

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

- Chapter 394 – 425

Chased Out

As soon as Lucas said this, Kenneth's expression changed drastically!

Being blacklisted by Russell Duncan, who worked for the Kingstons, was an ultimate disgrace for the Parkers!

Besides, they didn't dare to argue with Russell precisely because he worked for the Kingstons. So they had no choice but to endure it and secretly cover up this embarrassing incident.

Yet Lucas exposed them in public!

All of a sudden, many inquisitive, curious, and gloating gazes were cast on Kenneth.

Kenneth's face was so sullen that he couldn't even bring himself to force a smile. He glared at Lucas furiously, wishing he could kill him with his gaze.

But Lucas pretended to be shocked, as if he didn't see how furious Kenneth was. "Mr. Parker, don't tell me you don't know that person. That troublemaker is Tristan Parker, and he's also from LA. He also coincidentally shares the same last name as you. Could he be from your family?"

Kenneth was livid, and he roared with a menacing expression, "Lucas Gray, you're deliberately provoking the Parkers! I won't let you off!"

Lucas sneered. "You're making it sound as if you'd let me off even if I stand here without doing anything! You've been the one looking to create trouble right from the start!"

"Fine, you've got some nerve! Let me tell you, just you wait. The Parkers will release their wrath on you!" Kenneth snapped furiously.

"Hmph, it's just the Parker family. What's the big deal?" Lucas said nonchalantly without taking the Parkers seriously at all.

Kenneth should have been even angrier, but all of a sudden, his heart was full of an inexplicable panic.

Generally, those who dared to disregard the Parkers were either too dense and ignorant to get a clear idea of the situation or simply fearless.

Given how Lucas had angered Kenneth to the point of being speechless multiple times, he definitely wasn't a fool...

Could Lucas Gray really have something to fall back on? The thought made Kenneth extremely anxious.

"Hmph, you... just you wait!" Kenneth could only issue yet another threat in the end.

Lucas glanced at him contemptuously without saying a single word. But he made Kenneth feel a hot and burning sensation in his face, as if he had been slapped.

At this moment, Kenneth saw the young woman of the Cole family who had just confronted Lucas but was now standing at the side like she was watching a show. He hurriedly said to her, "Miss Cole, as you can see, this punk is arrogant and has zero respect for anyone. Just now, he deliberately claimed that the items in this exhibition are replicas, but that's complete nonsense. He's just smearing the Coles and ruining their reputation! We must chase him out immediately!"

Kenneth was currently regretting his actions. Just now, Lucas was clearly already in trouble for offending the Coles. Yet he impatiently interjected to stand against Lucas, causing himself to end up being the target of discussion. Not only was he unable to do anything to this bastard Lucas, but he got humiliated and embarrassed unnecessarily!

Now that he had gotten the Coles involved, he had put the ball back in their court. He was eager to see if Lucas would continue being so arrogant in front of the Coles!

Kenneth devised a plan in his head to make Lucas face the Coles' wrath and suffer a loss.

But...

"Who do you think you are? How dare you point fingers and order me around? I'm not your servant!" the young woman of the Cole family chastised Kenneth mercilessly.

"Uh..." Kenneth was dumbfounded.

It... it was completely different from what he had imagined!

The surrounding people also seemed to realize that the young woman particularly disliked Kenneth... Including the previous time, she had already rebuked him twice.

Seeing Kenneth being scolded, his top defender, Nikki, immediately stood out and interjected righteously, "Miss Cole, you must have misunderstood Kenneth! He was just

putting forward a minor suggestion for the Coles. After all, this exhibition is organized by your family, and in case someone with an ulterior motive sneaks in to wreak havoc, your family will be the one to suffer!”

“Shut up!” the young woman interrupted Nikki hostilely. “Stop saying that it’s for the Coles’ sake. You think I can’t tell that you two clearly have a feud with this man, so you’re trying to use me to deal with him?! I, Alexis Cole, have always been open and aboveboard. I don’t like mixing matters together!

“Since he said that there are replicas in our exhibition, I’ll naturally ask him about it! But you two aren’t that kind either. The fact that you keep trying to incite me to chase him out just goes to show that there’s something very wrong with your moral character! I abhor you two!”

After giving them a piece of her mind, she exclaimed at the people behind her, “Where is security? Immediately kick these two people out of here. I don’t want to see them again!”

Nikki and Kenneth were dumbfounded. Neither of them expected that things would take such a sharp turn. They didn’t expect Alexis to chase the two of them out instead of Lucas! *Did we hear wrongly? Or is this world too fantastical?*

But when they saw the burly security guards walking straight toward them and seemingly about to throw them out, Kenneth and Nikki finally regained their senses and realized that Alexis was serious about driving them out!

He was the esteemed scion of the Parkers, whom many in LA tried to suck up to. No one dared to provoke him at all, yet he was getting chased out in front of so many people today.

This was an absolute insult!

If other people dared to do this to him, he would have used his family’s power and name to teach them a hard lesson. But the Parkers were nothing compared to the Coles, so he couldn’t refute Alexis at all.

The members of prestigious families and entrepreneurs of LA standing around them were all astonished. But they didn’t dare to utter a single word because Alexis was the one who gave the order.

Nikki stared at them in disbelief and yelled, “Miss Cole! Kenneth is the successor of the Parker family. Are you sure you want to throw us out?”

The hidden threat in her words immediately enraged Alexis.

“Hmph, it’s just the Parker family! He’s still just a scion now and not the helmsman yet. Even if the helmsman were right in front of me now, I’d tell him to get lost all the same! Don’t think you guys are that big of a deal. If you get on my nerves, I can easily destroy your family! Now, get lost!” Alexis sounded extremely domineering and even seemed to have a touch of arrogance.

Although she seemed to be only in her twenties and was much younger than everyone present, no one dared to question the truth of her words.

After all, it would be a piece of cake for a giant like the Coles to annihilate the Parkers!

Finding Alexis overly tyrannical and unreasonable, Nikki bit her lower lip. “Miss Cole, how can you...”

“Shut up!” Kenneth suddenly interrupted and rebuked before Nikki could finish speaking.

“Miss Cole, I’ll definitely make it up to you another day for offending you with my words today!” Kenneth maintained the last touch of his rationality and tried his best to make himself seem like a gentleman as he excused himself and turned around to leave.

Chapter 395: It’s a High-Grade Replica

Kenneth was greatly embarrassed today, especially after Alexis rebuked him several times and even chased him out in front of everyone. He had never been so humiliated in his life!

Kenneth felt extremely aggrieved as well. He had no idea what was wrong with Alexis because he had clearly said those things in the best interests of the Coles. He didn’t know why they wanted to target him like that.

He could barely maintain the expression on his face. After leaving the exhibition hall, his face immediately turned gloomy, and his features distorted with so much menace that he seemed to be on the verge of killing someone.

Nikki hurriedly followed behind Kenneth and asked worriedly, “Kenneth, you...”

Smack!

Before she could finish speaking, Kenneth slapped her hard on her face.

“It’s all your fault, you useless piece of garbage! I wanted you to get Cheyenne Carter here, but you ended up letting her good-for-nothing husband tag along too. He kept going against me! That woman... Hmph! If you hadn’t said so much crap in front of that woman from the Cole family, she wouldn’t have nitpicked on me! This is infuriating!”

Kenneth vented all his pent-up anger onto Nikki. While lashing out at her, he even wanted to curse at Alexis, who had popped up out of nowhere. But he quickly stopped himself when he thought that she was a Cole, whom he couldn't afford to provoke.

After hearing what he said, Nikki aggrievedly placed a hand on her face, which had turned numb because of the slap. *I got kicked out by that woman too. Why is Kenneth taking out his anger on me?*

But she didn't dare to argue with him, especially since he was now boiling with anger. Regardless of how aggrieved she felt, she had to bear with it.

But she put the blame on Cheyenne and Lucas.

If it weren't for them, Kenneth wouldn't have had to suffer such mistreatment, nor would he vent his anger on her! *It's all their fault!*

With a trace of resentment in her eyes, Nikki looked down and said, "Kenneth, please calm down. I'll definitely send Cheyenne to your bed tonight so that you can take it out on her properly!"

Hearing this and imagining the fiery, passionate rendezvous he might have tonight, Kenneth finally contained his anger a little. He said sneeringly, "Hmph. When I get my hands on that little bitch, I'll definitely recoup my losses!"

In the middle of the exhibition hall, Lucas, Cheyenne, and Alexis were still surrounded by many people.

"The detestable people are gone. Now, can you tell me why you said that there are replicas in this exhibition organized by the Coles?"

Alexis glared at Lucas furiously with her arms crossed. "If you don't give me a reasonable explanation, I won't spare you easily!"

As soon as she said this, many looked at Lucas with a sympathetic gaze.

Alexis was the heiress of the Cole family, and yet Lucas had the audacity to say that some of the exhibits were replicas. They all thought that he had failed to realize how powerful she was!

Just now, Kenneth ended up getting chased out mercilessly by Alexis for saying something she didn't like. They reckoned Lucas would end up in a worse plight!

There was a trace of worry in Cheyenne's eyes.

She was just chatting with Lucas at the time and didn't expect Alexis to have overheard them and get offended.

Furthermore, she hadn't done much research on antiques. So even if she wanted to speak up for Lucas, she couldn't say anything that would make sense.

She believed that Lucas wasn't the type who would boast and make casual remarks, but she didn't know if Lucas knew much about antiques...

Cheyenne was extremely anxious.

But Lucas didn't panic and instead pointed to an item that looked like a copper cauldron in the glass display case in front of him. It was labeled 'Ming Dynasty Blue Cloisonné Enameled Three-legged Cauldron'. He said, "I just said that this item is a replica and not a real Ming Dynasty cloisonné product."

"That's impossible!" Alexis shook her head and ordered someone to take out an appraisal report.

She then said firmly, "If you say that the other exhibits are replicas, I may still believe it. But I watched the appraisers examine this Ming Dynasty blue cloisonné enameled three-legged cauldron with scientific instruments to analyze the material it's made of, as well as its age. This is definitely genuine enamelware of the Ming Dynasty!"

It was possible for human errors to occur if the appraisers had merely examined it with the naked eye, and the judgment might vary depending on the appraisers' knowledge. But since scientific instruments had been used, there would basically be no room for error!

All of a sudden, everyone looked at Lucas, thinking that his plan to brag and show off had backfired.

But Lucas shook his head. "The detection of scientific instruments is not 100% accurate all the time. For example, if I take the materials left over from the Ming Dynasty now and create a new item out of them, the instruments will still detect it as a relic from the Ming Dynasty. But the truth is that it wasn't even created during the Ming Dynasty."

Alexis's eyes lit up, and she seemed to be deep in thought. "There's indeed such a possibility. But how are you so sure that this cauldron wasn't created during the Ming Dynasty?"

Alexis's gaze was clear. She wasn't questioning Lucas but genuinely asking him for guidance.

Her attitude immediately took the countless people around them by surprise.

Alexis had behaved like an arrogant, domineering, and spoiled heiress when confronting Kenneth just now. But she was now facing Lucas with an extremely calm

attitude and didn't lose her temper even when he doubted the authenticity of the antiques at the exhibition. Instead, she was discussing it composedly with him.

It was indeed a little strange...

"As the name implies, this Ming Dynasty blue cloisonné enameled three-legged cauldron is a cloisonné product and one of the most famous types of metal craft in China. It requires bending soft metal wire into various patterns and then filling it with colored enamel before welding it onto the object. It was at its prime during the Ming Dynasty, and the production techniques had already reached a mature stage at that point. The enamel used was blue most of the time.

"I won't go into detail about its history. All I have to say is that the process of making this cloisonné enamelware includes numerous steps such as hammering, filigree work, filling, sintering, polishing, gilding, and so on. Each step of the process is extremely tedious and demanding. The slightest carelessness and mistake will ruin the piece, and all efforts will go in vain. That's why the cloisonné enamelware handed down throughout history are some of the finest."

Lucas explained a little bit about the history and process of the cloisonné enamelware, which immediately made the entrepreneurs around them cluck their tongues in awe. Although some of them were antique collectors, most of them were focused only on the elegance of the antiques and had never done much research on antiques.

Alexis's eyes were full of interest too. Since Lucas could give such a detailed explanation of the history of the cloisonné enamelware, it was enough to show that he wasn't spouting nonsense. At the very least, he had done enough research on cloisonné enamelware.

Of course, the reason Lucas said this was indeed to prove that he wasn't lying.

"But what does what you said have to do with replicas? Is it because of the difficult production process that this three-legged cauldron is flawed?" Alexis asked in bewilderment.

"No. On the contrary, this three-legged cauldron is extremely perfect and flawless. But that's precisely the reason that it can't be a genuine item from the Ming Dynasty," Lucas said lightly.

But his words were like a bomb that sparked lots of laughter in the exhibition hall.

Chapter 396: No Mark

"Hahaha! This is the first time I've heard anyone say that something is a replica because of how perfect it is! This is ridiculous!"

“Exactly! He’s clearly spouting nonsense. I can’t believe I thought he knew his stuff when it came to antiques!”

“Haha. He probably Googled that information and memorized it off a Wiki page so that he could pretend to be an expert in front of us. This is nonsense! This person is so unethical!”

...

Everyone started mocking and laughing at Lucas.

A trace of disappointment appeared in Alexis’s eyes.

But unlike others, she didn’t think that Lucas was purely spouting nonsense because those familiar with antiques would know that it was indeed difficult for antique masterpieces to be perfect and flawless due to the creation process and preservation methods used in ancient times.

But Alexis wasn’t convinced that the cauldron was a replica simply because it was too flawless.

Lucas suddenly said, “Of course that’s not the only reason. Everyone, you can turn this blue cloisonné enameled three-legged cauldron over and take a careful look at its bottom. You’ll know why I said it’s a replica.”

“Bottom? What can there be on the bottom?”

“Beats me. The exhibits here are inside glass display cases. No one can see what’s inside!”

...

Indeed, each and every single exhibit in this antique exhibition was inside an individual glass display case in order to prevent people from accidentally knocking over or breaking the exorbitant pieces. Each display case could only be unlocked with a specific key.

“Someone, unlock and open this display case!” Alexis ordered without any hesitation.

“Yes, Miss Cole!” A bodyguard behind her immediately answered and turned around to go look for the person in charge of the exhibition.

Alexis looked at Lucas’s calm expression and suddenly said, “I didn’t expect you to know so much about antiques! Do you want to come work for me? I guarantee that you won’t be underpaid! I’ll offer you an annual salary of a hundred and fifty thousand with other benefits and bonuses. How does that sound?”

Everyone looked over with shock written all over their faces.

They didn't expect Alexis to not only not chase Lucas out but even offer him the chance to work for her!

Although an annual salary of \$150,000 was peanuts to business magnates like them, it was considered a managerial-level salary for most enterprises!

More importantly, it was a job offer from the Coles!

As long as they could work for the Coles, they would be far superior to the senior executives of ordinary companies!

They all thought that Lucas was really lucky!

Everyone stared at Lucas, green with envy.

But Lucas smiled and wasn't moved at all. "I'm sorry, but neither you nor your family is qualified to let me work for you!"

"!" Everyone widened their mouths in shock, almost not daring to believe what they heard.

Lucas actually dared to say that the entire Cole family was not qualified to let him work for them. This was simply too arrogant! *How dare he say it in front of Miss Cole? He must be tired of living!*

But to their surprise, Alexis was merely stunned for a moment before soon saying smilingly, "Haha, you're much more untamed than I imagined! Not bad!"

Lucas frowned slightly. *She sounds like she knows me or has heard about me before.*

At this moment, two people in charge of the exhibition scurried over. According to Alexis's instructions, they opened the display case and carefully took out the blue cloisonné enameled three-legged cauldron. They then turned it over and revealed the bottom of the cauldron.

Alexis stared at the bottom of the furnace and carefully scrutinized it a few times while the people around them craned their necks to see what was on the bottom. This allowed Lucas to confirm that the cauldron was indeed a replica.

"There's no mark on the bottom of the cauldron," Lucas reminded kindly.

"Mark?"

"What mark?"

“Never heard of such a thing...”

The people standing around hadn't done much research on antiques, so most of them didn't understand what exactly Lucas meant.

But the Coles had built their business empire off of antiques, so Alexis naturally understood the technical jargon and what Lucas meant. Her gaze fixed on the cauldron.

“There really isn't a mark!” Her expression became rather sullen.

But many people around were still confused.

Lucas explained kindly, “The so-called mark refers to the traces left behind during the shaping process of porcelain, pottery, enamelware, and other antique pieces. Due to the limitations of ancient craftsmanship, there would be marks of varying sizes at the bottom of the items at the end of the sculpting process.

“After the level of craftsmanship improved in the late Qing Dynasty, such marks gradually disappeared. The items produced closer to the modern era are even more perfect.”

Cheyenne came to a sudden realization at this moment too. “No wonder you said that this cauldron is a replica because it's too flawless. It turns out it's because of the mark!”

Lucas nodded and said to Cheyenne with a smile, “Yes!”

At this point, even those who didn't know a thing about antiques understood what Lucas meant.

Given the level of craftsmanship in that period of the Ming Dynasty, it was definitely impossible to produce enamelware that didn't have any marks at the bottom. The fact that the blue cloisonné enameled three-legged cauldron in front of them was spotless confirmed that it was absolutely impossible for it to have been a genuine item from the Ming Dynasty!

Although it seemed like an unbelievable reason at first, it was actually justifiable and convincing!

Everyone looked at Lucas and then at Alexis. They were all certain that Lucas really got it right!

The blue cloisonné enameled three-legged cauldron was indeed a high-grade replica made in a later era!

But although Lucas was indeed right, they felt that Alexis wouldn't forgive him.

After all, he had put the Coles to shame because the item they had thought was a genuine, highly-valuable antique had now been proven to be a high-grade replica. Not only did its value decrease drastically, but it also affected the Coles' reputation.

Just as the crowd was making guesses about how the lofty Alexis would deal with Lucas, she walked toward him and bowed to him respectfully. "I'm so sorry. It's indeed true that this exhibit of ours isn't genuine. I sincerely apologize for my disrespectful attitude and doubts about you just now!"

Everyone was flabbergasted!

The esteemed Alexis Cole actually bowed and apologized to Lucas, the young man whom everyone called a good-for-nothing!

Even Lucas was surprised.

Chapter 397: You Know Me

Lucas also didn't expect that Alexis, the seemingly arrogant heiress of the Cole family, who had just thrown Kenneth and Nikki out of the exhibition hall over a slight disagreement, would really apologize to him so respectfully.

"It's alright, Miss Cole." Lucas waited for Alexis to straighten her back before suddenly saying, "Miss Cole, do you know me?"

He felt rather puzzled. Alexis appeared in front of him for the first time when he told Cheyenne that the three-legged cauldron was a replica. At the time, she was extremely scornful and hostile toward him, probably because she thought that he was deliberately babbling nonsense to tarnish the reputation of the Coles.

But after Kenneth and Nikki intervened later on, Alexis's attitude changed drastically, as she seemed to direct all her feelings of hatred and abhorrence toward them. In contrast, she became much more cordial toward Lucas. In fact, she even seemed to have a trace of curiosity in her eyes from time to time.

Afterward, Alexis even offered to recruit Lucas, even though she had yet to determine whether the three-legged cauldron was genuine or not. Moreover, even after he turned her down without hesitation, she didn't get angry at all and instead remained amicable toward him.

This was completely different from the haughty way she behaved when she had thrown Kenneth and Nikki out just now!

So Lucas was really confused and wondered if Alexis knew him. *Or could she have heard of my name before, so when Nikki lashed out at me and called me by my full*

name, this heiress finally realized who I am? Is that the reason for her change in attitude?

Needless to say, Lucas's conjecture was what happened in reality.

But Alexis didn't admit to it and instead tilted her head while saying with a cute smile, "No, it's our first time meeting each other!"

Then she turned around and walked out of the door before Lucas could say anything.

When she was about to leave the exhibition hall, she suddenly turned around and blinked playfully. "But I think we will meet again very soon!"

The petite Alexis left the exhibition hall with her subordinates.

Lucas and Cheyenne looked at each other, both full of bewilderment. *Why does Miss Cole seem rather peculiar?!*

In the best private room of the Lion Restaurant in LA...

Three old men with grayish-white hair were sitting around a dining table and chatting over some wine in the elegantly furnished room.

There were several burly bodyguards standing outside the private room. When the service staff walked past them, they didn't even dare to look into the room, as they could tell that the people in the room were definitely extraordinary bigwigs whom they didn't dare to offend.

The three old men in the room were Sam Morgan, Robert Heron, who was Nikki's grandfather, and Edmund Cole from San Francisco.

"Edmund, you just got discharged from the hospital, and you're already drinking. Can your body stand it?" Sam asked after taking a sip of white wine.

Edmund chuckled and took a sip of wine as well. He laughed and said, "That's because of my chronic heart disease. Drinking has nothing to do with it. Besides, it's rare for the three of us to get together. Who knows when we'll get to meet again after this? It's a must to have a few drinks!"

The few of them laughed heartily. They were all in their seventies and had no idea how much longer they had to live. In their opinion, life would be too mundane if they had to abstain from wine.

After the three of them laughed and chatted for a while, Edmund suddenly asked, "Sam, you mentioned just now that someone flushed millions of dollars worth of top-grade Da Hong Pao tea leaves down the sewer like rubbish. What exactly happened?"

He had only heard Sam mention it briefly with anguish just now. After suddenly recalling it, he decided to ask about it in detail.

The thought of the matter made Sam's blood boil. He felt devastated that he didn't get to buy the top-grade tea leaves that had been flushed away like garbage. He couldn't help clutching his chest and said with a wave of his hand, "Forget it. Talking about it makes me furious! Let Robert tell you what happened. Actually, it concerns his relatives!"

Recalling this matter, Robert felt extremely embarrassed. He sighed. "Ah, it's all because of my in-laws who are country bumpkins that haven't seen much of the world. They've been preparing for their grandson's wedding for the past couple of days, so the husband of one of their grandchildren gave them a bag of top-grade Da Hong Pao tea leaves as a gift. It was of the best quality, and there was more than a kilogram in that box!

"But my in-laws have always looked down on that junior and so thought that the tea leaves he brought were imitation goods. Without even looking at it, he threw that bag of tea leaves into the trash and humiliated that junior before chasing him away. I can't even bring myself to talk about this!

"Later, when Sam and I went over, Sam managed to smell the fragrance of tea thanks to his sharp sense of smell, so he picked it up from the trash can and even offered to buy it for a million dollars. Unfortunately, my in-laws didn't believe it and were afraid that the tea would be harmful to his health, so they snatched the tea leaves away and flushed them down the sewer!

"Sam was livid at that point, and he left without saying another word! Even I felt awkward, though I was just standing at the side!"

Robert recounted the story briefly while Edmund widened his eyes in shock. "More than a kilogram of top-quality Da Hong Pao tea leaves? I heard that less than three hundred grams of such tea leaves are produced each year."

Although Edmund wasn't a tea-lover, people of higher statuses like him definitely had a slight understanding of tea.

Robert said regretfully, "Exactly. We're talking about more than a kilogram of top-grade Da Hong Pao! It's rarely found here, and Sam definitely couldn't have made a mistake! Ah, what a pity! Those tea leaves could have at least fetched a few million at an auction."

Sam said furiously, "Trust you to have the cheek to say that. The person who threw the bag of tea leaves into the sewer and flushed it away is your granddaughter! I wanted to tell her to stop but unfortunately didn't have time to do so. You're her grandfather, but why didn't you stop her?! I'm not feeling sad about the few million dollars but the tea leaves! I can't buy those top-grade leaves even if I want to!"

His words made Robert immediately blush. "Nikki is just that reckless. She was just obeying her maternal grandfather's instructions to throw the tea leaves away! I couldn't stop her even though I wanted to!"

Edmund found it a great pity too, but as the head of the Cole family, the focus of his concern was obviously different. "Robert, who is that junior of your in-laws? Since he could get so much top-grade Da Hong Pao tea leaves and give them away generously, he must be an extraordinary person, right?"

Robert answered ashamedly, "Actually, I didn't see who he was. By the time we arrived, he had already been... driven away by my in-laws!"

Edmund widened his eyes in shock. After a long time, he said with a strange smile, "My gosh, your in-laws are really... I'm speechless! They actually drove away someone who can casually give away a gift worth millions of dollars. Seriously... I don't even know what to say about them!"

"Your in-law must be full of regret after knowing that he threw away millions of dollars worth of tea leaves! I actually can't decide who's in a more terrible plight, him or his grandson-in-law! Hahahaha!"

Chapter 398: Happy Times

Robert felt incredibly embarrassed. Although he wasn't the one who did such an awful thing, the culprits were Eddie and his granddaughter, Nikki, who were both related to him. So he felt extremely ashamed.

"Okay, okay, let's not talk about these vexing matters!" Seeing how awkward Robert was, Sam quickly interjected to give him an out.

He then said to Edmund, "Edmund, take it easy. The doctor just said that you shouldn't get too worked up, lest your illness acts up. Look what happened to you on the streets today. It was so dangerous!"

Edmund said with a thankful expression, "Yes, it's all thanks to that young man who saved my life today! Speaking of which, young people these days are really impressive! One is capable of giving away millions of dollars worth of top-grade tea leaves that money might not be able to buy, while another has the bravery to step forward and rescue someone without claiming credit. They're really remarkable!"

“Yes, the new generation isn’t to be underestimated. They’re far more capable than we used to be at their age. We’re old now!” Sam sighed emotionally.

They clinked glasses and gradually shifted the topic of the conversation.

But little did the trio know that the two young men whom Edmund brought up were actually the same person.

Lucas, whom they were talking about, likewise didn’t know that he was being praised by three old men.

At this moment, he and Cheyenne were quietly enjoying some uninterrupted alone time.

After admiring all the exhibits of the antique exhibition, they had no other plans for the night.

Lucas asked, “Cheyenne, is there anything you particularly want to do but have never done?”

Cheyenne laughed. “Why? Do you want to take me to do those things, regardless of what they are?”

Gazing at her with a tender and affectionate gaze, Lucas chuckled. “Yes, I’ll accompany you to do anything, as long as it’s something you want to do!”

Cheyenne suddenly blushed.

Lucas’s sudden confession-like words put her at a loss for words because she had never experienced such a moment in her life before.

After giving it some thought, Cheyenne suddenly said, “I suddenly kind of feel like going to an amusement park. My parents never had the time to bring me to one when I was a kid. When I grew up and became an adult, I felt too embarrassed to go. After Amelia was born, I brought her to an amusement park for some kiddy rides, but I didn’t get to sit on the rides I wanted.”

Her voice contained melancholy and desire, which immediately made Lucas’s heart ache.

“Alright, let’s go to an amusement park then!” Lucas exclaimed and pulled Cheyenne into the car. He then sped off toward an amusement park.

“Huh? Are we really going to an amusement park? I was just making a casual remark!” Cheyenne exclaimed while sitting in the speeding Porsche and suddenly felt rather embarrassed.

She was already in her twenties and the mother of a five-year-old. Yet she was going to go to an amusement park for fun like a child. It was indeed rather embarrassing.

“What’s the big deal? I told you. I’ll accompany you as long as it’s something you want to do!” Lucas looked at Cheyenne with an affectionate gaze.

Cheyenne gazed at Lucas affectionately.

He’s so handsome, responsible, reliable, and protective of me.

If we can really stay together for the rest of their lives like he says, that would be wonderful!

With this thought, Cheyenne smiled faintly.

“Alright!” she suddenly exclaimed, her voice full of joy as she decided to let herself loose.

Lucas tenderly took her hand, and the two of them walked through the gates of the amusement park together.

Soon, Lucas got some tickets and brought Cheyenne to ride the attractions she had never been on before.

The roller coaster took several sharp turns as they shuttled through the curved and twisted tracks, leaving Cheyenne exhilarated as she closed her eyes and shrieked a little. Meanwhile, Lucas held her hand throughout the ride, making her feel extremely at ease.

On the pirate ship ride, they sat at the seats nearest to the ship’s bow and smiled blissfully as they listened to the rhythmic screaming of the rest of the riders.

During the Turbo Drop ride, Cheyenne grasped Lucas’s hand tightly. And as the car slowly rose up the tower, Cheyenne felt so nervous that she closed her eyes, not daring to look below. But when the car suddenly plunged down during the drop, she couldn’t help screaming.

...

Lucas and Cheyenne went on several thrilling rides one after another, and her legs had already begun trembling a little. But her eyes were extraordinarily clear, and she was much more excited than usual.

Although she was still a little scared when they were on the rides, Lucas stayed by her side and held her hand tightly the entire time. So she could let her hair down and scream her lungs out, completely forgetting about all the pressure she was under.

At this moment, her only identity was Lucas's wife, and they were just like any other sweet couple in love leaving behind their gleeful laughter in the amusement park.

Finally, the couple arrived at the edge of the high platform of the bungee jump.

But when they reached the ticket booth below, they suddenly heard a long and extremely tragic scream from above their heads.

There was someone hanging upside down on a long safety rope and plunging down from above. When he was about to reach the bottom, he was suddenly pulled upward again by the tension force in the rope before bouncing helplessly in the air in an extraordinarily terrifying manner.

Cheyenne's face instantly paled a little.

"Are... are we really going to do this?" Cheyenne asked fearfully, somewhat lacking in confidence.

Lucas laughed. "We've been on so many rides, but you weren't scared at all. Yet you're afraid of bungee jumping?"

Cheyenne obviously wouldn't admit that she was scared and immediately retorted, "Who said I'm afraid? I just think... it's really miserable to be swung around by a rope!"

Lucas understood how she felt. In fact, it was normal for most people to be afraid of bungee jumping. Besides, there was no way to control the pulling force of the rope, which was the reason that the jumpers felt insecure.

Lucas took Cheyenne's hand and smiled. "It's okay. We'll jump together later. Like I said, I'll be by your side!"

Cheyenne's face turned warm again. Although Lucas's words were a simple sweet nothing, she felt a sweet and fuzzy feeling in her heart. The tension, fear, and nervousness within her all suddenly vanished.

There were many people surrounding the bungee jumping platform, but there were only a few standing on it and preparing to jump.

There were only two people ahead of Lucas and Cheyenne in the queue. They were also a couple who wanted to do a double jump.

Cheyenne stood by the side and carefully watched as they put on the safety harnesses attached to the rope, as well as other protective equipment. She and Lucas would have to go through the same process later as well.

Lucas suddenly came up to Cheyenne and whispered, "Honey, which one of them do you think will scream more tragically later?"

Cheyenne said without thinking, "I think it'll be the girl!"

But Lucas shook his head. "I think that man will probably scream more tragically. If you don't believe me, let's make a bet!"

His words piqued Cheyenne's curiosity. "Sure! What should we bet?"

"Hmm.... A kiss from you if I win!"

"... You! Hmph, I'm not going to talk to you anymore!"

"Haha! I'm just kidding!"

Chapter 399: A Passionate Kiss

While they were laughing and chatting sweetly, the couple in front of them had already gotten ready and were prepared to jump at any time.

Suddenly, the girl said, "Hon-Honey, I'm so scared! I'm almost going to hyperventilate! Let's not do this!"

As pale as a sheet, she grasped the safety belt next to her tightly and was so frightened that her voice was trembling. She appeared genuinely terrified.

The man opposite her was about 25 years old. Upon hearing what she said, he immediately lashed out at her with a look of displeasure, "What's wrong with you? If you're scared, why didn't you say so earlier? Now that we're already prepared to jump, you're chickening out. Aren't you just wasting my time? Besides, I accompanied you here because you said that you wanted to bungee jump. Yet you don't want to jump now. Are you taking me for a ride?"

He rebuked unceremoniously.

The girl's face became extremely sullen. She was squatting half a meter behind the edge of the platform, not daring to look out or move forward at all.

She initially really wanted to bungee jump, but when she finally stood on the high platform, she was petrified and overwhelmed with fear.

"I... I really can't do it! It's too scary! Honey, how about you jump on your own while I take a video of you?" the girl asked while shuddering.

“Is there something wrong with you? I spent a hundred and fifty bucks on these tickets for the bungee jump, and they’re non-refundable. My money’s going to go to waste if you don’t jump! Come on. Let’s do it together!”

Then the man dragged the girl toward him adamantly and leaped off the edge of the high platform together with her.

“Ah!”

“Ah!”

They screamed miserably almost at the same time.

Surprisingly, the man’s scream was even more distressed than the girl’s!

Cheyenne looked down and said indignantly, “That girl clearly said she was scared, yet her boyfriend forced her to jump. He’s such a jerk! I’d definitely sever all ties with anyone who dared to do that to me!”

Lucas chuckled. “Don’t worry, Honey. I definitely won’t treat you like that! Speaking of which, you’ve lost the bet just now!”

Cheyenne blushed a little as she glared at Lucas. “I didn’t agree to bet with you. It doesn’t count!”

Seeing the chagrined and crestfallen expression that appeared on Lucas’s face after he heard what she said, Cheyenne couldn’t help covering her mouth and laughing a little. While laughing, she looked so gorgeous that the staff around them were stunned.

Only when Lucas coughed twice did the two staff members, a man and a woman, return to their senses. They hurriedly said, “Alright, it’s your turn now!”

Soon, both of them strapped on their safety gear and attached their harnesses to the safety rope. They were both ready to jump.

Standing on the edge of the high platform and thinking that they were going to jump very soon, Cheyenne felt a little incredulous and nervous. She couldn’t help taking a deep breath.

Holding her shoulders, Lucas asked in a gentle voice, “Are you ready?”

Biting her lip, Cheyenne looked at the tall and handsome Lucas in front of her and nodded gently. “Yes!”

“Let’s do it then!” Lucas suddenly extended his hands and held Cheyenne tightly in his embrace, his arms wrapping around her waist and arms.

“Honey, we’ll stay together forever!” Then Lucas plunged toward the side with Cheyenne in his arms!

There was no longer any support under their feet, and they were both plunging down rapidly in free-fall motion. As the wind whistled in their ears and brushed against their bodies, they felt as if they were going through the last release before death!

This supposedly horrifying moment that should leave people feeling defenseless and helpless was somewhat pleasant for Cheyenne, who was being held in Lucas’s strong arms and feeling the warmth of his chest. Hearing the sounds of his heartbeat, she suddenly felt extremely at ease.

She felt that she would be fearless toward anything as long as he was by her side!

Cheyenne opened her eyes and looked into Lucas’s eyes right in front of her. Without blinking at all, they seemed to be etching each other into the deepest parts of their hearts.

Cheyenne’s heart began pounding rapidly with loud thumps.

It wasn’t because of fear or nervousness. Rather, it was purely palpitating because of the adrenaline rush from her eye contact with Lucas.

She suddenly closed her eyes and planted a kiss on Lucas’s lips!

It was the first time in her life that she took the initiative to kiss someone.

Lucas was astonished for a moment and subconsciously opened his eyes wide. But when he felt the warm and soft touch of her lips on his, it dawned on him that she was kissing him. He tightened his arms around Cheyenne and nestled her firmly in his embrace, wishing he could hug her even more tightly.

The kiss was extremely affectionate and intoxicating!

The tension force of the safety rope pulled them up and swung them back and forth in the air. The trajectory of the rope gradually became smaller and eventually came to a halt. Only when their feet touched the ground did they recover from the passionate kiss.

“Wow, oh my god! That’s so romantic!”

“Sweetheart, let’s go do a double bungee jump too. I want to do what they did!”

“I’m crying with envy! This couple are such thrill-seekers. They’re obviously deeply in love with each other! Darling, do you think we can be as loving as them in the future?”

...

Countless people had been standing around and watching Lucas and Cheyenne share a passionate kiss during the bungee jump. They were all green with envy.

Due to the large distance between them, Cheyenne couldn't hear what they were saying. But she knew from the fact that so many people were staring at her that they must have seen her kissing Lucas uncontrollably. She couldn't help blushing shyly.

After untying the safety rope and removing the protective gear, she immediately pulled Lucas away.

Lucas looked at Cheyenne's flushed, delicate face smilingly and felt extremely sweet like he had just eaten honey.

The kiss just now took their relationship to another level. Hand in hand, they walked around the amusement park and would occasionally meet each other's gazes. They felt extremely blissful.

Time flew like an arrow. By the time they decided to leave in high spirits after a pleasant afternoon in the amusement park, it was already dusk.

Soon after they stepped out of the amusement park, they were stopped by a girl carrying a basket of flowers.

"Hey, handsome and gorgeous, nice to meet you! I can tell at a glance that you must be very much in love with each other. Would you like to buy some flowers for this stunning beauty beside you? Girls love it when guys are romantic. These flowers don't cost much. They're two dollars a stalk!"

The girl seemed to be a young teenager, and she had a fresh and energetic appearance. There were probably dozens of roses in her basket. Although she had been here all afternoon, the roses in the basket were still fresh, vibrant, and delicate.

Cheyenne was a little surprised. "You're so young, and you're selling flowers here on your own?"

With a sweet smile, the girl pointed at a middle-aged woman around ten meters away from them. "I'm here with my mom! We're struggling to make ends meet, and my father's sick, so my mom and I come here to sell flowers during my free time."

She didn't seem the least bit embarrassed or upset about her humble background. Instead, she was optimistic and confident, making her extremely likable.

Looking at the optimistic mother-and-daughter duo who were dependent on each other for life, Lucas suddenly thought about the time when Cheyenne had single-handedly taken care of Amelia and felt rather emotional.

“How many roses are there in your basket? I’ll take them all,” Lucas said smilingly after glancing at Cheyenne.

Chapter 400: Proposing Again

After hearing what Lucas said, the young teenage girl immediately seemed overjoyed, and she exclaimed gleefully, “I had a hundred roses, but I sold thirty-two of them, so there are sixty-eight left. I can count them again!”

Lucas stopped the girl when she was about to count each and every single rose. Then he took out ten twenty-dollar bills from his pocket and handed them to the girl. “There you go. You can keep the change. Take it as money for the basket, okay?”

After counting the bills, the girl solemnly took out three bills from the stack and gave them back to Lucas. “My mom says that we can’t overcharge others. Sir, thank you for your kindness! You bought so many roses from me at once, so I’ll give the basket to you for free! May you and this beautiful lady be blissful forever!”

The girl stuffed the entire flower basket into Lucas’s hand and then scurried back to her mother’s side. After chatting for a while, the middle-aged woman placed her hand on the girl’s head and stroked it tenderly with a gentle smile on her face. She then smiled at Lucas and Cheyenne with gratitude.

Lucas also smiled faintly, grabbed the basket of roses, and left with Cheyenne hand in hand.

But after walking for a while, Lucas still didn’t give the basket of roses to Cheyenne.

“Which beautiful woman are you planning to give this basket of roses to?” Cheyenne finally couldn’t help asking after hesitating to speak several times.

Lucas smiled without saying anything. He simply took Cheyenne’s hand and brought her to a stall near the amusement park.

It was a hotdog stall being operated by an elderly couple. Their hair had grayed, and their movements were not as agile as young people’s, but they were nonetheless facing their customers with smiles on their faces. When working alongside each other, they would exchange glances from time to time and feel the love they had for each other from their eyes.

They were truly an affectionate couple who had loved each other until they were old and gray.

Cheyenne’s eyes were immediately full of envy.

This elderly couple might not necessarily live a privileged life, but they nevertheless enjoyed operating a street stall together. They were smiling peacefully and full of love and devotion for each other.

Cheyenne secretly glanced at Lucas. Her greatest hope was for her family to be harmonious and peaceful and then be able to grow old together with her beloved, just like this elderly couple in front of her who led ordinary lives.

Lucas walked forward with Cheyenne's hand in his and then handed the basket of roses to the elderly man. "Sir, these flowers are for you. I hope you and your wife will enjoy eternal bliss!"

The elderly couple was pleasantly surprised and quickly thanked Lucas.

Looking at the happy smiles on their faces, Lucas felt rather glad too. *This is probably the joy of giving a gift.*

He leaned close to Cheyenne's ear and whispered, "We'll just be like them in the future. We'll grow old together and never leave each other!"

Cheyenne blushed and couldn't help looking forward to it.

The thought of her and Lucas still being in love with each other when they were in their seventies and their hair was all gray filled her heart with a sweet sense of happiness.

"Let's go!" Lucas suddenly took Cheyenne's hand and walked forward.

They weren't walking toward the parking lot outside the amusement park, so Cheyenne asked in puzzlement, "Where are we going?"

Lucas smiled mysteriously. "You'll know when we get there!"

Cheyenne was quite surprised because Lucas had always been very reliable and would rarely keep her in suspense.

Her curiosity was immediately piqued.

Lucas took Cheyenne to a large commercial building a few hundred meters away from the amusement park.

It was evening on the weekend, so it was extremely crowded at the building.

But there was now a large partitioned space in the center hall of the mall, which was decorated with all kinds of flowers and balloons. There were also numerous decorative ribbons draping all the way to the bottom from the top floor. The entire central area of the hall was decorated with a romantic theme.

In the middle of the hall, fresh flowers arranged in the shape of a huge heart and gentle and romantic lights shining down formed a fairytale-like romantic haven.

The visitors of the mall were all isolated at the periphery and snapping photos and taking videos of the incredibly romantic scene with their phones while exclaiming in amazement.

With a trace of envy, Cheyenne said, "Is... someone going to confess their love to their crush here?"

"Maybe." With a smile, Lucas suddenly took Cheyenne's hand and walked toward the heart of flowers in the center of the hall.

"Hey, wait a minute. You can't go there!" Cheyenne said, feeling flustered.

A few tourists and children wanted to go inside too, but they were stopped by the mall's security personnel.

But to Cheyenne's surprise, no one came to stop her and Lucas. Just as she was feeling flustered, they had already reached the center of the heart of flowers.

At this moment, Cheyenne finally realized what was going on, and she covered her mouth in disbelief as her heart pounded rapidly. *No way...*

Suddenly, melodious piano music filled the hall, and countless spots of light shone on them, shrouding them in a dreamy, fantasy-like atmosphere.

All the passersby were watching this beautiful scene in front of them, fully focused and holding their breaths for fear of causing a disturbance.

Lucas took out a small and exquisite jewelry box from his pocket and opened it gently to reveal a ring topped with a pink pigeon-egg-sized diamond. Under the light, it glistened and shined dazzlingly.

Everyone gasped in amazement.

The dazzling and beautiful pink diamond ring was the exact same one that Lucas had bought for more than thirty-five million dollars at the Sawyers' auction in Orange County.

Lucas smiled gently. "Cheyenne, you didn't accept it the last time I proposed to you."

He suddenly got down on one knee with the shiny pink diamond ring in hand. Gazing at Cheyenne with great devotion, he said, "This time, will you say yes and marry me? I promise I'll treat you well with all my heart and make you the happiest woman in the world!"

Chapter 401: Force Majeure

Cheyenne covered her mouth with one hand, but tears welled up in her eyes uncontrollably before rolling down her cheeks like large crystals.

At this moment, her heart was full of emotions, and she was so agitated that she couldn't say anything.

Previously, on the rooftop of the Intercontinental Hotel in Orange County, Lucas had also proposed to her once with this exorbitant pink diamond ring.

At the time, she could tell how sincere he was toward her, but she could only turn him down because she didn't love him yet.

But later on, many things happened between them, and they went through thick and thin together. Lucas protected and defended Cheyenne time and time again, causing her to be touched and eventually fall in love with him.

Now, she was absolutely certain that she loved Lucas!

"Say yes!"

"Say yes!"

"Say yes!"

...

While Cheyenne's heart was pounding and she was full of emotions, the loud exclamations filled the space in the large hall of the mall.

Many people were either watching the fun or sincerely giving their best wishes to Lucas and Cheyenne. The sounds of yelling spread far from the mall and attracted many passersby.

Seeing more and more people crowding around them, Cheyenne looked more and more shy.

Cheyenne lowered her head and then looked up at Lucas tenderly with a smile on her face. "Yes!"

There were still tears on her face, and her smile was extremely breathtaking!

The two of them looked into each other's eyes for a long time.

Amid the cheers in the hall, Lucas solemnly put the precious pink diamond ring onto Cheyenne's ring finger and then pulled her into her arms.

More than six years ago, Lucas had already fallen deeply in love with Cheyenne. In order to become worthy of her and capable of protecting her from anything, he had joined the military without hesitation and worked hard for six years. After such a long time, he finally got to embrace Cheyenne in his arms!

"Wow!"

"Congratulations!"

"Awesome! I've witnessed such beautiful love!"

Seeing the success of the proposal, the people in the hall immediately applauded and cheered loudly, causing the scene to become extremely lively.

By the time the reporters caught wind of the news and came to look for the protagonists who caused the sensational uproar today, Lucas and Cheyenne had already left quietly long ago.

The back seat of the luxurious Porsche was covered with 9,999 brightly colored roses, which Cheyenne couldn't even carry.

Cheyenne sat in the passenger seat, surrounded by the fragrance of roses and gazing at Lucas next to her, her heart full of bliss.

When she saw Lucas give that basket of roses to the elderly couple earlier, she was full of envy and had a trace of disappointment.

But now, she had not only received a romantic proposal where Lucas put the engagement ring on her ring finger right in front of everyone, but she was also presented with a car full of roses. She had gotten everything most girls wanted!

It was really the happiest day of her life!

Cheyenne couldn't stop smiling, and her eyes were shining. From time to time, she would steal glances at Lucas and grin even more widely.

"Honey," Lucas suddenly said.

"Huh?"

"Why don't... you stay the night today?" Lucas's face flushed a little, but when he saw that they were almost at the hotel he was staying at, he couldn't help speaking up.

After realizing what Lucas meant, Cheyenne felt like her face was on fire, and she began blushing as red as a tomato.

Although the two of them had been married for nearly six years, they had only ever gotten intimate with each other once, which was that one time that caused their scandal. Since then, they had never had any further intimate actions in all these years.

Since they were now aware of each other's feelings and mutually acknowledged their marriage, it was only a matter of course for them to consummate it.

After saying those words, Lucas felt extremely nervous.

Cheyenne blushed and hung her head low for a long time before saying softly, "I... my Aunt Flo is here..."

"Aunt? Shouldn't your aunt be at the Turners' place now?" Lucas asked in puzzlement, failing to catch what she meant.

"Ah! I mean, my period is here! Why are you so..." Cheyenne frowned and stared at Lucas.

"Huh? Oh... okay!" Lucas finally realized what she meant and couldn't help rebuking himself. Then he was overwhelmed with embarrassment and a slight tinge of disappointment. *This is probably considered a force majeure factor...*

"Ahem." Lucas coughed awkwardly and cleared his throat before changing the subject. "Are you hungry? Do you want to go eat something?"

The sky had already turned dark, and it was now dinnertime.

While Cheyenne was pondering about it, her phone suddenly rang.

When she saw Nikki's name on her phone screen, she hesitated for a moment before answering.

Nikki's sharp voice immediately sounded from the speaker of the phone. "Cheyenne, you haven't forgotten your promise to have dinner with us tonight, have you? Kenneth and I have already arranged for you to meet some people from top families in LA. We'll be meeting later at seven o'clock in a private room of the Lion Restaurant LA. You have to come join us!"

Only then did Cheyenne remember that Lucas had agreed to have dinner with Nikki and Kenneth on her behalf when they were at the arts center in the afternoon.

It would be inappropriate for her to go back on her word now.

Cheyenne had no choice but to say, "Okay, it's past six now. Lucas and I will head there now."

After hanging up the phone, Cheyenne glared at Lucas menacingly and chided, "It's all your fault for agreeing to have dinner with them tonight. They've already made arrangements with people from top families. We have no choice but to go."

She didn't want to have dinner with Nikki and Kenneth at all. But considering that people from top families in LA were invited too, it would be a great opportunity for her to build some connections that would aid the Brilliance Corporation's expansion in LA. She thought that it wouldn't be good to bail on them.

Lucas was feeling rather regretful too. When he agreed to have dinner with them in the afternoon, he was just trying to spite Nikki and Kenneth. But now that he had just proposed to Cheyenne, he really wanted to spend some quality time with her alone. How could he possibly be bothered to deal with those obnoxious people?

"Let's just give it a pass! With me around, you don't have to worry about expanding into the LA market," Lucas said.

He was now the chairman of LA's largest enterprise, the Solar Corporation, and it would be an absolute piece of cake for him to help the Brilliance Corporation expand into the market here. Cheyenne didn't need to entertain those people and build connections with them at all, so he thought that it wouldn't be a big deal for them to bail on Nikki.

Cheyenne sighed and said seriously, "I know you hold great power now, but I don't want to be a useless person who has to rely on you for everything. I want to be strong and capable enough to hold my head high beside you instead of being so dependent on you.

"I hope to stand side by side with you like a small tree and not like a fragile withering grass!"

Lucas was stunned. He had known a long time ago that Cheyenne was an independent and strong woman, which was also why he admired her.

Lucas smiled and said affectionately, "Okay, you call the shots."

Chapter 402: Humiliation at the Dinner Table

More than ten minutes later, Lucas and Cheyenne arrived at the Lion Restaurant LA.

The decor style of this restaurant was almost the same as that of its counterpart in Orange County, which Lucas had visited before. They were actually both branches of the same restaurant chain.

Lucas remembered that the Lion Restaurant in Orange County belonged to the richest man in the city, Ethan Sawyer, and couldn't help asking, "Does this restaurant also belong to the Sawyers?"

Cheyenne shook her head. "The Lion Restaurant chain actually belongs to the Bensons of San Francisco, who own several branches of the restaurant in various cities. But they're not involved in the direct management of the branches and instead hand them over to a major family in the respective cities on their behalf. The Bensons will then take a percentage of the profits. The Lion Restaurant in Orange County is under the management of the Sawyers."

Lucas nodded and asked again, "Are the Bensons a powerful family in San Francisco?"

He hadn't been back in Orange County for long and thus didn't know as much as Cheyenne about the hierarchy of families in the various cities.

Cheyenne said, "The Bensons have a significantly higher status than the four major families in Orange County. After all, they're from a big city like San Francisco. But in San Francisco itself, they're considered somewhat ordinary and should be affiliated to the Coles. They can leverage on the Coles' power and borrow a small portion of their resources to develop, but they also need to give a large share of their annual profits to the Coles every year."

Lucas was a little surprised. Of course, he certainly understood the concept of some families being dependent on more powerful families. An example of this was the Kingstons being dependent on the Huttons, whom they relied on to reap plenty of benefits and progress to becoming one of the top families in the state.

But Lucas didn't expect this practice to be somewhat common here too.

After getting out of the car, they entered the Lion Restaurant and were soon ushered to the private room where Nikki was by the waiter.

The room was extremely spacious, and the seats around the large dining table in the middle of the room were already filled. There were about more than ten people present, all of whom were men in their twenties or thirties. They were likely Kenneth's close friends.

Upon seeing Cheyenne and Lucas, Nikki immediately stood up and greeted Cheyenne, "Cheyenne, you're finally here! Come here and sit down!"

As usual, she ignored Lucas and only greeted Cheyenne.

The other people in the private room cast their gazes onto Cheyenne. They seemed amazed and awestruck.

Even though they had gotten used to seeing various beautiful heiresses, Cheyenne was a rare beauty to them.

Cheyenne looked around the room. Even though the dining table was quite large, with more than a dozen people, it was rather crowded. There was only one empty seat beside Kenneth, and Nikki was urging Cheyenne to take this seat.

But Cheyenne didn't let Nikki pull her toward the seat and instead stood at the door while continuing to hold Lucas's hand.

A look of displeasure immediately appeared on Nikki's face. She felt that Lucas was getting in the way again and rebuked haughtily, "We invited Cheyenne to dinner, but what are you doing here, you good-for-nothing? Have you gotten so used to leeching off of Cheyenne that you want to freeload here too? How thick-skinned of you!"

Cheyenne's face turned gloomy, and she said coldly, "I told you from the start that I would bring my husband along for dinner. If you don't welcome him, we'll leave right now!"

Lucas was her husband and the person she had decided to spend the rest of her life with, so she naturally wouldn't let Nikki bully and humiliate him.

Seeing this, Nikki hurriedly went forward to pull Cheyenne, afraid that she would really leave. She said coquettishly, "Cheyenne, don't go! I'll just stop insulting him, alright?"

Seeing the way she was behaving, Cheyenne was a little less sullen.

But Nikki soon pretended to be caught in a difficult spot again. "But we weren't expecting him to come along, so we didn't prepare enough chairs. Now that everyone has taken their seats, there's only one empty seat left for you. Well... where is Lucas going to sit?"

She was clearly implying that there was no seat for Lucas in the room and that he should have the self-awareness to leave on his own accord.

Without saying anything else, Cheyenne immediately said, "Since there aren't enough seats, you guys go ahead. My husband and I will take our leave now!"

Then she held onto Lucas's arm and was really about to leave.

Kenneth, who had been sitting in his seat and acting like he was watching a joke, finally couldn't sit still anymore. He stood up and exclaimed, "Miss Carter, please wait a moment!"

When Cheyenne turned around, Kenneth said, "Tonight, I've specially invited all my friends from top families in LA just for the sake of helping you. I was planning to

introduce them to you and see if there's a chance for you to cooperate with them. If you leave now, not only will you be letting my kind intentions go to waste, but it will be quite disrespectful to everyone here too."

"Yes, I have long heard that you became the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation in Orange County at such a young age, Miss Carter. Now that I've finally gotten the chance to meet you in person, you're actually leaving before we even get to speak to each other. That seems a little impolite of you, don't you think so?"

"That's right. We are all here for Kenneth's sake because we heard that you plan to expand the business of your company to the LA market. That's why we decided to come here and socialize with you. Yet you suddenly want to leave even though we've agreed to meet you for dinner. Are you looking down on us?"

Two people at the dining table stood up and chimed in.

Although both of them were acting like they were joking, there was an obvious sense of threat in their tone.

In particular, they were all scions of wealthy and prestigious families in LA and had absolute say and authority in their respective families.

If Cheyenne insisted on leaving now, she would end up offending all of them and would likely face plenty of hindrances and obstacles if she tried to expand her business to LA in the future.

Cheyenne showed up today with the intention to make some friends in LA, not enemies.

All of a sudden, Cheyenne felt conflicted and slipped into a dilemma.

She naturally didn't want Lucas to be humiliated any further here. But if possible, she didn't want to give up such a great opportunity either.

At this moment, the corners of Kenneth's lips curled into a sinister smile as he suggested, "Miss Carter, since you don't wish to be separated from him, how about this? In any case, Lucas Gray is just a live-in husband of yours and knows nothing about business management. Even if he sits at the same table, there's no way he can click with us when we talk about business. Lucas, how about you make do with that table at the side? Don't worry. I'll definitely get them to prepare a delicious meal for you too!"

With that, he pointed to the innermost corner of the private dining room.

Cheyenne finally realized that there was a small foldable tray table and a shabby-looking plastic stool that resembled those of roadside stalls in the corner. They were completely out of place in the private room and incompatible with the furniture and

decor. They were also so tiny that they were almost unnoticeable unless you took a careful look.

The fact that Kenneth wanted Lucas to eat there was a blatant insult!

Chapter 403: Mad Dog Barking

A wave of anger surged in Cheyenne's heart.

But none of the people in the private room discovered anything different. They were still chiming in with Kenneth and running their mouths without restraint.

"Kenneth, how can you imply that it's mistreatment for this good-for-nothing? You've prepared a special seat for him, and you're even going to order food for him. That's already kind enough! We're already being nice enough by letting this loser stay in the same room as us!" Nikki gibed with a sultry smile.

"Hahaha, Kenneth, you're being too kind-hearted. You even specially prepared so many things for him. If I were you, I wouldn't have bothered to put in so much effort for him! You have to understand that the Lion Restaurant is the most upscale restaurant in the city, and we're being benevolent enough to let him come here and take a whiff of the aroma of the dishes. Does he still expect to be fed? Well, he can go eat in the restroom!"

"Hah, Jake, you're so mean! The restroom is so filthy. Aren't you afraid he'll make this room stink after he returns? I suggest we give him our leftovers and scraps instead of getting the waitress to dump them in the trash. That'll be a reward for him!"

"Hahahaha, good idea! Let's do that. The chicken bones and lobster shells we give him later should be enough to keep him full!"

...

For a while, the room was full of derisive laughter and sarcastic insults.

Even though Cheyenne was usually good-tempered, she couldn't help being furious when she saw them blatantly insulting Lucas, so much so that her face turned pale and her body began trembling.

Lucas gave Cheyenne's hand a comforting squeeze, which calmed her down.

But Lucas's face was completely gloomy and cold. He was emitting an icy cold aura as he said grimly, "I can take your insults as the barking of a bunch of mad dogs, but since you've provoked my wife, I won't let you people off easily!"

" ... "

As soon as Lucas said this, the snickering and sarcastic remarks came to an abrupt halt, causing the entire private room to fall into an eerie silence.

But these scions of wealthy families immediately reacted. *How dare a good-for-nothing speak to us like that?!*

Not only did he call them barking mad dogs, but he also said he wouldn't let them off. It seemed utterly ridiculous to them!

Who does he think he is?!

"Damn it. Who do you think you are, you good-for-nothing?! How dare you talk like that in front of us?!"

"How dare you say you won't let us off easily? We just chose not to bother with you on account of Kenneth! If you provoke us, I'll get someone to come and break your legs right away!"

"How damned ignorant! It's your blessing that Kenneth was kind enough to let you come in and join us here. Yet you're still being so fussy and speaking to us so rudely. Are you tired of living?"

...

All of a sudden, the scions in the room began lashing out at Lucas, and a few exceptionally hot-tempered ones even stood up and rolled up their sleeves, feeling a strong urge to teach Lucas a lesson.

They were all Kenneth's friends and a gang of scoundrels, just like him. Before Lucas and Cheyenne arrived, they had heard Nikki badmouthing Lucas and all the insults she said about him. Meanwhile, Kenneth had also shown interest in Cheyenne in front of them, so they naturally loathed Lucas and wanted to chase him away immediately so that Kenneth could have a chance at bedding Cheyenne.

A trace of icy cold anger appeared in Lucas's eyes.

What else could these useless scions of wealthy families do except rely on their families' power to throw their weight around and bully others?

If not for the fact that he respected Cheyenne's decision to rely on herself to expand into the LA market, Lucas would have used his connections and instructed Flynn to make these stupid scions bow down and beg Cheyenne for a chance to cooperate with her. There was no need for them to let themselves be treated as pushovers and have others insult them unbridledly here.

Seeing the scene in front of her, Cheyenne was also boiling with fury. But she didn't want Lucas to get into an altercation with them here and now, so she quickly pulled his arm and signaled for him not to be impulsive.

"Alright, let's all stop arguing for now. Don't disrupt the peace because of some trivial matters." Kenneth finally stood out and interjected with a chuckle when he saw that his friends were on the verge of making things physical. "Guys, calm down. Lucas, buddy, it's actually my fault for failing to estimate the number of guests today and make the seating arrangements beforehand. Well, how about this? Since you don't want to eat alone at a separate table, I'll have the waiter bring another chair in so we can all squeeze and sit together!"

Kenneth had actually instructed someone to prepare the plastic stool and tiny foldable tray table specially for Lucas. Since Lucas and Cheyenne weren't willing to follow his arrangements, he could only give up on his plans unwillingly and suggest that they add another seat to the table to stop Cheyenne from leaving.

In fact, the dining table in the room was already extremely large and had ample space for another chair. Kenneth was just deliberately trying to put Lucas to shame and humiliate him.

Soon, the waiter carried a chair in and placed it by the dining table.

"Cheyenne, come sit over here!" Nikki enthusiastically pulled Cheyenne over and tried to get her to sit beside Kenneth.

But how could Lucas possibly let his wife sit next to Kenneth, who obviously had an ulterior motive and harbored designs on Cheyenne? Lucas quickly took the spot beside Kenneth while Cheyenne sat down next to Lucas.

Thus, the sequence of seats was Nikki, Kenneth, Lucas, and Cheyenne.

Lucas sat in between Kenneth and Cheyenne, keeping them apart.

Kenneth's face was rather sullen. Nikki immediately stood up and pointed at Lucas while cursing, "Lucas Gray, why are you so shameless, you good-for-nothing? I've already told you that I reserved this seat for Cheyenne. Who gave you permission to sit here? Get out of the way and let Cheyenne take your seat!"

Cheyenne was completely enraged by Nikki's repeated scoldings and insults to Lucas.

She suddenly stood up and hollered furiously, "Nikki Heron, that's enough! I've told you time and time again that he's my husband and your cousin-in-law. You'd better show him some respect! If you insult him like that again, don't ever call me your cousin! I don't have a rude and disrespectful cousin like you!"

It was the first time Nikki had seen Cheyenne getting so upset with her. *Is she acting like this just because I scolded her good-for-nothing husband?*

Nikki was furious too. *If not for the sake of helping Kenneth get this bitch, I wouldn't even bother talking to her, much less listen to her scoldings!*

But they hadn't achieved their goal yet, so Nikki still had to think of a solution to calm Cheyenne down and make her stay. Nikki had no choice but to endure it for now. *Hmph, I'll let you be arrogant for another couple of hours. When you get into Kenneth's bed tonight, let's see how you can continue being arrogant!*

Chapter 404: Heart of Romance

Nikki put a fake smile on her face and pretended to be aggrieved. "Cheyenne, I'm just doing this for your own good! Kenneth has specially invited his friends here for your sake. I just thought that if you sit next to Kenneth, you two can communicate better! If you don't want to, we can just forget about it. Why do you have to be so fierce to me?!"

Cheyenne glanced at her coldly. *Anyone can tell what your intentions are, Nikki. Don't try to fool me with those high-sounding words!*

But Nikki was a little frightened by Cheyenne's outburst of anger, and she was afraid that she might drive Cheyenne away by angering her. So she suddenly started behaving properly and remained seated obediently without deliberately provoking Lucas.

While waiting for the food to be served, one of the young men sitting at the dining table suddenly exclaimed, "Shit!"

His exclamation immediately caught everyone's attention.

"What's wrong, Harry? Did something happen?" someone asked concernedly.

Harry raised the phone in his hand and said excitedly, "Have you guys seen the news? Just half an hour ago, something big happened in the Golden Eagle Commercial Building opposite the LA amusement park! An ultra-wealthy scion spent close to a million bucks to rent out the entire atrium of the Golden Eagle Commercial Building and decorated the venue with countless balloons and flowers to set up a romantic proposal for his girlfriend!"

He even tapped on the video attached to the article. But the camera was rather far away from the couple, so their faces couldn't be seen clearly. Still, the camera had caught an excellent shot of the gorgeous proposal scene.

Cheyenne immediately looked up at Lucas. It was the scene of him proposing to her just now. She didn't expect someone to take a video of it and even uploaded it to the internet.

Fortunately, the proposal venue was decorated with thousands of decorative balloons and a plethora of fresh flowers. Moreover, the person who had taken the video was standing quite far away, so the figures in the video were rather blurry. Even their silhouettes and faces couldn't be seen clearly.

After watching the video, a few of the scions present were clearly disgruntled, and they even remarked sourly, "Pssh, what's the big deal? Didn't that guy just spend around a million dollars on a marriage proposal? Who among us can't afford that?!"

"Haha, of course all of us can afford it, except for a certain good-for-nothing here," said one of them, making sure to take a jab at Lucas.

"Hah, you guys, don't think of this as a matter that's as simple as spending a million dollars on a proposal. According to the news, this young man who proposed isn't a simple man, and he might be someone from one of the eight wealthiest families in DC. You know the diamond ring that he proposed to his girlfriend with is the legendary 'Heart of Romance,' a superior-quality pink diamond that weighs thirty carats!" Harry said exultantly.

"Damn! The Heart of Romance? I've heard of it. A few months ago, this pink diamond ring was auctioned off in Orange County to an extremely mysterious tycoon for a staggering price of thirty-five million dollars!"

"My god! I only know that pink diamonds are really expensive, but a pink diamond ring was actually auctioned for thirty-five million dollars? That's so exaggerated!"

"Damn! He spent thirty-five million dollars on a diamond. He must have too much money to spare! I take my hat off to him. I feel really ashamed!"

The scions of wealthy families in LA began lamenting and clucking their tongues against the roof of their mouths in awe.

They didn't know much about jewelry and diamonds. At most, they would just spend a few tens of thousands of dollars on a ring for fun. Now that they heard that someone actually bought a diamond ring for thirty-five million dollars, they were stunned to realize how terrifyingly expensive jewelry was!

Indeed, the young man who proposed in the Golden Eagle Commercial Building had to be the son of one of the eight wealthiest families of DC. Otherwise, no other family would have such a large amount of money to allow a young member of the family to spend on a proposal.

Most of the wealthy families in LA these scions belonged to had only a few hundred million in total assets and tens of millions in liquid funds. Spending thirty-five million dollars on a diamond ring was impossible!

“I wonder which one of the eight richest families in DC he’s from and why he’s suddenly here in LA. Why don’t we go check out his background and see if we can get in touch with him?!” one of them suggested.

Kenneth shook his head and said resolutely, “Are you stupid? If that person is really a scion of one of the eight richest families in DC, how can people like us check his whereabouts? I think you guys are just looking for death. Once someone finds out, even your whole family will be eradicated!

“Hmph, don’t think I’m scaring you! We don’t even dare to provoke the top families in the state, let alone the eight most wealthy ones in DC. We might be doing well in LA, but with a lift of their finger, they can render us powerless. Think about how the Hales were destroyed overnight. Do you know who actually destroyed them?”

Kenneth’s words immediately caused many to break out in cold sweat.

In particular, the person who just said that he was going to check out that young man from the eight richest families in DC was almost scared to the point of peeing himself.

He just wanted to find out the identity of that man and get closer to him, but he didn’t consider how dangerous the investigation could be!

The slightest mistake could bring about his family’s downfall!

“Yes, Kenneth, I... I was just making a casual remark. I won’t get up to any nonsense! He’s not someone we can afford to mess with!” the person who spoke earlier said frantically.

“Yes, we’re not qualified to ask about those people. Forget it. Let him be. That type of ring has nothing to do with us either!” Kenneth said in displeasure.

He didn’t like the scions from families in San Francisco and DC at all because their families were far more powerful than his. In front of them, he didn’t feel a sense of superiority as a scion at all.

At this moment, Cheyenne was extremely astonished after hearing what they said, and she secretly looked at the large pink diamond ring on her finger!

Due to the lighting previously, she couldn’t take a careful look at the diamond ring and merely thought that it was one with a large diamond that cost a million dollars or so.

Only now did she know that this big diamond ring that Lucas gave her was an extremely rare pink diamond that had a resplendent and beautiful tinge of purple mixed among the romantic pink color. Under the dazzling light, it reflected an extremely radiant and gorgeous light.

This beautiful diamond ring called the Heart of Romance was worth thirty-five million dollars!

Cheyenne then remembered that the first time Lucas had proposed to her was shortly after the auction that caused a huge uproar in Orange County. At the time, he had proposed to her with this exorbitant diamond ring called the Heart of Romance!

Cheyenne's heart began pounding wildly, and she turned her head to the side to look at Lucas beside her, only to see that he was smiling at her with a tender gaze as well.

Cheyenne blushed, hurriedly picked up the cup of water in front of her, and took a sip out of it to hide the fact that her heart was racing.

At this moment, Nikki pointed at Cheyenne's hand and said, "Cheyenne! When did you get that ring on your finger? It seems to be a huge diamond too. I didn't see you wearing it this morning!"

When Cheyenne raised her hand just now, Nikki immediately noticed the bright light flashing on her finger.

Most women had an unfathomable sensitivity to jewelry, especially ones like the one on Cheyenne's hand, which was extremely eye-catching in terms of size, color, and luster.

What Nikki said made everyone in the room cast their gazes at Cheyenne's hand, and they all saw the shiny diamond ring on her ring finger.

In particular, the diamond ring was emitting an alluring purplish-pink hue.

"Holy shit! It's the Heart of Romance!" Harry sprung up in astonishment and stared at Cheyenne's hand, completely unaware that he had even knocked over the chair behind him.

Chapter 405: He's A Liar

Harry had just seen a photo of the Heart of Romance in the news article a few moments ago, and now that he suddenly saw that valuable ring on the finger of someone right in front of him, he was really astonished.

If not for the fact that he was now surrounded by a group of close friends, Harry would have suspected that he was dreaming.

The rest were just as flabbergasted as Harry. Even though they had never seen the famous pink diamond named the Heart of Romance, the eye-catching diamond ring on Cheyenne's finger was self-explanatory.

Apart from being shocked, these people were bewildered too.

Just now, Harry had said that the person who proposed with the Heart of Romance was a scion from DC. So they couldn't help wondering why the famous diamond ring appeared on Cheyenne's finger.

Could this woman be the one that wealthy scion proposed to?

This was simply unbelievable to them!

But they took another look at Cheyenne's stunning beauty and thought it wasn't that surprising that a wealthy scion would take a liking to her.

Everyone subconsciously chose to ignore the fact that Cheyenne was already married.

So what if she's married? As long as that wealthy scion likes her, nothing is an issue! they thought.

Nikki's eyes were so wide open that they seemed about to fall out. Staring at the diamond ring on Cheyenne's finger, she asked expectantly, "Cheyenne, is... is that ring on your finger the Heart of Romance? I mean, the Heart of Romance that's worth thirty-five million dollars."

She was full of envy and jealousy. Why would that wealthy scion fall for a woman like Cheyenne Carter, who's already married and has a child? He even gave her such an expensive ring. I'm so jealous!

Kenneth's expression also changed drastically. If that wealthy scion from DC had really taken a liking to Cheyenne and had given her such an expensive diamond, he wouldn't dare to harbor designs on Cheyenne anymore.

The others were also keeping their eyes glued to Cheyenne. They thought that if that scion from DC really fancied Cheyenne, they might be able to take the opportunity tonight to befriend her and then use their friendship with her to get close to that scion!

While everyone was watching, Cheyenne suddenly smiled faintly and said, "This ring is a gift from my husband!"

Then she looked at Lucas beside her. Everyone could see clearly the tenderness and pride in her eyes.

She wanted to let these people know that the exorbitantly expensive precious diamond ring was a gift from Lucas, whom they looked down on!

“Psht, so at the end of the day, it’s from this good-for-nothing!” Nikki looked away with disappointment before mocking gloatingly in a relaxed manner, “Since it’s from this good-for-nothing, it must be a counterfeit! You gave me a huge shock!”

The others also returned to their seats with disappointment in their eyes.

“Damn it. I thought that it was really the Heart of Romance! Turns out it’s counterfeit!”

“What a waste of my feelings! I knew it. It’s a pink diamond worth thirty-five million dollars. I’ve never seen such an expensive thing all my life. I thought I could have a feast for the eyes! This is such bad luck!”

“This good-for-nothing probably can’t even afford a diamond worth a couple thousand dollars! Do you have any brains? You could have just pretended that it’s an ordinary diamond ring. Why did you have to pretend that it’s a diamond worth thirty-five million dollars? Only a fool would believe you!”

...

After being disappointed, the crowd started mocking Lucas again.

Cheyenne couldn’t stand hearing others insult Lucas, so she frowned and said seriously, “This diamond is real!”

Nikki immediately said hostilely, “Cheyenne, are you stupid? Harry just said that the real Heart of Romance is worth thirty-five million dollars. Thirty-five million dollars! Do you think your good-for-nothing husband can afford it? I’m afraid he can’t even afford thirty-five hundred dollars! You actually still believe what he said is true. You really... I really don’t know what to say about you!”

“Cheyenne, you’d better hurry up and divorce this liar Lucas Gray! Otherwise, I think you’re going to be affected by him sooner or later!”

The people at the side agreed one after another.

“Exactly. This liar is really brazen. How dare he say that this is a pink diamond worth thirty-five million dollars? Miss Carter, you’d better stay further away from a braggart like him!”

“Exactly! Who knows how many more times he’s going to lie to you? You don’t even know when he’s lying and when he’s not. That’s so tiring!”

"I think you should really get married to someone of a compatible background! Miss Carter, you're beautiful and magnanimous. You became the general manager of a large corporation at such a young age, while this husband of yours is a good-for-nothing who does nothing but freeload. It's not that I'm looking down on him, but he's such a liar and a complete piece of garbage! You'd better divorce him sooner!"

"That's right! Miss Carter, you'd better divorce him. There are plenty of good men in this world. Look at Kenneth. He's so handsome, and he's the future successor of the Parkers. He's got such a good character and family background. You can't find someone like him again! Miss Carter, why don't you consider giving Kenneth a chance?"

...

Everyone was making derogatory comments about Lucas and singing praises about Kenneth to make Cheyenne fall for Kenneth.

Cheyenne was exasperated. She finally knew that they were prejudiced against Lucas, and even if she revealed his true identity, they would probably just think that she was bragging and lying.

"Honey, this beef stew tastes great. Try it." Lucas pushed a bowl of beef stew toward Cheyenne.

His expression was calm, and he was acting as if the person they were scolding wasn't him.

In fact, this was really the case. Since Lucas wasn't like what they said, there was no need for him to bother about their scoldings.

Anyway, to him, they were just strangers he probably wouldn't ever see again after this meal.

Lucas helped Cheyenne to some more food before starting to eat again as if no one was watching.

The reason Cheyenne was furious was that she didn't want them to continue to misunderstand and insult Lucas. But after seeing how unconcerned he was about their opinions, she suddenly figured it out and calmed down. She then picked up her cutlery again to eat the food.

Both Cheyenne and Lucas began eating calmly, completely ignoring them.

These few people who had been bad-mouthing Lucas and trying to set up Cheyenne and Kenneth suddenly couldn't bring themselves to go on anymore. They simply looked at the two of them with their eyes and mouths wide open, dumbfounded.

However, Kenneth's eyes were full of anger.

Although he had indeed invited Cheyenne and Lucas to dinner, he couldn't believe that they would really just focus on eating while turning a deaf ear and a blind eye to everything else. *How infuriating!*

Chapter 406: Toasting Without Drinking

Kenneth glowered at Nikki, making her heart shudder as she recalled the plan they had come up with previously. She hurriedly said, "Okay, okay, it's rare for us to get together, so let's not talk about those unhappy things. Come on, let's drink!"

Soon, the atmosphere in the room became lively again.

Nikki picked up a glass of wine and walked to Lucas. "Lucas, I actually never liked you because I've always thought that you can't give Cheyenne a happy life. But since she wants to be with you, I can't say anything more. I've indeed said some hostile things to you a few times today, so I'll toast you to apologize for my rude behavior!"

Nikki, who had been glaring at Lucas and blatantly insulting him unceremoniously just now, was surprisingly the first to toast him, and she even called it an apology for her behavior.

She held the glass of wine in front of Lucas, waiting for him to take it.

Lucas looked at her and the glass of wine in her hand coldly without showing any intention of taking it.

"You... Are you unwilling to accept this toast from me? I've already tried to make it up to you by speaking to you nicely and asking for your apology. Are you not going to relent?" she said when she saw that Lucas was hesitant to accept the wine.

Lucas sneered. "What a joke. You're the one apologizing to me. Shouldn't you be the one to drink this glass of wine?"

Nikki immediately choked.

She knew Lucas had a point because she was indeed the one toasting him in the name of atoning for her mistakes. So naturally, she should be the one drinking in order to show her sincerity.

"Alright, here's a toast to you!" Nikki placed the glass of wine in front of Lucas before pouring herself another glass to the brim. She then gulped it down in one go.

"Great!"

“Miss Heron, you’re really straightforward!”

“Miss Heron, you may be a woman, but you’re so much more straightforward than a man when it comes to drinking!”

Everyone clapped their hands and cheered for Nikki while indirectly criticizing Lucas.

Nikki wiped the wine stains on her lips and poured herself another glass of wine. She raised it in front of Lucas. “I’ve already toasted you as an apology. Now I’ll toast you again!”

Lucas remained seated and took a bite of the food without showing any intentions of grabbing the wine.

Nikki flew into a rage and snapped, “What’s wrong with you? I’m toasting you, and you won’t even take the glass!”

Lucas said indifferently, “Is your apology as simple as drinking a glass of wine? This apology of yours doesn’t seem very sincere.”

Nikki furrowed her brows and felt like cursing.

If it wasn’t for their plan, she wouldn’t have bothered toasting Lucas!

This good-for-nothing is actually blaming me for being insincere. Nikki felt an urge to splash the glass of wine in her hand onto his face!

She was so furious that her chest started heaving up and down. But for the sake of her final plan, she had no choice but to suppress her anger and ask patiently, “How many glasses do you think I have to drink to show my sincerity?”

The corners of Lucas’s mouth curled into a smile. “If someone else had offended me like this, they would have to drink at least ten glasses of wine. But on account that you’re Cheyenne’s cousin and a woman, three glasses is enough!”

Seeing Lucas acting like he was being kind and compromising, Nikki became even more furious.

But she only dared to curse at Lucas in her head and had no choice but to down two glasses of wine.

“If I toast you again this time, you’ll drink, right?” Nikki said as she stubbornly stood in front of Lucas, insisting that he drank the wine.

Lucas smiled faintly and extended his hand toward the glass of wine that Nikki had placed in front of him.

Nikki watched expectantly with joy. When Lucas's hand was about to touch the glass, he suddenly retracted it and picked up the teacup beside it.

Nikki's expression suddenly froze.

"Sorry, I suddenly remembered that my stomach has been upset lately, and I can't drink wine. So I'll toast you with this cup of tea instead!" Lucas smiled and gulped it down in one go. He then showed the empty cup to Nikki. "I've already finished it. Do as you please."

Nikki was fuming mad. She had endured the displeasure and downed several glasses of white wine just for the sake of making Lucas finish the wine in front of him. Yet he played such a trick on her!

Smack!

Unable to tolerate it any longer, Nikki slammed the glass in her hand onto the table and snapped, "Lucas Gray, are you deliberately messing with me? I toasted you with kind intentions, but you kept turning me down and refusing to reciprocate!"

Lucas's face suddenly turned gloomy. "Hmph, kind intentions? You? Do you take me for a fool?! From the minute I arrived at the Turners' villa, you've been trying to find trouble with me and repeatedly insulted me. Just now, you even mocked and humiliated unreasonably at this dinner table, and now you're suddenly toasting me as an apology. Do you think I'd believe you?"

"Don't play those tricks with me. You should know very well what's in that glass of wine! Listen up. You'd better behave yourself, or else don't blame me for being merciless if you really provoke me!"

Then Lucas tightened his grip on the teacup in his hand, causing the hard porcelain to shatter with a loud bang. By the time he let go, his hand was full of white powdered porcelain. There weren't even any porcelain pieces.

His move took everyone by storm!

Crushing a teacup with bare hands wasn't that surprising, as those who were strong could do so easily by applying some tricks. But it was extremely terrifying to be able to crush a teacup into powder!

Nikki subconsciously shuddered. If her wrist had been in the teacup's place, it would have been broken brutally. Her bones were probably not any harder than the teacup.

Kenneth's face was just as sullen and gloomy. He no longer looked at Lucas condescendingly with contempt and instead seemed to be rather wary of him.

It was only now that he finally realized that Cheyenne's husband wasn't really a good-for-nothing like they had made him out to be.

But Kenneth didn't intend to change his plan because he was bent on getting his hands on Cheyenne!

Even if Lucas was somewhat proficient in combat, the Parkers had plenty of elite bodyguards who could also crush a teacup into pieces!

How could he possibly be afraid of Lucas because of that?

Kenneth narrowed his eyes and said with a threatening tone, "Lucas Gray, isn't it too disrespectful of you to be doing this at a dinner I'm hosting?"

Lucas smiled coldly and suddenly looked up. "Who are you? You're just an insidious and vile scoundrel who doesn't deserve my respect at all."

Lucas's words were extremely harsh, and he didn't save Kenneth any dignity at all.

Lucas had been ignoring Kenneth and turning a deaf ear to his snide remarks. But now, he had completely shed all cordiality and lashed out at Kenneth acrimoniously.

As a wealthy scion in LA, Kenneth was usually showered with praises, and very few people dared to put him to shame like Lucas did.

He immediately wanted to lose his temper, but when he thought about how Lucas had just crushed the cup into bits, he forced himself to suppress his anger.

Although it was true that some of the elite bodyguards of the Parkers could subdue Lucas, they were now in a private room of a restaurant. And due to there being too many people, he hadn't brought a single bodyguard along.

If he got into a conflict with Lucas and started fighting him here, he and these wealthy scions who were all usually too lazy to even go to the gym would definitely be the ones to suffer.

Kenneth's expression changed several times. But in the end, he could only curb his anger and bear with it. He said coldly, "Fine. You've got some guts, punk!" Then he stopped talking.

Everyone else at the dining table was surprised. Having known Kenneth for over a decade, they knew very well that Kenneth would never let himself suffer any losses. Even if he couldn't immediately get back at someone who offended him, he would definitely take revenge in the future!

They reckoned that Kenneth had probably lost his confidence because of Lucas's actions just now.

But it was never too late for revenge, and they were certain that they would teach Lucas a lesson sooner or later!

"Kenneth, have some food. We got carried away with talking and haven't tried the dishes yet!" Nikki hurriedly urged Kenneth to eat.

The others spoke up one after another. "Let's drink too. Some people may lack manners and etiquette, but we can't be like him! Come on, Kenneth, I'll toast you!"

"Okay, now it's my turn to toast Kenneth! Here's to living better and better in the future!"

Soon, the atmosphere in the private room became lively again.

Cheyenne helped herself to the food calmly and took small bites elegantly. But she wasn't as calm as she seemed on the surface.

She knew that after what just happened, it would be impossible for her to discuss cooperating with the various wealthy families in LA.

She had lost her appetite as well. If possible, she would have left immediately.

The way Lucas behaved when Nikki toasted him and the things he said afterward all showed that it was very likely that the glass of wine Nikki had toasted him with had been drugged.

More than six years ago, someone had once schemed against Cheyenne using some sly and underhanded means to lace her drink with something. So she was extremely repulsed and disgusted by such behavior.

Fortunately, Lucas was sitting calmly beside her, giving her a great sense of security.

Although she didn't know how he had found out that the drink was drugged even though he didn't drink it, she trusted him and believed that he wouldn't put her in danger.

In contrast to Cheyenne, who was being extremely conscientious and had lost her appetite, Lucas was almost feasting and chowing down on food continuously. From time to time, he would even pick up some food for Cheyenne from the sharing platter.

Since the food was meant for everyone, there naturally wouldn't be any problems with the food, and he could put his mind at ease while eating.

He had spent the afternoon at the amusement park with Cheyenne and was rather exhausted. Who knew what tricks these silly scions would pull again later, so he had to eat up in order to have enough energy to deal with them.

At this moment, a man said to Nikki, "Miss Heron, you seem to be very familiar with the dishes here. You should be a regular customer here, huh?"

Nikki said with a smug smile, "That's right. The Lion Restaurant is the best in LA, and I happen to have a membership card for this place, so I dine here very frequently."

"Huh? You actually have a membership card here?"

One of the scions said in surprise, "I heard that the Lion Restaurant is owned by the Bensons from San Francisco, and they have branches in several other major cities too. So it's not that easy to get a membership card, as they're very exclusive. Many of us can't get one!"

Nikki pulled out a beautiful membership card from her purse and said with some smugness while pretending to be a little reserved, "The Lion Restaurant is indeed the property of the Bensons from San Francisco. You guys are probably aware of the relationship between the Bensons and the Coles, right?"

"Yes, all major families in LA are aware of it. The Bensons are dependent on the Coles, a top family from San Francisco. Thanks to the Coles' support, the Bensons have been developing well all these years, but they have to give the Coles a considerable portion of their profits each year in exchange for help!" one of them said, as if they were his family.

"Yes." Nikki raised her brows and exclaimed smugly, "My membership card was a gift from the Coles to my grandfather!"

Hearing this, everyone was shocked and envious.

Prior to this, they all thought that Nikki was just a nobody from the Heron family, which was only a little powerful because of the Heron Corp.

But they suddenly learned that the Herons actually had ties with the famous Cole family!

All of a sudden, their gazes were full of fervor as they looked at Nikki.

"What is the relationship between your family and the Coles?" someone asked.

Nikki, whom everyone was looking at enviously, began to feel all conceited and smug. But she suddenly remembered that her grandfather had cautioned her not to casually reveal the relationship between their family and the Coles.

She coughed, pointed at Kenneth, and said smilingly, “Actually, the membership card I have is only an ordinary silver membership card. The one Kenneth holds is the impressive one. I heard that it’s a platinum membership card, which is a membership level much higher than mine!”

“Wow, Kenneth, it turns out you’re a platinum member here. How come we’ve never heard you mention it before?”

“Haha, Kenneth is the successor of the Parkers’ business empire. Isn’t it expected of him to have a platinum membership card?”

They surrounded Kenneth and started praising him and currying favor with him.

With a proud expression, Kenneth pretended to be nonchalant as he said casually, “This membership card was given to me by Matthew Benson. It’s just a membership card. No big deal.”

Everyone got into an uproar.

“The helmsman of the Benson family personally gave you a membership card?! Kenneth, you were so good at keeping it secret!”

“Impressive! As expected of Kenneth, even the Bensons from San Francisco value you greatly!”

Everyone started praising Kenneth one after another, making him feel so complacent and puffed up that he couldn’t help but turn around and look at Cheyenne boastfully, wanting her to see how impressive he was.

But to his surprise, Cheyenne didn’t look at him and was instead helping Lucas to the food!

The sight of it made Kenneth even more furious!

“Cheyenne, I’ve had a little too much to drink and want to go to the restroom. Will you accompany me?” Nikki suddenly said to Cheyenne.

2

Chapter 408: A Congratulatory Gift

When Cheyenne heard Nikki’s request, the first thing that she thought was, *What trick is Nikki up to now?*

But when she saw how flushed Nikki’s cheeks were and the way she was stumbling with an unsteady gait, she realized that Nikki had indeed drunk a lot.

At the dining table just now, Nikki was like an active social butterfly who continuously livened up the atmosphere and toasted everyone. So she must have accidentally had a drop too much.

“Sure.” Cheyenne stood up and explained to Lucas again, “She’s drunk. I’ll accompany her to the restroom. Be right back.”

Then she helped Nikki out of the private room.

After Cheyenne and Nikki left, the atmosphere in the private room quickly became rather cold and tense.

Kenneth and his friends were all glowering at Lucas hostilely, seemingly with the intention of carrying out a treacherous plot.

“Lucas Gray, let’s not beat around the bush anymore. I’ll get straight to the point. A good-for-nothing like you isn’t worthy of a beautiful and capable woman like Cheyenne! You must be shamelessly clinging onto her like a leech for the sake of money, aren’t you?!”

Kenneth leaned back against the backrest of the chair and drawled, “I’ve seen many punks like you who freeload off women! How about this? I’ll give you a hundred and fifty thousand dollars to divorce Cheyenne immediately. From now on, don’t appear in front of her again!”

The corners of Lucas’s mouth curled into a smile of contempt. “Just a hundred and fifty thousand? Are you trying to brush me off like I’m a beggar, or is that all that you can afford?”

“Shut up! You should be thankful that Kenneth is willing to give you that much! How dare you think it’s too little? You’re really ignorant!” one of the scions beside Kenneth immediately rebuked.

“Exactly! I doubt a good-for-nothing like you will ever earn that much money in your life. What are you waiting for? Hurry up and get on your knees to Kenneth to thank him for being willing to give you so much money!”

“What a good bargain for this punk!”

The rest chimed in one after another.

Kenneth smiled slightly. “If you think it’s too little, I can increase it to five hundred thousand, but that’s as high as I’m willing to go! Well, because you’re only worth that much at most!”

Then he pulled out a check from his pocket, wrote down a string of numbers, and then threw it onto a spot on the table in front of Lucas.

Lucas took a casual glance at the check and suddenly burst into laughter.

“What’s so funny?” Kenneth frowned in displeasure.

Lucas laughed. “It’s nothing much. I just suddenly thought of the same plot in some third-rate novels. I’ve always thought that only retards would do such cliché things, but I never expected the scion of the Parker family to be so well versed in it. Don’t you think it’s hilarious?”

“Bastard! How dare you mock me?” Kenneth wasn’t a fool and could naturally hear the strong contempt and derision in Lucas’s words and tone. He slammed his fist against the table.

Smack!

The glasses, plates, and lamps on the table bounced up with several thuds.

Seeing that Kenneth had lost his temper, the others immediately stood up and surrounded Lucas, towering over him.

There were more than ten of them. Full of aggression, they did seem somewhat threatening.

“Hah, you did such a ridiculously stupid thing, and you’re afraid of getting mocked?” Lucas was still as fearless as before, and he remained sitting calmly without a single trace of consternation on his face.

Seeing how unafraid Lucas was, Kenneth was somewhat indecisive and unsure of what to do.

Given how powerful Lucas was, as evidenced by how he crushed the cup, if they really got into a fight with Lucas, they might not be able to defeat him even if they all fought him together.

But it would be too degrading for him to concede defeat in front of Lucas!

If word got out, Kenneth would be thoroughly embarrassed!

“Hah, I suggest you sit down obediently and quit putting up an intimidating front in front of me. Otherwise, you won’t want to know what the consequences will be.” Lucas simply disregarded the scions and slowly poured himself another cup of tea as he spoke relaxedly.

Although his tone wasn't harsh, Kenneth suddenly and inexplicably got the chills.

It seemed that Lucas was a terrifying person not to be trifled with!

The entire private room fell into a bizarre silence again.

At this moment, the door of the room opened, and Cheyenne entered together with Nikki. She immediately sensed the strange tension in the room.

It was especially so because more than ten of them, including Kenneth, were standing around Lucas, seemingly trying to force him to do something.

"What are you guys doing?" Cheyenne hollered and immediately walked toward Lucas while staring at them warily.

Lucas patted Cheyenne's arm and told her to relax. He even picked up the check in front of him and handed it to Cheyenne.

"Honey, look. This is a five hundred thousand dollar check from Mr. Parker! He said that he admires how devoted we are to each other, so he specially gave us this check as a congratulatory gift," Lucas said smilingly.

As soon as he said this, Kenneth's and his friends' jaws dropped in astonishment.

On the other hand, Nikki gaped in disbelief, as if she had seen a ghost.

Why would Kenneth admire their loving relationship and even give them a five hundred thousand dollar check as a congratulatory gift?

That's impossible!

Cheyenne understood that Lucas must have deliberately said this and that Kenneth must have given Lucas this check with ill intentions!

But since Lucas already said so, she naturally wouldn't embarrass him by exposing him. Instead, when she saw the various looks of shock and dismay on their faces, Cheyenne took the check decisively and then said with a grin, "In that case, thank you, Mr. Parker!"

"Damn it..." At this moment, Kenneth was so enraged that he almost spewed a mouthful of blood. He never thought that Lucas would actually come up with such an absurd reason. Not only did he not mention the matter of divorcing Cheyenne, but he even pocketed the \$500,000 check!

After a long and awkward silence, someone standing beside Kenneth couldn't help roaring, "You bastard! This check is clearly meant for you to..."

“Shut up!” Before this person could finish speaking, Kenneth suddenly bellowed at him to stop him. Kenneth then glowered at him furiously for being stupid.

Cheyenne was standing right here, and he couldn't possibly say that the money was meant for getting Lucas to divorce her.

Given her character, she would never accept him willingly after finding out the truth!

But Kenneth's anger wouldn't calm down so easily. Staring at Lucas coldly, he threatened sinisterly, “Punk, I have to warn you that there's no free lunch in this world, and you pay for what you take! Do you understand?”

Chapter 409: What's The Big Deal?

Kenneth's tone was extremely threatening.

The \$500,000 check was meant as a fee to make Lucas leave Cheyenne and absolutely wasn't a congratulatory gift for them.

Yet Lucas made up that story and took his money righteously. *Does he think he can take me for a ride like I'm a fool? He can dream on!*

After seeing Kenneth's expression, Cheyenne felt a little worried.

After all, Kenneth was the scion of the Parker family, which had an extremely high status in LA now. It wouldn't be worth it to offend the Parkers for \$500,000.

Besides, she and Lucas didn't need that money anyway, so she knew that he had accepted it merely for the sake of spiting Kenneth.

“Hubby, why don't we just return the check to him?!” Cheyenne asked softly while tugging at the corner of Lucas's shirt and placing the check in his hand.

She still wanted to try her best to solve this issue and avoid getting into a conflict with these people.

Lucas narrowed his eyes slightly and looked at Kenneth. “Were you just threatening me?”

Kenneth raised his head proudly and laughed out loud. “Hah, it seems that you're not stupid! Since you've understood what I mean, you should know what to do, right?”

He leaned back in his chair languidly while rubbing his right thumb and index finger against each other, obviously urging Lucas to hurry up and return the check to him.

But to everyone's surprise, not only did Lucas not return the check, but he even folded it in half and stuffed it straight into his pocket.

"You!" Kenneth's expression immediately turned gloomy. It seemed that Lucas intended to defy him and not return the check.

Lucas said nonchalantly, "I'm afraid you guys still don't know that I don't like it when others are rude to me. If you want to take this check back, you'd better talk to me nicely. This five hundred thousand dollars means nothing to me, but if you put on airs in front of me and try to threaten me again, I'm sorry, but you're going to be disappointed."

Kenneth's face immediately turned a little pale.

Lucas was simply a tough nut to crack. Kenneth initially thought that Lucas was just a good-for-nothing who would be really easy to deal with, but he didn't expect to end up being at a loss for what to do about him, who refused to give in no matter what.

At this moment, Kenneth suddenly began to have some doubts about the validity of the information that Nikki had given him. *Is this composed and relaxed person in front of me really the worthless punk who only sponges off women like Nikki Heron said?*

He initially thought that as long as he showed his dominance and prowess as the scion of the Parkers in front of a lowlife like Lucas, the latter would definitely be frightened out of his wits and obediently let him have Cheyenne.

But things were completely different from what he had expected.

Lucas Gray is either a fool who is ignorantly brave, or he totally doesn't know the power that the Parkers command in LA.

After all, Cheyenne's good-for-nothing husband has been living in Orange County and doesn't have broad horizons. He probably doesn't even know what the consequences for offending a top family like mine will be.

"Lucas Gray, do you know what status my family has in LA?" Kenneth narrowed his eyes and asked to threaten him while also testing the waters.

Without even raising his eyebrows, Lucas retorted indifferently, "Isn't it just a very ordinary family? Do you think the Parkers are really such a big deal?"

In the eyes of Kenneth, Nikki, and the surrounding scions of rich families in LA, Lucas was naturally being ignorant and incredibly arrogant.

But Lucas didn't even regard the eight wealthiest families of DC as powerful figures, let alone the Parker family, which was just an extremely ordinary family to him. Compared to the Brookes, they were even slightly inferior. As long as Lucas wanted to, he would

be able to destroy eighteen of such insignificant families like the Parkers with a mere lift of his finger.

“Hah! How dare you say that the Parkers are just an ordinary family? You good-for-nothing, it seems you’re really clueless!”

“Any random person in LA can tell you how prestigious the Parkers are in LA. But since you’re just a lowlife at the bottom of society, I’m afraid all you do is sponge off your wife all day. It’s no wonder that you’re ignorant of the Parkers!”

“Miss Heron, it seems that your cousin’s good-for-nothing husband isn’t aware of the Parkers’ status. Why don’t you tell him properly what the consequences of offending the Parkers are!”

Several wealthy scions sneered and mocked.

Nikki glanced at Lucas with contempt. “Hmph, it seems that I’ve really overestimated him. He doesn’t even know the power of the esteemed Parker family. It’s no wonder that this punk spoke so ignorantly to Kenneth with such a rude tone!”

With a disdainful snort, Nikki continued, “Well, let me tell you! Now in all of LA, there are only two families at the top. One is the Owen family, and the other is the Parker family, to which Kenneth belongs! He’s from the top family in this city. Who would dare to disrespect the Parkers?”

“Besides, Kenneth is also the one his grandfather values the most and has set as the successor! So it’s your greatest honor that Kenneth is being kind enough to be willing to speak to you! Otherwise, how could a nobody like you have the opportunity to meet the future helmsman of the Parkers?”

Nikki finished speaking delightfully with conceit. Each and every sentence she said was flattering Kenneth and putting Lucas down endlessly.

She thought that since she had already made it so clear to Lucas, he should be able to understand the world of difference between him and Kenneth!

But Lucas didn’t waver in the slightest and merely sneered as if he had heard a joke. *Indeed, they’re just like frogs in a well who think they’re so impressive. How ridiculous.*

Seeing Lucas still not taking the Parkers seriously, Kenneth was even more furious.

His friends around him looked just as disappointed because they had been trying to teach him a lesson to show him what they were made of.

Bang!

Suddenly, someone pushed the door open from outside with great force.

A young man in his mid-twenties slowly entered.

Kenneth and his friends were momentarily stunned by this unexpected situation and didn't speak for a while.

"Who... who are you guys? Why are you in our private room?" The drunkard began accusing them before Kenneth and the others could speak.

"Damn it. Who is this person? You've been drinking too much, and you must have gone to the wrong room in a drunken stupor. This is our private room, not yours. Hurry up and get lost!" A wealthy scion at the door named Wayne immediately frowned in displeasure.

The drunkard raised his head scornfully and was about to lash out at them, but he suddenly saw Nikki, who was sitting near the door.

Nikki had deliberately dolled herself up and put on a sexy skin-tight bustier short dress that revealed her neck and a large part of her chest because she was going to have dinner with Kenneth and his friends.

"Wow, there's a hot chick here. You're quite pretty. Come on, let me touch you!" With a grotesquely indecent expression on his face, the drunkard reached his hand out to grope Nikki's chest.

Chapter 410: Bizarre Drunkard

"Ah! Go away!" Nikki shrieked in horror and hurriedly clutched her chest while dodging quickly.

"Who told you to dodge? How dare you disobey me? Are you tired of living?" The drunkard flew into a rage when he saw Nikki avoiding him. After cursing at her, he reached out to grab her.

"Damn it. Where did this fool come from? How dare you cause trouble here at Kenneth's dinner? You're the one who's tired of living!" Wayne was enraged and dashed forward to kick the drunkard hard, causing him to fall over onto the ground.

Wealthy scions like them had always loved causing trouble and bullying others since they were children. Since the drunkard in front of them was completely powerless and unable to retaliate, it was a piece of cake for Wayne to hit him.

The others didn't want to lag behind either and dashed forward one after another to give the young man a beating.

“Stop! Do... do you know who I am?! How dare you hit me? You must be tired of living!

“Ah, stop... Ah!”

The drunkard threatened them menacingly at first, but he was soon beaten into a pulp and was left shrieking in pain.

“Hah, who do you think you are, punk? Do you think your status is higher than Kenneth’s?”

“Exactly! We know all the scions and heirs of significant status in LA. Where did you come from, scoundrel? Why are you pretending to be a big shot in front of us?”

“Hmph, how dare you be a nuisance here? We’re going to kill you!”

...

The rich scions beat the drunkard up badly, to the point that he was shrieking incessantly and bleeding from the nose. His body was battered with unbearable bruises.

In the end, Kenneth decided to be kind and told his friends to stop when he saw how badly beaten up the drunkard was. “Forget it. We are from prestigious families. We shouldn’t stoop so low and beat up a drunkard. Let’s just throw him out and continue drinking!”

Kenneth remained seated and looked disdainfully at the ground that was dirtied and stained by the blood from the drunkard’s nose.

“Kenneth is kind enough to let you off! Hurry up and scram!”

The scions cursed at the drunkard and threw him out of the private room.

“Y-you, just you wait and see!” The drunkard wiped the blood off his nose with the back of his hand and then stumbled away with an unsteady gait.

“Damn it. Where did this strange fool come from?! He came here to ask for a beating and even tried to act like a big shot!”

Wayne rubbed his fists that hurt a little from punching the drunkard. Seemingly still yearning to hit the drunkard again, he exclaimed, “Hmph, if that fool hadn’t left quickly, I would have beat him up again! What an ignorant and senseless idiot!”

While speaking, Wayne even glared at Lucas viciously.

If Lucas hadn't intimidated them when he crushed the teacup into pieces and caused them to be too scared to fight him, they would have long started beating the living daylights out of this detestable bastard.

Kenneth remained seated and said indifferently, "The world least needs people who are clearly incompetent but like pretending to be impressive all the time. Such people survive only because others are kind enough to be tolerant toward them, but they still think that they're capable. Lucas, don't you agree?"

Lucas smiled faintly. "You're right, but there are even more people who are obviously worthless yet are blind and think they're impressive. They act all snobbish and look down on everyone because their level is too low, but others just can't be bothered to deal with them. Mr. Parker, don't you agree?"

Kenneth sulked immediately.

He directed that remark at Lucas, but Lucas retorted by making another sarcastic remark about him. He even mocked Kenneth for being too low-level!

Kenneth boiled with fury! *Who's the low-level fool?!*

At this moment, the young drunkard, who had just left the private room, stumbled back to the private room he was originally in, which was next to Kenneth's.

As soon as he pushed the door and entered, everyone in the private room stood up in astonishment because he was in a terrible state now. His nose and face were swollen and bruised, there were footsteps all over his expensive suit, and fresh blood trickled from his nostrils. He looked utterly distressed.

"Son, what happened to you? Who had the audacity to do such a vicious thing to you?" A middle-aged man of almost 50 years old flew into a rage and stood up after seeing his son's miserable state. With anger written all over his face, he dashed over to hold his son.

"I didn't expect there would be someone who dared to lay his hand on my son! He must be tired of living!" Matthew Benson hollered furiously.

Matthew Benson was the helmsman of the Benson family and the true owner of the Lion Restaurant.

Moreover, although the Bensons were inferior to the Coles, they were far more powerful than the wealthy families of LA. Matthew and his son had come to LA today, and many families here were intending to suck up to them. Yet his son returned with injuries all over his body after a mere trip to the washroom. How could he not be enraged?

The people around him stood up in fear and anger. They hollered with righteous indignation, "Who in the world has the guts to beat up Tyron like this? I won't let that bastard off when I find out who he is!"

"This is too much! How did such a terrible thing happen in the Lion Restaurant? This is outrageous!"

"Mr. Benson, Tyron, rest assured. We will definitely seek justice for you! The culprits who had the audacity to hurt Tyron mustn't be spared!"

...

If Kenneth and others were present, they would definitely be able to recognize that these people standing up for Tyron were all bigwigs in LA. Even his friends' fathers were present!

They didn't dare to offend the Bensons at all and were all clamoring about seeking justice for them and punishing Tyron Benson's assailants.

"Dad! I just drank too much and entered the wrong private room, but those bastards next door beat me up badly. They even kicked me several times. This is so infuriating! I have to take revenge today!" Tyron complained lividly.

"We have to take revenge! How dare those people bully my son? Regardless of who they are, I'll make them pay for it! Let's go!" Matthew bellowed and took the lead to enter the room next door. He wanted to see which bastards had the guts to hit his son!

Two brawny bodyguards followed behind Matthew, and they were clearly out to take revenge.

Seeing that Matthew had left the private room, the big bosses of LA naturally didn't dare to continue remaining sitting any longer. They quickly tagged along to go to the private room next door to support the Bensons.

Chapter 411: Vicious Cousin

In the private room next door, Kenneth's face was as gloomy as it could be since Lucas contradicted him, and he wished he could have him killed.

His friends were all glowering at Lucas menacingly, and the atmosphere in the private room was extremely stagnant for a while.

Seeing that things seemed to be getting physical soon, Cheyenne became rather worried. She quickly shook Lucas's arm and said to everyone else, "It's getting late. I think it's about time to call it a night. My husband and I will take our leave now. Thank

you for the generous invitation, Kenneth. We'll treat you to a meal another day if we get the chance."

As the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation, Cheyenne was eloquent enough to know just the right thing to say out of courtesy.

But she would never invite someone who harbored designs on her like Kenneth to dinner.

Lucas understood Cheyenne's concerns and was aware that she was worried that he might get into a physical conflict with these people.

Although he wasn't afraid, nothing good would come out of falling out with these scions, and it would even make Cheyenne face more difficulties in her career in the future.

So Lucas stood up cooperatively and said, "Honey, I'll send you home."

Lucas and Cheyenne both chose to walk away and let the matter rest, but Kenneth and his friends were displeased and had different thoughts in mind.

Kenneth's agenda tonight was to get into Cheyenne's pants, and he was now still far from achieving it. How could he possibly be willing to let the two of them leave?

Besides, Kenneth's friends all thought that Lucas was way too arrogant and had secretly called the security guards to come upstairs. Since they hadn't taught Lucas a lesson yet, they wouldn't let the two leave so easily.

They also thought that Lucas's decision to leave now was an act of cowardice, which made them feel a stronger desire to seize the opportunity to teach him a lesson!

"Hold it right there! Did Kenneth give you permission to leave? Hmph, what makes you think you can flee after acting all haughty and arrogant in front of us?!"

Wayne and two other scions blocked the door, keeping Lucas and Cheyenne from leaving.

Nikki laughed derisively and gibed, "Hah, Lucas Gray, it's hard to win when you're outnumbered. There are so many of us here. I suggest that you be obedient and kneel down to apologize to Kenneth! Otherwise, you really won't be able to leave this place standing tonight!"

Kenneth sat beside Cheyenne like a bigwig with pleasure in his eyes.

He was indeed a bit afraid of Lucas's impressive combat skills. But after Wayne and the rest surrounded the drunkard who had somehow barged in and beaten him into a pulp, he suddenly figured out that while they might not be Lucas's opponent in a one-on-one

fight, there were more than ten of them against him. So he felt that there was no way they could be defeated by him.

Now, Lucas was an easy target!

As long as the door of the private room was closed, there was no way Lucas would be able to escape, and they would be able to beat him as they wanted.

As long as they crippled him, the vulnerable Cheyenne would naturally belong to him. Regardless of whether she was willing or not, she couldn't resist him and would have no choice but to obediently allow him to toy with her as he pleased!

After Cheyenne heard what Nikki said, her eyes widened in disbelief. "Nikki! Lucas is your cousin-in-law. How could you say that?"

Although she had always known that Nikki looked down on Lucas and detested him, Nikki was going overboard by telling Lucas to do something humiliating like kneeling down to Kenneth in front of so many people!

"Hah, Cheyenne, I've also told you many times that Lucas Gray is just a good-for-nothing who isn't worthy of being my cousin-in-law, and I've never been willing to acknowledge him! I'm not afraid to tell you the truth now. Today's dinner is specially meant for setting you up with Kenneth! If not for this good-for-nothing coming to mess our plans up, you would have been Kenneth's woman by now!"

After pretending for so long, Nikki finally revealed her true intentions. She said with a smug expression, "Cheyenne, it's your blessing that Kenneth is interested in you! Look, Kenneth is the successor of the Parker family, while you're just a used woman who's already married. Kenneth is actually at a loss! So just stop being so pretentious and quickly obey Kenneth!

"As for your good-for-nothing husband, he'd better get lost before it's too late!"

Cheyenne didn't dare to believe her ears. It was as if she didn't know Nikki at all.

She couldn't believe that she just heard such vicious words from her cousin, whom she had known since childhood.

Nikki sounded just like a pimp, and her callous words made her seem like a complete stranger to Cheyenne. *Are those really the words my biological cousin said, who has always been gentle, generous, and chummy with me?*

"Nikki, you are my cousin! What... what on earth are you saying?!" Cheyenne muttered incredulously.

Nikki rolled her eyes hostilely and snapped, "There are no other outsiders here, so stop bossing me around just because you're my older cousin! What I just said is the truth. Regardless of whether you want to hear it or not, this is the indisputable truth! You're just a used married woman who has given birth. Do you think you're still the most beautiful woman in Orange County who has countless suitors?! Wake up!"

"I've already said you're lucky that Kenneth still wants a woman like you. Stop pretending to be a pure and chaste woman! Just be good and sleep with Kenneth tonight. He naturally won't mistreat you. Don't you want to expand your business to LA? As long as Kenneth puts in a good word for you, you can get a lot of orders tomorrow morning. That's much easier than painstakingly finding partners yourself!" Nikki said nonchalantly and even glanced at Cheyenne with disdain as she made her words even more explicit and blunt.

Cheyenne was so enraged that her face flushed red and her body started trembling.

The only thing that made her more upset than the verbal insults was Nikki's disgusting and unbearable thoughts.

Cheyenne was only around a year older than Nikki. Since they were young, Nikki would always stick to her whenever there were family gatherings. She used to coquettishly ask Cheyenne for toys and pocket money and even openly took away many of Cheyenne's cherished items.

Cheyenne had always treated her as a younger sister, so she would give in to her all the time!

When she was in college, Nikki had been a huge spendthrift and would always call Cheyenne to lament about not having enough living expenses. Cheyenne would then scrimp and save so that she could give money to Nikki, while she often cooped herself up in her dorm room and lived off sandwiches. She couldn't even afford to buy a few pieces of new clothes all year round.

Moreover, whenever Nikki appeared in front of Cheyenne, she always dressed fashionably and would even show off her clothes, cosmetic products, and her latest cell phone. She would even mock Cheyenne for looking like a bumpkin.

However, Cheyenne endured it because she was her cousin. And when Nikki begged her for money again, she would always be soft-hearted and transfer more money to her.

But Nikki didn't return a single cent she had borrowed.

Afterward, Nikki's parents seemed to face some cash flow difficulties and began begging Cheyenne for a loan. At the time, Cheyenne gave them all her savings.

Yet Nikki, her cousin whom she had taken care of for many years, actually humiliated her in front of all these people and was forcing her to sleep with another man!

Cheyenne felt as if her heart was being stabbed by daggers!

Chapter 412: Have A Reliance

After hearing the insults Nikki hurled at Cheyenne, Kenneth frowned without saying anything.

In fact, he felt that Nikki wasn't wrong either.

He was the scion of the Parker family and could have any woman he wanted. The fact that he was willing to stoop low and take a fancy to a married woman like Cheyenne was indeed her honor!

Besides, he merely intended to toy with Cheyenne and didn't really love her, so he wasn't bothered by Nikki's scoldings.

In his opinion, Cheyenne was indeed rather ignorant and arrogant, for she had repeatedly snapped at him today. *Does she still think that she's some noble and untouchable gem?*

Kenneth and Nikki initially planned to use the dinner as a ruse to chase Lucas away. If it didn't work, Nikki would then toast Lucas with a glass of drugged wine that would ensure he would lose consciousness soon after drinking it. Once he got his hands on Cheyenne, it would be up to him to do whatever he wanted.

Unfortunately, Lucas seemed to have realized that there was something wrong with the wine and refused to drink it no matter how Nikki had tried to persuade him. As a result, their plan was foiled.

And now, both Cheyenne and Lucas were leaving after ruining Kenneth's mood. How could he allow them to leave unscathed after they failed to please him?

So they fell out with each other and got into an altercation.

Any in case, in the opinion of Kenneth and the others, Lucas definitely wouldn't be able to escape, especially since the bodyguards they called were arriving soon. When the time came, Lucas wouldn't be able to escape!

Everyone looked at Lucas like he was a fish in a barrel and could already see the scene of Lucas kneeling pitifully at their feet and begging them for forgiveness. Their faces were full of smug expressions.

Lucas's gaze was icy cold as he glared daggers at Nikki. *How dare this woman insult and lash out at Cheyenne? I won't let her off!*

Perhaps because of the terrifying gaze in Lucas's eyes, Nikki subconsciously shuddered as fear arose in her heart.

But once she thought of Kenneth and his friends, Nikki felt brave again. She mustered her courage and hollered at Lucas, "How dare you yell at me? Hmph, watch how I make you kneel down in front of Kenneth and beg him for mercy later! Don't worry. I will never plead for you!"

Lucas glanced at her coldly before shifting his gaze onto Kenneth. "Are you planning to make the two of us stay here?"

Kenneth pretended to be a gentleman and waved his hands while saying derisively, "Nikki said that, not me. But since she was the one who specially invited you two to dinner today, she calls the shots!"

In any case, Nikki was already speaking up for him, so he was naturally willing to sit back and watch the good show.

"Don't regret your decision then." Lucas sneered.

The reason he agreed to Cheyenne's suggestion to leave wasn't that he was afraid of this bunch of good-for-nothing wealthy scions.

"Hmph, I bet you won't be afraid until you realize you're in deep trouble!" With a cold and menacing gaze, Kenneth suddenly exclaimed into his phone, "Come in!"

The door of the private room immediately opened from the outside, and two tall bodyguards more than 1.9 meters tall walked in with an oppressive aura. They looked around and bowed to Kenneth respectfully before standing behind him and glowering at Lucas hostilely.

Kenneth now felt extremely comfortable and pleased. He placed his legs on the dining table languidly and nonchalantly and said smugly and gloatingly, "Punk, who did you tell not to regret their decision? I didn't hear you clearly. Repeat yourself!"

After seeing Kenneth's powerful bodyguards entering, the scions immediately felt they had great support.

Lucas Gray merely managed to crush a cup with his bare hand. Kenneth's bodyguards can do the same!

Let's see how he can continue being arrogant!

“Haha, kid, you don’t even dare to say a single word now. Are you frightened out of your wits? I told you long ago that a freeloading pauper like you will never be able to imagine how powerful Kenneth really is! Weren’t you very haughty and tyrannical in front of us just now? Continue acting that way!”

“Hahahaha, he’s probably scared silly! If you kneel down now and apologize to Kenneth, he might be in a good mood and let you off!”

“That’s right! While Kenneth and we are still in a good mood, hurry up and get down on your knees to apologize! If you learn to bark a few times on the ground, we will consider sparing you!”

“Hahaha, I think learning how to bark alone isn’t enough. We should at least make this scoundrel learn how to crawl on the ground like a dog!”

...

Everyone laughed out loud in derision, and their remarks were getting increasingly vulgar as they kept degrading Lucas.

Lucas’s expression remained unchanged, and he didn’t even move his brow at all, much less waver because of the sudden appearance of two tall bodyguards.

But Cheyenne was extremely worried. She was clenching her fists so tightly that her nails were digging into the flesh of her palm.

As Kenneth was someone of high status, his bodyguards were naturally not ordinary elites and were definitely extremely skilled.

Although she had seen Lucas fight a few times before, the people she had seen him in a scuffle with were those with ordinary fighting skills like Bryce, security guards, and so on.

So after seeing these two tall and muscular bodyguards clad in black suits and wearing sunglasses who seemed to be terrifying figures, Cheyenne immediately became worried.

She was afraid that something untoward might happen to Lucas!

Moreover, the two of them were already being forced to stay in the room, and if something happened to Lucas, she definitely wouldn’t be able to escape. Eventually, she would end up in Kenneth’s hands and get violated by him just like Nikki had said!

At this moment, Cheyenne’s heart was full of regret.

Had she known earlier that Nikki was such a selfish and vile person with no regard for kinship and only wanted to sell Cheyenne out in exchange for favors, she would never have brought Lucas to this dinner!

Unfortunately, there was no way she could have found out prior, so even if she regretted it now, it was already too late.

“Lucas Gray, have you finally figured it out, you good-for-nothing? I’ve long said that you aren’t worthy of my cousin Cheyenne. If you get on your knees now and obediently let Kenneth have Cheyenne, I can ask him to let you off,” Nikki said smugly.

Cheyenne flew into a rage and shouted, “Nikki Heron, shut up! Stop calling me your cousin! I don’t have an inhumane cousin like you!”

“Hmph, fine, so be it. Cheyenne Carter, do you think I like calling you my cousin? A shameless bitch like you who has disgraced our family doesn’t deserve my attention at all. If not because you’re now the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation and the woman Kenneth has taken a fancy to, I wouldn’t bother with you!

“I’m telling you, don’t put on airs and throw your weight around in front of me just because you’re my cousin. You’re not qualified to reprimand me! If you speak to me so rudely again, I’ll tell Kenneth to break the legs of your good-for-nothing husband! Do you hear me?”

Chapter 413: Kneeling on the Ground to Beg for Mercy

Cheyenne was so angry that her eyes reddened. Just as she was about to say something, Lucas suddenly took her hand and said softly, “Forget it, Cheyenne. Don’t bother arguing or getting upset over such people.”

Cheyenne instantly felt extremely aggrieved and held Lucas’s hand while saying apologetically, “Hubby, I’m really sorry. It’s all because I’ve been too simple-minded and brought you to this dinner. Now, things have escalated to this point... I didn’t expect Nikki to be so... vicious despite being my cousin. She doesn’t care about kinship at all...”

Lucas put his arm on Cheyenne’s shoulder and stopped her from continuing to blame herself. He said softly, “Honey, they’re vile because it’s their nature. It’s not your fault. You don’t have to reproach yourself because of what they’ve done.

“You don’t have to worry either. I’ve told you before that I will protect you for the rest of my life and will never let you get hurt in the slightest. I will keep to my word and fulfill my promise. These people can’t do anything to me. Trust me!”

Lucas's tone was full of confidence, as if he was an indomitable person who would never let anything stop him or beat him down. His words put Cheyenne's mind at ease, and she felt much safer.

Indeed, Lucas would appear in front of her to protect her during every single dangerous encounter she had had in the past few months. He protected her all the time like the strongest shield.

Not only did he protect her, but he also protected their daughter, Amelia; her sister, Charlotte; and her father, William. They had all escaped various close shaves with death again and again all thanks to Lucas's help.

Moreover, Lucas had never failed to keep his promise. Since he told her not to be afraid, they would definitely be safe and sound!

Cheyenne smiled sweetly and nodded. "Yes!"

Her smile was an eyesore in the eyes of Nikki and Kenneth.

When Nikki saw the displeasure on Kenneth's face, she immediately shouted furiously, "You really don't know any better! Kenneth, tell your bodyguards to break this bastard's limbs immediately. Let's see if he can still be arrogant then!"

With a hostile expression, Kenneth looked at the two bodyguards behind him. They understood his instructions and immediately stepped forward to charge toward Lucas.

Bang!

Suddenly, the door of their private room slammed open. Wayne and the other scions standing by the exit to block it were almost hit by the door that was suddenly kicked open.

"Damn! Which ignorant bastard has the guts to kick our door?!" Wayne and the others immediately cursed loudly.

But the next second, they fell silent because a large group of people barged in from outside.

The leader of the group was actually the drunkard they had just beaten up for mistakenly entering their private room!

But that wasn't all. To their utter astonishment, the large group of people behind the drunkard were all very familiar to them!

"Dad, what are you doing here?" Wayne asked, dumbfounded and staring at a middle-aged man standing at the back of the crowd.

“Dad, how come you’re here too?”

“Huh? My father is actually here as well!”

...

All of a sudden, Kenneth’s friends spoke up one after another as they stared at their own father among the crowd, overwhelmed with shock.

W-what’s going on?

Tyron Benson, the young drunkard whose face was swollen from being beaten up, was now standing beside his father, Matthew. He pointed at the scions and yelled viciously, “Dad! It was these bastards who surrounded me and beat me just now!”

As soon as he said this, the helmsmen of the various top families of LA standing behind Matthew felt their hearts tense up.

The people Tyron was pointing at were their sons!

Was it these incompetent bastards who just beat up Matthew Benson’s precious son?

Oh my god!

They originally wanted to help Matthew punish the ignorant and daring bastards who beat up Tyron. But in the blink of an eye, their sons were in trouble instead!

It was too awkward!

Matthew already guessed the truth as soon as the scions started calling the people around him their father.

He glanced at the surrounding family helmsman who had awkward expressions and gibed sarcastically, “Hah, I was wondering who in LA would have the guts to beat up my son so badly, but it turns out they’re your good sons!”

The helmsman suddenly had a drastic change in expression because Matthew, the head of the Bensons from San Francisco, was a big shot they couldn’t afford to offend!

It was especially so because the Bensons were backed by a behemoth like the Cole family. If the Bensons wanted to destroy them, it would be a piece of cake for them!

They glanced at each other, their hearts palpitating in fear. They each grabbed their son and roared, “Bastard, all you do is cause trouble for me! You really have guts today. How dare you beat up Mr. Tyron Benson?! Hurry up and come here to apologize to him!”

Tyron was Matthew's one and only precious son, yet their sons ganged up and beat him up! Thus, the fathers of these scions could only make their incompetent sons apologize to Tyron to seek his and Matthew's understanding. Otherwise, they would be in for a hard time!

The scions who had hit Tyron earlier were all dumbstruck.

No matter how foolish they were, they finally understood now that the drunkard they had beaten up turned out to be the scion of a powerful and esteemed family. At the very least, he had a higher status than them!

Besides, their fathers already said Tyron was a Benson, so they wondered if it was the Bensons from San Francisco!

Everyone's hearts dropped, and their faces immediately turned ashen!

We're finished.

They were in deep trouble!

Who knew that the drunkard who had barged into the wrong private room would be the scion of the Bensons from San Francisco?

"Mr... Mr. Tyron, I'm sorry! We didn't know your identity just now, so we offended you. Please forgive us!"

"Yes! Mr. Tyron, we didn't mean it! I'm really sorry! Are you... severely injured? I'll accompany you to the hospital right away for a checkup!"

"Mr. Tyron, I'm so sorry! We just drank some wine and lost our composure. We really didn't mean to beat you up!"

...

Just now, these scions had arrogantly demanded Lucas get on his knees to apologize and learn how to crawl and bark like a dog. But all of a sudden, they were now doing so themselves. They all scrambled to kneel in front of Tyron and beg for his forgiveness.

Chapter 414: Arrogant Revenge

Kenneth didn't move an inch because he hadn't hit Tyron earlier, so he naturally didn't have to apologize to him and beg for his forgiveness.

But at the same time, he looked extremely unhappy because he found it a disgrace that his friends were all kneeling in front of Tyron and begging him for forgiveness.

He was especially embarrassed because Lucas was standing right beside him and staring at his friends kneeling in front of Tyron.

Although Lucas still had a straight face, Kenneth felt that he had to be laughing gloatingly at him and his friends.

But now was not the time for him to settle scores with Lucas.

His friends were all still suffering right now!

Kenneth narrowed his eyes and sized up Tyron, whose face was swollen and bruised.

He had heard the helmsmen of top LA families call him 'Mr. Tyron Benson', which meant that he was from the Benson family from San Francisco. Tyron was someone with a powerful background, and even Kenneth had to be careful.

At this moment, Kenneth felt thankful that his friends were the ones who beat up Tyron and that he didn't get involved at all. Otherwise, he would probably have to kneel down and be a huge disgrace in front of Lucas.

When Tyron saw these people who had beaten him up kneeling in front of him to apologize to him and plead for mercy, the satisfaction of taking revenge surged in his heart.

"Damn, weren't you bastards really arrogant just now? Why are you kneeling in front of me and apologizing to me now? Huh?"

Tyron walked over and kicked them a few times without holding back. He soon beat them up until they collapsed onto the ground. While kicking them, he said arrogantly, "Bastards! Continue being arrogant! Come hit me! Come on! Damn it. You thought I was a pushover, didn't you?"

"Let me tell you. This is the first time I've been beaten in my life. I don't care if you did it intentionally or not. Anyway, since you hit me, I won't spare you! Even though your fathers are here, they don't dare to make a single sound and plead for you!"

Watching their sons get kicked and beaten up, the helmsmen of top LA families didn't even dare to utter a single word.

Just as Tyron said, they didn't even dare to say anything because they were afraid of angering Tyron.

Tyron was Matthew's only son, whom Matthew saw as a precious gem. Yet he got beaten up by these vile scions, so he naturally wouldn't let the matter go easily.

If Tyron beat their rebellious sons up and vented his anger, he might really let them off.

Even Matthew was silently watching his son beat these scions up without any intention of stopping it. Clearly, he was going to let his son beat them up to his heart's content until he let off some steam and cooled down. So how could they possibly dare to go forward and plead for their sons?

However, some of them couldn't bear to watch their sons getting beaten up. But since they couldn't beg for mercy either, they could only hang their heads low and shut their eyes tightly. They thought to themselves that what they didn't know couldn't hurt them. As for the miserable shrieks coming from their sons, they would just pretend not to hear them.

But Tyron was immediately displeased to see this.

"Damn it. Who allowed you to close your eyes? Look at your sons with your eyes wide open and see how I teach them a lesson for you!" Tyron shouted. The helmsmen didn't dare to defy him and had no choice but to open their eyes again to watch him kick their sons hard.

In fact, strictly speaking, Tyron was just their junior.

But Tyron rebuked them like they were his juniors instead, and they didn't dare to disobey him at all.

Meanwhile, Tyron's father, Matthew, merely stood at the side without saying a word. Not only did he not chide Tyron for his rude behavior, but he even looked at his son with gratification, thinking that his son was very domineering.

His son was his cherished gem, and he didn't care about the opinions of these helmsmen because he felt that they were just from inferior families and saw nothing wrong with his son scolding them.

His son had the right to be that arrogant!

Perhaps tired from kicking, Tyron felt very indignant and shouted at the bodyguard beside him, "You, go find me an iron rod!"

The bodyguard immediately left and soon returned with a crowbar.

It was made entirely of steel and about half a meter long. It was hard, heavy, and sturdy. And when Tyron held it, he emitted a cold and terrifying vibe.

The scions immediately widened their eyes in horror and almost peed their pants in fear!

They didn't expect Tyron would actually use such a weapon to deal with them!

Their eyes were full of fear, and they immediately wanted to beg to be spared.

Bang!

But before they could beg for mercy, Tyrion swung the heavy crowbar in his hands down onto Wayne's arm.

Snap!

With the cracking sounds of bones breaking, Wayne's arm immediately became distorted and broke!

"Ah! My... my arm! Dad... my arm...!"

The entire private room immediately resounded with miserable shrieks and cries of agony. Wayne held his broken arm and instantly burst into tears with snot all over his face.

The facial muscles of Wayne's father trembled violently several times. But he had no choice but to watch his son roll around on the ground in agony because he didn't dare to beg for mercy at all.

"Hah, weren't you enjoying yourself hitting me just now? You were the first one to jump out to take the lead in beating me up. You were also the one who hit me the most. I've only beaten you once, and you can't take it anymore?" Tyrion roared furiously.

Then he pushed the bodyguards beside him. "Go, hold him down and prevent him from moving!"

The two bodyguards immediately went forward to press Wayne's limbs against the ground.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

With three more muffled sounds of the crowbar hitting Wayne's body, Tyrion ruthlessly broke all of Wayne's limbs and then ordered his bodyguards to release him.

But at this point, Wayne had already passed out due to the extreme pain and was lying motionless on the ground.

His father had been watching everything from the side with his eyes wide open. His face was as pale as a sheet and covered in cold sweat, but he couldn't say a single word.

After witnessing Wayne's tragic fate, the other people kneeling on the ground started shuddering, and their teeth began chattering. They were terrified as they stared at the crowbar Tyron was waving in his hand.

Chapter 415 : Trouble-making Clown

Translator: Atlas Studios Editor: Atlas Studios

"Dad, help me! I-I don't want to have my limbs broken! Mr. Tyron, I know I was wrong. I really do. Please let me off!"

"Dad, please help me plead with Tyron! I really know my mistake and won't do it again!"

"Mr. Tyron, please spare my life!"

...

Wealthy scions and playboys like Kenneth and his friends were usually the ones who beat others up, and they had never personally experienced the horror of being on the verge of having their limbs broken. They were all deathly pale and scared out of their wits as they stared at Tyron and begged him for mercy while also pleading for their fathers to put in a word for them.

They didn't want to have their limbs broken like Wayne had!

But to their great disappointment, their fathers avoided eye contact with them because they didn't dare to speak up and persuade Matthew and Tyron, especially since the latter was obviously boiling with fury!

At this point, all they could do was hope for their sons to be lucky enough to be spared from sustaining overly severe injuries. Hopefully, they could still go to the hospital to have their broken bones fixed and restored.

Seeing that they couldn't depend on their fathers, the scions had disappointment and fear written all over their faces.

At this moment, one of them suddenly recalled something that Kenneth had said earlier and hurriedly turned to look at him. He beseeched, "Kenneth, you have to save us! You're the future successor of the Parkers. Didn't you tell us that Mr. Matthew Benson had personally given you a platinum membership card for the Lion Restaurant? Since you know Mr. Matthew Benson, the owner of this restaurant, can you please plead for mercy on our behalf and ask Tyron to spare us?! We really know our mistakes!"

As soon as the others heard this, they also immediately started begging Kenneth, "Kenneth, you're the reason we came here tonight. On account of our friendship, you must plead for mercy for us!"

“Yeah, Kenneth. Since you have some connections with Mr. Benson, Tyron will definitely spare us on your account!”

...

They kept pleading for Kenneth to help them because he was the only straw they could clutch at. They believed he would be able to convince Matthew and Tyron to let them off the hook as long as he asked them to!

But Kenneth looked incredibly gloomy now.

Tyron was obviously far more arrogant than them. And based on the fact that he had broken Wayne’s limbs right after he said he would, Kenneth knew that Tyron was definitely a ruthless person. Kenneth couldn’t help feeling some inevitable fear toward him.

But these people kneeling on the ground in front of him were his friends. If he really left them in the lurch, he wouldn’t only let them down, but their families would probably steer clear of the Parkers in the future.

In helplessness, Kenneth could only bite the bullet and walk forward to say to Tyron, “Mr. Tyron, it was indeed a misunderstanding just now. They weren’t aware of your identity, so they accidentally offended you, but please be magnanimous and forgive them this time! Besides, you’ve already broken a man’s limbs, so you should have already vented your anger. Now that we all know each other’s identity, please bury the hatchet with them on my account, will you?”

Tyron lifted the crowbar in his hand and turned his head to look at Kenneth. He asked with great interest, “I heard them say that you have a platinum membership card for the Lion Restaurant. Was it personally given to you by Matthew Benson, the head of the Benson family?”

The expression on Kenneth’s face stiffened, and he blinked while saying unashamedly, “Yes, I’m very grateful to Mr. Benson for thinking I’m worthy enough and giving me a platinum membership card. However, that happened more than a year ago, so it’s not surprising that you don’t know about it, Tyron.”

He thought that Matthew wasn’t here, so since he had already said it, no one else could say anything.

But as soon as he said this, the helmsmen of the various top LA families all seemed rather bewildered as they sneaked a glance at Matthew, who was standing right in the middle of a crowd with a smile on his face. They soon looked away.

Tyron stared at Kenneth and asked once more with contempt, "Are you sure that the person who gave you the platinum membership card is Matthew Benson from San Francisco? Seems like you have very good connections. How do I address you?"

Thinking that Tyron believed him, Kenneth hurriedly announced his name proudly, "I'm Kenneth Parker, the direct descendant of the Parker family of LA!"

"Oh!" Tyron answered ambiguously with a look of derision in his eyes, seemingly anticipating hearing a joke. He suddenly pointed at Matthew.

"Do you know who this person is then?" Tyron had a rather peculiar expression on his face at the moment.

Kenneth carefully sized up the middle-aged man Tyron was pointing at. In fact, Kenneth had noticed him as soon as he came in, mainly because he was standing in the middle of the group and vaguely seemed to be the leader. He exuded a domineering aura that made it difficult to ignore his presence.

But Kenneth only knew that this had to be a person of very distinguished status and wasn't aware of his true identity.

"Please pardon me for my poor judgment, Tyron. Please introduce him to me," Kenneth said, testing the waters.

"Hahahahah!" Tyron burst into laughter while clutching his stomach.

Seeing this, Kenneth immediately realized that he said something wrong. At the same time, he also noticed that the helmsmen standing across from him in the room seemed to be staring at him with mocking gazes.

Kenneth frowned, not figuring out where he went wrong.

"Haha, what a dimwit! Didn't you just say that the membership card in your hand was personally given to you by Matthew Benson from San Francisco? What? Can't you recognize my father, Matthew Benson, now that he's standing right in front of you?" Tyron stared at Kenneth maliciously and was guffawing like a devil.

"What?!" Kenneth exclaimed in shock and took a step back. Only then did he realize what a foolish thing he had done!

It turned out that the person Tyron was pointing at was his father, Matthew Benson!

Kenneth could never have imagined that he would end up making a fool of himself when he tried to use Matthew Benson's prestige to get some clout and deceive Tyron that he shared some friendly ties with his father. In the end, it turned out that Matthew had been

standing here all along and watching everything unfold with a smile while staring at him like he was a trouble-making clown!

The thought of how he had bragged about his friendship with Matthew right in front of Matthew himself made Kenneth's face turn pale!

At the same time, countless gazes of apprehension, mockery, and disbelief were cast on him, making him break out in cold sweat and sending chills down his spine!

Bang. Bang.

Tyron pounded the crowbar in his hand against the ground a few times and deliberately looked at Kenneth while asking with a chuckle, "Now, tell me again. Who exactly was the one who gave you a platinum membership card of the Lion Restaurant?"

Chapter 416: It's Your Turn

"I..." Kenneth's face was incredibly distressed, and he couldn't bring himself to say a single word.

Had he known earlier that Matthew was present too, he would never have put on this front and acted like a big shot in front of Tyron!

He was now thoroughly humiliated and put to shame, but he couldn't defend himself at all.

Furthermore, Matthew might even blame him and punish him next...

"Damn it. Are you mute? I'm asking you a question!" Tyron hollered and slammed the crowbar at the dining table next to him.

Bang!

The edge of the round tempered glass table shattered while the glasses and crockery on the table fell onto the ground and shattered into pieces!

Everyone was greatly startled.

Lucas immediately reached out and wrapped his arm around Cheyenne's waist to shield her behind his body. He then patted the back of her hand to comfort her.

Kenneth was frightened by Tyron's sudden outburst of anger. His legs went limp, and he fell to his knees with a loud thud. "Mr... Mr. Tyron, I was wrong!"

Drenched in cold sweat, Kenneth confessed fearfully, "Mr. Tyron, Mr. Benson, I'm sorry! I was too obsessed with boosting my ego that I falsely used your name for clout and lied

about receiving the membership card from you... Actually, the platinum membership card belongs to my grandfather, and he went through great pains to obtain it. I only ask him for it and bring it out with me for meals so that I can show off to make me seem impressive. Please forgive me!"

As he kneeled on the ground, his entire body was shuddering, and he was full of regret.

"Hmph, how daring of you!" Matthew slammed his foot down on Kenneth's back, sending him sprawling to the ground.

When Kenneth's face touched the ground, Matthew kicked his body again and snapped, "Who do you think you are? Do you think you're worthy enough to use my name for clout? How dare you pretend to be a big shot in front of my son and claim that you're friends with me? Damn it! Even if your grandfather Damon Parker comes to see me personally, he won't dare to lie about anything using my name!"

Kenneth was sprawled across the ground, with mouth and nose pressed against the dirty floor, but he didn't dare to get up. All he could do was desperately beg for mercy. "Mr. Benson, I really know I'm wrong. I won't dare to do it again. Please give me a chance and let me off this time!"

He was really scared out of his wits, so much so that his face was covered in tears and snot. He was terrified that Tyron would break his limbs and cripple him as he had done to Wayne!

Matthew had always been a ruthless man, and he had even personally taken some lives. Even the younger generation of wealthy families in LA, such as Kenneth, had heard of his merciless ways.

The fact that Tyron had just broken all four of someone's limbs without the slightest hesitation or a single bat of his eyelid just went to show how ruthless his father must be.

Moreover, Matthew was also close to the Coles, a top family in San Francisco, and had brought the Bensons to become a subordinate family of the Coles. This gave Matthew great authority, and almost no one would have the guts to offend him.

Now that Kenneth had pretended to be powerful and provoked Matthew, the Parkers would probably be unable to do anything to stop Matthew even if he wanted to beat him to death!

Kenneth's body trembled violently to the point of almost peeing himself in fear.

"Call your grandfather Damon Parker right now, and tell him to come here within ten minutes! Otherwise, he can collect your corpse instead!" Matthew said nonchalantly.

Kenneth's heart skipped a beat. He immediately got up from the ground, took out his phone, and called his grandfather while still on his knees.

"Grandpa, it's me! I'm in a private dining room on the top floor of the Lion Restaurant. I... I offended Mr. Matthew Benson from San Francisco. Grandpa, don't ask about the rest. We don't have time. Hurry up and come over quickly! Remember, you must arrive within ten minutes, or else you'll never see me again!"

Pangs of panic engulfed Kenneth as he frantically conveyed Matthew's instructions to his grandfather and gave him a brief summary of the situation. There was no way he could explain what exactly had happened and how he had offended Matthew in a few simple sentences. So he decided to skip it altogether and urged Damon to rush over as quickly as possible.

Matthew snorted coldly before letting go of Kenneth for the time being.

He came over to LA today with the intention to develop some forces, so he had specially gathered the helmsmen of various top families in LA to coerce them by issuing threats or tempting them with benefits.

But he didn't have to do much at all because they were extremely scrupulous and respectful toward him. They were just like obedient pets.

But there were two top families he didn't invite this time—the Parkers and the Owens.

In the past, the Brookes, the Parkers, and the Owens used to dominate LA. But just a short time ago, the Brookes were suddenly destroyed and vanished from the city. Later on, the Parkers and the Owens became the two overlords that almost dominated half of LA.

Thus, after some consideration, Matthew decided not to do anything to those two families for the time being. He only planned to gain control of the other families for now, which would subsequently allow him to control the other half of LA's economy.

When the time came, conquering the Parkers and Owens in one fell swoop wouldn't be that difficult.

But one of the Parkers' descendants had now provoked Matthew, so he decided to take advantage of this opportunity to let the Parkers suffer a massive loss!

A cunning smile surfaced on Matthew's lips as he thought about this.

He glanced at the young men on their knees in front of him and sneered. "Son, who else hit you just now? Don't let any one of them off. You must take revenge ruthlessly! The Bensons will never let themselves lose out!"

He deliberately said this to give everyone present a warning.

Anyone who dared to offend the Bensons wouldn't end up well!

"Okay, Dad!"

His words were just what Tyron wanted to hear. Tyron raised the crowbar in his hand and went to one of the scions kneeling at the end of the row. Then he beat him mercilessly with the crowbar!

"Ah!"

"Arrgh!"

...

Soon, miserable shrieks filled the air in the private room one after another.

The helmsmen of the LA families were incredibly distressed to hear them, and their faces were all trembling violently. The ones getting their limbs broken were their sons!

There were also a few helmsmen whose sons happened to be absent tonight. They couldn't help feeling extremely thankful and relieved while deciding that they would definitely go home and admonish their sons to never provoke the Bensons in the future!

A few minutes later, Tyron finally had enough. With a loud clang, the crowbar in his hand fell onto the ground.

He had hit them extremely hard, and each strike of the crowbar broke one of their bones.

But this time, he had only broken an arm or a leg of each of the remaining nine people, unlike how he had broken all of Wayne's limbs.

He wasn't an arrogant and tyrannical fool, and he was well aware that if he really broke all of their limbs, the helmsmen of the top LA families would definitely resent him even if they didn't dare to complain on the surface.

Now, with Wayne as an example, the remaining scions with one broken limb each had learned their lesson. The other helmsmen would also be extremely grateful to the Bensons for being merciful and would respect them even more.

These were some methods that Matthew had taught Tyron.

So far, it seemed that they were quite effective.

At this thought, Tyron felt extremely smug.

After hitting the scions, he suddenly looked at Lucas, who was sitting at the table, and said sinisterly, "Ah, I almost missed one! Punk, get your ass here! It's your turn now!"

Chapter 417: Unexpected Opportunity

Lucas remained in his seat without moving a single muscle and simply said calmly, "I'm not in with them. Besides, I didn't touch you either."

A hazy gloominess appeared in Tyron's eyes.

He looked at Lucas hostilely. *This man indeed didn't join them in hitting me just now, but so what? I don't need a reason to hit someone!*

Besides, all the people in the room were shivering while kneeling in front of him, but Lucas was the only one still sitting calmly in his chair, which was a blatant disregard of him!

I must teach this guy a lesson so that he knows to be scared of me when he sees me in the future!

With an icy cold gaze in his eyes, Tyron stormed toward Lucas with the crowbar in his hand. Just as he was about to hit Lucas with it, a commotion broke out outside the private room, and a white-haired old man suddenly hurried over.

"Mr. Benson, I really didn't expect that you'd come here to LA all of a sudden. I'm really sorry for failing to welcome you personally!" The white-haired old man was none other than Damon Parker, the helmsman of the Parkers.

He was obviously older than Matthew, but he was extremely polite and subservient toward Matthew, lowering his position as far as possible.

This was beyond Matthew's expectations.

He originally thought that the Parkers, one of the top two giants of LA now, would put on airs since they often enjoyed the flattery of others, and many would curry favor with them.

Besides, Damon was a generation older than Matthew, so Matthew thought that Damon might act condescending just because of his age and demand that he let Kenneth off.

But he didn't expect Damon to be so sly and not even mention the matter regarding his grandson Kenneth but instead acted like he was talking with Matthew as a peer of the same generation.

Matthew said with an insincere smile, "Mr. Parker, I know you're a busy man. How can you have the time to see me?"

When Damon heard the hostility in Matthew's voice, his heart skipped a beat, and he hurriedly said with a smile, "You must be joking, Mr. Benson. How can the Parkers compare to your family? Had I known earlier that you were here, I would have definitely welcomed you and entertained you properly!"

Matthew was finally satisfied, and he said relaxedly, "Actually, Mr. Parker, you still don't know why I suddenly asked you to come here, do you?"

Damon's heart palpitated. The thing on his mind finally happened. In the call, Kenneth had merely mentioned that he had offended Matthew Benson and asked him to rush over immediately. So Damon hadn't had the time to ask about anything else.

Damon hurriedly looked at the ground and saw that his favored grandson, Kenneth, was now kneeling on the ground alongside his friends, who were all injured and grimacing in pain while enduring the agony.

In comparison, Kenneth's clothes were only slightly dirty. At the very least, he was in a much better state than his friends.

Damon was still at a loss, as he didn't know how on earth his grandson and his friends had offended Matthew. But that didn't get in his way of carrying out his plan.

"Scoundrel, defiant beast! I teach you every single day at home to be polite and never ever offend anyone when you're out. Have you been turning a deaf ear to my instructions? How dare you offend Mr. Benson? How audacious of you! You've utterly disgraced the Parkers!" Damon kicked Kenneth in the chest a few times with all his might.

He wasn't acting at all and really kicked Kenneth hard, so much so that Kenneth fell to the side and collapsed onto the ground, clutching his chest in pain.

After teaching his grandson a severe lesson, Damon turned to Matthew and said apologetically, "Mr. Benson, it's all my fault for failing to take my grandson in hand, so he ended up offending you. Please punish him as you please. Even if you want to kill this beast, the Parkers will have no complaints!"

"Grandpa!" Kenneth widened his eyes in disbelief as he stared at his grandfather in shock. *Didn't Grandpa come here to plead for me? He actually said something so heartless!*

Of course, Damon's words not only shocked Kenneth, but even the helmsmen of the other families in the room were astonished.

Even Matthew showed a trace of surprise.

He initially wanted to take advantage of Damon pleading for his grandson to make a killing off the Parkers as much as possible and make them suffer a massive loss.

But now that Damon already said that he would leave his grandson at his disposal, Matthew naturally wouldn't raise any other requests.

Besides, would Matthew really kill Damon's grandson over such a trivial matter?

Hmph, this old fogy Damon Parker is a cunning old fox!

In that case, I'll sell this old fogy a favor. If he's smart enough, he'll naturally repay the favor in other ways.

Matthew suddenly laughed and said, "That's not necessary. Since you've already said so much, it'll seem petty of me to hold it against these young men for such a trivial matter. On your account, I'll let this matter go, Mr. Parker!"

Damon immediately praised with a look of gratitude, "Mr. Benson, you're indeed very kind and magnanimous. I'm in awe and admiration of you!"

Then he kicked Kenneth with all his might again and hollered, "What are you waiting for? Hurry up and thank Mr. Benson for being kind enough not to hold it against you."

Kenneth was overjoyed. He immediately kneeled in front of Matthew and exclaimed agitatedly, "Thank you, Mr. Benson! Thank you so much, Mr. Benson!"

With a smile on his face, Damon suddenly said to Matthew, "Actually, there's always been something that I've wanted to talk to you about, Mr. Benson. Unfortunately, there hasn't been an opportunity for me to do so."

Matthew raised his brows with great interest. "Oh, is that so? What's the matter?"

"It's about... a huge cooperation that will definitely benefit the Bensons. Mr. Benson, are you interested?" Damon squinted like a cunning old fox.

Matthew chuckled. "Haha, sure! It's so chaotic here. Let's go to the room next door to chat!"

Damon naturally agreed because it was just what he wanted.

"Son, I'm going to have a chat with Mr. Benson. I'll hand over everything here to you," Matthew instructed Tyron.

Tyron immediately agreed. Anyway, all the people he wanted to take revenge on had had at least an arm or a leg broken by him. Now, he just had to put an end to things and establish dominance.

“Kenneth, stay here and help Tyron handle some matters,” Damon immediately instructed.

He was undoubtedly trying to make his grandson build better ties with Tyron.

It was actually a tremendous benefit for Kenneth too.

Matthew was well aware of this, but he didn't oppose it. There was no big deal in letting his son have one more loyal follower.

Kenneth was overjoyed. In the last ten minutes or so, he had been on a roller coaster of emotions.

He was very certain that he would have died because he thought that even his grandfather had given up on him. But he didn't expect there to be a twist of fate so soon and to receive a blessing in disguise, which was the chance to get closer to the Bensons.

Kenneth glanced at Lucas, who was still sitting composedly by the dining table, and an icy cold gaze flashed in his eyes. *In a while, I'll get Tyron to deal with this bastard. I'll see if he can continue remaining seated and gloating over my predicament!*

Chapter 418: Jealousy and Sowing Discord

“Mr. Tyron, it was my fault for offending you just now and making you suffer. I feel really bad! I sincerely apologize to you, and I hope that you'll be kind enough not to hold it against a nobody like me. Please forgive me for my lack of discernment!” Kenneth immediately apologized to Tyron after Matthew and Damon left.

Appearing to be rather generous, Tyron laughed and said, “Since your grandfather and my father are acquaintances now, that makes us friends from now on. You don't need to say such formal things again!”

Tyron even reached his hand out and put an arm around Kenneth's shoulder as if they were the best of friends.

Kenneth was naturally surprised and flattered. But the other scions, who were Kenneth's friends, were boiling with fury after watching their friendly interaction.

If it wasn't for the sake of pleasing Kenneth, they wouldn't have come here and ended up beating up the drunk Tyron, who had barged into the room and tried to violate Nikki.

Each of them now had an arm or a leg broken, and they didn't even know if they could get their broken limbs fixed at the hospital. If they couldn't, they would remain crippled for the rest of their lives.

Yet Kenneth became close friends with Tyron.

Why?! They were all extremely displeased, and their resentment began to show in their eyes.

Frightened by their gazes, Kenneth hurriedly said to Tyron, "Mr. Tyron, these people may have offended you, but they've also been taught a lesson. Should we tell them to get lost quickly, lest they continue being an eyesore to you?"

Tyron wasn't a fool, and he knew that Kenneth was actually pleading for mercy for his friends, which irked him a little.

He shook his head and said tyrannically, "No, let them continue kneeling here for two hours before letting them leave! They beat me up so severely, but all I did was break an arm or leg from each of them. I'm being kind and merciful enough!"

Then he sat down on the chair haughtily, seemingly intending to really keep them behind until the time was up.

Seeing this, Kenneth didn't dare to say anything else.

Lucas had actually wanted to take Cheyenne away from this place a long time ago, and now that such an incident cropped up, he was all the more unwilling to continue staying here for a couple more hours around these people.

"Honey, let's go." Lucas stood up, took Cheyenne's hand, and walked toward the door.

"Hold it!" As soon as they took a few steps forward, Kenneth suddenly shouted and stood in front of them to stop them from leaving. "You two aren't allowed to leave!"

If Kenneth just shouted to stop them, Lucas would have simply ignored him and pretended that he didn't exist.

But now that Kenneth was blocking the door to stop them, Lucas could only stop and question coldly with narrowed eyes, "Do you have a problem?"

"Hmph, how dare you leave without Mr. Tyron's permission?" Kenneth glowered at Lucas with resentment.

If not for this bastard, I would have gotten my hands on Cheyenne a long time ago! I wouldn't have remained in a stalemate with him here and eventually ended up offending Tyron, putting me in a frightening and near-death situation!

This is all Lucas Gray's fault!

Besides, Kenneth had just thought of leveraging Tyron's power to deal with Lucas, so how could he let him leave now?

Kenneth pointed at Cheyenne beside Lucas and said to Tyron subserviently with a malicious smile, "Mr. Tyron, what do you think of this woman?"

When Tyron barged in in a drunken stupor earlier, he had tried to molest the sexily dressed Nikki without the slightest regard for the presence of the others. So Tyron was clearly an unbridled lecher.

Moreover, Cheyenne was even more beautiful than Nikki, and Kenneth was positive that Tyron would be attracted to her!

Tyron casually glanced at the woman beside Lucas, only to be so taken aback that he immediately widened his eyes and sat up straight.

When Tyron confronted Kenneth and the others just now, Lucas had been standing in front of Cheyenne to shield her. So Tyron merely knew that there were two women in the private room, but he didn't pay much attention to Cheyenne.

Only now did he get a good look at Cheyenne's face and figure for the first time.

He didn't expect to see such a stunningly gorgeous woman here in LA!

She was easily a rare beauty in this city!

Tyron had always been a lustful man, and at this point, his eyes were glued onto Cheyenne. Looking just like a lecher, he praised with amazement, "Amazing. This woman is so stunning!"

Kenneth glanced at the gloomy Lucas smugly and deliberately said, "Mr. Tyron, I planned to sleep with this woman tonight, but since you're here, I'll naturally let you have her. Only you deserve to have such an amazing beauty!"

He intentionally left out the fact that Cheyenne was already Lucas's wife. And he was making it sound as if Cheyenne was already his woman and at his disposal, so he could give her to other men like a gift.

Seeing how sensible Kenneth was, Tyron laughed out loud and exclaimed heartily, "Hehe, nice one, kid! From now on, you'll be my best buddy!"

Since Tyron had taken a fancy to Cheyenne, he naturally found Lucas, who was standing next to Cheyenne and still holding her hand, a complete eyesore.

“No matter who you are, get lost and move away from the woman I have set my sights on!” Tyron commanded with his hand raised and pointing at Lucas.

Cheyenne, who was being objectified as a trophy that Tyron was bent on getting, was so furious that her face was as red as a tomato.

But she had just witnessed his arrogant behavior and how he had ruthlessly broken the arms and legs of the scions of LA with a crowbar. Yet their fathers, the helmsmen of top families, didn't dare to make a single sound at all. Moreover, Tyron's overprotective father, Matthew Benson, was right next door.

All of this made Cheyenne infuriated yet scrupulous.

Tyron wasn't only arrogant and obnoxious, but he also had a high status. The consequences of offending him would definitely be dire!

Even though Lucas now owned several large companies in Orange County and was also the chairman of the Solar Corporation, the largest enterprise in LA, he still seemed somewhat inferior compared to the Bensons from San Francisco.

After all, the Bensons were backed by a top family in San Francisco, the Coles!

What should we do now? Cheyenne's heart was full of burning anxiety.

“Mr. Tyron, I'm afraid you don't know yet, but this beautiful chick here is named Cheyenne Carter, and she used to be known as the most gorgeous girl in Orange County. It's her greatest blessing to be able to serve you tonight!” A sarcastic remark full of sourness suddenly sounded.

Nikki was standing beside Kenneth and glaring at Cheyenne with jealousy while telling Tyron about Cheyenne.

Of course, Cheyenne's title as the most beautiful girl in Orange County immediately made Tyron feel a burning desire to get his hands on her.

Chapter 419: Don't Know Any Better

Nikki was truly green with envy and jealous of Cheyenne for being so lucky.

She's a married woman and used goods. Yet she managed to charm Kenneth with her pretty face and make him so smitten that he was bent on getting his hands on her. Now, she's even managed to attract the scion of the Benson family from San Francisco, who also wants to get his hands on her.

In terms of beauty, I'm not much worse than this bitch. But after trying to get close to Kenneth for so long, he still hasn't shown any interest in me.

When Tyron was drunk and dazed just now, he had even tried to molest Nikki, but she had merely thought of him as an ordinary drunkard and dodged after shrieking. She was utterly disgusted with him at the time.

But now, it turned out the drunkard was actually the only son of the esteemed Matthew Benson from San Francisco and had a much higher status than Kenneth. If she could cozy up to him, she would surely get to live in the lap of luxury for the rest of her life.

Unfortunately, Tyron sobered up after getting beaten up just now and had completely forgotten about trying to molest Nikki. Even when she deliberately made her presence known in front of him, she couldn't attract him at all.

Yet Tyron, who wasn't interested in Nikki in the slightest, took a fancy to Cheyenne the moment he laid his eyes on her, greatly infuriating Nikki!

After Nikki made that snide and sarcastic remark out of jealousy, which sounded like gaining Tyron's favor was the luckiest thing that could happen to Cheyenne, Cheyenne widened her eyes in disbelief and glared at Nikki.

"Nikki, I am your cousin. How could you say such things!?! Do you have a conscience at all?!" Cheyenne was extremely furious and disappointed.

She had still been thinking that Nikki might plead for mercy on her behalf and ask Tyron and Kenneth to let her leave out of consideration of their familial ties.

But Nikki actually refused to help her and even made a conscious effort to send her to the lion's den while still mocking her jealously.

"Hah, didn't you just say that I'm not fit to call you my cousin?" Nikki smirked smugly and smiled maliciously. "Mr. Tyron is the scion of the Bensons from San Francisco, and he can have any woman he wants. You should be thanking him for taking a liking to a woman like you! Don't push your luck and continue being so ignorant. Or else, if you anger Tyron, your good-for-nothing husband will have to face the fate of being beaten to death right here!"

Then she even deliberately picked up the crowbar that Tyron had thrown on the ground and placed it beside him, for fear that he would forget to hit Lucas with it.

Kenneth chimed in from the side, "Nikki is right. Cheyenne, you have to serve Tyron well later! As long as you can please him, all it'll take is a few words from him, and you can expand your company's business to LA! This is a rare opportunity you must seize!"

He no longer had any fantasies about Cheyenne now because Tyron's presence had determined that she would never belong to him. So he might as well be generous and offer her to Tyron, which would at least allow him to get into Tyron's good books.

He thought he would have plenty of opportunities to bed Cheyenne if he wanted to in the future!

Tyron crossed one leg over the other while sitting on the chair, ogling Cheyenne lecherously and eagerly waiting for her to throw herself into his arms obediently.

Although he just learned that this stunning beauty was actually married to the man beside her, he thought that it wasn't a big deal because he just wanted to toy with her, not marry her. So it didn't matter to him whether she was married or not.

Unfortunately, Cheyenne was different from most women he usually interacted with. How could she possibly sell her body for benefits?

She gripped Lucas's hand tightly. Her palms were so sweaty that her sweat had already stained Lucas's palm.

"Lucas Gray, why are you still standing here? Hurry up and get lost. You don't want to witness Tyron having fun with your wife right in front of you, do you?" Nikki suddenly rebuked.

Hearing this humiliating remark, Cheyenne immediately began trembling out of anger.

Just as she was about to chide Nikki for being shameless, Lucas stopped Cheyenne and said softly, "Honey, you don't need to say anything else to someone like her. You don't have to be afraid either. I won't let anything happen to you, and I will be fine. Just remember. No one in this country can hurt me, let alone force me to do anything against my wishes.

"Hmph, he's just the scion of a family in San Francisco. It's no big deal. Even if the members of the eight major families from DC dare to try and provoke me, I'll annihilate them immediately!"

Lucas's words were domineering and condescending, and he gave off a sharp and cold aura that was so intimidating that no one dared to look him in the eye.

He sounded extremely arrogant too.

Not only did he not take the Bensons, a prestigious family in San Francisco, seriously, but he even disregarded the eight top families of DC and claimed that he could immediately wipe them out effortlessly.

In the eyes of Tyron and Kenneth, Lucas was just being ignorant and imperious! *Does he know how powerful the eight top families of DC are?*

Cheyenne looked at Lucas seriously. "Yes, I believe you, Hubby!"

“Hahahahaha! This is really hilarious!” Tyron suddenly broke into hysterical laughter, and he was guffawing so hard that he was bent over. Pointing at Lucas and Cheyenne, he asked Kenneth while laughing, “These two... Haha, are they fools? He actually said that he can destroy even the eight top families of DC. What a joke!”

Kenneth sneered in derision. “Mr. Tyron, this kid is an absolute fool! He doesn’t even know the Parkers’ status in LA, let alone the most prestigious families of California and the eight top families in DC! This guy is a complete good-for-nothing who likes issuing empty threats all the time. He doesn’t even know how terrifyingly powerful those families are! Just treat his words as a joke!”

Nikki quickly added fuel to the fire. “Yeah, Mr. Tyron, this punk is indeed a good-for-nothing. You probably don’t know how famous he is in Orange County. He’s notorious for freeloaded off Cheyenne. And after becoming her live-in husband by sleeping with her, he sponged off her for six years. He’s just a piece of garbage we can’t get rid of no matter how hard we try! He’s shameless and detestable!”

Hearing these harsh words, Cheyenne couldn’t tolerate it any longer and retorted loudly, “Nikki Heron, shut up! My husband is nothing like what you said. Stop slandering him!”

Lucas must have heard plenty of such callous words over the past few years, but now, Cheyenne couldn’t stand hearing anyone slander and insult him in front of her.

In particular, a vile and abominable person like Nikki was even less qualified to speak about Lucas like this!

“Honey, don’t get upset because of these idiots. Let’s go!” Lucas squeezed the back of Cheyenne’s hand and walked out with her hand in his.

“Hold it! I’ll see who dares to leave without my permission!” Tyron flew into a rage when he saw them trying to leave with no regard for his presence. “Bodyguards, grab this man and break all his limbs. Let’s see how he continues acting all arrogant in front of me!”

Chapter 420: The Mightiness of Stanley Ray

As soon as Tyron issued the order, the two bodyguards behind him immediately charged toward Lucas menacingly, and they even began clawing at Lucas’s chest and arms to grab him and hold him down.

But just as their hands reached Lucas, a figure suddenly appeared in front of them at lightning speed!

Bang!

Bang!

The figure instantly kicked both bodyguards, blasting them far away. They soon crashed on the ground beside Tyron's feet.

Tyron was almost hit by the bodyguards flying backward. After yelling in horror, he suddenly got up, took two steps back, and hollered, "Who are you?!"

The figure standing in front of Lucas and Cheyenne was a lanky middle-aged man in his forties fiddling with a sharp dagger in his hand.

No one knew where exactly he had come from.

But he had moved as quickly as lightning and managed to send Tyron's strong bodyguards flying with his kicks. His strength and combat abilities were far greater than the bodyguards'.

He seems to be protecting Lucas Gray and Cheyenne Carter. Is this mysterious man who popped up out of nowhere their bodyguard?

At this moment, Kenneth's eyes were full of incredulity as he finally got a clear look at the face of this lanky middle-aged man. He blurted in astonishment, "It's you?!"

His voice was obviously trembling, and clearly, he was terrified of the man opposite him.

"Do you know this person?" Tyron immediately asked.

"He... he's Stanley! Stanley Ray!" Kenneth revealed Stanley's name with great difficulty as his body trembled.

As soon as everyone heard Stanley's name, they were greatly taken aback. There wasn't a need for Kenneth to introduce him at all.

The reason was that they were no stranger to Stanley's name!

Stanley was the top hitman in LA. He used to work for the Brookes and had secretly done a lot of things for them. He would kill all the rivals of the Brookes and those who had offended the family head.

Stanley had impeccable combat skills. And being exceptionally good at stealth and assassination, he was a deadly killer from whose clutches none of his targets had ever been able to escape!

Stanley's help was the reason that the Brookes managed to progress by leaps and bounds to become a top family in LA within just a few short years. Even the Parkers and the Owens, who were previously on par with the Brookes, didn't dare to offend them. Of course, it was mainly because they didn't dare to offend the daunting and formidable killer Stanley!

Even from San Francisco, Tyron had heard about Stanley before and was thoroughly shocked by his abilities. Stanley was just as famous in San Francisco, where many families like the Kingstons had offered staggering amounts of money to poach him, only to end up being rejected by him.

Strictly speaking, turning down the solicitation of a top family like the Kingstons was quite an offensive thing to do. If Stanley were anyone else, the Kingstons would have never let him off. But they didn't end up doing anything to him because they were wary and scrupulous of his terrifying abilities.

Even Tyron's father, Matthew, was once tempted to hire Stanley and even confidently said to Tyron that they would no longer have to rely on the Coles to become a top family that could stand on equal footing with the Coles as long as they had an impressive expert like Stanley!

Unfortunately, Stanley had even turned down the Kingstons' offer, so Matthew could only dispel the thought with disappointment.

Now that they had seen the legendary killer Stanley in the flesh right in front of them, they were undoubtedly nervous and daunted.

At this moment, Tyron felt the exact same fear that Kenneth had within him. *Didn't they say this terrifying killer disappeared with the destruction of the Brookes? Why did he suddenly appear here? He's even standing in front of Lucas Gray and his wife. Could they be related in some way?*

Tyron, Kenneth, Nikki, and the others were all thinking about it in shock and bewilderment.

"Lucas, how do you want to deal with them? Do you want to keep them alive or dead?" the legendary killer Stanley suddenly said.

But his question almost made Tyron and the others pee in their pants in fear!

For one, they confirmed through Stanley's words that he was indeed on Lucas's side and taking orders from him, which was simply unbelievable!

Second, Stanley asked if Lucas wanted to keep them alive or dead, which meant... that he wanted to kill them all?

But it wasn't impossible for Stanley to kill all of them, given the history of what he had done. Countless helmsmen of top families had died at his hands, let alone scions like them.

All of a sudden, Tyron and Kenneth both looked at each other and saw the fear and panic in each other's eyes.

Meanwhile, Nikki's legs went limp, and she fell to the ground, unable to get up anymore.

At this moment, they were overwhelmed with regret. Had they known earlier that Lucas, whom they thought was a good-for-nothing, had the protection of such a powerful person, they would never have dared to stop him just now and try to fight him!

They didn't end up stopping Lucas and Cheyenne but even ended up getting into trouble with a terrifying killer!

"I just heard you say that you were going to break my limbs and turn me into a cripple," Lucas suddenly said to Tyron slowly.

Tyron shuddered, wishing he could give himself two slaps!

But this was indeed the command he had given to his bodyguards just now, which Stanley had probably heard too. Even if he wanted to deny it, he couldn't!

Tyron stared at his elite bodyguards, whom he had spent a ton of money to hire. They were now lying motionlessly on the ground, unable to get up at all.

Stanley seemed to have merely kicked them just now, but the power of his legs and kicks wasn't something that ordinary people could match up to. The bodyguards were severely injured, and Stanley had completely crippled them!

Tyron began to panic. He gritted his teeth and then dropped to his knees in front of Lucas with a loud thud, all while Kenneth and Nikki watched in astonishment!

"I'm... I'm sorry! I was just joking just now. I definitely don't dare to show you any disrespect!" Tyron was so horrified that he was on the verge of tears.

His bodyguards had been crippled. And now that he was on his own, he was definitely no match for Stanley! If he really ended up provoking Lucas, even his father wouldn't be able to save him despite being in the room next door. By the time Matthew came over, he would probably only get to see Tyron's corpse.

His father had once taught him to choose his battles wisely and to succumb when necessary. In an adverse situation where all the odds were not in his favor, it wasn't an embarrassing thing for a scion like him to kneel down and beg for mercy!

As long as he had the chance to in the future, he would definitely take revenge and pay Lucas back in his own coin a hundredfold...

Kenneth was flabbergasted and dumbstruck to see Tyron kneeling down in front of Lucas without hesitation. His mouth was wide open, and he was stunned for a long time.

But when he recovered from the shock, he immediately followed suit without hesitation and got on his knees too. He said with regret, "Lucas... Lucas, I was too blind and ignorant to have offended you. I totally deserve to die! But please don't kill me. I'll definitely make it up to you. Please give me a chance to make amends and atone for my mistakes! I will never dare to disrespect you again!"

Chapter 421: You're Not Human

Even though Kenneth detested Lucas, Stanley was standing right in front of Lucas, so he had no choice but to succumb!

Wealthy scions of LA like them were all very clear of how terrifying Stanley was. He was a formidable killer whom even Kenneth's grandfather didn't dare to provoke, let alone Kenneth himself.

"Oh? You're the scion of the esteemed Parker family. Yet you're getting on your knees and apologizing to me?" Lucas mocked with derision to get back at them.

Kenneth's face was extremely gloomy, with fear and chagrin written all over it.

He initially planned to use this dinner to get his hands on Cheyenne. But in the end, he didn't even touch her hand but instead offended Tyron and Matthew successively. He even almost had his limbs broken with a crowbar by Tyron. Now, he had also offended Lucas and the terrifying killer Stanley!

But at this moment, Kenneth was full of hatred and resentment toward Nikki. *It's all this woman's fault for repeatedly telling me that Lucas Gray is just a good-for-nothing, causing me to belittle him and disregard him.*

But now, Stanley Ray is standing in front of him and protecting him. He's so respectful toward him too. Is this the power and authority that a good-for-nothing can have?

In fact, Kenneth even began to wonder if Lucas had something to do with the sudden destruction of the Brookes.

After all, the Brooke family's guardian, Stanley, was now openly protecting Lucas!

But even after racking his brains, Kenneth still couldn't figure out just which top family had the last name 'Gray'. *Could he be from a wealthy family in another state?*

Beside Lucas, Cheyenne was shocked to see that the two scions of wealthy families who had just been all haughty and condescending were now on their knees to beg Lucas for mercy. She fell into a daze, as it all seemed so surreal to her.

Lucas doesn't seem to have done anything at all. Why did the two of them suddenly get on their knees?

Is it because of this lanky middle-aged man who suddenly appeared?

Cheyenne wasn't from LA, and the Carter family's status was too low, so she had never heard of Stanley before.

Moreover, she didn't know that Lucas had arranged for Stanley to come here and protect Charlotte and her since a long time ago.

Since Stanley had always been protecting them in secret and had never appeared in front of them before, Cheyenne naturally hadn't met him yet and was completely unaware of his existence.

For example, Stanley didn't suddenly appear because Lucas had called him. But rather, it was because he had been secretly protecting Cheyenne.

As opposed to the baffled Cheyenne, Nikki was horrified to see this situation!

In Nikki's opinion, the Parkers, a top family in LA, were already extremely powerful and impressive. Thus, Kenneth became her target. Even if she couldn't become his lover, she would try her best to become his closest friend. So she had sacrificed her cousin Cheyenne and was bent on helping Kenneth sleep with her no matter what.

Today, Tyron, yet another formidable scion of a top wealthy family, appeared again. His family was even more powerful than the Parkers, and they could easily subdue the rich scions of LA, including Kenneth, who had also kneeled down to him.

Thus, Tyron became the most impressive scion in Nikki's heart. But unfortunately, Tyron didn't have any interest in her. So she could only continue trying to offer Cheyenne to him to win his favor, hoping that she could one day get close to him.

But the two top scions in her heart were both now kneeling to her good-for-nothing cousin-in-law like dogs!

It was simply too shocking and unbelievable!

Nikki's eyes were wide open as she refused to believe the truth.

"No... This isn't true... How is this possible?" Nikki was screaming hysterically in her heart, and she couldn't help muttering her thoughts.

Kenneth's eyes were full of immense hatred the moment he heard Nikki's voice! *This bitch is to blame for giving me the wrong information and misleading me, causing me to end up offending this bigwig, Lucas Gray!*

As soon as he thought that Nikki was the reason for his current predicament, Kenneth's heart was full of anger.

“Lucas, what happened today was actually all planned by this bitch, Nikki Heron! I didn’t know who Miss Carter was at first, but Nikki Heron kept tempting me, saying that she wanted to give her cousin to me! She even... asked me for a villa in exchange for her help. She deliberately set up this dinner with the intention of drugging your drink to make you pass out before sending your wife to me!”

Boiling with fury, Kenneth immediately revealed the plan that he and Nikki had devised previously. And he even took the opportunity to put all the blame on Nikki. “I didn’t plan to go against you at first, but this woman kept brainwashing me and telling me that you’re just a... a pushover. She even said that you’re not worthy of her cousin at all. That’s why I became muddled and made all these mistakes!

“Lucas, I’ve indeed done something wrong, but the culprit is this woman! You mustn’t let her off the hook easily!”

As soon as Kenneth said this, Nikki immediately turned deathly pale. She was in complete disbelief, looking as if she had been struck by lightning.

She never expected that Kenneth would actually take the initiative to come clean about everything and put the blame on her!

She had done all of these things for Kenneth and for the sake of getting into his good books! *How can he sell me out and betray me like that?*

While Nikki was panicking and at a complete loss for what to do, Cheyenne looked at Nikki’s face that had somehow become unrecognizable to her and was utterly heartbroken.

Although she had learned of how heartless Nikki was and that Nikki had never seen her as her cousin before, Cheyenne never thought that the culprit of all this was Nikki, who had been deliberately trying to please other men at the expense of her dignity. Nikki even went so far as to collude with Kenneth and devise such a vicious scheme against her!

If Lucas hadn’t been careful and wary enough to refuse to drink the drugged glass of wine, their plan would have succeeded, and Cheyenne would have probably already become Kenneth’s plaything by now!

If that had happened, she would have woken up to a bleak future tomorrow!

Had she been defiled, she would have been too ashamed to continue living.

Nikki’s plan was extremely vicious, and she was clearly out to force Cheyenne to death!

Cheyenne was so sad and enraged that she began trembling from head to toe as large drops of tears rolled down her cheeks. She broke down and hollered furiously, “Nikki

Heron, you're not human at all! I'm your cousin. Did you forget how I protected you and took care of you since we were children? When you were in college, who was the one who scrimped and saved money for you time and time again? Yet you're treating me like this now. Can you call yourself a human!"

Lucas was heartbroken and distressed to see Cheyenne like this. He put an arm around her to give her his silent support.

But at the same time, Lucas glanced at Nikki hostilely with disgust.

The look in his eyes immediately made Nikki shiver. It was as if she had fallen into an ice cellar!

Lucas's gaze was just too unnerving!

Chapter 422: Snitching

When Nikki saw Lucas's terrifying gaze and the petrifying killer beside him, she was instantly frightened out of her wits.

As soon as Lucas gave the order, Stanley definitely wouldn't spare her!

She didn't want to die yet!

Nikki no longer cared about anything else and began crawling and scrambling toward Cheyenne. She hugged Cheyenne's thighs while bawling her eyes out. "Cheyenne, I-I'm sorry! You're right. I'm just an ingrate who's worse than a beast! I've let you down! But I really know my mistakes. Please forgive me on account that we're cousins and give me another chance, okay?"

"Don't mention that we're cousins ever again. I really wish I never had anything to do with you!" Cheyenne pushed Nikki away.

She had long been hurt and heartbroken by her so-called 'cousin' and was now utterly disgusted by her hypocritical words and crocodile tears.

Nikki didn't genuinely know her mistakes and was merely trying to make Cheyenne ask Lucas to spare her because she realized that the situation wasn't in her favor!

If not for the sudden appearance of a powerful expert like Stanley, Nikki would probably still be standing in front of her and smugly celebrating the fact that she had finally made Cheyenne sleep with another man!

The thought of this made Cheyenne feel disgusted.

Lucas stared at Nikki coldly and couldn't help having murderous intent. *This woman had the audacity to make use of Cheyenne, plot against her, and even tried to exchange her innocence for her own benefit. She really deserves to die!*

But although he was repulsed by Nikki and wished he could kill her, she was Cheyenne's cousin after all. Given Cheyenne's personality, she probably wouldn't let him kill Nikki now.

As expected, although Cheyenne hated Nikki for being so vicious and malicious, Nikki was still her cousin after all, and their mothers were sisters. So Cheyenne still couldn't bring herself to see Nikki die in front of her.

Cheyenne suddenly looked at Lucas and said, "Lucas, let her go. I don't want to see her again."

She was actually asking Lucas to show Nikki mercy and spare her.

Otherwise, Lucas really wouldn't.

Lucas had long expected Cheyenne to react this way. Since she didn't want Nikki to die, he would naturally respect her opinion.

But Lucas merely looked at Nikki coldly and warned her sternly, "This time, I'll spare you on account that my wife is pleading on your behalf. If you ever dare to let Cheyenne down again, I won't spare your life. You'd better remember my words!"

The killing intent in Lucas's eyes was so discernible that Nikki immediately hung her head low in horror after taking a mere glance at him. She hurriedly answered fearfully, "Yes! I will definitely reflect on myself and turn over a new leaf. I'll never dare to do anything to let Cheyenne and you down again!"

Lucas roared, "Get lost!"

Nikki frantically scrambled out of the room in panic, feeling as if she had been spared from a death sentence.

Soon, only the horrified and uneasy wealthy scions were left in the private room.

Among them, there were those who had had their limbs broken by Tyron and were kneeling on the ground as per Tyron's orders, not allowed to move a muscle.

Now, Tyron and Kenneth were both kneeling on the ground as well, and they were almost filling up the empty space at the entrance of the room.

With his head hung low, Tyron secretly panicked and wondered if his father, who was just next door, would realize that something was amiss and send the bodyguards to save him.

Although both of Tyron's bodyguards were now lying down in front of Stanley motionlessly and unable to get up, Matthew's bodyguards were the most elite of all the bodyguards working for the Bensons. So Tyron thought that they should be able to contend with Stanley!

At this moment, Tyron was full of resentment for the soundproofed walls of the private room because the sounds of the commotion here weren't audible from the room next door at all.

But at this moment, Nikki, who had just dashed out of the room and immediately wanted to leave the Lion Restaurant, suddenly had a change of mind when she passed the door of the room next door.

Bang!

The finely-made sturdy door of the private room was suddenly knocked open forcefully. Matthew and Damon, who were having a conversation over tea, both turned their heads at the same time, only to see a woman they didn't recognize barging in.

"Who are you? Get the hell out of here!" Damon flew into a rage and shouted at her.

The two bodyguards standing behind Matthew immediately walked toward her to throw her out of the room.

She raised her head and hurriedly said anxiously, "Sirs, Mr. Tyron and Kenneth are in the room next door, and they're about to be beaten to death!"

"What did you say?!" Matthew and Damon were dumbfounded. They both sprung up with a loud thud.

They had just left that room a short while ago, and the scions were still in that room. Who would be so daring to hit the two of them?!

"I'm Nikki Heron, a close friend of Kenneth. I struggled for my life and escaped from that room to report this to you! What I said is absolutely true! They're right next door. Just go inside to take a look, and you'll know! Saving their lives is the most important thing right now!" Nikki exclaimed anxiously, seemingly panic-stricken.

After a brief moment of losing his temper, Damon immediately said, "How dare that person hit Tyron? He must have a death wish! I won't let him off!"

Then he took the lead and rushed out.

Matthew had an incomparably gloomy gaze in his eyes.

He had never laid a finger on his precious son ever since he was born. Yet Tyron had been beaten up twice in LA, making him boil with fury! "I'll see who has the audacity to hit my son!"

Matthew stormed off to the room next door with both his powerful bodyguards.

He swore that he would beat the person who hit his son to death to vent his anger!

The rest followed closely behind the two big shots and dashed into the room next door one after another.

The nervousness on Nikki's face faded, and her lips slowly curled into a cold smile. "Hmph, Lucas Gray, you think you're so mighty, huh? All you have is Stanley Ray by your side. Let's see how a good-for-nothing like you faces the wrath of the helmsmen of the prestigious Parker and Benson families!"

Chapter 423: Great Tension

When Damon rushed to the room next door, he was immediately greeted with the shocking sight of a terrifying figure.

He immediately stopped in his tracks and shouted in horror, "Stanley Ray?!"

This godlike terrifying existence was a nightmare to almost all the helmsmen of prestigious families in LA. There was a time when they were all afraid of accidentally offending the Brookes and incurring their wrath because they would then send the formidable Stanley to silently slit their necks in their sleep.

Since the destruction of the Brookes, Stanley had almost vanished and only occasionally appeared a few times around the general manager of the Solar Corporation. They were extremely wary and afraid of him and didn't dare to meddle with the large businesses and enterprises that the Brookes had left behind in LA, and they could only watch Flynn acquire all of them.

Later on, Stanley never appeared in LA again, and they all thought that he had left. They didn't expect him to show up again today with a cold, menacing, and bloodthirsty aura that made them terrified.

Matthew hurried over too. He wasn't familiar with who Stanley was, but when he saw his son kneeling on the ground in an extremely humiliating manner, his eyes immediately turned red and widened in anger.

"Son!" Matthew shouted and hurried over.

“Dad!” As soon as Tyron saw his father, he felt as if he had seen his savior. He frantically yelled, “Dad, this bastard forced me to get on my knees to apologize to him! He even threatened to kill me! Hurry up and take revenge for me!”

When Tyron saw Matthew and the two bodyguards behind him, he immediately saw hope and got up from the ground energetically to run toward Matthew.

But as soon as he stood up, a figure instantly appeared right beside him before he could even run. The figure then kicked him hard in the back of his knee, causing him to fall back onto the ground and once again kneel in front of Lucas.

Seeing the way his precious son was being treated, Matthew was so furious that his blood pressure spiked, and he roared in fury, “Someone, grab these two people immediately! I want them dead!”

Never once could he ever bear to hit Tyron, and yet Tyron was now kicked and being forced to kneel on the ground right in front of him. Matthew was livid!

Just as the two bodyguards behind Matthew were about to rush forward, an icy cold voice filled the air. “I’ll crush on his head if anyone dares to step forward!”

Lucas stepped on Tyron’s head and glared at everyone with a menacing aura.

Stanley stood beside him threateningly while continuously fiddling with a sharp dagger in his hand and glowering at the people in front of him with a dangerous gaze.

It was as if a pause button had been pressed, and Matthew and his bodyguards all immediately froze, fearing that Lucas would crush Tyron’s head like it was a watermelon.

At the same time, the helmsmen of the top LA families who tagged along at the back were shell-shocked as they looked at the scene in front of them.

Stanley was no stranger to them because he was a devilish existence that had once made them all terrified.

But he was now like a loyal guardian protecting a young man they didn’t recognize.

Meanwhile, the young man kept a straight face even after seeing them, the bigwigs of LA. He was still standing where he was, all composed and cool with his foot on the head of the scion of the Benson family!

Who is this arrogant and calm young man? This question instantly surfaced in everyone’s minds.

But when they saw the looks of bewilderment and helplessness on each other's faces, they fell silent unanimously, as no one dared to ask this question at all.

"Dad, quick, save me... Ah!" Tyron, whose head Lucas was stepping on, struggled to get up. Having lived for more than two decades, he had never been subjected to such humiliation before. Being pressed to the ground with his head stepped on by someone right in front of so many people was an absolute insult to him!

But Lucas was applying so much force that Tyron couldn't break free regardless of how hard he tried. Instead, his face was starting to hurt from the friction, and he could only beg his father for help.

Matthew was heartbroken. He immediately looked at Lucas and threatened, "Punk, what are you waiting for? Hurry up and let go of my son. If you dare to lay a finger on him, I'll immediately..."

"Ahhh!!! Arghh! It hurts!!! Help!" Tyron suddenly shrieked miserably before Matthew could finish issuing his threat.

As soon as Lucas heard his threat, he immediately increased the strength of his foot on Tyron's face, causing it to deform slightly.

Matthew was furious and anxious, but he no longer dared to threaten Lucas again.

This loathsome young man was clearly a tough nut to crack who hated being threatened.

What should I do?

Regardless of how vicious and brutal Matthew usually was, there was nothing he could do now that his precious son was being stepped on by someone.

Kenneth was kneeling right next to Tyron. When he saw Tyron's tragic plight from the corner of his eye, he was so frightened that he started shuddering. Even though his grandfather was right in front of him, he didn't dare to ask for help.

Nikki was standing right at the back of the crowd, with her vision blocked by the helmsmen. So she couldn't see what was going on and could only hear Matthew's threat coming to an abrupt halt, Tyron's sudden shrieks, and Lucas's arrogant statement.

She pursed her lips in disdain.

In her opinion, Lucas was just a good-for-nothing throwing his weight around because Stanley was by his side. Although she didn't know why Stanley would stand on Lucas's side, she felt that it didn't matter because Stanley was alone. Once the helmsmen called

all their elite bodyguards over, Stanley would definitely be outnumbered. She was certain that he wouldn't be able to defeat them, and the only fate awaiting Lucas in the end was death!

Nikki thought that once this matter was over, Matthew and Damon would definitely thank her for reporting to them in time. When the time came, she would be able to build connections with the Bensons from San Francisco.

This way, the Herons might be able to become the third giant of LA with the support of the Bensons. She would also then become the heiress of the esteemed Heron family and no longer had to be subservient to anyone!

The thought of this scene made Nikki feel confident and pleased. She couldn't wait for that moment to arrive!

Just as Nikki was hiding behind the crowd and fantasizing, tension built up in the room.

Matthew looked at Lucas and wished he could rip him into shreds. But he had no choice but to suppress his anger and try his best to stay calm. "Hey, I don't know who you are, but I'd like to tell you that I'm Matthew Benson, the helmsman of the Benson family, who is backed by the Cole family, the top family in San Francisco. If you're willing to let my son off now, I can pretend that nothing has happened and promise not to pursue this matter."

Although he thought that his attitude was amicable enough, the muscles of his cheeks were twitching violently, and he was clearly gritting his teeth. Moreover, his words sounded like a threat. All these signs indicated that he wasn't sincere at all.

Lucas glanced at him coldly and said indifferently, "If this is the attitude you have when you're begging me, just get ready to collect your son's corpse today!"

Chapter 424: A Small Lesson

Translator: Atlas Studios Editor: Atlas Studios

In fact, Lucas wasn't an arrogant and condescending person who liked trampling on others.

Strictly speaking, Nikki and Kenneth were the two most disgusting culprits for everything that happened tonight, while Tyron just happened to get involved later.

But under Kenneth and Nikki's incitement, Tyron began to harbor designs on Cheyenne and even said that he wanted to break Lucas's limbs. Since then, it was destined that Lucas wouldn't let him off easily.

As for Matthew, he didn't try to understand the situation or get the facts as soon as he arrived and instead instructed his bodyguards to grab Lucas to teach him a lesson. Now that his son's life was in Lucas's hands, he nevertheless continued to threaten Lucas with his power blindly. This alone made Lucas extremely displeased.

What Lucas hated the most was being threatened by others.

Suddenly, Cheyenne came up to Lucas and whispered into his ear, "Hubby, why don't we just forget it?"

The numerous people standing around them were the scions and helmsmen of various top families, including the bigwigs Matthew Benson and Damon Parker. If Lucas insisted on going toe-to-toe against them, he might end up offending all of the forces of LA.

Even if they were forced to give in to Lucas for the time being due to their fear of the brutal Stanley, they would probably try every possible way to take revenge on him in the future.

If Stanley wasn't around one day, wouldn't Lucas be in great danger?

In short, there was huge tension now, and it was the first time in Cheyenne's life that she was surrounded by these big shots. So she couldn't help being anxious and worried.

Looking at the nervous and worried Cheyenne, Lucas patted the back of her hand and said comfortingly, "Honey, don't worry. Didn't you say previously that you wanted to know what kind of person I really am? Now, just put your mind at ease and stay by my side. I promise nothing will happen to us. I will reveal my strength to you bit by bit. You just need to stay with me and have faith in me."

He completely understood Cheyenne's concerns. He knew it was because she was worried about him and had underestimated his true strength.

But a scene like today was just considered a minor squabble to Lucas, and Cheyenne should gradually adapt and get used to his enormous power, as well as his ability to cope with any situation.

Only then would she not have the slightest fear or panic when he dealt with behemoths like the Huttons in the future.

Cheyenne could sense that Lucas was reassuring her, and she was even more shocked by the meaning of his words.

Her husband would never fail to shock and amaze her, leaving her wondering just how terrifyingly strong he was.

Due to the silence in the room, everyone else also heard what he said very clearly.

They were all frightened.

Does this young man mean that he's been hiding his strength all this time?

How terrifying is his identity then?

Matthew stared at Lucas for a long time as his facial expression changed again and again. He suddenly said to Tyron in a deep voice, "Son, apologize to this gentleman immediately!"

The fact that Matthew could become the head of the powerful Benson family and come up with the idea of becoming a subordinate family of the Coles to further the development of the Bensons meant that he definitely wasn't just a headstrong and arrogant fool.

Being able to yield when necessary and act wisely according to the situation were some of his strengths.

He initially thought that Lucas was just an ordinary scion who popped out of nowhere. But after some judging, he changed his mind.

If Lucas was just an ordinary scion, he wouldn't be able to remain so composed in the face of so many big wigs and refuse to compromise regardless of how they lowered themselves or threatened him. Besides, Stanley, the expert whom even the Kingstons failed to recruit, was now following Lucas like an underling. This was clear proof that Lucas's identity definitely wasn't simple.

When the situation was unfavorable, people could choose to admit defeat temporarily and give in. This was something that he often preached to his son, Tyron, and also practiced himself.

He decided to make his son compromise for the time being and apologize to Lucas!

But Matthew would definitely get people to investigate Lucas's identity and background. If Lucas was indeed a member of a powerful family, Matthew would definitely bring Tyron to visit them in person and offer another apology. But if Lucas was just a liar taking them for a ride, he would definitely make him pay the price with his life!

Tyron's head was being crushed against the ground by the sole of Lucas's shoe, and he was already grimacing in pain. When he heard his father's command, he instantly felt disappointed and aggrieved. But he was completely helpless and could only obey and apologize.

"I'm... I'm sorry! Lucas, I... I was too audacious and disrespected you and your wife after being instigated by some people. I know I was wrong! Please be magnanimous and let me off this time. I promise there won't be a next time!" Tyron spluttered and begged for mercy while apologizing, his face as red as a tomato from trying to contain his anger, though the redness could also be due to Lucas stepping on his head.

The others looked at this scene with great astonishment, but they quickly lowered their heads, not daring to show the slightest expression on their faces, lest they offended Matthew and Tyron.

Lucas looked down at Tyron beneath his feet and said slowly, "Do you really know your mistake?"

Tyron hurriedly said with difficulty, "Yes! I really know my mistake, and I won't do it again in the future. I promise!"

Lucas raised his eyebrows without giving a response and suddenly said, "I suddenly remembered that you mentioned that you wanted to break my limbs and turn me into a cripple. Isn't that right?"

Then Lucas picked up the crowbar that Tyron had placed beside the chair and weighed it in his hands.

Tyron was on the verge of peeing his pants in trepidation. He frantically denied, "No, no, no! How could I possibly dare to do that? I... I was just making a casual remark. This crowbar was given to me by that bitch. I didn't intend to do anything to you... Ah!"

Before he could finish his speaking, Lucas suddenly swung the crowbar and smashed it onto Tyron's right arm.

In an instant, the crisp and clear sound of bones cracking filled the air again.

"Ah! My arm! My arm!" Tyron shrieked in misery and held onto his arm while howling in pain.

"Don't you like breaking the limbs of others? Guess you've got a taste of your own medicine! You wanted to break all four of my limbs, but I've only broken one of your arms. I'm being kind and merciful enough, aren't I?"

Lucas moved his foot away and snorted coldly at Tyron, who was rolling around on the ground in excruciating pain. Finally, he warned, "Remember, if you and your father try messing with us again in the future, the consequence won't be as simple as having your arm broken!"

With that, Lucas took Cheyenne's hand and walked out of the room as if there was no one else around.

Everyone standing in his path had their hearts palpitate uncontrollably and quickly made way for him!

Chapter 425: Nikki Courts Death

Everyone subconsciously moved away.

They all initially thought that the reason Lucas stepped on Tyron's face was undoubtedly to force Matthew into making a deal with him so that he could leave.

But who knew that Lucas would break Tyron's arm right in front of Matthew?

By doing so, he was showing his blatant disrespect for the helmsman of the Benson family.

Is he so fearless because he's really the son of a prestigious family?

Matthew leaped over to hug his son. When he saw the ghastly sight of his son's distorted arm, he was fuming, but he could only stare at Lucas's figure as he left. He didn't instruct the bodyguards to stop Lucas either.

He had to find out Lucas's identity clearly before making further plans.

Seeing Lucas about to leave with Cheyenne, Nikki, who was hiding at the back, began to get extremely anxious.

If they let Lucas leave now, she would get much less credit.

Nikki gritted her teeth and stepped forward to point at Lucas while saying loudly, "Mr. Benson, Mr. Parker, don't be fooled by this man! He's not the son of a prestigious family but just an incompetent and useless good-for-nothing! He's been married to my cousin as a live-in husband for six years, and I know everything about him! Don't let him deceive you with his pretentious front!"

Lucas suddenly stared at Nikki with a wisp of intense murderous intent in his eyes.

He had already spared her once and let her go on account that Cheyenne had pleaded for mercy on her behalf.

But she was completely unrepentant and repeatedly caused trouble to make Matthew, Damon, and the others deal with Lucas.

Indeed, she was an ingrate who would never learn her lesson!

Cheyenne's expression changed drastically, and she looked extremely sullen.

Just now, she had begged Lucas to let Nikki off on account that they were cousins when Nikki was bawling in misery.

But Nikki once again tried to cause trouble and stopped these bigwigs from sparing Lucas and Cheyenne. Just how much of a grudge did she have against them?!

Cheyenne flew into a rage and shouted, "Nikki Heron, if you continue spouting nonsense again, don't blame me for ignoring familial ties!"

Nikki was exactly the type who would never learn their lesson until they were on the brink of death. She had pleaded with Cheyenne desperately just now only because she was in a dangerous situation. She had already found it to be humiliating, and now that she was still alive and well, she didn't take Cheyenne's words seriously at all.

Ignoring the hostile expression on Cheyenne's face, Nikki continued to yell, "I'm telling the truth! Lucas Gray is just good at fighting. That's all. He's actually a penniless man who has nothing to his name. He can't even compare to ordinary affluent families, let alone prestigious families like you guys! Mr. Benson, if you let him intimidate you into letting him leave scot-free even after breaking Tyron's arm, who will respect the Bensons once word about this gets out?"

Nikki was full of righteous indignation, as if she was entirely thinking for the Bensons.

Although her words sounded somewhat disrespectful, and she seemed to be inciting them, Nikki didn't have any other choice.

She had to make Matthew feel that what she said was right so that her purpose of trying to get connected to the Bensons could be achieved to the very best.

Nikki's words made all the bigwigs present doubtful and apprehensive.

They wondered, Could this extremely powerful-looking young man really be just a live-in husband at the bottom of society?

But judging from his aura and demeanor, he doesn't seem to be a live-in husband who's just a good-for-nothing!

Besides, even Stanley, the former top expert of LA, was being subservient toward Lucas. If he was really just a good-for-nothing, how could he have made Stanley treat him with such respect?

Nikki didn't believe that Lucas was some big shot because of her preconceived prejudices against him that had existed for years. But the bigwigs present were all sly old foxes who were extremely careful and scheming.

So they remained skeptical about Nikki's words and didn't believe it at all.

Various thoughts flashed through Matthew's mind, and he clenched his fists tightly, torn between issuing orders to grab Lucas and letting him go.

But his cautiousness overruled everything else.

This was a matter of grave importance, and the slightest carelessness could cause the Bensons to end up provoking a powerful expert.

Besides, he had already made up his mind long ago that he would send people to investigate Lucas's identity and background properly. Anyway, Nikki already said that Cheyenne and Lucas were her cousin and cousin-in-law. If they dared to lie to him, he would still be able to grab Lucas sooner or later!

Matthew's expression changed rapidly, while Lucas remained composed and waited for him to make a decision.

At this moment, Matthew finally raised his head. But instead of looking at Lucas, he looked at Nikki and said in a gloomy tone, "Did you just say that no one will respect the Bensons or take us seriously if word about this matter gets out?"

Nikki hurriedly said, "Yes, the esteemed scion of the Benson family had his arm broken by a good-for-nothing, but the helmsman didn't dare to take responsibility for it. If others hear about this, the reputation of the Bensons will definitely be affected. When the time comes, who will be wary and fearful of the Bensons like before?"

Matthew narrowed his eyes. "Try repeating yourself again."

Nikki was slightly puzzled, but she nevertheless bit the bullet and continued, "Well... Although I won't think so, I can't guarantee that other people won't after hearing about this matter! After all, this matter is a great shame for a powerful and domineering family like the Bensons, isn't it?"

"Haha!" Matthew suddenly sneered twice as his expression became menacing. Immediately afterward, he slapped Nikki's face!

Smack!

"Shameless woman, who do you think you are? How dare you speak to me in such a manner?!"

Nikki was caught off guard by the slap to her face, which immediately turned red and swollen on one side. A trace of blood dripped from the corner of her mouth, and two of her teeth were knocked loose by the slap.

She looked up at Matthew with shock and horror written all over her face, filled with bewilderment, as she couldn't figure out how she had angered him. "... I... Ah!"

Matthew grabbed Nikki's hair, dragged her body over with great force, and yelled at her menacingly, "Quit playing those lowly and scheming tricks in front of me! You're just trying to use me to deal with him, aren't you? Do you think I'm as stupid as you are?!"

He yanked at Nikki's hair and flung her to the ground. "How dare you try to make me

"Arrghhh!" Nikki let out an ear-piercing shriek as she was thrown onto the ground ruthlessly.

"M-Mr. Benson, I-I didn't have such intentions at all! I was just stating facts, and I really said it for the sake of the Bensons. You must believe me!"

Her cheeks were red and swollen, and a large bunch of her hair had been pulled out by Matthew. She looked to be in an extremely miserable state.

But no one sympathized with her.

Everyone could see clearly that she had suddenly stepped forward to interject with ill intentions. Besides, it was also obvious that she had intended for Matthew to grab Lucas for the sake of the so-called reputation of the Benson family.

Even a fool wouldn't believe that she wasn't deliberately making use of Matthew for her own interests and selfish intentions!

"Hmph, how dare you try arguing with me?!" Matthew kicked Nikki twice more and instructed the bodyguards behind him coldly, "I'll leave this bitch for you guys to enjoy. Do whatever you want with her. You can kill her too!"