Gray, I won't let you off!"

In the villa cluster of the Hale family, the lights were on, and the place was decorated lavishly. Even though it was just a baby shower, the villa was full of opulence, truly exhibiting the wealth and splendor of a top family of Orange County.

The spacious banquet hall covered a floor area of thousands of square feet, and dozens of large luxurious round tables were placed inside, enough to accommodate thousands of guests. On each luxurious round table, there were various delicacies and drinks. Everyone was just waiting for the host to announce the start of the banquet.

Lucas and Jordan sat at a less crowded table. Everyone at that table looked at them with some surprise.

The two were fresh faces they didn't know. But there were many guests invited to the Hales' baby shower, so it wasn't strange for a small family like theirs not to know every single person.

Someone at a table not too far from Lucas's table suddenly asked, "W-why is he here?"

The person who spoke was a fat woman and also someone Lucas knew. She was James Wilson's wife, Sharon Hart, who had once gotten into a conflict with Karen over a bracelet.

At this moment, Sharon Hart's mouth was wide open, and she was pointing her finger at Lucas in disbelief.

The people around couldn't help but look over in the direction her finger was pointing.

"Shut up!" Wilson smacked Sharon's chubby arm and glowered at her.

"Hubby, I'm just curious. This is the Hales' baby shower, and that Lucas is just a useless live-in son-in-law who got chased out by the Carters. What right does he have to be here?" Sharon said indignantly.

Wilson stared at her sullenly and warned. "Sharon Hart, I told you a long time ago to stop messing with him! Are you turning a deaf ear to my admonishment? If you keep babbling nonsense and creating trouble for me, get lost immediately!"

He sounded extremely hostile, and he didn't cut her any slack at all.

Sharon was ashamed and furious to be reprimanded by her husband in front of so many people, but she dared not talk back to him at all.

Her family was rather well-to-do when she was younger, which was also why she could marry Wilson. However, her family's businesses had suffered huge losses and were no longer doing as well as they used to. Besides, since she gave birth to her child, her body size had ballooned, and Wilson no longer found her attractive. Furthermore, she lost the support of her family and often behaved foolishly, so she couldn't hold her head up high in front of Wilson at all.

Wilson didn't have time to care about his disgraceful wife now, and instead, he looked at Lucas. Only when he realized that Lucas wasn't looking his way did he put his mind at ease.

Actually, Wilson and Lucas had been in several conflicts before, but he only came to a sudden realization when Lucas and Jordan crippled more than ten of his underlings after Karen and Sharon got into a scuffle at the hotel previously. He instantly labeled Lucas as a dangerous person who was not to be provoked.

He would rather not have any encounter with Lucas than risk offending him. This was what Wilson had learned!

Apart from Sharon and Wilson, Dominic and Bryce Carter had also noticed that Lucas had entered the banquet hall.

The Carters were a third-rate family in Orange County, especially after the changes some time ago and the loss of the Brilliance Corporation. At the same time, they suffered a financial crisis and plunged all the way to a fourth or fifth-rate family.

In fact, they managed to get an invitation to the baby shower only after racking their brains and pulling some connections. Their agenda was to take this opportunity to express their friendliness to the Hales and establish relations with major families, which was something that all families with lower statuses would vie to do during such events.

But when Bryce saw Lucas, a former live-in son-in-law of the Carters, sauntering into the banquet hall, he was immediately displeased.

"Grandpa, why is that garbage Lucas Gray allowed in here?" Bryce stared at Lucas, his arm still aching from when Lucas broke it previously.

In fact, Bryce was definitely the person who had suffered the most losses because of Lucas. At the same time, he was also among the top few people who hated Lucas the most.

Of course, he wasn't brainless either.

Just as Bryce stood up and wanted to go to create trouble for Lucas, he suddenly realized that someone had beat him to it and sat down beside Lucas.

Chapter 146: Substitute

"Mr. Gray, I didn't expect you to be invited too. I originally thought that you wouldn't have to show up given your status," Aston Brooke said with a graceful smile as he sat down beside Lucas.

Lucas assented and leaned back against his chair. "I didn't expect someone from another city like you to receive an invitation from the Hales too. It seems that you're on close terms with them, huh?"

Aston smiled. "No, no, thanks to you, the Brookes have just now established a firm foothold in Orange County. The Hales are one of the four major families in Orange County, so we naturally have to form a good relationship with them as well. I'm not going to lie to you. I've become close friends with Connor Hale lately."

Aston seemed to be modest, but in reality, he was just putting his social skills to use and also deliberately trying to show off the power of the Brookes to Lucas. He was trying to make it clear to Lucas that they had now become acquainted with the Hales, so even if Lucas wanted others to boycott them in Orange County later on, it probably wouldn't be that easy.

Although the Brookes had previously pretended to pledge allegiance to Lucas, they actually despised him. In their opinion, Lucas was bonkers for thinking of going against the Huttons instead of making full use of his identity as a Hutton.

Of course, on the surface, Aston wouldn't actively express such emotions, and he was still polite and respectful to Lucas.

Unfortunately, his acting skills were poor, and Lucas had long been aware of the Brookes' plans.

Lucas looked at Aston with a strange expression. If Aston knew his purpose for coming to the Hales' banquet tonight, would he still sit beside him so proudly and show off the friendship between the Brookes and the Hales in front of him?

At that time, Aston would probably regret it and even wish that he could pretend not to know Lucas!

"If you don't want to regret it later, you'd better stay away from me. Otherwise, don't blame me for not warning you," Lucas said nonchalantly.

"What?" Aston frowned, not realizing what Lucas meant.

At this moment, Bryce walked over and glared at Lucas resentfully before forcing a smile and saying to Aston, "Mr. Brooke, how have you been lately? That cousin of mine is young and ignorant, so she ended up provoking you. I shall apologize to you on her behalf. Regardless of whether your relationship with Scarlet works out or not, we can still work with each other harmoniously, don't you agree?"

Bryce lifted the wine glass in his hand and toasted to Aston to atone for Scarlet's mistakes.

Aston frowned.

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Previously, he had come to Orange County to look for a business partner. The Carters were extremely eager and took the initiative to contact him on several occasions. They even made a lot of concessions on the contract. At that time, the Brookes faced some trouble because they couldn't find any company willing to cooperate with them, so Aston chose to let the Carters work with them.

After that, Dominic even took the initiative to let his granddaughter Scarlet accompany Aston on a tour around Orange County, but Aston could tell at a glance what they were planning.

Of course, he also didn't refuse since Scarlet gave herself to him out of her own accord, and it would be a waste if he didn't take the chance. But the silly Scarlet thought that she would be able to marry him and even offended Lucas several times, almost causing him to offend Lucas as well. He naturally kicked such a brainless, statusless woman to the curb.

Then Scarlet cried, threw tantrums, and called him continuously. Aston blocked her on every communication channel and refused to see her. Only then did he finally get to a day of peace.

Now, Bryce came to him and mentioned Scarlet again, making Aston feel extremely annoyed.

Now, the Brookes no longer faced a boycott, and ever since they 'pledged allegiance' to Lucas, he let them off. The Brookes could now easily find some brilliant business partners in Orange County, and it was very likely for them to cooperate with the Hales. Aston naturally didn't value the Carters anymore.

Moreover, Aston had also asked around and found out about the disagreements between the Carters and Lucas. He knew that Bryce, whom he disliked long ago, had repeatedly provoked Lucas.

Seeing Bryce bend down to toast him, Aston snorted and stayed still.

Extremely embarrassed, Bryce stood rooted on the spot. Fortunately, he was rather thick-skinned, so he smiled awkwardly and said, "I'll toast."

Then he downed that glass of wine and showed his empty glass to Aston, as if Aston had agreed to drink with him.

After watching Bryce's one-man show, Aston said with contempt, "How can some people be so thick-skinned? You're not welcome here. If I were you, I would have long left."

Aston's voice was quite loud, so the people around them looked over.

When Bryce saw all the gazes on him, his face stiffened and became burning hot. He felt embarrassed because of Aston.

But when Bryce saw Lucas beside Aston, a thought flashed in his mind!

He thought that Aston definitely wasn't referring to him but the good-for-nothing Lucas!

Thinking of this, Bryce suddenly felt much better and pointed at Lucas. "Lucas Gray, did you hear that? You're just a loser who got kicked out by the Carters. Trust you to have the cheek to saunter your way to the Hales' banquet. Mr. Brooke is right. You're too thick-skinned. What are you waiting for? Hurry up and get out!"

Bryce's voice was loud and thus attracted the attention of the guests around the table.

Many began to discuss among themselves.

"That young man who spoke is a Carter, right?"

"Yes, he is Dominic Carter's only grandson, and I heard that the Carters' businesses will be handed over to him in the future. The young man sitting in front of him that he just scolded is apparently a live-in son-in-law. Indeed, he's dressed very shabbily."

"Haha, I've heard of this too. This live-in son-in-law is a good-for-nothing. He even disappeared for around six years and returned recently. Then he did something to provoke Dominic Carter, who then decided to kick him and his wife's family out of the Carters!"

“Tsk, there must be a problem with his character! I heard that he’s the same man who was embroiled in a scandal with Cheyenne Carter back then, right?”

“Yes, it’s him! I didn’t think he would dare to come to the Hales’ banquet. He’s really too thick-skinned!”

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Lucas sneered in response to Bryce’s words and the gossip around him instead of answering.

Meanwhile, Aston’s face turned sullen. He had directed that insult at Bryce, yet that fool shifted the focus onto Lucas instead. Now, it was hard to explain.

Chapter 147: Real Invitation Card

Of course, Aston only looked sullen on the surface. But in fact, he didn’t want to state blatantly that he was scolding Bryce. *Wouldn’t it be wonderful to let this fool Bryce Carter fight with Lucas Gray while I watch?*

Even if Lucas wanted to pursue the matter, Aston could completely shirk the responsibility. Besides, the person he scolded in the first place was Bryce, not Lucas!

Lucas’s sneer made Bryce feel Lucas was despising him, causing him to be even more infuriated. Pointing at Lucas, he barked, “The Hale residence isn’t a place for you to be in! By the way, you need an invitation to be here. How can a worthless person like you get an invitation from the Hales? You must have sneaked in or falsified an invitation card!”

Lucas smiled composedly. “Based on what you said, the Hales must really be useless! If I sneaked in, that just goes to show that the Hales’ security guards are lax and have serious issues. If I made a fake invitation card, that just means that the people in charge of verification at the entrance are complete fools, right?”

“I... Since when did I criticize the Hales? Don’t spout nonsense!” Bryce panicked and frantically waved his hands while trying to explain, “I meant that a loser like you must have used some dishonorable means to sneak your way in. I never meant to criticize the Hales!”

Lucas spread his palms open. “Hah, so you mean that the Hales’ subordinates are so incompetent that even a loser like me can sneak in easily?”

Unable to clear the air, Bryce panicked, and sweat covered his forehead. He was afraid that the Hales would get the wrong idea, so he could only holler at Lucas, "Shut up! Don't try to sow discord here again!"

Seeing a conflict seemed to have started here, the Hales naturally wouldn't want someone to make a scene on their own family's big day in their place. Two family members who were in charge of butlering walked over with some security guards.

"Everyone, today is the Hales' baby shower. Even if there is a dispute among you, please hold it back and do us a favor by restraining yourselves from creating a ruckus here," a middle-aged man said sternly.

When Bryce saw the Hales, he immediately raised his hand and pointed at Lucas with righteous indignation. "Hello, Sir! I belong to the Carter Corporation, and this person in front of me is Lucas Gray, a useless live-in son-in-law whom we kicked out. I suspect that he does not have an invitation from the Hales and has sneaked in! Please check him carefully."

The middle-aged man furrowed his brows. The Hales had invited many elites of upper-class society to their baby shower today, so security was naturally very tight. He didn't believe that someone had managed to sneak in.

Lucas, dressed in simple and ordinary clothes, was a fresh face to him. But if he really was a useless live-in son-in-law whom the Carters kicked out like what Bryce said, he was indeed not fit to receive an invitation from the Hales.

In that case, it seemed that the fact that Lucas had appeared here was indeed very suspicious!

The middle-aged man looked at Lucas and said in a polite but harsh tone, "Excuse me, Sir, please show me the invitation card you've received."

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Lucas narrowed his eyes. "Why? Do the Hales also doubt the competency of your staff and think that I sneaked in?"

The middle-aged man looked at Lucas's calm and composed appearance and felt that he didn't seem to have sneaked in. He began speculating in his heart.

However, the baby shower today was very important to the Hales, and the guests were mostly from the elite families of high status in Orange County. If someone really sneaked in and caused trouble, he wouldn't be able to account for it.

At the thought of this, the middle-aged man made his tone mellower, but he still insisted. "We have a lot of guests here today, so for the sake of everyone's safety, please cooperate with us. Afterward, the Hales will definitely give you an explanation."

This scene happening in the banquet hall quickly caught everyone's attention.

Hearing that someone might have sneaked in without an invitation, almost all the guests had their curiosity aroused as they looked over to see who was so bold as to dare to make such a scene at the Hales' baby shower.

Bryce was certain that Lucas definitely didn't have an invitation. But when he saw how composed Lucas was in front of the Hales, so much that he even sipped some tea leisurely without any fear, he couldn't help but be anxious again.

Could it be that this punk really has an invitation card? No, no, no, that's impossible!

How can his good-for-nothing get an invitation from the Hales, one of the four major families?!

Bryce desperately tried to comfort himself while watching Lucas's movements.

The Hales around Lucas and countless guests craning their necks were all staring at Lucas and waiting to see if he could take out an invitation card or not.

For a moment, Lucas became the focus of the entire banquet hall.

Lucas suddenly smirked and chuckled before taking out a beautifully crafted and exquisite red invitation card with gold edges and slamming it onto the table. "Since you want to see it, take a good look."

Seeing that he actually took out an invitation card, the people around him changed their expressions, and some even looked obviously disappointed.

On the other hand, Bryce's heart hammered violently. *This good-for-nothing actually managed to take out an invitation card!*

Why?!

Most importantly, since Lucas managed to take out Hales' invitation card, this not only meant that he was indeed an honored guest of the Hales but also that Bryce's previous accusation was false. Since Bryce caused the Hales to offend a distinguished guest, the Hales would definitely put the blame on him!

With his face as pale as a sheet, Bryce pointed at the invitation card and insisted vehemently, "His invitation card must be fake! You must check it carefully!"

The middle-aged man picked up the gold-embossed invitation card and opened it. It was a habit of the Hales not to state the specific name of the invitee on the invitation card, so anyone who had an invitation could be granted entry.

However, it wasn't that easy to replicate an invitation from the Hale family because in the middle of each real invitation, there was a small phoenix seal that was not easily discoverable, much less replicated.

In the middle of the invitation card Lucas took out, there was indeed a small and exquisite phoenix seal!

This meant that the invitation card was real!

Chapter 148: Twisting Facts

The middle-aged man held the invitation card and handed it back to Lucas with both hands, bowing and apologizing at the same time. "My apologies, Mr. Gray, this invitation card is authentic. I'm sorry for unintentionally offending you just now! I didn't mean to. Please forgive me."

Then he straightened up his body and shot Bryce an extremely cold gaze.

It was all Bryce's fault for spurring him to ask Lucas to produce the invitation card for inspection. He was just a steward of the Hales, and if he were to offend an honored guest, he would be in trouble!

With his mouth wide open in disbelief, Bryce took two steps back while muttering incessantly, "How can it be authentic? How can he really have an invitation from the Hales... No, this is impossible! He must have stolen it from someone..."

Smack!

Bryce was given a hard and tight slap on his face, disrupting his incoherent muttering!

Dominic had walked over at some point. After slapping Bryce to shut him up, he put his hands together while facing the middle-aged man and the other guests around him. With a look of sincerity, he apologized, "Sorry, everyone. It was my grandson Bryce Carter who made a mistake in a moment of rashness. We are very sorry for disturbing all of you."

Lucas slowly sipped on some tea and casually tossed the invitation card that the middle-aged man handed over onto the table.

In fact, the invitation card indeed didn't belong to Lucas. Jordan had taken it from Seth Miller, who had kicked up a fuss with them just now. Actually, Flynn Davis also had a few invitation cards, but he didn't give any to Lucas because the latter had previously declined to attend the baby shower.

After hearing what Dominic said, the people around them immediately started discussing among themselves.

In fact, everyone could tell that Bryce wasn't acting in a moment of rashness, but rather, he obviously had a feud with Lucas and thus was so overbearing toward the latter!

At the thought that Lucas used to be a live-in son-in-law of the Carters but was later chased out together with his wife and her family, they reckoned that there must have been some interesting story behind it.

Almost all the people present belonged to prestigious families in Orange County, and all wealthy and esteemed families had dark secrets.

For a while, countless speculations emerged in the minds of the people.

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A few young people who knew Bryce began grinning and gibing, "Mr. Carter, surely the man in front of you isn't the one who got involved in a scandal with your cousin Cheyenne Carter, is he?"

Hearing the disdainful tone in the word 'scandal', Bryce immediately became riled up. He felt that he had found a supporter. "He is exactly that penniless punk. After creating that scandal, we had no choice but to get Cheyenne, who ruined the family's reputation, to marry him. We let him sponge off us and provided for him entirely, yet this ingrate doesn't know what it means to be grateful!"

Bryce deliberately exclaimed loudly and even glanced at Lucas with contempt, as if Lucas owed the Carters a great favor.

"Oh? How is he an ingrate?" someone asked curiously.

"Hmph, not long after he got married, he absconded with hundreds of thousands of dollars from his father-in-law and returned only after six years. After squandering all that money, he still had the cheek to come back and continue making us provide for him. That isn't all. He's also really arrogant and vicious. He talked back to my grandfather on several occasions, causing my grandfather to pass out. He even dared to hit me just because he was a soldier for a few years. Look, this ingrate was the one who broke my wrist!"

Bryce held up his wrist, which was still wrapped in gauze, and showed it to the people around him in a bid to produce 'evidence' of Lucas's misdeeds. "Unfortunately, that shameless woman Cheyenne Carter was somehow bewitched by him and insisted on colluding with this ingrate to anger us. So in the end, we were left with no choice but to kick them out of the family and disown them because we couldn't stand it any longer!"

Bryce twisted facts and made the Carters out to be kindhearted souls. He even branded Lucas and Cheyenne as ingrates who were heartless and unfilial.

After making this statement with pleasure, Bryce felt that he had vented all his pent-up anger and aggravation. He felt that he once again became superior to Lucas.

Snap!

Suddenly, a clear and crisp cracking sound abruptly filled the air, halting Bryce in his attempt to continue framing Lucas.

Lucas crushed the teacup in his hand into pieces, and the fragments started falling onto the table.

Everyone instantly fell silent and stared at him in astonishment. Amid the complete silence, he said, "Nonsense. You even insulted my wife. It seems you've forgotten the warning I gave you before."

Lucas's gaze was icy cold, and his eyes were full of a sharp glint as he glared daggers at Bryce with a terrifying aura that seemed to be able to crush people into pieces.

The air around Lucas seemed to freeze, and many subconsciously took a few steps back as they felt a chill arise in their hearts.

Facing Lucas's intimidating gaze, Bryce felt overwhelmed with fear. Lucas's eyes were like daggers piercing through his heart, making his body quake and drenched in cold sweat. Even his legs turned into jelly.

Supporting himself against the chair beside him, Bryce insisted, "I-I'm not spouting nonsense. You and Cheyenne Carter had indeed messed around and got involved in a scandal. Dare you say that you had nothing to do with what happened to the Carters recently?"

Lucas stared at Bryce coldly. "Since you mentioned what happened then, how come you don't remember that the scandal only happened because you and the Carters had deliberately set Cheyenne up in a bid to encroach on the Brilliance Corporation?"

Lucas's words made everyone flabbergasted!

Almost everyone in Orange County had heard of the scandal that Cheyenne and Lucas, who was only a chauffeur then, were involved in. At that time, everyone said that Cheyenne was a beautiful and dignified woman on the surface but was actually desperate and indecent in private, so much that she actually got involved with a lowly chauffeur.

Cheyenne's reputation was destroyed overnight, and despite the Carters taking away the Brilliance Corporation, which she had single-handedly established and developed, people only felt that she deserved it. They even thought that the Carters had done the right thing because she would only disgrace the Carters further if she remained as the chairperson of the Brilliance Corporation.

However, they heard something shocking now. It turned out that the Carters were the ones who planned that scandal all for the sake of snatching the Brilliance Corporation away from Cheyenne.

The news was too astonishing!

The expressions of Bryce and Dominic changed drastically. They never expected this scoundrel to find out about that matter, which they had been very secretive about and was made known to only a few people.

But no matter how Lucas learned the information, they definitely couldn't admit to being the masterminds!

Otherwise, not only the two of them, but the Carters would also be thoroughly embarrassed. Their business, which finally picked up after lots of painstaking efforts, would take another hit!

Who would be willing to cooperate with a company that had no bottom line and would resort to any means for the sake of profits?

Bryce and Dominic glanced at each other, both understanding each other's thoughts.

Having gained Dominic's support, Bryce was emboldened as he hollered, "Bullshit! The Carters have never done anything like that. You're just smearing us, you good-for-nothing!"

As he spoke, he picked up a bottle of white wine and tried to smash it at Lucas's head relentlessly!

Bang! The glass bottle slammed hard against someone's head!

The thick glass bottle shattered immediately, forming a crack in his hard and solid skull as the fragrant white wine and blood flowed down his head.

“Waa!” The people around them subconsciously shrieked in horror while watching the scene unfold in front of them in disbelief.

What made them unable to believe their eyes was that Bryce was clearly the one who had grabbed the white wine bottle and attempted to smash it at Lucas. But now, the person who had his head cracked open by the wine bottle turned out to be Bryce himself and not Lucas!

No one in the room saw how Lucas grabbed the bottle from Bryce’s hand and smashed it on his head in less than a second!

“Ahhhh!” The dumbfounded Bryce stood still on the spot for a long time before hugging his head and wailing out loud.

Lucas nonchalantly tossed the broken half of the wine bottle onto the ground, picked up a stack of snow-white napkins on the table, and slowly wiped the spilled wine on his hands.

No one dared to speak throughout the entire process.

Only after Lucas wiped his hands clean did he glance at Bryce, whose head was covered in blood. “I exposed the truth, so you want to kill me in a fit of anger and shame? Hah, you’re not worthy of picking a fight with me.”

Lucas’s voice was very calm and collected, but to Bryce, it was incredibly terrifying. When Bryce thought about it, he instantly recalled the miserable state that he had ended up in when he tried to deal with Lucas on several occasions previously!

“Bryce, are you alright!?!” Dominic hurriedly rushed over and picked up a clean napkin to press onto the wound on Bryce’s head to try stopping the blood from continuing to trickle down.

At the same time, Dominic glanced at Lucas resentfully. He wanted to scold him for being too vicious, but when he saw Lucas’s icy-cold gaze, he subconsciously stopped himself.

He had already witnessed how vicious and ruthless Lucas could be. Previously, Lucas had even rushed to the Carter residence and almost strangled him. Lucas would never consider the fact that Dominic was an elder and show him mercy. He and Bryce were nothing to Lucas! Even if he reprimanded Lucas, Lucas wouldn’t be bothered at all. He might even become enraged and beat him up.

Thinking of this, Dominic had no choice but to swallow his anger and bear with it.

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Sitting at the side, Aston inhaled sharply. The way Lucas had expressionlessly smashed Bryce's head with the wine bottle at a speed that was as quick as lightning was extremely terrifying.

Aston could also tell that Lucas had shown him some mercy. Otherwise, Bryce would have suffered more than just a crack in his head.

Besides, Aston also sensed that something was amiss after he saw Lucas's means.

He wasn't behaving conscientiously like a guest of a banquet should be. In fact, his behavior could be considered extremely disrespectful to the Hales.

Lucas had just told him to stay away from him tonight if he didn't want to regret his decision. At that time, Aston was unsure of what he meant and simply thought that Lucas was a small fry who was looking for trouble, just like Bryce.

But Aston now understood what Lucas meant. It seemed that Lucas had a malicious intention for coming to attend the baby shower today. He was certain that Lucas would definitely cause trouble!

After a long silence, the people around them couldn't help but discuss among themselves.

"Wow, they called him a good-for-nothing live-in son-in-law just now, but he seems very ruthless and has quick reflexes. Without hesitation, he beat up that wastrel of the Carters. He doesn't seem to be a simple person at all!"

"Yeah, but Bryce Carter was the one who wanted to smash the bottle at him first, but he managed to snatch it and retaliate instead! Now it's hard to tell!"

"Tsk, judging from the way Bryce Carter looks, I just think that what Lucas Gray said might be the truth. The Carters might have really set Cheyenne Carter up to snatch her company away. This is so ruthless! They're all a family. Must they be so cruel?"

"Families like ours might not have a squeaky clean background, but people who create such a huge scandal to frame their family members are indeed rare! It's no wonder that the Carters are declining. Now that the Brilliance Corporation is gone, their status has plunged, and I heard that they almost went bankrupt some time ago!"

These remarks made Bryce and Dominic feel infuriated and wishing they could vomit blood.

Who knew that the secret they had buried for so many years would suddenly be revealed by Lucas in public today? Furthermore, Bryce's act of trying to smash Lucas's head with the wine bottle made everyone feel that he flew into a rage out of humiliation and wanted to cover it up.

Now, the reputation of the Carters was utterly ruined!

But while they were whispering and gossiping about Cheyenne and the Carters, there were also quite a few who felt that Lucas's behavior was outrageous.

"No matter what, it's the Hales' baby shower today. He caused bloodshed by smashing the bottle against Bryce Carter's head. That's extremely inauspicious!"

"I wonder how the Hales are going to deal with this! If I were them, I wouldn't let off anyone who dared to cause trouble."

Some people were talking very softly, but they only dared to speak quietly and didn't dare to look Lucas in the eye.

Two guests got into a fight and created bloodshed at the banquet. Seeing this scene, the middle-aged steward felt vexed, and he had long sent someone to report to the higher-ups.

Soon, a young man in his thirties wearing a suit and a pair of gold-framed glasses walked over in a domineering gait. He looked just like an elite, but he was now frowning. Anyone who knew that someone had created trouble and caused something inauspicious like bloodshed at their joyous banquet would definitely be displeased.

The appearance of this person immediately made everyone around stare wide-eyed with an enthusiastic smile while bowing and greeting him.

"Mr. Hale, you're here."

"Mr. Hale, congratulations!"

This man was Connor Hale, Logan Hale's brother, the third-generation heir of the Hale family.

It was said that Connor had studied abroad for several years and majored in business management. He was extremely competent, and despite being young, he was already treated and trained as the next successor of the Hale family. Thus, everyone who knew of him wouldn't dare to underestimate him in the slightest.

The baby shower was for Connor's newborn son.

Now that the host had come to handle the situation personally, everyone looked at Lucas gloatingly.

Chapter 150: Pressed Into a Bowl of Soup

Connor walked over with a frown on his face. While on his way here, he had already heard about what happened. As soon as he arrived, he saw Bryce pressing a white napkin against his bleeding head. He then looked at the composed Lucas, who was sitting on a chair and drinking tea leisurely.

Staring at the two people in front of him, especially the unharmed Lucas, Connor narrowed his eyes and said hostilely, "It's my son's baby shower today, and I believe that all the guests are here to wish my son well and join us in this celebration. The Hales have already reminded you all beforehand that no matter what feuds you have with each other, you are to set them aside and not cause trouble on our turf! Even if you must settle it, you have to wait until you've left our place!"

Glowering at Lucas scornfully, Connor questioned, "Don't you understand?"

Being the next successor of the Hales, Connor was extremely arrogant. It was as if he had already shown a nobody like Lucas enough courtesy by saying these words.

Lucas looked up at Connor in front of him. He sighed a little and asked calmly, "Is Logan Hale your younger brother?"

Connor raised his eyebrows and answered matter-of-factly, "Of course. Anyone who knows him is aware that he's my younger brother. If you want to tell me that you're Logan's friend, you can save it. He has sordid friends all over the county. Even if you know him, you're just one of them."

Hearing this, Lucas suddenly put on a smile that seemed dangerous to Connor.

Lucas said softly, "Since you've acknowledged that he's your younger brother, that makes things easier."

Connor immediately frowned. "What do you mean by that?"

Sitting in his chair calmly, Lucas said nonchalantly, "The Hales owe me an explanation. I shall get it from you."

Connor blinked and snorted with laughter, as if he had heard the greatest joke on Earth.

Only then did he realize that Lucas didn't ask him about Logan's relationship with him for the sake of showing that he was acquainted with Logan but because he wanted to ask them for an explanation.

He thought that it was probably because Logan had provoked Lucas for some reason, so Lucas was here to seek an explanation.

He felt that it was absolutely too ridiculous!

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The Hales were one of the four major families of Orange County, and his younger brother Logan, in particular, had been spoiled rotten since a young age. He often caused trouble and would bully others. But those who got bullied dared not protest or stand up against the Hales due to their family's prestige.

Very few were as bold as Lucas, who actually dared to come directly to their residence and ask them for an explanation.

Connor laughed in derision and shook his head. "No matter what kind of feud you have with my brother, you're not fit to ask us for an explanation."

At this moment, the people around them started discussing among themselves, thinking that Lucas was overestimating himself by being so presumptuous. They thought that he was just a powerless live-in son-in-law who was courting death by making a scene at the Hales'!

Lucas raised his head, glanced at Connor calmly, and asked, "Is that so?"

As soon as he finished speaking, he stood up abruptly, stretched out his hand, and grabbed Connor's hair with one hand!

Before the horrified and dumbfounded Connor could even react, his face was pressed into a large white porcelain bowl containing sea cucumber soup. His head was instantly submerged in the boiling hot soup.

"Argh!" Connor was so shocked that he opened his mouth and accidentally inhaled several mouthfuls of thick broth through his mouth and nostrils, causing him to choke and cough violently. He began struggling frantically as his arms flailed about and knocked off several plates and bowls on the table, causing them to fall to the ground and shatter.

"How dare you! Hurry up and let go of Mr. Hale!"

The Hales surrounding them finally recovered from their shock and reacted to what was happening after Connor choked and coughed several times. They immediately roared at Lucas and reached their hands out to try to restrain him so as to rescue Connor, whose head was being pressed into the bowl of soup.

If this went on, Connor would definitely become the first scion of a wealthy family in Orange County to drown in a bowl of hot soup!

Fortunately, Lucas didn't want to kill Connor directly, so he pulled his head out of the soup by his hair. He then pushed him toward the Hales who pounced over.

“Mr. Hale!”

“Mr. Hale, are you alright?”

The Hales hurriedly caught Connor and frantically grabbed clean napkins to wipe his head and face, which were drenched in soup and covered with vegetables. All of a sudden, no one could be bothered to pay attention to Lucas.

Lucas leisurely sat down in his seat again and asked with a smile, “Now, do I have the right to hold it against the Hales?”

Everyone else was dumbfounded as they watched everything that happened. They were looking at Lucas with incredible shock and disbelief, thinking that he was extremely daring to have had the audacity to press Connor’s head directly into the bowl of soup in front of so many people at the banquet the Hales hosted!

Meanwhile, Aston, standing next to Lucas, inhaled sharply!

Although he had previously guessed that Lucas had a malicious intention for showing up at the baby shower, he absolutely didn’t expect Lucas to be so ruthless as to do such a thing to Connor!

This was tantamount to directly falling out with the Hales and insulting Connor as well as his family!

At this moment, Connor had already cleaned off the soup on his face and head with the help of his family members. However, his hair was still greasy, there were burn marks on his scalded face, and his expensive bespoke suit was stained by the soup. He looked extremely disheveled.

Connor opened his bloodshot eyes and glared at Lucas angrily and menacingly. “No one has ever dared to treat me like this! I will kill you!”

Connor had grown up being the center of attention and flattery, and he was often praised and respected, be it in Orange County or abroad. Now that he had been designated as the next successor of the Hale family, he had a promising future. Yet he had his head pressed into a bowl of soup by a nobody.

He was dead set on killing Lucas, who was simply a good-for-nothing in his eyes!

The few Hales and bodyguards around him immediately stepped forward and surrounded Lucas.

In the face of Connor’s uncontrollable rage, the surrounding people were silent as they lowered their heads and didn’t dare to make a single sound, for fear that they might provoke Connor and get implicated too.

However, Lucas, who was facing Connor's wrath directly, didn't feel scared in the slightest. In fact, he was even smiling contemptuously.

Amid the tension, an old man with somewhat white hair hurried over and whispered a few words in Connor's ear.

Connor frowned and then immediately glared at Lucas while threatening viciously, "I'll spare you for now. You'll get it from me later!"

Then Connor led the other Hales to turn around to leave!

Chapter 151: Hidden Scheme

Everyone looked at each other in shock. They initially thought that Connor would immediately flare up at Lucas and hit him, but they didn't expect Connor to actually just walk away!

They wondered what the white-haired old man had whispered into his ear to make him suppress his anger...

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Many guests whispered and made guesses about the reason.

Although Lucas also felt quite surprised, he wasn't in a hurry to ask for an explanation from the Hales, as there was still plenty of time to do so.

The two people standing at the side, Dominic and Bryce, were instantly disappointed when they saw Connor walking away with the Hales.

They initially thought that Lucas would have faced the wrath of the Hales for being arrogant and having the audacity to press Connor's head directly into the bowl of soup. But they didn't expect Connor to actually just let Lucas off instead of pursuing the matter!

Both Dominic and Bryce were full of regret. But since the Hales didn't exact revenge on Lucas, they dared not urge them to do anything to him. They could only glare at him viciously with resentment.

At this moment, one of the Hales' security guards walked up to Dominic and Bryce and said politely but aloofly, "Sir, you have suffered a severe head injury. We'd better hurry and send you to the hospital. Since you got injured in the Hale residence, we will cover the medical expenses."

Dominic's face suddenly turned red and hot. The Hales were obviously chasing them away!

However, there was indeed a large cut on Bryce's head, and blood was flowing all over his face. If he continued to stay at the baby shower banquet, it would be a hideous and frightening sight. It was no wonder that the Hales wanted them to leave.

Dominic quickly stabilized his expression and said worriedly, "Indeed, the injury on my grandson's head is very serious, and he has to go to the hospital right away. In that case, we shall take our leave. I'm very sorry. Please give my regards to the patriarch on my behalf. However, we can pay for the medical expenses ourselves."

After saying this out of courtesy, Dominic hurriedly left the Hale residence with Bryce embarrassedly, ignoring the cold gazes being shot at them.

They had paid an enormous price to get two invitation cards to the Hales' baby shower, yet they didn't get any benefit but even left a bad impression on the Hales. Moreover, Bryce had suffered such a serious injury. It was simply a tremendous loss!

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Dominic was chagrined and terrified of Lucas. But he could also figure out that if Bryce hadn't taken the initiative to provoke Lucas, Lucas wouldn't have paid any attention to them, and they wouldn't be in the situation that they were currently in.

However, when Dominic looked at Bryce, whose head was bleeding and was continuously lamenting about the pain, he couldn't bring himself to reprimand him.

"Ah, what a sin!" Dominic sighed.

Aston, who had been standing at the side in the banquet hall, also had cold sweat covering his forehead.

Lucas's behavior just now was simply an insult to the Hales. He had been sitting right beside Lucas then, and he reckoned that many had probably seen him chatting merrily with Lucas. He was worried that he might be wronged and falsely accused if the Hales mistakenly thought that he was in cahoots with Lucas and then put the blame on him.

Although the Brookes promised to pledge allegiance to Lucas on the surface, they didn't genuinely see themselves to be on the same side as him. Besides, in the past two days, they had already inquired some information and knew that although Lucas was indeed a descendant of the Huttons, he and his mother had been chased out by the Huttons nearly twenty years ago!

Lucas had even taken his mother's last name, and rumor had it that it was because the Huttons refused to let him take their family name. This just went to show that he had a deep feud with the Huttons.

Although it seemed that the Huttons were now trying to make it up to him and wanted him to reunite with them and then take over the family, the Brookes reckoned that it wouldn't happen.

First of all, Lucas bore a strong grudge against the Huttons and hated them too much to take the initiative and reunite with them. Besides, the massive and prestigious Hutton family might not necessarily want to let him go back.

To the Brookes, a Lucas who wasn't allowed to reunite with the Huttons would be of little value to them.

Thus, now that Lucas had gotten into a huge conflict with a top family in Orange County, Aston became a fence-sitter, as he was somewhat unable to decide which side he should stand on.

After pondering about it carefully, Aston went to Lucas and said, "Mr. Gray, I need to use the bathroom. Please excuse me."

Lucas looked at Aston with a smirk and nodded.

Aston felt a chill run down his spine. He felt as though Lucas had seen through his thoughts. But he couldn't care less about anything else. When he walked outside the banquet hall and found a secluded and quiet place with no one else around, he hurriedly took out his phone and reported what had happened here to his grandfather, Andrew Brooke.

Andrew thought about it for a long while before saying, "You don't have to do anything about this. Just watch from the side."

In fact, Aston had the same intentions. But he was worried that if he stood by and did nothing to help, he might end up offending both Lucas and the Hales.

In response to his grandson's concerns, Andrew answered, "Don't worry. Lucas Gray hasn't become fully-fledged, and he still needs our help for now. Even if you don't help him, he won't do anything to you. As for the Hales, as long as we strengthen our ties with them afterward and you find an opportunity to explain to them that you have nothing to do with Lucas Gray, I doubt the Hales will continue to pursue the matter. That way, we won't be implicated."

Aston thought about it and felt that his grandfather's words made sense. Feeling rather relieved, he returned to the banquet hall. But this time, he didn't sit next to Lucas like he had just now and instead sat at a table slightly far away from him.

Lucas sneered as he looked at Aston quietly.

Pangs of anxiety engulfed Aston, but when he thought of what his grandfather just said, he gradually calmed down again.

At this moment, a group of people slowly walked over from the main entrance of the banquet hall toward the guests.

The leader of the group was an old man in his seventies. He had white hair, was dressed in a navy blue suit, and held an ostentatious walking stick in hand.

Upon sight of him, all the guests in the hall stood up unanimously and respectfully greeted in unison, "Greetings, Old Mr. Hale!"

The old man was Bruce Hale, the patriarch and current helmsman of the Hale family, who was also Logan and Connor's grandfather.

There was a young woman of about 25 years old behind Bruce, and she was carrying a baby wrapped in a red cloth. The baby was probably the fourth-generation heir of the Hales, for whom the baby shower was held.

Connor was also standing at the side. He had gone to wash up and change into a fresh set of clothes just now. There were around 30 arrogant-looking members of the Hale family standing behind them.

This group of people was basically the core members of the Hale family!

Chapter 152: Public Accusation

Bruce Hale, the patriarch of the Hale family, stood at the front of the banquet hall. When he raised his hand, the thousands of guests in the hall immediately fell silent.

Bruce coughed twice to clear his throat and began to speak, "It's the baby shower of my great-grandson today. Everyone present is a guest of the Hales. I hereby thank you all for taking the time to attend the banquet tonight on behalf of the Hale family! Please make yourselves at home and enjoy yourselves!"

Although Bruce was on in years, he was still energetic, and his voice was loud and clear. His speech attracted everyone's applause!

Afterward, many people took out the gifts that they had meticulously prepared and went forward to present them.

Apart from the usual gifts such as gold jewelry and ornaments, there were also many precious antiques and expensive items. At first glance, they didn't seem like congratulatory gifts for a baby but gifts for the Hales.

After all, the last time the Hales held such a grand banquet was a few years ago to celebrate Bruce's 70th birthday. Now that the Hales were holding such a grand banquet again, those who had been wanting to forge closer ties with the Hales rushed to take advantage of this opportunity to show their goodwill. Thus, the gifts were all expensive and valuable.

Bruce and Connor were both smiling politely as they thanked each and every person who presented them with congratulatory gifts.

The total value of the gifts was extremely high. But being a megarich family, the Hales were used to owning lots of valuables, so the gifts didn't hold too much attraction to them.

Besides, the Hales were also aware of the intentions of the numerous families presenting the expensive gifts—to express their desire to be acquainted with the Hales.

At this moment, Seth, who had tried to humiliate Lucas at the entrance but ended up making a fool of himself, arrived at the banquet hall with his father.

Seth's father, Daniel Miller, was a middle-aged man in his fifties. With a smile on his flushed and radiant face, he walked over and said to Bruce, "Old Mr. Hale, congratulations on the birth of your great-grandson! The baby looks very intelligent. He will surely become a great talent in the future! I'm presenting him with an ark ornament to wish him a smooth-sailing life and great health!"

Daniel instructed his people to carry a three-foot tall bejeweled ark over.

The ark was put together with gold wire and had a bright red coral base. The hull was embellished with countless agate and onyx gems, and the 'sea waves' were made using large pieces of carved dark-green jade. They were all extremely exquisite and expensive!

The three-foot tall ark glistened under the light of the chandelier, making it look remarkably opulent!

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As soon as he presented the gift, countless gazes were cast on them, and many guests began exclaiming in envy. The wives of rich men who loved treasures couldn't take their eyes off the bejeweled ark at all.

“Oh my god. The Millers are impressive! They gave such a large bejeweled ark. It’s probably worth at least a few million dollars!”

“It must be! Look at all the jade pieces, precious gems, jadeites, and the exquisite craftsmanship. It’s definitely expensive!”

“It seems that the Millers have really spent a bomb this time. But if it makes the Hales pleased and willing to support them in the future, it’s definitely worth it!”

“Yes! The Millers aren’t fools either. Since they spent so much money on such an expensive gift, their returns will certainly be incredible! Unfortunately, we can’t afford such an expensive gift. Otherwise, I’d have definitely given a rare treasure to gain the favor of the Hales!”

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The crowd whispered and discussed, and many people were green with envy.

Even the Hales, who were used to seeing exotic treasures, couldn’t help but marvel at the exquisite, beautiful, and precious bejeweled ark in front of them.

Bruce smiled at the Millers gently. “Daniel, it’s good enough that you’re here to celebrate my great-grandson’s baby shower. What are you being so polite for? This gift is too precious and valuable. I’ll accept it and thank you on my great-grandson’s behalf.”

Seeing the Hales accept the gift with satisfaction, Daniel was smug and delighted. Indeed, after giving such a valuable gift, the Hales’ attitude toward him was obviously different from their attitude toward others.

Clearly, the Millers’ relationship with the Hales would only become closer in the future!

At the thought of the scene of the Millers soaring to success in the future, Daniel’s heart was brimming with excitement. After looking at his son, Seth, he suddenly said, “Old Mr. Hale, I still have one more thing to report to you, but... I don’t know if I should.”

Bruce assented and said nonchalantly, “What is it? Feel free to tell me.”

Daniel pointed to Seth, who was standing beside him and had a red and swollen face. “This is my unfilial son, Seth. He originally came to congratulate you and Mr. Hale with good intentions, but just now, he ran into a crook outside who beat him up badly.”

Seth did seem to be in a terrible state. His cheeks were swollen, the palm marks on his face were extremely obvious, and his hair was all messed up. He indeed seemed to have been bullied.

Bruce frowned slightly.

Immediately afterward, Daniel hurriedly continued, "In the beginning, I didn't want to be a spoilsport and bring it up since it's your great-grandson's baby shower. However, after beating up my son, that crook snatched the Hales' invitation card to the banquet from my son and is now sitting proudly in the middle of the hall!

"I really think that this person might do something terrible to the guests, so I dared not hide it!"

The hall full of guests was in an uproar, except for the very few people who had witnessed the entire dispute between Lucas and Seth at the entrance.

They didn't expect that there would be such a brazen person at the entrance of the Hales' banquet!

At the same time, many of them suddenly thought of something and began looking at Lucas speculatively with apprehension.

Daniel extended his arm and pointed at Lucas. "This is the person who snatched away the invitation card!"

The uproar in the hall immediately became louder.

Just ten minutes ago, Bryce had questioned Lucas and made him take out Hales' invitation card. Lucas had indeed managed to produce one in the end, which was then proven genuine.

However, Daniel now pointed out that Lucas had actually snatched the invitation card from Seth!

Chapter 153: Embarrassing Behavior

Bruce narrowed his eyes as he looked at Lucas with a hostile expression and a sharp gaze.

Just now, he received the news in the backyard that someone had openly started a conflict with another person at the Hales' banquet, and it resulted in ghastly bloodshed. Furthermore, that person had also been extremely disrespectful to his grandson, Connor.

At first, Bruce wanted to chase Lucas out immediately. But due to the fact that it was tricky to deal with him, he reckoned that it would result in an unsightly dispute again. Besides, the banquet was about to officially begin. So Bruce decided to suppress the matter for the time being and wait until the banquet ended before dealing with him.

But he didn't expect Lucas to be so brazen as to cause trouble time and time again. Even the Millers censured him. Even if Bruce wanted to deal with Lucas at a later time, he had no choice but to change his mind now. Otherwise, others might just think that the Hales were really scared of Lucas.

A cold smile appeared on Connor's lips. "Hmph, it turns out that even the invitation card was snatched from someone else. A nobody like you isn't even qualified to attend the Hales' banquet!"

He originally thought that Lucas was some mysterious figure who wanted to keep a low profile, which was why he received an invitation from the Hales. But he didn't expect that Lucas had snatched the invitation card from someone else.

Still sitting composedly on his chair, Lucas kept a straight face, and he was even giving off a peculiar aura.

Bruce had lived for decades, but all of a sudden, he was unsure of Lucas's identity.

He raised his hand to stop Connor from continuing and stared at Lucas with a gloomy expression. "Who exactly are you? If you're here to celebrate with the Hale family, I'd like to thank you for your kind intentions even though you don't have an invitation. However, if you're here to cause trouble, I won't spare you!"

Before Lucas could say anything, Seth hurriedly said, "Old Mr. Hale, I know who he is! He's the live-in son-in-law of the Carters who was embroiled in a scandal with Cheyenne Carter back then! Don't be fooled by his arrogance. He's just a penniless loser who got kicked out by the Carters! He's haughty and overbearing only because he was a soldier for a few years and thinks he can go around bullying others!"

Seth glared at Lucas scornfully with a gloating gaze.

He initially planned to get someone to beat Lucas up after the latter left the Hale residence. But he didn't expect him to be so silly as to create a ruckus in the Hale family's place. Heaven was really on his side now! He reckoned that the Hales would definitely take action against Lucas, so there was no need for him to take revenge on Lucas himself.

Bruce frowned in displeasure and glanced at Seth.

Daniel hurriedly pulled his son back and chided, "Old Mr. Hale is questioning him. What are you interrupting for? Hurry up and be quiet!"

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Only then did Lucas say slowly nonchalantly, "I thought that I'd be able to see a lively crowd at the Hales' banquet, but I didn't expect to see a bunch of clowns trying to cozy up to a big shot. How unsightly and disappointing!"

As soon as he said this, the Hales' expressions turned gloomy, and the guests had unsightly looks.

Lucas's words were not only an insult to Seth and the others but also to the Hales. The guests here also felt offended.

All the guests of the Hales' banquet harbored some intentions.

However, the scene of Lucas smashing Bryce's head with a wine bottle and pressing the head of the next successor of the Hale family into a bowl of soup without saying a word was still fresh in their minds. No one dared to scold him openly at this juncture. Besides, they knew that the Hales would deal with him themselves, so it wasn't appropriate for them to stand up against him now.

Bruce's face gradually darkened. He felt that he had already made things less awkward for Lucas, yet Lucas still had the guts to insult the Hales on their turf. How impudent!

Even if the helmsmen of the three other top families of Orange County were here, they wouldn't say such things in front of him!

Moreover, the person in front of him was just a young brat with no background!

At this moment, Lucas suddenly stood up from his chair and walked toward Bruce and the others at the front.

The surrounding people were suddenly shocked. Looking at Lucas's behavior, they wondered if he was going to hit Old Mr. Hale and the others.

Old Mr. Hale narrowed his eyes, and standing behind him, Connor looked angry. He was about to wave his hand to beckon the bodyguards not far away to come over and protect his grandfather...

But before he could call for anyone, a man suddenly came over to stand in front of Bruce and stretched his arms out. He said righteously, "Old Mr. Hale, don't worry! I will stand here to protect you. If Lucas Gray wants to come over and touch you, he'll have to do it over my dead body!"

Hearing what Seth said, many people cringed. His words were like a corny and embarrassing line from a TV show from more than a decade ago!

However, Seth didn't realize this himself. He just wanted to shield Bruce while putting on a good act to show his loyalty, courage, and bravery.

Since there were still so many of the Hales' bodyguards around, he thought that Lucas would never be able to reach Bruce or hurt him. He thought that it was a great deal since he just had to put on an act and then gain the favor of Bruce!

However, almost everyone present was aware of what Seth was thinking.

Connor glanced at Seth calmly and completely ignored his embarrassing behavior. He then waved at the people around. In an instant, five tall and strong bodyguards came out from the corner of the banquet hall and stood in front of Lucas to block him.

"Lucas Gray, you're really arrogant!" Connor remarked while standing behind the bodyguards. He sneered. "I just don't know how long you can keep being arrogant for!"

Lucas smiled lightly. "I'm not as arrogant as the Hales."

Connor guffawed arrogantly. "The Hale family is at least one of the four top families in Orange County. Even if we're haughty, we have every right to do so! You are just a lowly live-in son-in-law and a good-for-nothing who got kicked out by the Carters. What right do you have to be so arrogant toward us?!"

Lucas sneered. "Hmph, is that so? Just wait and see then!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he flashed and appeared beside the bodyguards surrounding Connor!

Chapter 154: The Hale Family's Killer

Connor's pupils constricted. But before he could react, he was kicked away by Lucas's long and menacing leg!

"Aaahhhh!" With a lasting shriek, Connor was instantly kicked far away. He smashed into several tables in a row, shattering the dishes on the table into pieces, and landed right onto the greasy soup and broken porcelain pieces. He couldn't get up for a long time and looked extremely distressed!

Everyone inhaled sharply as they looked at the scene in front of them in disbelief!

Lucas actually had the guts to kick Connor right in front of the patriarch of the Hale family. He was simply out of his mind!

"This punk must be tired of living. He's out of his mind!"

"But how on earth did he just hit Mr. Hale? There were clearly five bodyguards shielding Mr. Hale. How did that punk pass them?"

The crowd broke into discussion while staring in disbelief at Connor, who had been kicked around eight meters away.

If not for the fact that Connor had indeed collapsed onto the ground and was lying in a disheveled manner, they wouldn't have believed their eyes.

At this moment, the bodyguards reacted and turned to face Lucas.

Although the bodyguards didn't know how exactly he had broken through them just now, Connor had indeed been kicked and sent flying away. This was an indisputable fact that proved their negligence and incompetence as bodyguards!

The bodyguards looked at each other. Then they roared, charged toward Lucas, and punched at him hard.

With their dignity and livelihoods at stake, they had to defeat him as soon as possible!

However, the bodyguards' actions were naturally slow and incompetent in Lucas's eyes.

Lucas gently turned to the side to dodge the punches. Then he grabbed the arms of two bodyguards and flung them out of the hall by more than ten meters!

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Immediately afterward, he grabbed the remaining three bodyguards with one hand and flung them out like they were fish in a bucket!

The five bodyguards were stacked one on top of the other like giant fish, blocking half the entrance of the luxurious and grand banquet hall.

The people in the hall watched everything happening in front of them in utter astonishment!

To be able to effortlessly throw muscular men who were 1.9 meters tall and weighed nearly 100 kilograms each and cause them to land more than ten meters away was definitely not something that an ordinary person could do!

Who exactly is this person?

Lucas ignored the people looking at him in horror and simply glanced at Seth, who was standing alone in front of Bruce and still keeping his arms open in a protective stance. With a faint smile, he said, "You just said that if I wanted to go over, I'd have to kill you first, right?"

The smile on Lucas's face looked devilish to Seth. He was so frightened that he shuddered and froze on the spot. He swallowed a mouthful of saliva and spluttered,

“You... don’t you dare get up to any nonsense! If you really kill me, you’ll be breaking the law!”

Lucas sneered. “Oh, you sounded so righteous just now that I thought you were really fearless!” Then he stepped forward.

“Ah! Don’t you come over!” Before Lucas did anything, Seth suddenly screamed. His legs went limp, and he sat down on the ground while shivering incessantly, no longer as domineering as he pretended to be just now.

Daniel hurriedly stepped forward and glowered at Lucas. “What are you doing?!”

Lucas smiled coldly and said to Seth, “You were rude to me at the entrance, but I spared you and told you to go home and bring your father because I wanted your father to discipline you and teach you how to behave. I didn’t ask you to find a backer and continue trying to throw your weight around in front of me!”

After saying this, Lucas jumped and kicked Seth without mercy.

Seth felt a strong force coming from his back that caused him to fly forward and roll several meters on the ground. He stopped rolling only after he hit a wall near him. His head slammed against the wall, and he passed out.

Daniel was enraged when he saw his son fainting after being kicked, and he felt a strong urge to rush forward and fight Lucas!

But the moves that Lucas showed just now were clearly not something that ordinary people could handle, so Daniel dared not move at all. He could only roar furiously and glare at him resentfully.

Lucas glanced at Daniel and said indifferently, “Bear this in mind. If you still can’t take your son in hand, I’ll do it for you. However, I can’t guarantee if your son will be alive by then.”

The blatant threat immediately made Daniel’s face redden, but he could only grit his teeth and didn’t dare to say a word.

The other people in the hall had their jaws drop when they saw the scene before them, feeling as if they were dreaming.

Lucas actually had the guts to hit someone and issue threats in the banquet hall of the Hales, completely disregarding the Hales’ presence!

At this moment, Bruce’s face was extremely gloomy and shaking. He was clearly suppressing his anger.

It had been a long time since someone dared to insult the pride of the Hales!

Suddenly, a phantom-like and thin figure appeared beside Bruce.

The figure seemed to be about 1.4 to 1.5 meters tall and was all huddled up like a monkey. He was clad in a full-black attire and was wearing a black mask with only his eyes revealed.

However, from the wrinkles around his eyes, it was obvious that he was old.

Among the guests, there were some people who had seen that old man in black before. Some couldn't help but exclaim, "Mr. Hans! It's actually Mr. Hans!"

"Wow, Mr. Hans is here too. It seems Lucas Gray won't live to see tomorrow!"

"Hahahaha, that's right. He didn't even think about how prestigious the Hale family is. How dare he, a nobody, create such a stir here? I reckon he'll face a terrifying death soon!"

Those who knew who Hans was began to look at Lucas gloatingly after Hans appeared.

"Mr. Hans? Who's that?" There were some who didn't know who he was and asked the people around them.

"You haven't even heard of Mr. Hans? Oh, you're too young. You probably don't know that Mr. Hans is the most menacing killer of the Hale family!"

Chapter 155: The Power of a Fist

The short and bizarre old man was called John Hans, a highly competent henchman hired by the Hales for a high price. Over the years, he had protected Bruce and the Hales' direct descendants on several occasions.

Moreover, before the Hales became the first-tier family they currently were, they had plenty of business rivals and competitors. But these people would somehow get into mishaps, get kidnapped, or be assassinated.

Those who were close to them all knew that these incidents were the doing of this short and hideous old man.

It could be said that without the secret help and support that Hans had provided the family with by resorting to unscrupulous means to attack their rivals, the Hales would have never become one of the four major families in Orange County.

He was an intimidating figure who made countless people of the older generation terrified!

The most frightening things about Hans were his unpredictable moves, lightning-like speed, excellent reflexes, and assassination techniques, which were his forte!

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Rumor had it that after Hans gained a stable foothold in the Hale family, he stopped being involved with those illegal and sordid businesses. Throughout the decades that the Hales had been providing for him, he had never once attacked anyone.

Thus, the people of the younger generation had never heard of him.

But now that Hans had suddenly appeared in the middle of the hall, he was obviously out to attack Lucas. Clearly, Lucas had provoked the authority of the Hales, which was a major threat to them.

Many were guessing that Lucas probably wouldn't be able to leave the Hale residence alive!

"Mr. Hans, I'll leave this punk to you to handle."

After Bruce issued this command, the short old man immediately moved and got on all four limbs like an animal. Hans glared daggers at Lucas with a bloodthirsty killing intent in his eyes.

He was extremely short in the first place, and his limbs became even shorter after he curled up into a ball. But he was very nimble. As soon as he stomped his feet against the ground, he instantly leaped up high and appeared right above Lucas!

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His thin palm was like a sharp blade that slashed at Lucas's head!

If his palm hit Lucas hard on the head, it would definitely do severe damage to his head. Even if it didn't kill him, he would likely become mentally retarded.

Hans's strike was as fast as lightning, so much so that the people in the hall could only see a black shadow flash. Before they knew it, his palm had already appeared above Lucas's head. Ordinary people wouldn't be able to react in time at all, as they would simply get smacked hard by his palm.

Unfortunately, Lucas wasn't an ordinary person!

With a cold gaze in his eyes, Lucas swung his fist to meet Hans's menacing palm.

Bang! With an explosion, his fist and Hans's palm collided. No one knew exactly how Lucas managed to do so within milliseconds!

A tremendous and unparalleled force coursed through Hans's palm all the way to his wrist, followed by his elbow and arm. In an instant, half of Hans's body turned numb, as though a massive electric current had struck him. He was also sent flying by the overwhelming force that was impossible to resist!

Boom!

Hans's body slammed against a large marble pillar at the back of the hall. With a loud crack, his spine shattered as he spat out a mouthful of blood that sent the black mask on his face flying away.

Hans's face was covered in blood, and his body turned limp as he slid down the marble pillar, fell to the ground, and stopped moving.

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It was dead silent.

The silence made everyone's heart jump.

For a whole minute, no one dared to make a sound.

With just one punch, Lucas blasted away the Hales' top henchman and sent him crashing into a marble pillar. The impact rendered him motionless and unable to fight anymore.

It was simply too terrifying!

In particular, those who knew how terrifying Hans was, as well as the guests of the older generation in the hall, all looked horrified. They almost couldn't believe their eyes.

If not for the fact that Hans's chest was still moving up and down faintly, the crowd would have thought that Lucas's punch had killed him...

With just one punch, Lucas crippled the esteemed and mighty John Hans!

Bruce's face twitched violently a few times, and he couldn't hide the astonishment in his eyes. The mighty Mr. Hans, who had always been unbeatable, actually got defeated by a single punch from Lucas Gray!

Is it because Mr. Hans has aged, or is Lucas Gray too formidable...

Bruce suppressed the shock and vague uneasiness in his heart and waved his hand at the side.

In an instant, several Hales immediately called for security guards to lift the motionless Hans up from the ground and move him to a separate small building behind the hall. They then called several doctors to come and save him.

Meanwhile, Connor, whom Lucas had kicked away earlier, was also helped up. He then limped over.

Bruce kept his eyes fixed on Lucas as his expression turned unreadable. After a long while, he asked, "Young man, why did you come to the Hale residence today to cause trouble? Has the Hale family offended you in some way?"

Lucas's actions were all offensive to the Hales, and anyone who wasn't blind could tell that he was here to get back at the Hales.

Lucas suddenly laughed and asked, "Is Logan Hale a member of your family?"

Bruce frowned slightly. Of course, he wouldn't be that naive as to think that Lucas suddenly mentioned Logan because he wanted to show that he was acquainted with the Hales. In the current situation, it seemed that it was likely that Logan had offended Lucas.

Bruce Hale nodded. "Yes, Logan Hale is my grandson. What's wrong? Has he offended you in some way?"

Despite saying this, his tone was actually nonchalant.

Logan had always been average in competency and playful since he was a child, so no one treated him as a future successor of the Hale family.

Thus, Logan often got into trouble outside. His elders were all aware of it, but most of the time, they chose to turn a blind eye to it. In any case, the Hale family already had an extraordinary status in Orange County. Even if he created a huge mess, the Hales were definitely capable of cleaning it up.

Lucas asked again, "In that case, do you know that he imprisoned an innocent girl outside?"

Hearing this, Bruce had a look of epiphany. Then he sneered with sarcasm. "Does that girl have anything to do with you? Is that why you're here to confront him? It's just a woman. She should feel lucky that Logan has taken a fancy to her!

"Now that you're here, are you trying to save her or ask us for compensation? Tell me, how much money do you want?"

Chapter 156: Giving a Big Gift

Lucas smiled and laughed at Bruce's words. "No wonder Logan Hale is such an imbecile. It turns out a crooked stick will have a crooked shadow! With an immoral grandfather like you, Logan Hale must have been poorly educated. He doesn't have any manners at all!"

"How dare you!" Bruce bellowed furiously. "You're just an outsider. You're in no place to make any comments about our family's affairs!"

Lucas sneered and didn't bother to talk with Bruce anymore. He simply looked at him in derision. "Before I came to the Hale residence today, I thought I would be going a bit too far by interrupting your banquet. But now it seems that what I've done is far from enough! The Hale family is incorrigible and filthy. In my opinion, there's no need for the Hales to continue to exist in Orange County."

As soon as he said that, everyone looked at him peculiarly, thinking that he was out of his mind.

Even if he was impressive at martial arts and could beat up ten people on his own, the Hales had a few hundred bodyguards, and a siege will be enough to crush this arrogant ant to death.

Lucas had just defeated Hans, the Hales' henchman. But after thinking about it, everyone reckoned that since Hans was already old and the Hales were now one of the four most powerful families in the county, Hans definitely wasn't their only trump card.

Thus, everyone felt that Lucas was being too arrogant and overestimating himself!

Bruce narrowed his eyes and looked at Lucas gloomily. "Punk, aren't you thinking too lightly of the four major families? The fact that the Hales can be at the top of Orange County means that we're a powerful existence that you can't just annihilate!"

In fact, the Hale family's status had become so high that their network of connections and power had extended to all levels of society. They had powerful businesses and were in close ties with various forces. They were also acquainted with many in the upper echelons of society, as well as the major families and enterprises that had cooperated with the Hales.

It could be said that the Hales had already formed deep roots, and overthrowing them was not an easy task that just any expert could do.

Today's society was no longer as chaotic as it was 70 to 80 years ago, where gangs and the mafia were rampant, and an individual could build a family business and territory.

Lucas smiled calmly and couldn't be bothered to explain anymore. He suddenly looked at the door. "Oh, I almost forgot that I have a gift for the Hales."

Bruce said with a mirthless smile, "I'm afraid your congratulatory gift isn't something good. I don't want it."

Lucas smiled. "Don't be in a hurry to reject it. This is a special gift, and I believe you'll definitely accept it with satisfaction after you see it."

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After Lucas said this, Jordan, who had disappeared for a long time, suddenly appeared in front of the hall. He was holding something in his hand and dragging it on the ground.

Before everyone could see clearly, Jordan waved his hand, and the long black object in his hand flew straight across the hall and landed directly in front of Bruce with a dull thud.

As soon as everyone fixed their eyes on what Lucas's gift was, extremely loud gasps resounded in the hall!

It was a person!

Lucas actually got someone to bring a person!

Bruce frowned. But when he saw the person's face clearly, he immediately felt a chill and roared hysterically in rage, "Logan!"

"What? Logan? Is it Logan Hale?"

"Oh my god! The person on the ground is actually Logan Hale?"

Only then did the crowd understand that the person thrown over as a gift was actually a direct descendant of the Hales. It was Logan Hale, whom Lucas and Bruce had just been talking about!

But Logan Hale, who was thrown over like a rag, was now covered in blood with his eyes closed and his face pale. His legs were twisted at an awkward angle. He had clearly had his legs broken. Furthermore, the rest of his body was covered in injuries!

Bruce was infuriated. The veins on his forehead were bulging, and his eyes were bloodshot!

Bruce Hale's grandson was beaten into a pulp and thrown back in their home, right on the Hales' turf. It was just like slapping the Hales directly in the face!

"I want you dead! Someone, come here!" Bruce could no longer maintain his expression as he hollered furiously. Instantly, 20 or so elite guards in black dashed out of every corner of the banquet hall and surrounded Lucas.

Although these people were inferior to Hans in terms of combat skills, they were also first-class martial arts experts whom the Hales had handpicked. They were definitely not ordinary bodyguards.

These 20 or so elite guards standing around Lucas and Jordan should be more than enough to deal with them.

Bruce refused to believe that they couldn't beat the two. No matter how powerful Lucas and Jordan were, they definitely couldn't survive under the siege of 20-odd such experts!

But when Lucas saw so many people around him, he still looked relaxed without any nervousness at all.

He said indifferently, "After seeing the state your grandson is in, don't you want to know why I did that to him?"

Bruce's eyes were bloodshot as he said with a menacing expression, "He's my grandson. Even if he has done something wrong, the Hales should be the one to punish him. What right do you have to do that to him?"

Lucas shook his head and sneered. "You feel miserable and angry seeing your grandson beaten up. But when your grandson treats others like this and bullies others, you just laugh it off and don't take it seriously at all!

"If he does something wrong, he should be punished. Since you won't discipline your grandson, someone else will do so on your behalf!

"Your grandson is human, but so are others. Why should they be bullied by you? Don't you understand the principle of 'do not do unto others as you would that they should do unto you'?"

Bruce sneered. "Who do you think you are? Do you think you can do justice for the world? Let me tell you, in this world, people with power, status, and wealth are superior to others! We are naturally much more noble than you! How can you, a penniless bastard, compare to my grandson?!

"If you dare to beat up my grandson, I will definitely make you die a miserable death. And it still wouldn't be enough to vent the hatred within me!"

Chapter 157: Fragile

Lucas shook his head in disappointment and said coldly, "Your grandson, Logan Hale, kidnapped my five-year-old daughter. I initially thought of coming here to ask you for an explanation, but given your attitude now, it's obvious that you people are incorrigible! There's no need for the Hales to exist anymore, and I won't show you any mercy either."

After Lucas said the last sentence, an extremely strong killing aura suddenly erupted from his body. He was like a sharp sword unsheathed, emitting a cold aura that was so menacing that everyone couldn't help but be fearful.

After being shocked, Bruce burst into laughter as if he had heard the greatest joke. "Show us mercy? I bet you just haven't gotten a clear idea of the situation! In a moment, I will make you kneel down and beg me to show mercy!"

Bruce had a ferocious expression on his face as he ordered the elite guards surrounding Lucas and Jordan. "Hit him! I want him to kneel down in front of my grandchildren and make amends for his arrogance and haughtiness! I want to crush his limbs bit by bit and make him atone for my grandchildren, Logan and Connor!"

With Bruce's order, the 20-odd elite guards immediately pulled out their batons, daggers, and other such weapons attached at their waists and closed in on Lucas and Jordan.

The various sharp and cold weapons reflected cold light. There was definitely going to be bloodshed, and people might even die!

"Wow! Hurry up and leave!"

"This is too frightening. Quick, get out of the way! Don't block me!"

"Oh my god, what should we do?!"

...

The surrounding guests shrieked and retreated to the corners of the banquet hall in panic, fearing that they might become implicated. But no one dared to suggest leaving at this time.

In the center of the large banquet hall, there was a massive vacated area. Lucas, Jordan, and the 20-odd elite guards were standing there.

However, Bruce narrowed his eyes and felt extremely unhappy. Lucas and the young man beside him were clearly surrounded by 20-odd people with lethal weapons.

Outnumbered, they looked as though they would be defeated in a single blow. But there was not a single trace of nervousness or fear on the faces of these two people.

Lucas's face was expressionless, and it was unclear if he was happy or angry. But the aura around him was intimidating.

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As for the young man beside him, Jordan, he even grinned sinisterly and stared at the surrounding elite guards. He even rubbed his hands together and seemed to be waiting to taste something delicious.

They're both psychopaths! Bruce cursed, and his face turned sullen as he shouted, "Beat them up severely!"

The 20-odd people in the hall immediately started moving.

He clearly had the upper hand, but for some reason, Bruce felt uneasy.

Perhaps because of Lucas's and Jordan's bizarre expressions, Bruce felt an ominous premonition.

In the past few decades, Bruce often had a sixth sense during strange junctures, and his hunches often allowed him to escape various crises.

At the thought of this, Bruce no longer hesitated and immediately beckoned a Hale next to him. He then whispered into his ear.

After hearing Bruce's words, that Hale immediately looked astonished and nodded solemnly. He then turned around and dashed out of the banquet hall.

In the middle of the hall, Lucas and Jordan were fearless despite facing the elite guards. They were as fast as lightning, constantly moving and dodging. And within ten seconds, the 20-odd elite guards shrieked and were sent flying!

Some people had their wrists or legs broken, while others had their weapons stabbed into them before they could even touch Lucas and Jordan.

In just over ten seconds, these elite guards were on the ground after smashing through the dozens of tables in the middle of the banquet hall, leaving the floor in a mess.

The baby shower could be said to have been utterly ruined!

The guests hiding in the corners of the hall were dumbfounded as they watched the incredible scene in front of them, feeling as though they were watching an exciting action movie!

Lucas and Jordan were so fast that it was impossible to distinguish between them. All that the people could see were them shuttling among the crowd of black clothes guards as the cracking sounds of bones breaking and tables shattering rang out, followed by bursts of heart-rending shrieks.

Afterward, the black figures were knocked into the air and fell to the ground. They rolled around and were unable to get up again, losing all their combat strength.

The people couldn't see how terrifying Lucas's and Jordan's combat skills were, but the final outcome was obvious to everyone.

A thought surged in everyone's mind—Jordan's and Lucas's power was just too horrifying! Ordinary people couldn't handle them at all!

They were definitely experts far beyond Hans!

Everyone in the hall was quiet.

Only the sounds of some guards in black with broken limbs, who were rolling around and wailing in pain on the ground, could be heard.

Bruce's face twitched violently, and he looked truly terrified. Immediately afterward, he suppressed the fear.

The Hale family member immediately returned to Bruce's side and gestured to him to say that he had already followed his instructions.

Bruce's eyes were bloodshot, and he was glaring daggers with a maniacal expression.

He waved his hand behind him. In an instant, more than ten people surrounded Lucas and Jordan.

"Are you done? Seriously, this trick again? They're just a bunch of weaklings! Get someone more impressive to come!" When Jordan saw these people in front of him, he curled his lips in contempt.

Being a martial artist, he could tell at a glance that the physical quality and combat skills of these people that the Hales arranged were inferior to those 20-odd guards in black just now.

"Hmph, ignorant punks. I'll let you know how impressive they are right now!"

Bruce sneered and made a hand gesture. In an instant, the ten-odd people surrounding Lucas and Jordan all raised their pure black fully automatic pistols!

More than a dozen muzzles aimed at Lucas and Jordan in the middle of the hall!

Chapter 158: Want To Compete In Guns?

“Damn it, guns! There are guns!”

“Oh my gosh! There are real guns!”

“Oh my god! I didn’t expect the Hales to have so many guns!”

When the guests saw the dozen or so pistols in front of them, they gasped loudly in unison.

They wondered where the Hales actually got so many guns!

The possession of such guns was restricted. And apart from the military and police, civilians found to be in possession of such firearms would be deemed as committing a crime. The source of such heavy firearms had always been strictly controlled, and it would be difficult for the general public to get hold of such weapons.

Now, the Hales not only had guns, but they had more than ten of them. They were definitely not to be underestimated!

They were the trump card of the Hales!

Bruce stood at the front of the banquet hall, his gaze sinister and full of murderous intent. “Punk, I admit that you and this young man beside you are really competent in combat, and if we were in an era decades ago, maybe you really could use your combat skills to build a bright future for yourself. However, in today’s society, what’s the use of being so good at combat? Modern weapons are the most powerful! Even if you move fast, can you be faster than bullets? I’m certain you can’t escape with more than ten guns aimed at you!”

Bruce calmed down, and his tone was full of pride and arrogance.

With his powerful team of armed henchmen, he was certain that anyone who came to provoke the Hales wouldn’t escape.

Lucas glanced disdainfully at the automatic pistols in the hands of the henchmen around him and sneered mockingly. “Surely you don’t think you can deal with me with just these lousy things, do you?”

“Hahahahaha!” Bruce burst into laughter. “You’re really ignorant! You’ll find out immediately whether they’re lousy or not!”

He raised his arm high and ordered the henchmen, "Pay attention, and don't kill them right away. Avoid the vital areas like their heads and hearts. Shoot them anywhere else you want. Shoot as many times as you want. I want him to feel the pain and apologize to my grandsons. I must make sure they beg me to give them a release after they have enjoyed the pain!"

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Bruce's words were so vicious that many of the guests in the corners of the hall looked horrified and had fear in their eyes.

But it was obvious that this was exactly the effect that he wanted.

He wanted the guests to understand that the Hales were still high up in the sky and would never tolerate any insults or humiliation. Their home was not a place where anyone could come and cause trouble!

He wanted to use Lucas and Jordan as an example to warn everyone not to belittle or disrespect the Hales!

The more than ten henchmen raised the guns in their hands, but just as they were about to pull their triggers, a loud explosion suddenly thundered outside the hall!

Bang!

It sounded as though something large and tall had collapsed and exploded.

With the loud sound, the entire floor of the banquet hall and glass began to quake as if an earthquake had occurred. The chandelier on the ceiling swayed, and many of the wine glasses on the dining tables fell and shattered on the ground.

"Ah! What's happening?"

"What's going on? Is it an earthquake? Or an explosion?"

"Get some people to hurry outside to take a look!"

The guests held their heads with both hands and hid under the tables while shrieking in horror. Some who were near the door even wanted to dash out first.

If there was really an earthquake or an explosion at this time, no one would care about whether or not they would offend the Hales because staying alive was the most important!

The Hales also hurriedly sent a few security guards to go out and check the situation.

But before they could get out, a heavily armed green military vehicle crashed right through the entrance of the banquet hall and sped right in!

Bang!

The beautiful and sturdy tempered glass doors of the banquet hall instantly shattered into pieces, and the fine glass shards splattered everywhere, covering the marble floor in broken glass.

“Aaahhh!” Some guests who were closer to the door shrieked in horror and covered their heads and faces; some who were a little slower to react ended up getting cut by the glass shards splattering everywhere and started bleeding.

But there was no time to worry about these small wounds, and everyone was simply dumbfounded as they stared at the incoming armored vehicle that crashed into the hall, their eyes glazing over.

It was a German PMMC-G5 armored vehicle that had a military green exterior and a triangular front. It was supported by two wide tank tracks and six pairs of sturdy wheels.

The armored vehicle was nearly three meters tall and eight meters long. It was just like a giant steel fortress!

It was only when everyone saw the domineering vehicle that they realized that the loud roar outside just now should have been the sound made by this armored vehicle crashing through the gate and bulldozing through the courtyard outside!

Furthermore, even more shocking was that, in addition to the armored vehicle that crashed into the hall, there were more armored vehicles charging into the front yard outside the banquet hall!

There were two, three... seven, eight of them!

Only after the spacious front yard of the Hale residence was all occupied did the convoy of massive vehicles stop moving forward!

But no one knew exactly how many more of the same armored vehicles there were outside the yard!

While everyone was overwhelmed with fear, nervousness, and shock, the doors of the armored vehicles opened uniformly, and countless soldiers dressed in dark green special military uniforms alighted. All of them had robust figures and a loaded gun tied around their waists, and they were all emitting an intimidating murderous aura!

There were ten, thirty... more than ninety people...

The soldiers who came out of the armored vehicles seemed to have no end as they soon filled up the open space in the Hale residence's front yard and quickly barged into the banquet hall.

There were at least two hundred soldiers dressed in army green military uniforms!

The more terrifying thing was that after these people rushed into the banquet hall, they immediately held their fully automatic rifles and submachine guns in front of their bodies. All of a sudden, around two hundred terrifying rifles were all pointing neatly and uniformly at the 20-odd people holding pistols in the hall, as well as the Hales in front of them.

Bruce's expression changed drastically, and cold sweat broke out on his forehead!

Chapter 159: I Want To Pledge Allegiance

There were many armed soldiers and formidable armored vehicles. They were obviously from the military.

When did the Hales provoke the military?

The military had always been a self-contained system that enjoyed a prestigious status, and it would rarely be acquainted with families and corporations.

Furthermore, these military soldiers were all pointing their guns at the Hales, making Bruce feel overwhelmed with nervousness as his heart pounded violently.

Bruce, the oldest, was already so nervous, what more the family members behind him. Facing the numerous muzzles being pointed at them, many of their legs turned weak, and they dared not make a single sound at all, fearing that they might offend the soldiers and end up being shot.

The soldiers had plenty of submachine guns, and at such a close range, they would all die if they were shot!

"All of you, put down your weapons and surrender now! Otherwise, we will open fire. I repeat, all of you put down your weapons and surrender immediately!" A burly man dressed in a military uniform was standing at the front of the line of soldiers and hollering loudly with a cold and gloomy face.

With his order, the two hundred-odd soldiers in green army uniforms behind him lifted the guns in their hands and immediately pulled the bolts before aiming at the Hales.

An overwhelming and unparalleled might filled the entire hall.

Without needing Bruce to give any orders, the guards put their pistols on the ground obediently. They also squatted on the ground and placed their hands on their heads.

All the Hales were frightened and turned to look at Bruce.

At this moment, Bruce was their backbone!

Bruce had no choice but to bite the bullet and get up while forcing himself to stay calm, muster his courage, and put on a forced smile. "Officers, may I ask which unit you're from? Why... are you suddenly here at the Hale residence? Is there something important that you have to handle?"

The burly man leading the soldiers casually glanced at Bruce and said in a loud and clear voice unique to soldiers, "You don't need to worry about which unit we're from. We received a report from an informant that there was a large number of people using restricted firearms in the Hale residence. The situation was terrible, and the consequences could have been extremely serious. Now, after our confirmation, we have gathered conclusive evidence against the Hales! All of you are to come back with us for further investigation!"

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As soon as he said this, the Hales turned pale. And many of them fell to the ground, their legs limp.

They subconsciously wanted to defend themselves and say that they had been wronged. But more than ten of the Hales' guards had been armed with pistols. It was a fact that thousands of guests in the hall all witnessed. Besides, the soldiers also caught them in the act, so regardless of how they argued, there was concrete evidence and no way they could clear their names!

If they were facing someone else, they would still be able to think of a solution and pull all their connections to suppress this matter.

But they were now facing the merciless and impartial military soldiers, whom they didn't know at all. They didn't even know which division they were from, and no matter how they tried to use their connections, it would all be to no avail!

It was obviously a killing blow. The fact that they had come at this juncture showed that they were out to nab all the Hales together!

Moreover, Bruce was even certain that there was definitely something fishy about this!

Just now, the burly soldier in front of him, who seemed to be the leader, said that there was an informant who reported that the Hales were in illegal possession of restricted firearms, which was the reason they were here.

But the Hales had hidden those items very well, and they wouldn't use them unless during critical moments. Just now, he had no choice but to have people come out with those guns because Lucas was just too powerful. He wanted to deter Lucas, and that just happened only a few minutes ago.

But the military had sent so many armored vehicles and soldiers. It was definitely impossible for them to take only a few minutes to show up at the Hales' doorstep from the time they received the report, followed by the dispatch.

This just showed that the appearance of the military squad was premeditated long ago! It seemed that they were prepared!

Their ultimate goal was to deal a blow to the Hales and nab all of them!

Who is it?

Who planned all this?

Various thoughts rapidly ran through Bruce's mind, and all of a sudden, a sentence appeared in his mind. "There's no need for the Hales to exist anymore, and I won't show you any mercy either."

That was what Lucas just said ten minutes ago!

Did Lucas Gray plan this?!

Bruce inhaled sharply as he looked at the young man near him in horror.

After thinking about it carefully, he realized that Lucas was here at the Hale residence for the purpose of settling scores with Logan for abducting his daughter, and he wanted the Hales to give him an explanation.

Bruce no longer wanted to think about how the situation escalated out of control and reached this extent.

Lucas indeed had very strong combat skills, and he had also said that he wanted to destroy the Hales in Orange County.

Prior to this, Bruce had always looked down on Lucas, so he didn't take his words seriously. He felt that Lucas was just a young man who didn't know any better and was overestimating his own abilities.

But now that so many armed soldiers suddenly appeared in the Hale residence, and the Hales were indeed facing an unprecedented crisis of annihilation, Bruce had a change of mind.

This is definitely not just a coincidence!

His face as pale as a sheet, Bruce looked at Lucas and said in misery, "I was wrong. You are indeed not an ordinary person. What exactly is your identity?"

Lucas smiled. "What exactly is my identity? I'm just a live-in son-in-law who is worthless. Didn't you already say this clearly just now?"

Bruce was stunned. Those were the remarks that he, his grandson, and others made about Lucas.

He believed them and so had been thinking that Lucas was just an insignificant small fry. Thus, he didn't pay any attention to Lucas's words, as he merely thought that he could easily crush this annoying bug.

But Bruce now realized that he was wrong! Extremely wrong!

"Mr. Gray, I hereby apologize to you for having offended you earlier. I hope that you will forgive us for our ignorance and offensive behavior. I promise that if you let us off now, we will be loyal to you in the future and obey all your commands!" Bruce said decisively after gritting his teeth.

Chapter 160: The Hale Family Wiped Out

"Grandpa, how can you..." Connor, who was standing right behind Bruce, immediately panicked after hearing those words. If not for the fact that there were so many guns pointing at them, he would have rushed up to his grandfather and questioned if he was old and muddled up.

Lucas Gray is a nobody. Why do we have to bow down to this cheap scoundrel and pledge allegiance to him? Why must we follow his orders?

"Shut up! I'm still in charge of the Hale family now!" Bruce rebuked loudly, stopping Connor from continuing, as well as the many Hales trying to dissuade him.

Lucas raised his eyebrow and chuckled. "I'm just a nobody. What right do I have to earn the Hale family's loyalty? Hah, surely you don't think I was the one who asked these officers to come here, do you?"

Of course, Lucas wouldn't be foolish enough to expose his identity to Bruce, this sly old fox. Besides, it indeed wasn't time to reveal his identity and status in the military yet.

Bruce immediately froze in shock. *Since Lucas Gray is denying it, did I guess wrongly? But if it isn't him, then who actually is the culprit?*

Bruce frowned while thinking hard in his mind about which big shot the Hales might have offended recently. But he couldn't think of anyone.

"Enough! Hurry up and move. Every member of the Hale family is going to be investigated!" At this moment, a soldier in a dark green military uniform pulled Bruce and urged.

There were already quite a few soldiers behind him who had gone to pull the other members of the Hale family.

Of course, the Hales were not willing to be taken away just like that. Once they were taken away, who knew if they could come back alive...

All the Hales sat on the ground and bawled and struggled with all their might, refusing to leave.

Seeing their refusal, the burly soldier in the lead frowned and said coldly, "All of you, shut up. Don't cry or resist. Otherwise, we will consider you to be resisting arrest. And we have every right to shoot those who resist and cause trouble!"

Hearing this, those hoping that they would get lucky and tried to throw a tantrum to escape punishment instantly ceased all their weeping and froze on the spot.

All of them had a look of despair on their faces, but they didn't dare to struggle and bawl anymore. They simply sobbed while the soldiers dragged them to the armored vehicles.

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Bruce's face was pale, but he had no choice but to accept the arrest. However, he was glaring at Lucas with extreme hatred!

Regardless of whether Lucas was the culprit or not, he wouldn't have summoned the Hales' armed henchmen after repeatedly suffering defeat at Lucas's hands if Lucas hadn't suddenly appeared at the Hales' baby shower and disrupted their celebration!

Therefore, the Hales were in this state all because of Lucas Gray!

He wouldn't let him go!

Lucas looked fearlessly into the hate-filled eyes of Bruce, who looked like he wanted to eat someone, and said calmly, "I have something to tell you. Don't always think that it's someone else's fault. You ought to reflect on yourselves and think about what you have done. Remember, there is a saying in this world, the wages of sin is death. And there's another that comes to mind, the mills of God grind slowly. The Hales have committed so many misdeeds and indulged in your misbehaving descendants, yet you aren't

ashamed of it. Without teaching them, your family would have been destroyed sooner or later.

“Besides, the private use of restricted firearms is in itself an illegal act, and this isn’t something that anyone can wrongfully accuse you of.”

Bruce’s body shook, and his gaze dimmed. He hung his head low dejectedly and seemed to have aged more than ten years in an instant.

With tears in his eyes, he watched as the Hales were held down and shoved into armored vehicles while thinking that they were about to be prisoners.

No one knew if they would be able to come back alive.

The deeply rooted and prosperous Hale family actually collapsed and fell overnight.

At this moment, Bruce’s mood was extremely complicated, and he was overwhelmed with regret!

He really regretted it!

Only now did he realize that he had committed so many misdeeds!

Unfortunately, there was no cure for regret in this world.

Suddenly, the sounds of a baby crying spread over from not far away.

A young woman of around 25 was carrying a baby wrapped in a towel in her arms. Her face was covered in tears, and she was pleading with a soldier beside her. “Please, I beg of you. My baby is only one month old. He just turned one month old today. He doesn’t know anything yet. Let him off!”

There was actually a one-month-old baby among the Hales about to be arrested. The burly soldier didn’t expect it at all.

He was a little uncertain. And without making a single sound, he glanced at Lucas, apparently asking for instructions.

Lucas nodded slightly. The burly man instantly understood what he meant.

He waved his large hand backward and said, “The baby is still young, so we won’t hold it against him. The baby’s mother shall be spared too. However, until the results of our investigation into the Hales are released, they will be put under close probation and will not be allowed to come and go at will. Do you understand?”

This meant that they were under temporary house arrest in the Hale residence.

When the young woman heard what the burly soldier said, her eyes were full of joy. She exclaimed with utmost gratitude, "Sure, sure! No problem! The baby and I will stay here and not go anywhere! Thank you, Sir!"

Apart from the one-month-old baby and his mother who got to stay behind with Lucas's permission, the rest of the 30 or so direct descendants of the Hale family were all taken away.

Only the countless guests in the hall, who were scared into silence by the changes, got to stay behind.

They didn't expect the hosts of the banquet they were attending to be arrested by the military.

This experience was simply too bizarre, and many of them still felt as if they were in a dream, unable to recover from the shock at all.

Standing in the middle of the hall and looking coldly at the guests hiding around the banquet hall, the burly soldier said, "What happened tonight to the Hales is a secret mission. None of you are to spread a word about this outside! Otherwise, you will be charged for disclosing confidential military information, and your fate will be the same as that of the Hales!

"In addition, I would like to remind you not to carry any hopes. We are thoroughly aware of all your information and identities."

He slowly scanned the hall with an icy gaze. Wherever he passed, the people would avoid his eyes and hold their breaths, not daring to breathe at all.

The burly soldier's threat made many people break out into cold sweat.

In fact, all the things that happened in the Hale residence tonight made them feel as though they had been on a rollercoaster of emotions. Many of them had lived for decades, but they had never seen such a prestigious and wealthy family be completely ruined in a flash.

There were indeed many who were planning to share this bizarre event at the Hales tonight with their friends and relatives and gossip about it.

But they didn't expect the military to issue a gag order, ordering them not to spread a single word about this matter. Otherwise, they would be arrested like the Hales had been, and it would be hard to say if they could come back or not.

They couldn't afford to bear the consequences of disclosing confidential military information!

Finally, the burly soldier glanced at Lucas again and nodded in farewell before turning around to walk toward the armored vehicle in the middle of the hall.

Soon, one after another, the steel tyrants drove out of the Hales' courtyard.

They came and went quickly. From the time they appeared to the time they left, less than ten minutes had passed.

However, the Hales were worlds apart from what they used to be ten minutes ago.

After the last armored vehicle left the front yard of the Hale residence, the guests in the hall felt a great sense of relief. They subconsciously broke out into cold sweat. And as a cold breeze blew past, they immediately shivered, though it was unclear if it was because of the chilliness or their fear.

If it were usual, they would have broken into a heated and enthusiastic discussion after witnessing such an incredible thing.

But the military had just issued a gag order, and they definitely didn't have the courage to voice their questions and doubts. They had no choice but to curb their burgeoning desire to complain and gossip with others and grit their teeth. No one dared to discuss it at all.

However, everyone's heart was brimming with countless doubts as they wondered who the person who planned the event tonight was.

Many people spontaneously looked at Lucas.

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Thinking about what happened tonight from the start of the banquet, they had a hunch that Lucas was most likely to be the mastermind.

But they wondered if this young man really had such terrifying influence and power.

The surrounding guests seemed rather wary. And Seth and Daniel Miller, who had previously offended Lucas, were so terrified that their faces paled and they started shivering.

Previously, Seth had been kicked by Lucas and slammed heavily against the wall, causing him to pass out on the spot. But halfway through, he slowly woke up and happened to see the scene of Lucas and the black-clothed elite guards fighting.

Afterward, Lucas faced the pistol squad of the Hales, and the military soldiers soon appeared. Seth saw everything.

Only now did Seth feel a great sense of fear from the bottom of his heart and realized how terrifying his enemy was.

With a thud, Seth and Daniel fell to their knees in front of Lucas.

“Mr. Gray, I was arrogant and conceited. I was blind to have offended you. Please be merciful and forgive me!” Seth exclaimed in a shaky voice as he slapped himself hard a few times. This time, they were much harder than when Jordan forced him to slap himself outside the Hales’ doorstep.

“Mr. Gray, I’m really sorry. My son is unruly and has offended you. It’s because I failed to discipline him. I promise I will take him in hand in the future and never let him offend you again!” Daniel went all out and swallowed his pride to apologize to Lucas.

Although the Millers were a second-tier family in Orange County, they were nothing compared to the Hales.

The fact that Lucas could easily destroy the Hales meant that he could do the same to the Millers effortlessly!

So even though it was embarrassing, Seth and Daniel had to build good relations with Lucas. Regardless of the price they had to pay, they had to obtain his forgiveness!

Looking indifferently at the two people kneeling in front of him from above, Lucas maintained a calm expression and said, “I hope you guys really know your mistakes. Remember, it’s alright to offend me. But if you dare to offend my wife and daughter, I will never forgive you!”

Everyone in the hall could hear Lucas’s words clearly. And they could tell that he was not only warning Seth and his father but also everyone present.

Thinking about the destruction of the Hales just now, they realized that the initial cause was because Logan Hale had kidnapped Lucas’s daughter.

Everyone understood that offending Lucas’s wife and daughter was even more terrifying than offending him personally!

Seth’s heart skipped a beat, and he felt as if his heart was about to jump out of his chest. Recalling that he had repeatedly courted Cheyenne and tried to make Lucas a cuckold, Seth was so terrified that he almost passed out. “Mr. Gray, I promise! I promise that I will never harbor any other thoughts that I shouldn’t have again!”

Lucas looked at him coldly. “Get lost.”

“Yes! Yes! We’ll get lost right away!” Seth and Daniel hurriedly got up like they had been spared and then scrambled out of Hales’ banquet hall.

The other guests hesitantly looked at Lucas, wanting to leave but not daring to do so. Only after Jordan gave them the green light did the guests hurriedly flock to the hall's entrance and scramble away like birds.

Soon, the lively hall became empty, leaving only Lucas, Jordan, and Aston, who was covered in cold sweat.

After Aston heard Lucas's warning just now, his heart also thumped violently. At the thought of how he had once tried to hit on Cheyenne and Charlotte, followed by Lucas's means today, he felt that it was a miracle that he was still alive now.

Of course, it was mainly because Lucas deliberately spared him.

Aston dried the cold sweat on his forehead, walked up to Lucas, and said respectfully, "Mr. Gray, shall I send you back?"

Lucas raised his brow. Knowing that Aston wanted to talk with him, he nodded and said to Jordan, "Go."

"Yes, Lucas!" Jordan glanced at Aston and then turned around to leave without another word.

"Mr. Gray, please." Aston respectfully ushered Lucas to the luxurious Maybach he had recently purchased and drove him back to the Carter residence.

On the way, Aston looked at Lucas, who was sitting in the backseat with his eyes closed, through the rearview mirror. He wanted to speak but hesitated.

Lucas suddenly opened his eyes and said coldly, "If you have anything to say, just cut straight to the point."

Chapter 162: Master and Servant

Aston coughed twice unnaturally before saying, "Mr. Gray, the Hales have fallen, and I think this is a perfect opportunity for you!"

Lucas glanced at him and said calmly, "Continue."

With his hand on the steering wheel, Aston said with a smile, "All the Hales have been taken away, except the one-month-old infant and his mother. But as one of the four major families of Orange County, they left behind many businesses which are now still without a leader."

He paused before continuing, "Mr. Gray, I know that you're ambitious. If you encroach on all their businesses, your power will greatly enhance. But at this juncture, I'm afraid it's still quite difficult for you to do that. So we are willing to give you some help, as long as you... agree to a tiny request of ours."

"Oh?" Lucas raised his brows and appeared to be very interested. "What condition?"

"We don't want anything. We just hope that you can tell everyone that you belong to the Brookes." Aston smiled.

Amused, Lucas snorted with laughter.

He looked at Aston smilingly. "Are you serious?"

Aston nodded. "The Brookes can contribute manpower and money for you. We just need to get your promise. You won't lose out on time."

Lucas grinned. "In that case, do I have to declare to the outside world that the Stardust Corporation belongs to the Brookes too?"

Aston hurriedly shook his head. "No, no, the Stardust Group is backed by the Huttons. How could we have the guts to covet it?"

Lucas's face turned cold, and he sneered. "Hmph, you don't dare to covet the Huttons' property, but you have the audacity to covet mine. You are really brazen!"

Aston's heart suddenly dropped. But thinking of these matters, he regained his composure and tried to explain, "Mr. Gray, the Brookes are sincere in wanting to cooperate with you, and this request is beneficial to both of us. We will be able to achieve a win-win situation where you'll have nothing to lose while benefiting from the help we give you. Don't you agree?"

"Pardon me for being blunt, but you're no longer a member of the Huttons, and it's hard to say if the Stardust Group will still belong to you. You are now in need of an ally like us, the Brookes. Don't you think so?"

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Lucas narrowed his eyes. It turned out that the Brookes had gone around inquiring and found out the matters between him and the Huttons back then. They thought that he was still the poor boy whom the Hutton had kicked out but was still using them to throw his weight around. This was the reason Aston dared to make such a request to him.

But if the Brookes still thought so now, it would be a huge mistake!

Lucas looked at Aston's firm and smug gaze, and his eyes turned cold. "Go back and tell Andrew Brooke not to be a smart aleck. The Brookes are far from being fit enough to make use of me.

"Moreover, the Brookes ought to remember that I'm not your ally, but rather, we're in a master-servant dynamic. I'm the master, and you are servants who have pledged allegiance to me and are to obey me. If you try to provoke me, I'm afraid you won't be able to afford to bear the consequences!"

Lucas sounded extremely tyrannical, and Aston was both frightened and infuriated, as he didn't expect that Lucas didn't take him seriously at all!

The master and servant theory made Aston even more furious.

But when he thought of what had just happened at the Hales' banquet just now, Aston had no choice but to suppress his anger and force a smile. "Mr. Gray, I will definitely relay your words to my grandfather truthfully and let him come to a decision."

As they conversed, they had already reached the Carter residence. Lucas opened the car door and got out without turning back at all.

When Lucas disappeared behind the wall of the courtyard, Aston immediately took out his phone and called his grandfather, Andrew Brooke. "Grandpa, at the Hale residence tonight..."

He was about to report all the incredible events that occurred at the Hale residence tonight when he suddenly recalled the warning that the burly soldier had given before he left.

Aston immediately dropped the idea and paused before continuing, "I sent Lucas Gray home after the Hales' banquet ended. And during the journey, I mentioned to him what you had told me to, but he wasn't willing to concede. He doesn't even take us seriously, and he warned us not to be a smart aleck. He also said that we have always been servants to him."

"Hmph, how arrogant!" Andrew was enraged. "If he were still the heir of the Huttons, we would definitely have to be subservient to him. But he's just a nobody whom the Huttons have abandoned for almost twenty years. What right does he have to be the master of the Brooke family?"

"With his current status, he should be utterly grateful to us for offering help to him, yet he still doesn't know any better. We gave him an inch and he took a mile! Hmph, does he really think that the Brookes are afraid of him?"

Andrew hollered clearly from the other end.

Aston agreed entirely with his grandfather, but when he thought about the power that Lucas had displayed tonight, he felt that there was definitely something fishy about him.

If he were merely an abandoned family member whom the Hutton had kicked out for numerous years, how could he command such strong military power?

There was definitely something fishy behind this matter!

“Grandpa, I still have something to say to you, but it’s not convenient to do so on the phone. I’ll tell you when I get home,” Aston said.

He still decided to give Andrew a detailed explanation of everything that happened. After all, it was an important matter, and if it was really Lucas’s doing, they would have to be wary and cautious toward Lucas.

Although the military had issued a gag order, he would only be telling Andrew about it when they were alone in a room at home. Even if the military had wide connections, it would be impossible for them to find out if he had revealed it or not.

“Okay, come home once you’re done. But until then, don’t fall out with Lucas Gray yet. Drag it out for now and find a way to use the Stardust Group to bring us more profits.”

“Yes, Grandpa.” Aston Brooke agreed, but he didn’t wait any longer and instead rushed back to the Brooke residence in LA overnight.

As for how he and Andrew avoided eyes and how he told him what had happened tonight at the Hales and what Lucas had done, that would be left for later.

By the time Lucas alighted from the car at the Carter residence, it was already past 11 p.m.

Lucas pushed open the door of Cheyenne’s room and entered, only to find that Amelia had already fallen asleep while Cheyenne was still sitting on the edge of the bed with her brows furrowed in a frown. She seemed to be thinking about something.

When she saw Lucas enter, she looked him up and down before glaring at him furiously. She then switched off the lights in the room, turned over, and lay down on the bed.

Lucas’s heart dropped. He finally remembered that Amelia had unintentionally mentioned that she had gone to Aunt Grace’s place to play. Due to Karen’s misleading words, Cheyenne got the wrong idea about him!

But there was no way he could explain it!

Chapter 163: Smash It

Lucas was perturbed. There was, of course, nothing between him and Grace. But if he were to explain, it would definitely lead to the revelation that Amelia had been abducted, which would definitely frighten Cheyenne.

After pondering about it, Lucas was at a loss for words. When he saw that Cheyenne was lying on the bed and refusing to talk to him, he could only smile helplessly and then go to the bathroom to wash up before lying down on the ground on the other side of the room.

He had to think of a solution so that Cheyenne wouldn't continue misunderstanding.

Their relationship had finally progressed a little, and she had also allowed him to stay in her room every day, though she didn't explicitly state so. If she really misunderstood and thought that he was having an affair, she would definitely push him away resentfully.

But he still had no clue as to how he should broach the subject to her.

While thinking about it, Lucas fell asleep without realizing it.

In the dark room, Cheyenne, who was quietly lying on the bed and pretending to be asleep, immediately opened her eyes when she heard the faint sounds of Lucas snoring. Staring at him, she felt aggrieved and somehow furious.

She had been waiting for him to explain to her about Grace. But to her astonishment, he didn't say anything and dozed off so quickly!

This is too much!

The next morning, Lucas saw Cheyenne sitting not far away from him as soon as he opened his eyes. She was staring at him expressionlessly, and he had no idea how long she had been staring at him for.

"Ahem, Cheyenne, you're up early." He sat up and smiled at her.

"Don't you think you've forgotten something?" she asked expressionlessly.

"What?" asked the stunned Lucas.

"An explanation for what happened yesterday," Cheyenne said through gritted teeth.

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Lucas suddenly felt troubled. He fell asleep before he could come up with a solution. And now that he had just woken up, he had to face her questioning again.

He smiled bitterly. "Cheyenne, there's really nothing between that woman and me. I just put Amelia in her care for a short period of time. I swear that I only met her yesterday. Charlotte can vouch for me."

Cheyenne looked at him before saying sourly, "Charlotte has always been biased toward you, so she'll naturally speak up for you. Even I am secondary to you."

Charlotte had obviously treated Lucas differently on several occasions. When he took Amelia to a stranger's home last night and returned home so late, Charlotte was the first one to insist on believing him.

Cheyenne was not suspecting her sister. But she just noticed that there seemed to be something going on between Charlotte and Lucas, and they were hiding it from her, making her feel rather uncomfortable.

Lucas was a bit surprised. *Since when has Charlotte been biased toward me? Why don't I know about it?*

Besides, Cheyenne asked me for an explanation first thing in the morning. Does that mean...

"Cheyenne, are you... jealous?" Lucas asked cautiously.

Cheyenne immediately blushed and stood up. She chided angrily, "Who's jealous? Don't spout nonsense! After all, you are still my lawful husband, so you can't be involved in an illicit relationship with another woman out there. Isn't that so?"

After saying this, she felt that there seemed to be something wrong with what she said, so her face got warmer and warmer. She simply said, "Forget it. I can't be bothered to talk to you! I'm going to go wash up!" She then hurried into the bathroom, turned on the faucet, and splashed her red and warm face with cold water.

Standing outside the room, Lucas froze for a while before suddenly bursting into laughter. She was obviously angry out of humiliation because he had exposed her thoughts. But the words 'lawful husband' made him feel a sense of sweetness.

She obviously truly considered him as her husband. Otherwise, she wouldn't have been so concerned about whether or not he was intimate with another woman.

Lucas was in a good mood for the rest of the day. And even until breakfast time, he was still smiling.

On the other hand, Cheyenne was the opposite of him. She wouldn't stop frowning or blushing and would glare at Lucas from time to time.

Seated across the table, Charlotte noticed their expressions and thought to herself that something must have happened between them.

Halfway through the rare breakfast, the loud sound of an explosion suddenly came from outside, followed by the sound of something collapsing and the ground quaking.

They were startled, and Cheyenne immediately pulled Amelia into her arms as Lucas stood in front of both of them and hugged them protectively. After recovering from the shock, Karen dropped her bowl and dashed out of the door.

"What's wrong... Ah! What are you people doing?!" After dashing out and seeing what was going on outside, Karen raised her pitch and shrieked in horror.

There was a large, bright yellow excavator that had a large hydraulic crushing hammer in front a short distance in front of the courtyard door. The hammer immediately crushed the wall of the Carter residence into smithereens.

Upon seeing Karen come out to question them, a man who looked like an engineer and was standing in front of the excavator said to the operator of the excavator, "Continue smashing!"

The hydraulic crushing hammer moved upward and smashed onto the two-story building in front of it!

Bang!

The entire house quaked, and a small storage room on the second floor was crushed by the hammer, causing large bricks and debris to roll down.

"Watch out!" Lucas exclaimed. He held Cheyenne's waist with one hand and picked her up into his arms together with Amelia while pulling Charlotte, who was beside him. He then dashed out of the shaking building.

Behind them, large cracks formed in the ceiling above their heads, and countless amounts of lime powder dropped.

Dumbfounded, Karen looked at the collapsed wall of the house. It took her a long time to realize what happened. She suddenly shrieked before dashing toward the engineer. "You bastard! Who said you could smash my house? Are you blind? Can't you see that there are people inside? You scoundrels! Will you still abide by the law?!"

Chapter 164: Vicious Gift

Overwhelmed with anger, Karen rushed over, grabbed the broom beside the gate, and smashed it onto the face of the engineer.

“Scoundrel! Bastard! You people are evil crooks who get up to all sorts of evil! Who told you to come and demolish my home? Do you have a death wish?” Full of anger, Karen waved her broom majestically.

It was the home she had lived in for more than 20 years! How could she tolerate this?

“Stop it! You crazy bitch! Somebody, help!” The engineer had his hands on his head while Karen was hitting him with the broom.

Soon, more than ten men with sledgehammers and axes rushed out from behind the excavator and charged toward Karen.

“Ah! Murder! They’re trying to kill us!” Karen immediately got frightened to the point of having her knees go weak. She shrieked, dropped the broom, and then ran behind Lucas to hide.

Seeing that Karen had been frightened off, the engineer tidied up his clothes and hair, which the broom had messed up. He then said to Karen mockingly, “Bitch, weren’t you really fierce just now? Let’s see if you can still be that aggressive now. Guys, tear this place down! Mr. Carter instructed us to flatten this place within an hour!”

“Yes!” The burly men answered loudly before the large excavator started rumbling again.

Cheyenne and Charlotte looked at these people and the excavator with anger written all over their faces.

When Lucas heard the word ‘Mr. Carter’, his heart skipped a beat, and his eyes had an icy-cold gaze.

“Stop! This is our home. Who said you could come here to tear it down?” Cheyenne’s face was flushed, and her chest was heaving up and down.

The engineer taking the lead looked at Cheyenne and Charlotte with eyes full of greed and lust. He then licked his lips lewdly. “Beautiful lady, I’m sorry, but we are a proper engineering company, and we have the legal authority to carry out the demolition. The owner of this house personally commissioned our company to demolish it, so you can’t blame us!”

Cheyenne and others immediately understood that it must have been the doing of Bryce and the other Carters!

The house they lived in was allocated to William's family years ago, but the official transfer procedures hadn't been done, so it had always been under Dominic's name. Now that the house was getting demolished, it was definitely the instructions of Dominic and Bryce.

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But even if they were going to demolish the house, they shouldn't have done it without prior notice. Since there were still inhabitants, they shouldn't have started the demolition.

If they had run out a little slower, or the force of the hydraulic hammer was a little greater, all of them would have been smashed to death and buried alive in the house.

Charlotte was so furious that she was about to lash out immediately. But at this moment, a pickup truck drove over and stopped steadily behind the excavator. A middle-aged man in his fifties alighted. "Lucas Gray? Who's Lucas Gray?"

Lucas frowned slightly and walked forward. "I'm Lucas Gray. Who are you?"

The middle-aged man immediately opened the trunk of his pickup truck, picked up a large cardboard box, and then walked over.

"Mr. Gray, a customer whose last name is Carter instructed us to deliver this. Please sign this receipt."

Lucas looked at the large cardboard box in front of him in bewilderment. *Carter? Is it those Carters?*

It was rare of the Carters to send something.

He raised his hand and was about to grab the delivery receipt while the middle-aged man looked at him with a strange expression a few times. Finally, he couldn't help but say, "Hey, did a major accident happen to your family here? It must be really sad to suffer the loss of so many of your loved ones in one go! Condolences, buddy."

While speaking, he patted Lucas's shoulder consolingly with his pair of rough palms.

Lucas was confused. But after he saw the words on the receipt in his hand, his face immediately turned enraged as an icy cold gaze filled his eyes. The temperature around his body seemed to have also instantly plunged!

There were several words written in bold on the delivery list!

“Item name: Sculpted Marble Urn, Quantity: 5”

The cardboard box delivered by this middle-aged man actually contained five urns!

Cheyenne’s family of four plus Lucas added up to exactly five people. He immediately understood what the urns were for.

Cheyenne and Charlotte, who were standing right beside Lucas, were also curious when they heard that a Carter had sent those items.

But after they saw the words on the delivery list, their faces turned sullen, and they looked extremely upset.

The person demolishing their house said that they were commissioned by a Carter, who also instructed them to raze the place to the ground within an hour. Now, the person who delivered these items also claimed to have been hired by a Carter.

They could all feel the great malice in his intentions!

“Bryce Carter! It must be him!” Charlotte said with resentment through clenched teeth.

At this moment, a familiar Mercedes-Benz sedan pulled over at the entrance of the Carters’ old residence. The car door opened, and Bryce got out and walked over with a triumphant smile. A tall and muscular man dressed in black was following him.

However, Bryce’s right arm was still wrapped in gauze, and there was also new gauze around his head. He was smug and domineering, which was rather amusing with this appearance.

“Bryce Carter, this must be your doing, right?” Cheyenne questioned loudly as she glowered at him.

“Hmph, so what if it’s me? This is the property of the Carters, and after what your loser husband did to me yesterday, I can’t stand you guys anymore! I want to drive all of your family out of here!” Bryce hollered. Now that he had a backer behind him, he completely forgot about what Lucas said previously.

“Does Grandpa know about these things you’ve done?” Cheyenne asked as she glared at Bryce in the eye.

“Haha, of course he does! This house is under Grandpa’s name. How can the procedures with the engineering company be settled without the title deed? Grandpa has long been annoyed with your family and has wanted to throw all of you out long ago!”

Cheyenne bit her lower lip with a look of misery on her face. "Did Grandpa tell you to send those urns?"

"Hahaha, of course! This is a big gift from us, especially for you guys! May you put them to use soon! Haha!"

Bryce laughed viciously, and when he suddenly saw Amelia in Cheyenne's arms, he smacked his thigh. "I almost forgot about your little bastard. I forgot to buy one more urn!"

After saying this, he looked at the middle-aged man who had just delivered the urn and yelled at him, "Hurry up and go bring a smaller urn over!"

Chapter 165: Kneel Down and Beg Me

Hearing what Bryce said made Lucas's eyes fill with a frightening murderous intent. He cracked his knuckles as though he was saying that he could break Bryce's neck at any moment.

After hearing the vicious words, Cheyenne and Charlotte were incredibly horrified and shocked. It was utterly immoral! "Bryce Carter! How can you be so vicious? Amelia is only a five-year-old child, and she has treated you as her uncle for so many years. What has she done to you to suffer such treatment from you? Just come at us if you must. Why do you have to curse a child like this?!"

"I'm vicious?" Bryce asked rhetorically as he pointed at his nose with his uninjured left hand. "In terms of viciousness, how can I compare to your husband? Look at my arm. It's still in a cast, all thanks to your husband who broke it! Now look at my head. Your husband injured it last night too! You're calling me vicious, but have you thought about what you've done to me? Is Lucas Gray not vicious?"

Only then did Cheyenne realize that the new gauze wrapped around Bryce's head was also due to Lucas inflicting an injury on him last night.

Although she didn't know what happened last night, she knew that Lucas wasn't the type to hurt someone for no reason. Besides, she remembered very clearly why he broke Bryce's arm.

Previously, Bryce had also shown up here and threw his weight around by trying to chase them away. He even grabbed Cheyenne's hair and humiliated her. But afterward, Lucas arrived in time and broke his arm.

With this thought in mind, Cheyenne said righteously, "Lucas would never beat you up for no reason. You must have gone to provoke him again last night and did something

disgusting. That's why Lucas broke your head. You should be reflecting on your own behavior!"

Her words hit the nail on the head. Last night, he had indeed gone to provoke Lucas and even tried to hit Lucas but had his head broken instead. He immediately scolded furiously, "Reflect my ass! You think I deserve to be beaten up just because I messed with him? Well, you provoked me too, so I have every right to exact revenge on you and drive you away while giving each of you an urn!"

He turned his head and scolded the middle-aged man, who was dumbfounded and staring at them with his mouth wide open. "What are you still standing here for? Didn't you hear that we're lacking an urn? Hurry up and go get one!"

The middle-aged man, who owned a funeral supply store, had previously received an order for five urns to be sent here. He thought that a mishap had struck this family to cause so many deaths in one go. Just now, he had even patted Lucas's shoulder to comfort him.

In the end, after standing here and listening for a long time, he found out that no one had died, and the urns were purely sent for the sake of cursing them and making them feel disgusted. He even wanted to give an urn to an adorable little girl. That was just too vicious!

The middle-aged man was a straightforward person, so he immediately frowned and said in disapproval, "Buddy, that's not right of you. Urns are used for the ashes of the deceased. It's unethical of you to be giving them to living people."

Bryce said angrily, "Since I told you to deliver an urn here, then do it! What are you being so long-winded for?! I bought them with money, so I can give them to whoever I want!"

The middle-aged man retorted, "That's not right. I'm not going to continue with this deal. I'll refund you!"

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He really couldn't approve of Bryce's unethical behavior.

Hearing that the middle-aged man would rather give him a refund than proceed with the delivery of the urns, Bryce narrowed his eyes and threatened, "I'm going to insist on giving them the urns! You have half an hour to deliver the urn. If you don't, I'll immediately bring my people to your store and wreck it!"

"You!" The middle-aged man was instantly enraged. At this point, someone patted him gently on his shoulder. He turned around to see Lucas's handsome face.

“Thank you for speaking up in the name of justice. Please get going. We’ll solve the matter here ourselves,” Lucas said with a smile.

The owner of the funeral supply store was a nice person, but he was unfortunately embroiled in the feud of the Carters.

“Okay then... Be careful,” the middle-aged man said after taking a glance at the tall and muscular man behind Bryce, as well as the ten-odd demolition workers carrying sledgehammers, axes, and other items around him.

After the middle-aged man drove away in his pickup truck, Lucas looked at Cheyenne and said in a deep voice, “Take Amelia to the kindergarten. It’s too chaotic here. Don’t let her see this, lest she gets frightened.”

Cheyenne thought about it for a while and felt that he was right. Amelia was still young and would definitely be scared if she saw what was going to happen. She stroked Amelia’s head and said, “Okay, then I’ll send Amelia to kindergarten first.”

Although Amelia was young, she was smart and didn’t kick up a fuss when she heard that Cheyenne wanted to send her to school. She simply blinked her large eyes and said to Lucas, “Daddy, you have to be careful! Beat up these bad guys like you did last time!”

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“Okay, I promise.” Lucas smiled as he grazed his finger against Amelia’s little nose.

Just as Cheyenne was about to leave with Amelia in her arms, Bryce suddenly stopped them. “Hey, don’t run! Where are you taking this little bastard? I haven’t put on the good show that I meticulously prepared for your family! Anyway, you have to stay here and watch it before you’re allowed to leave!”

The tall and muscular man beside Bryce didn’t budge at all. He was the personal bodyguard whom Bryce had paid a lot of money to hire and was said to be great at combat.

The man stood in front of the slender Cheyenne and the young Amelia, immediately resulting in a great sense of oppression on them. Amelia shuddered uncontrollably while huddling up in Cheyenne’s arms.

“Bryce Carter, if you’re sick of living, I can fulfill your wish.” Lucas’s voice came.

For some reason, Bryce found it creepy and terrifying, as if an invisible hand had reached out from the coldness and grabbed him by his neck, making him shiver in fear.

Lucas walked to Cheyenne and gently patted her back to soothe her.

Some time ago, she began to get a sense of security from being around Lucas. It was as if there was nothing for her to be scared of as long as he was beside her.

“Lucas Gray!” Bryce gritted his teeth and hollered maniacally, “Don’t think you’re impressive just because you can defeat me in a fight! I’ll definitely make you kneel down and beg me to let you off later!”

Lucas sneered derisively. “What a coincidence. There was a man who said the same thing as you in front of me yesterday. Guess what happened to him afterward.”

Chapter 166: No One Is Stopping You

“What happened?” Bryce subconsciously asked after hearing Lucas’s words. He then pursed his lips, secretly feeling angry at himself for asking this question.

“He made me kneel on the ground and kowtow while admitting to my mistake. He also wanted me to slap myself and beg for forgiveness,” Lucas said slowly.

“Hmph, good job! That’s how it should be!” Bryce’s heart was full of joy. Although he didn’t know who it was, anyone who could harm Lucas would be his friend!

“Later on, he had to do all of that himself before I would let him off.”

The joyous expression on Bryce’s face immediately stiffened, and it took him a long time to realize what Lucas meant. He instantly flew into a rage and hollered, “Lucas Gray! Do you think I’m scared? Since I said I would make you kneel down and beg for mercy, I’ll make sure you do!”

Lucas looked at Bryce like he was a fool and then ignored him. He said to Cheyenne, “It’s okay. You can take Amelia away first. With me around, no one can stop you.”

Cheyenne nodded. “Be careful.” Then she took Amelia away.

Obeying Bryce’s order, the tall, muscular man behind Bryce moved his feet and was about to stop Cheyenne when he suddenly felt an immense murderous aura fixed on him coming from behind, giving him goosebumps!

Horror!

Incredible horror!

It was as if he would immediately die if he continued to move even a little bit!

Countless drops of sweat gushed out from every pore of his body, drenching him in cold sweat in no time!

It wasn't until Cheyenne took Amelia away from the courtyard of the Carter residence did the terrifying murderous aura vanish.

The muscular man raised his arm and wiped the sweat that dripped into his eyes. Although it had only been a few seconds, he felt like many years had passed, causing him to feel weak and exhausted.

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Seeing that his bodyguard hadn't moved at all and let Cheyenne go, Bryce flew into a rage and hollered, "Good-for-nothing! Did I pay you so much money for you to just stand there like a pole?! Don't you know how to stop her?"

Hanging his head low, the muscular man clenched his fist and let Bryce continue scolding him.

He couldn't possibly tell Bryce that if he had just moved, he wouldn't have been able to stand here alive. Even if he said so, Bryce definitely wouldn't believe him.

Lucas said indifferently, "Bryce Carter, I have given you countless chances. All along, I've been letting you off time and time again for Cheyenne's sake. Why do you keep challenging me and pushing your limits?"

Bryce was instantly furious, and he cursed loudly, "What nonsense are you talking about?! What chance? Let me off? Weren't you the one who broke my arm and my head? Do you dare to say that you didn't play a role in harming the Carters? Hmph, you're making yourself sound so great! You're just pushing it because you're stronger than me and better at martial arts! Indeed, I can't beat you, but I can bring in the best experts to hit you. I'll see if you can keep up with this bullshit in front of me later!

"You've offended me, and you still want to continue staying alive and well?" Bryce hollered furiously.

Karen huddled up at the side. She had yet to figure out what was going on, and she didn't have a clear idea of the situation either. She didn't know that Bryce had just asked someone to send an urn to each of them.

Right now, she only knew that Lucas had angered Bryce, who was boiling with fury, and what he meant was that they couldn't continue to live here because Lucas had offended him.

At the thought of this, Karen flew into a rage and dashed forward to slap Lucas hard on his face. "It's all your fault, jinx!"

“Mom, stop it!” Charlotte wanted to stop her but couldn’t do so in time, so she could only yell at her.

Smack!

Karen’s slap didn’t land on Lucas’s face like it used to in the past, and instead, he grabbed her wrist mercilessly to stop her.

Karen’s wrist was being squeezed tightly by him, rendering her immobile, and she immediately shrieked in anger, “Y-you good-for-nothing, how dare you rebel against me? You’re really insolent!”

Lucas looked at her expressionlessly, his eyes cold and indifferent, making her shudder.

“I’ll handle today’s matter. You don’t have to care about anything.” Then he let go of her hand.

Karen’s face instantly turned pale and red. She looked really upset and disoriented.

“Mom, why did you suddenly hit Lucas?” Charlotte scurried over and blamed Karen while glaring at her.

Karen felt embarrassed because she wanted to hit Lucas but failed to do so. Now that her daughter had come to blame her, she became even more infuriated. She retorted menacingly, “Why did I hit him? Did you not hear what Bryce said just now? This good-for-nothing is really brazen. How dare he beat Bryce up into such a state? He even offended your grandfather and refused to admit his mistake! Since they’re furious, of course they’d want to kick us out! We’ve all been implicated by this jinx!”

Then Karen ran to Bryce and begged with a deferential smile on her face, “Bryce, look, we haven’t offended you in all these years, right? It’s all because of this good-for-nothing! Just take your anger out on him. It really has nothing to do with us!

“Also, I’ll have Cheyenne divorce him right away. Whatever he has done is his responsibility. Don’t blame it on us! Please, go tell your grandfather not to chase us away, will you?”

Karen spoke to Bryce with a subservient smile, trying to appease him.

After glancing at Karen, Bryce smiled sinisterly and then said obnoxiously, “You’re begging me to let you guys go? Fine. I can go back and plead with Grandpa on your behalf and ask him to spare you. But I want this good-for-nothing to kneel in front of me and beg for forgiveness while admitting to his mistakes! I want him to do it now, at once, immediately!”

Chapter 167: Let Him Plead With Me

“Really?” Hearing Bryce say that he would let them off, Karen immediately wanted to verify it with excitement.

“Of course, I’ll keep to my word! I’m just afraid you don’t have the ability to make that wastrel son-in-law of yours agree!” Bryce answered, deliberately trying to provoke Karen.

He had long figured out that Lucas was extremely ruthless to others, especially him. He had merely insulted Cheyenne and Amelia a few times, but he received a harsh beating from Lucas, who had shown no mercy at all.

However, Lucas was very forgiving toward Cheyenne’s family. Regardless of how Karen and William scolded and hit him, he would just bear with it.

Thus, he wanted to get Karen deal with Lucas and see what the latter would do!

Indeed, the foolish woman immediately fell for the trick and turned around to holler at Lucas, “Lucas Gray! Why are you still standing there, you good-for-nothing? Didn’t you hear what Bryce just said? Get down on your knees, apologize to Bryce, and beg him to spare us! You’re the one who caused this trouble, yet you’re making us take the blame. You’re a sinner!”

Karen ordered self-righteously, as if forcing Lucas to get on his knees and beg Bryce to show them mercy was just a trivial matter.

Lucas’s face darkened. But before he could say anything, Charlotte rushed over and blocked him. She shouted at Karen, “Mom, come to your senses! Think about it. Bryce and Dominic Carter have long wanted to kick us out. Before, he also came to kick up a fuss here too. At that time, Lucas hadn’t done anything to him yet, but did he let us off?

“If Lucas hadn’t arrived in time, we would have been kicked out of the house that day! Why are you still fantasizing about them letting us off? He just wants to humiliate Lucas. Lucas has done so much for us! He’s saved us on so many occasions!

“But what about you? All you do is push him out to make him take the blame for everything. You even want to make him kneel down to a bastard who’s worse than a beast! Mom, can’t you think about it carefully and see who truly treats us well?”

“Shut up! You shut up!” Karen yelled furiously. She even raised her arm and was about to slap Charlotte on her face. *Charlotte is getting more and more unruly, and she’s always going against me. I must teach her a lesson and let her know the tone she should use when talking to her mother!*

But Lucas grabbed Karen's wrist tightly again.

"Enough!" Lucas bellowed while glaring daggers at Karen's eyes. He said with a stern gaze, "I give in to you all the time, not because I respect and fear you but because I don't want to put Cheyenne in a difficult spot and cause her to be caught between us. But if you think I'll be at your mercy and let you trample all over my dignity as you wish, you're wrong! If you continue kicking up a fuss like this, don't blame me for not showing you any mercy."

Karen's body suddenly stiffened. It was her first time seeing Lucas glaring at her with such a stern gaze and saying such harsh words. She knew that he definitely wasn't scaring her but instead really dared to do such things.

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Karen, who often liked bullying the weak and feared the strong, was speechless. In fact, she even felt cold.

She seemed to be shocked by her son-in-law, as though it was her first time meeting him. His aura, which was totally different from before, was just too unfamiliar to her.

"Charlotte, take her to a safe place, lest she accidentally gets hurt later," Lucas said to Charlotte.

"Okay!" Charlotte nodded and pulled Karen to a corner of the courtyard.

She knew what Lucas was going to do.

Lucas finally turned to look at Bryce, and he warned gravely, "Now take your people and get out of here immediately! Or else don't blame me for being merciless."

Bryce subconsciously shuddered as the pain from the wounds on his arm and forehead intensified. But he recovered a second later and remembered that he still had a powerful bodyguard, whom he had paid a large sum of money to hire. There was no need for him to be scared of the loser Lucas.

"Hmph, just keep bragging! Don't forget. You've also offended the Hales last night. They definitely won't spare you!"

Bryce still didn't know that the Hales had long been destroyed.

Yesterday, he and Dominic had left the banquet early. Otherwise, if he knew what had happened, he probably wouldn't have had the courage to take half a step toward Lucas again.

Lucas was completely unfazed and simply walked toward Bryce step by step. "I'll give you ten seconds to get out immediately!"

As Lucas approached, the fear Bryce had been suppressing in his heart suddenly surged again, and he roared furiously, "Go! Beat him hard! I want to break his limbs so that he can only crawl on the ground like a dog!"

After hearing the order, the tall and burly bodyguard immediately raised his fists and stomped his feet. He charged toward Lucas like an arrow launched from a bow.

A joyous smile appeared on Bryce's face. The bodyguard was so fast that Lucas wouldn't be able to dodge at all!

But to his surprise, Lucas didn't dodge. Instead, he stood still without moving as the distance between him and the bodyguard became closer and closer. If Lucas still didn't dodge, he would definitely be hit!

Was he scared silly? Or hasn't he recovered from the shock yet? Bryce secretly guessed in his heart.

Meanwhile, Karen grinned and muttered, "Hmph, he deserves it! Good-for-nothing, how dare you defy me and be so fierce toward me? It'd be great if you get killed!"

Charlotte's face was tense as she stared at Lucas while subconsciously crossing her arms in front of herself. She yelled anxiously, "Lucas, be careful!"

Although she had seen Lucas's combat skills before and knew that he was good at martial arts, the person opposite them was a martial arts expert whom Bryce had spent a lot of money to hire. Charlotte was really nervous.

"Hahahahaha! Lucas, just wait to die! This is a top expert that I paid a massive price of thirty thousand dollars to hire! You're not his match at all!" Seeing the tall and burly bodyguard getting closer and closer to Lucas, Bryce finally guffawed loudly in joy, as if he could already see the miserable sight of Lucas being beaten up and collapsing onto the ground.

Lucas thought, *He only spent thirty thousand. What kind of an expert can he be?*

Even the king of underground boxing, Wade, whom Gordon Douglas had hired to deal with him, had a price of 150,000 dollars; while John Hans, whom he had crippled with a kick at the Hale residence yesterday, had a price of several million dollars.

In Lucas's opinion, this bodyguard hired using 30,000 dollars was extremely slow.

At this moment, the tall and burly bodyguard was already less than half a meter away from Lucas, and he would touch Lucas as soon as he raised his hand. With his eyes wide open, Bryce was waiting to see Lucas get sent flying with a kick.

“Aaahhh!”

The bodyguard shrieked miserably and flew up into the air. He was immediately flung more than ten meters away, as though a speeding car had slammed into him!

Chapter 168: Don't Strangle Him

“Hahahaha, you'd actually end up in such a state too...” Bryce laughed loudly in excitement. But his laughter soon ceased as if he had been strangled, and his expression changed drastically.

In the middle of the courtyard, the unharmed Lucas was standing still with composure and a smile on his face.

Everyone was astonished!

No one could see clearly how Lucas managed to fling the tall, strong, and burly bodyguard more than ten meters away in that instant just now.

The bodyguard was now lying motionlessly on the street more than ten meters away, and he had long passed out.

A single kick had sent the muscular and burly man, who weighed more than 100 kilograms, flying! No one knew if he was dead or alive!

His power and speed were definitely not something that ordinary people could possess!

Everyone looked at the scene in front of them in astonishment. They almost couldn't believe their eyes!

Bryce repeatedly rubbed his eyes and looked at the two of them several times indignantly before finally hopelessly confirming that Lucas was the one standing in the middle of the courtyard, completely unscathed. On the other hand, the bodyguard, whom he spent 30,000 dollars to hire, had already collapsed onto the ground like a dead dog.

After losing his backer, an infinite sense of horror arose in Bryce's heart again, and this time, it was more intense than any other time in the past.

Bryce was overwhelmed with hopelessness and despair!

Standing at the side, the engineer in charge of the demolition inhaled sharply. As he looked at the wrecked building that had been demolished under his command, his heart began ricocheting, and he wished that he had never come here today.

The workers beside him, who were holding sledgehammers, axes, and other demolition tools, turned as pale as a sheet as their tools dropped from their hands to the ground. But no one dared to pick them up.

Karen widened her eyes and mouth as though she had seen a ghost. She remained still and stared at Lucas in shock.

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Karen's heart was full of lingering fear. Lucas actually has such terrifying combat skills... I've insulted him, tried to hit him several times before, forced him to divorce Cheyenne, and even tried to compel him to kneel down and beg Bryce for mercy just now...

The more Karen thought about it, the more terrified she was. Her legs turned to jelly, and she almost couldn't stand straight anymore.

Charlotte was initially also shocked by Lucas's combat skills, but she soon smiled gleefully and gave Lucas a big thumbs up with admiration and respect in her eyes.

Although she had long known that he had impressive combat skills, she was nevertheless elated and proud that he was that powerful!

Lucas looked at Bryce again and walked toward him.

"You just said that you were going to break my limbs and make me crawl on the ground like a dog, didn't you?" Lucas asked coldly.

"No... I-I was j-just s-spouting n-n-nonsense. I was just spouting nonsense!" Bryce denied in a shaky voice.

"You also said that you would prepare an urn for each of us, and one for my daughter as well, didn't you?" Lucas questioned as he took another step forward.

"I-I-I was o-out of my m-m-mind! I just wanted to scare you... I didn't mean to curse you!"

Bryce waved his hands in front of himself repeatedly, trying to explain himself while retreating continuously. Unfortunately, the large bright yellow excavator was not far behind him. It was occupying a large amount of space, leaving him with no room to retreat.

“You also said that you want me to kneel on the ground and beg you to let us off and that we deserve all these disgusting things that you did to us today, didn’t you?” Lucas inched closer, and his voice became colder.

Bryce collapsed onto the ground with a loud thud as his legs turned weak. While kneeling, he pleaded, “Lucas, it’s all my fault! I was wrong! Just spare me for Cheyenne’s sake!”

As Bryce spoke, Lucas had already walked up to him and was looking down at him condescendingly. Lucas’s body was like a bolt of lightning as he grabbed Bryce’s neck and lifted him off the ground.

“For Cheyenne’s sake? You’ve already said that to me several times before, and I’ve let you off countless times for Cheyenne’s sake! But what did you say just now? You said I’ve never shown you any mercy. Looks like I have to let you feel what will happen to you when I no longer show you any mercy!”

As Lucas spoke, he tightened his grip on Bryce’s neck, causing his throat to cackle. His face gradually turned pale, and his eyes rolled upward.

He looked as though he was about to be strangled to death by Lucas!

With his legs dangling in the air, Bryce struggled desperately. Overwhelmed with fear and terror, he regretted going against Lucas again and again. He failed to take advantage every time he went against Lucas, but he still hadn’t learned his lesson!

He wanted to beg Lucas for mercy and ask Lucas to let him off. But now, he couldn’t even breathe, and the feeling of suffocating made him blackout in misery.

Karen was overwhelmed with panic and anxiety as she watched Lucas strangle Bryce. She sat motionlessly on the ground, unable to even utter a single word or even have the strength to look away.

Next to her, the ten-odd demolition workers of the engineering company were so scared they almost peed their pants!

Is he going to kill him in front of so many people?

Logically speaking, they should have gone up to stop him or called the police, but Lucas was so terrifying that they didn’t dare to move at all!

Charlotte initially felt extremely relieved when she saw Lucas holding Bryce by the neck and lifting him up.

But when she saw Bryce turning purple and gradually losing his strength, she began to feel scared again, fearing that Lucas might accidentally kill Bryce in a fit of anger!

Charlotte anxiously rushed forward and grabbed Lucas's arm. "Lucas, hurry and let go of him! Don't strangle him to death! He's dying. If you continue, you'll end up getting arrested for murder or even get sentenced to death!

"Lucas, I beg you. Please think of Cheyenne and Amelia. If you die, what's going to happen to them?! It's not worth sacrificing yourself for a horrible person like Bryce Carter!"

Chapter 169: Lucas Gets Stabbed

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Tears of anxiety welled up in Charlotte's eyes, and she was about to burst into crying.

She begged Lucas to let Bryce go. Of course, it was not for Bryce but because she was worried that Lucas would be charged with murder.

Lucas didn't want to really strangle Bryce to death now. Just like what Charlotte said, it wouldn't be worth getting charged for murder because of scum like Bryce.

Of course, if he really wanted to kill him, there were countless ways to do it without any consequences.

Lucas finally let go of his hand.

With a loud thud, Bryce fell hard onto the ground and fell limp. Clutching his throat in pain and coughing several times, he started panting heavily.

For Bryce, who was almost strangled to death, each breath of air was extremely precious!

Seeing Bryce slowly recovering, Charlotte heaved a sigh of relief. God knows how afraid she was that Bryce might have been strangled to death just now!

In the distant corner, Karen was also clutching her chest, paralyzed by fear. She didn't expect Lucas would be so ruthless as to almost strangle Bryce to death.

Just as Bryce was sitting on the ground and enjoying the euphoria of surviving a near-death experience, Lucas's devilish voice sounded in his ears. "Do you have any last words? I will relay them to the Carters for you."

These words made Bryce feel like he had been banished to hell!

He was so frightened that he shuddered and peed his pants right on the spot. "... I am the only heir of the Carters. You can't kill me! Otherwise, Grandpa won't let you off! We're also friends with the Brookes, the Hales, and... many other wealthy families in Orange County. If you kill me, they won't spare you nor your wife and daughter!"

After Lucas heard Bryce's last words, his face turned gloomier, and his voice was as icy cold as the ice in the depths of Siberia. "You know, I hate it when people threaten me with my wife and children. I don't mind telling you that Cheyenne and Amelia are my Achilles' heel, and anyone who tries to touch them both will have to die!"

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"So, go die now. If you don't have any more nonsense to say, I'll send you on your way now."

Lucas's cold words made Bryce shiver. Ignoring the others, he grabbed the hem of Lucas's pants and knelt down to beg for mercy. "Lucas! I beg you! Please spare me this time! I promise that I will never do anything to Cheyenne and Amelia again! I definitely won't dare to do anything to you again, I swear!"

Charlotte gently tugged Lucas's sleeve and said, "Lucas, calm down. Don't end up killing someone..."

"W-what's going on? Did something happen?" A soft and doubtful voice sounded.

Cheyenne's figure reappeared at the entrance of the Carter residence's courtyard. She had just sent Amelia to the kindergarten before hurrying back. She was now looking at the scene in front of her with a look of surprise, especially at Bryce kneeling at Lucas's feet and weeping miserably. It completely exceeded her imagination.

Charlotte hurriedly scurried over and said to Cheyenne anxiously, "Cheyenne, quickly go and persuade Lucas. Tell him not to kill Bryce!"

Cheyenne panicked. She finally understood why Bryce was kneeling in front of Lucas while weeping and begging miserably.

She hurriedly ran over and looked at Lucas nervously. "Lucas, don't be rash. Let him off!"

Lucas looked at the anxious and nervous look on Cheyenne's face, but he remained unmoved. "You saw what happened today. He sent someone to demolish the house without any regard for our safety. He almost hurt you guys, and he even sent urns to us afterward. He didn't even spare Amelia, a young child. If I let him off, he'll still threaten you guys again and again in the future. I will never allow it!"

Bryce hurriedly assured, "Lucas, I promise I will never provoke and cause trouble for your family again! I definitely won't!"

Lucas sneered. "You've said those words countless times before, but you've gone back on your word every single time. I can't trust you at all. No matter what, you must die today!"

His face was expressionless, and he was like a cold statue.

It was the first time Cheyenne had seen such a cold and ruthless side of Lucas. She was stunned.

He was totally different from the Lucas who would always speak to her gently and play with Amelia.

All of a sudden, Cheyenne's heart was filled with a strange feeling.

After a while, she said, "Lucas, can you..."

"I'm sorry, Cheyenne." Before she could finish, Lucas interjected, "If it were anything else, I would listen to you. But Bryce Carter is incorrigible and beyond redemption. If I let him off today, he will hurt you and Amelia. I can't take that risk. So he must die today."

Lucas's attitude was extremely firm. Cheyenne furrowed her eyebrows slightly. She couldn't think of any words that she could say to change his mind.

To be fair, Bryce had indeed done countless vicious things that repulsed her. She absolutely hated him too.

But she always felt that since he was a Carter, she had asked Lucas to let him off on account of their kinship time and time again in hopes that he could turn over a new leaf.

But now, Bryce was still unrepentant, and he even went from bad to worse. Lucas had already lost his patience with him and was bent on killing him.

What should I do?

Just as Cheyenne lowered her head and was thinking about a strategy, Bryce, who was still kneeling at Lucas's feet, crying and begging, suddenly whipped out a dagger with an icy cold glint. Then he sprung up and dashed at Cheyenne with the dagger pointing at her.

Bryce didn't want to kill her. He just wanted to use it to hold her hostage to force Lucas to let him go.

As soon as he escaped from this place, he would tell his grandfather that they should hire more experts to cripple Lucas even if they had to use all their resources!

Seeing Bryce springing up and swiftly charging toward Cheyenne, Charlotte shrieked in horror, "Ah! Cheyenne, be careful!"

Lucas's face turned cold. None of them saw Bryce's sudden outburst coming. Besides, he was very close to Cheyenne, and she wouldn't be able to react in time. It was almost too late to stop him!

Without hesitation, Lucas flashed and appeared in front of Cheyenne.

The sharp dagger stabbed all the way into Lucas's chest, digging as far as it could until the blade disappeared!

Crimson blood spewed out of Lucas's chest and reflected in the eyes of everyone, who was shell-shocked.

Chapter 170: It's Just A Superficial Wound

No one expected that Bryce had a hidden dagger and that he would stab Lucas's chest with it!

Even Bryce himself was extremely surprised. He never thought that he would be able to escape from Lucas, so he had thought of holding Cheyenne hostage and threatening Lucas into letting him go. But he didn't expect to stab Lucas in his chest by a freak combination of factors.

Bryce subconsciously let go of the dagger and looked at everything before him in astonishment.

After a moment of suffocating silence, Cheyenne finally recovered from her extreme shock and exclaimed anxiously, "Lucas! Are you... are you alright?"

She held Lucas's arm tightly. Upon seeing Lucas's shirt stained with blood seeping out of his chest, she reached out to see how badly he was hurt, but she didn't dare to touch the dagger.

"Lucas! Are you okay?" Charlotte dashed over too. Looking at the eye-catching bloodstain on Lucas's chest, she couldn't help but cover her mouth.

"No, I didn't intend to kill him. He came over himself. It's none of my business! Even if he dies, he deserves it! If any of you dare to say anything, I won't spare you!" Bryce

raised his hand and pointed at Lucas with a maniacal expression as he hollered at all the people around him.

“Hmph, you’ve got a death wish!” Lucas snorted coldly and raised his long leg to kick Bryce right smack in the middle of his chest.

Bryce’s body was instantly propelled into the air as he spouted a mouthful of blood before flying far away and landing beside the tall and strong bodyguard.

Bryce couldn’t make a single sound throughout the entire process because he passed out the moment he was kicked by Lucas and landed hard on the ground like a dead pig.

Immediately afterward, Lucas looked at the dagger in his chest and frowned slightly before reaching out to pull the dagger out. He then flung the dagger onto the ground.

As he did so, blood gushed out.

“What are you doing?! Why did you pull it out?” Cheyenne looked at Lucas in horror and yelled at him in panic.

She had previously read some articles about first aid. And she learned that if someone got stabbed in the chest, heart, or other vital spots, the dagger should never be pulled out directly without the presence of professional medical personnel and equipment. Otherwise, the blood pressure of their body would instantly compress the injury, resulting in arterial hemorrhage that would endanger their life!

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She didn’t expect Lucas to pull the dagger out directly. Looking at the bloody dagger wound in his chest, she panicked and wept uncontrollably while frantically trying to cover his wound with her hands.

“Let’s hurry up and go to the hospital! Charlotte, quickly drive your car over. We’ll head to the hospital immediately for emergency treatment!” Cheyenne yelled anxiously.

“O-okay!” Charlotte nodded frantically. Then she scrambled toward the Lamborghini parked in the corner of the courtyard and started the engine.

Seeing how genuinely nervous and worried Cheyenne was, Lucas felt a warm and fuzzy feeling in his heart. They were both truly concerned about him and were worried that something might happen to him.

Lucas comfortingly patted Cheyenne’s cold and trembling hands that were pressing on his wound and consoled, “Don’t worry. It’s just a minor injury. I’ll be fine.”

“How can this be a minor injury if you’ve bled so much?!” Cheyenne exclaimed at Lucas as tears flooded down her cheeks.

Although Cheyenne yelled at him, Lucas knew that she was just too worried, so he felt even more heartened.

His injury was still a little painful, but Lucas knew that his physique was strong, and such an injury was nothing much to him.

Unfortunately, Cheyenne refused to believe anything he said.

Soon, Cheyenne helped Lucas into the car. When Charlotte saw Lucas’s appearance, her eyes turned red, and she drove to the nearest hospital as quickly as she could.

“Doctor! Emergency! Emergency! Someone’s going to die!” Cheyenne and Charlotte were each holding onto one of Lucas’s arms and helping him into the hospital while calling for help from the nurses in the hospital.

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The hospital personnel were shocked at the sight of Lucas’s bloodstained shirt and immediately had them brought to the emergency room. They also prepared an operation theater just in case. Usually, in cases of such a large amount of blood loss from a wound in the chest, the situation would be rather dangerous.

But after the doctor finished examining the wound in Lucas’s chest with a look of nervousness, he looked at the three people in front of him speechlessly and said in displeasure, “I thought it was a fatal injury. This is just a minor superficial wound that only needs to be disinfected and will heal in no time. He doesn’t even need a bandaid.”

“What?” Cheyenne and Charlotte almost doubted if they had heard wrong. “How can it be just a superficial wound? Doctor, did you examine carefully? He was stabbed in the chest, and the eight-centimeter dagger went almost all the way into his chest. He even bled so much, and his clothes are all stained with blood!”

The doctor frowned. “I may not have excellent medical skills, but I’m not blind or a quack. This is only a minor cut, and it’s not as serious as you two made it out to be.”

“But we clearly saw it with our own eyes...”

Cheyenne and Charlotte were about to describe the scene in greater detail, but Lucas hurriedly stopped them. “My wound is really just a minor one. It’s not that serious. If you don’t believe me, look.”

Then Lucas pried his clothes open a little to reveal his chest, grabbed a few disinfectant alcohol-soaked cotton balls from the tray beside the doctor's hand, and wiped the blood around his chest. The wound was then displayed clearly to them.

It was indeed only a tiny wound that seemed to be an accidental abrasion.

Cheyenne and Charlotte widened their eyes in surprise and looked at the minor wound in the middle of Lucas's chest in disbelief.

Bryce had stabbed the eight-centimeter-long blade into Lucas's chest more than ten minutes ago. And when Lucas pulled out the dagger, a stream of blood had gushed out, which was evidence of a deep wound. How could it just be a minor cut now?!