

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

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Chapter 44

Karen sounded extremely righteous, but Cheyenne couldn't listen to her words any longer.

"Mom, regardless of how much money Lucas has, it all belongs to him. It has nothing to do with us! Also, I said that I won't get a divorce. Why do you keep bringing this up?"

After saying that, Cheyenne carried the sleepy Amelia and headed upstairs.

Karen was so infuriated by Cheyenne's reaction that she was speechless for a long time. She then faced the stairs and yelled in displeasure, "Who am I doing this for? It's all for you! That good-for-nothing finally has some money now. If you don't hurry and get it from him before dumping him, what are you keeping him around for? Seriously, you don't listen to anything I say!"

William, who had drunk too much alcohol, was lying on the couch in a trance. Jolted awake by Karen's sharp shrieking, he barked in annoyance, "Why are you yelling? You're too noisy."

Karen immediately vented her anger on him. "All you do is get drunk and throw a tantrum! You're so useless! I'm worried sick for this family, and all of you are out to make me angry. I'm so unlucky to have married a good-for-nothing like you..."

Karen was wailing when the door suddenly opened with a loud creak, and Lucas entered.

Since the last time he paid Karen rent, she turned a blind eye and did not stop him from entering the house. Anyway, he wouldn't do anything to Cheyenne. At most, he would play with Amelia. Apart from criticizing him and scolding him every now and then, Karen would treat him like he was transparent most of the time.

However, things were different now. Since Lucas was so generous as to give her fifteen thousand dollars previously, it meant that he definitely had a lot more cash on hand. But he never mentioned it before. Karen obviously wouldn't be able to tolerate it.

She just disliked Lucas!

Karen looked up and was just about to scold him, but he simply nodded at the both of them and vanished immediately.

Lucas was gone before Karen could mock him, making her even more infuriated.

“Do you have any manners? Why aren’t you greeting your elders? Hmph, indeed, you’re lowly and ill-mannered! You even hid your personal stash from us. Hah, you’re just a live-in son-in-law who sponges off us. How dare you hide your money from us?! You’ve gone overboard!” Karen was scolding incessantly in the living room and deliberately slamming the broom against the rubbish bin.

Lucas was sitting by the bed in Cheyenne’s room, carefully holding the soundly sleeping Amelia and washing her feet for her. He completely ignored the scolding coming from downstairs.

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In the beginning, he would still get angered by Karen’s harsh words. But now, he had long realized that it was not worth getting angry over her words.

But Karen was Cheyenne’s mother after all. So Lucas would treat her with basic respect, but that was as far as it went.

However, Cheyenne was utterly embarrassed. Even she found her mother’s words to be terribly callous.

“I’m sorry, my mom... she’s going through menopause, so she’s very ill-tempered and irritable recently. Don’t take it too hard.” Cheyenne racked her brain to come up with a reason for her mother’s actions.

Lucas smiled and didn’t say anything. Instead, he grabbed a soft towel and used it to wipe his daughter’s feet dry before carrying her to the bed and tucking her beneath the blanket.

After watching Lucas do all of this, Cheyenne felt more and more embarrassed.

A few days ago, she had been running a high fever after being in the rain. Amelia was worried about her but didn’t want to leave Lucas either, so Lucas brought Amelia to the room and slept on a mattress on the floor.

Today, Amelia had already fallen asleep, and the two of them were sharing the same room. So things got awkward, especially since she rejected Lucas’s proposal today.

Seemingly seeing how uneasy Cheyenne was, Lucas suddenly said, “I have something to attend to tonight, so I’ll get going.”

Before she said anything, he left.

Although he also wanted to stay and try to spend more time with her, he knew that they both needed time and that he couldn't be too eager.

There was no peace in the Carter residence tonight.

During the banquet tonight, the Carters were humiliated in a way that they had never been before.

First, the shameless shrew Karen boasted and humiliated them at the door. Afterward, they ran into the usher who deliberately neglected them and even specially arranged for them to sit at a small and shabby table by the entrance. As a result, they became the laughing stock of all the prominent figures of Orange County!

After that, Flynn Davis of the Stardust Corporation made a speech, and countless families and businesses vied to cooperate with the Brilliance Corporation, which was just like a slap to their face!

The Brilliance Corporation still belonged to them a few days ago!

Of course, Cheyenne and Karen's family irked them the most!

They were the garbage kicked out of the Carter family and had been disowned by them. Yet they managed to form connections with the Sawyers, the wealthiest family in Orange County, and even flaunted to them. They would never be able to tolerate this!

"Grandpa, are we going to let Cheyenne, her sister, and that shameless bitch Karen continue being haughty and trampling all over us?" The more Bryce thought about it, the more infuriated he was as he punched the couch hard.

His right wrist, which Lucas broke previously, was still wrapped in a thick layer of gauze.

In short, he felt that Cheyenne's family was horrid, and he wanted all of them dead!

Dominic's face was gloomy too. He had always been controlling, so after becoming the head of the family, he almost couldn't tolerate any defiance.

After he kicked Cheyenne's family out, they not only did not live a miserable life, but they even got acquainted with the Sawyers. How could the prideful Dominic Carter accept this?

"Bryce, is it true that their family is going to be the Sawyers' in-law?" Dominic asked.

Despite being indignant, Bryce nonetheless nodded. "Grandpa, when I went to their home before, I saw Charlotte driving a limited edition luxury Lamborghini that costs at

least a million dollars. Besides, I even heard that the Sawyers gave them more than just a sports car. They also gave them a villa, a few stores, and a million in cash. All of the gifts were delivered to them in a box! Furthermore, at the banquet today, I tried to make things hard for them, but the Sawyers sent someone over to say that there was a private room reserved for them. It seems to be true.”

Dominic stayed silent, but he looked even angrier.

At this moment, one of the Carters suddenly asked, “Those things belong to the Carters, so why should we give them to them?”

Chapter 45: Your Own Money

After saying that, Dominic and Bryce both looked over at this family member.

This Carter hurriedly said, “Think about it. They were still part of the family when they received those gifts, so the gifts can’t be considered as their family’s private assets! Besides, you were kind to have provided for them for decades, so it’s only right for them to show filial piety.”

After figuring out something, Bryce patted his thigh and exclaimed with excitement, “Yes! Those gifts should belong to us. I’ll go get them back from them now!”

Dominic nodded in satisfaction. “If they really become in-laws with the Sawyers, I can let them return to the family as long as they hand over those gifts.”

Bryce recalled how smug Karen looked yesterday and hesitated for a moment. “Grandpa, what if they don’t agree?”

“Hmph, if they don’t agree, we’ll make them return everything they obtained from the Carters over the years! Perhaps that box of gifts may not be enough to offset all of it. Tell them that clearly.” Dominic smirked.

“Yes, Grandpa. I know what to do.” Bryce left excitedly.

Bright early the next morning in Cheyenne’s home...

William and the others were still having breakfast when Bryce walked in with a group of people, pushed open the courtyard door, and sauntered in.

“Oh, all of you happen to be at home, huh?” Bryce smiled roguishly.

Cheyenne patted the frightened Amelia and stared at these people who barged in with disgust in her eyes.

When Karen and Charlotte saw Bryce, they were both furious as well. “What are you doing here?”

Bryce walked to the middle of the courtyard brazenly. “What am I doing here? If I remember correctly, the house that you are staying in now still belongs to the Carters. What right do you have to question me?”

“So, are you here to chase us away?” Charlotte asked.

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Both Karen’s and William’s faces were sullen.

Previously, Dominic had already openly driven them out of the Carter family and even disowned them. Now that Bryce was here, they reckoned that he must be here to confiscate their house.

Bryce stared at William and Karen. “Well, Uncle, you grew up with the Carters, and I’ve been addressing you as my uncle for so many years. No matter what, I still care for you. How can I really chase you out?”

William and Karen were shocked by his words. Although kinship was ridiculous to them, Bryce seemed to be saying that he wasn’t here to chase them out.

“What do you mean?” Cheyenne asked warily. She didn’t believe that Bryce and Dominic would care about kinship.

Besides, given Bryce’s hostile attitude toward her in the past, he obviously couldn’t wait to drive her out of the Carter family. How could he come here to say this to them after disowning them?

“What I mean is, Grandpa has decided to rescind his orders on the account that you guys have lived with us for so many years. As long as you give us the gifts from the Sawyers, Grandpa will allow you back into the Carter family,” Bryce said arrogantly.

“Hmph!” Cheyenne sneered. *So it’s just for the gifts.*

“Don’t even think about it! How can we give the gifts to you?” Karen was instantly anxious.

Staring at her, Bryce said slowly, “Aunt Karen, isn’t that what you told me last night? You said that the Sawyers have taken a liking to Charlotte and gave you a large chest of title deeds, a car, cash, and stores. You’re going to become the Sawyers’ in-laws soon. Surely you don’t care about that petty sum of money? As long as you hand these things over, Grandpa and I will let you return to the Carter family!”

“That... no...”

When she saw Bryce and Dominic at the banquet last night, she couldn't help herself and showed off to them. In the end, she found out that it was a huge misunderstanding. Now, she couldn't tell Bryce that she had made a mistake, but she wasn't willing to give the expensive gifts to the Carters.

At this moment, Charlotte walked out. “That was a mistake. The Sawyers gave those gifts to Lucas, not us.”

Bryce burst into laughter and gibed, “Charlotte Carter, do you take me for a fool? Lucas Gray? He's just a piece of trash. How could the Sawyers give him those gifts out of gratitude? You ought to come up with a less retarded excuse.”

“Those things really don't belong to us. Don't think about taking them from us. Since we've been disowned, you can take this house back, and we'll move away. That's all I have to say,” Cheyenne said coldly.

“Cheyenne, how can you say that?” Karen was displeased, as she couldn't understand why they had to give the house to them. Since they had lived here for decades, the house should have long belonged to them.

“Hmph, do you think you can just move away? It's not that easy!” Bryce dropped the pretense and showed his true intentions. He exclaimed fiercely, “I'm not afraid of letting you know. If you really want to leave the Carters, return us all the money we've spent providing for you all these years!

“I'll do a simple calculation for you. William Carter, you have been living with us for more than forty years. We'll take it that you spend fifteen thousand dollars a year. That means you've spent six hundred thousand in total.” Bryce pointed at William.

Before William could speak, he pointed at the others. “And you, Karen, Cheyenne, and Charlotte, all of you have been sponging off us for two to three decades. The three of you have spent up to one-point-four million in total. You've also taken away at least five million worth of dividends and benefits from us, and you've lived in this house for decades. Considering all the miscellaneous expenses, it won't be much to ask you for eight million, right?”

Every word Bryce said made William's and Karen's faces turn even more distressed. When she heard Bryce's last sentence, Karen could no longer hold back and screamed, “Eight million dollars?! Is this daylight robbery?! How could we have spent eight million dollars?! Besides, we only get a little more than twenty thousand in dividends!”

Bryce laughed unrestrainedly. “Don't say I'm making this up. These things are recorded in the company's accounts every year!

“Anyway, you either pay us eight million dollars now and leave the Carter family, or take out that box of gifts and we’ll let you back in the family. In the future, Grandpa might let Uncle William take over his position. You guys should consider carefully what you want to do!”

Chapter 46: The Chance to Return to the Family

Cheyenne and Charlotte naturally did not believe Bryce’s words. The Carters had never truly treated them as a part of the Carter family before, mainly because William Carter was not Dominic Carter’s biological son. Thus, Dominic obviously wouldn’t let William take over as the head of the family.

William himself did not believe what Bryce said. He grew up knowing that he and Dominic were not blood-related, and Dominic had at best been kind to him and let him join the family on account of his mother. But after his mother passed away, he no longer enjoyed the same treatment that the direct descendants of the Carter family enjoyed. For example, the direct descendants and relatives would receive almost a hundred thousand dollars each year in dividends, while William and his family would only receive about fifteen thousand.

Therefore, William didn’t believe at all that he would be able to assume the position of the head of the family in the future.

However, Karen was already tempted and was considering it in her head quickly.

Although the box of gifts was very valuable, the gifts were meant for Lucas, and she reckoned that he would definitely take them away and gain the support of the Sawyers. So she definitely wouldn’t get to keep the gifts.

In her opinion, it would be better to give them to Bryce, as that would mean that they would at least be able to return to the Carter family. And in the future, she might even get to be the mistress of the family.

Besides, she wouldn’t give all of the gifts to the Carters. The value of all the items in the box was almost fifteen million dollars, and she felt that giving half to the Carters would be enough, as she wanted to keep the remaining half. If Lucas asked the Sawyers to help him get the gifts back, she would just say that the Carters took them away and tell them to look for the Carters!

At the thought of this, the gaze in Karen’s eyes when she looked at Bryce became less hostile, and she seemed rather enthusiastic instead. “Bryce, is what you just said true? Will you let us return to the Carter family as long as I hand that box of things over to you? Will William also have the chance to become the head of the family in the future?”

"Of course. Grandpa said it himself. Aunt Karen, have you decided?" Bryce smiled affirmatively.

Seeing that Karen was wavering, Charlotte couldn't help but say anxiously, "Mom, do you still believe their nonsense and lies? Have you forgotten how they used to bully us? Cheyenne even got on her knees to beg them, was drenched in the rain, and ended up running a high fever because of it. Have they ever shown any concern? They're saying these things to us now obviously because they want that box of gifts!"

Cheyenne objected vehemently, "Mom, that box of gifts was meant for Lucas. None of them have the right to decide what to do with them."

Seeing this, Bryce sneered. "I thought Aunt Karen commands great authority at home, but I didn't expect both your daughters to disregard you and have no respect for you at all. They keep going against your decisions. Anyway, think through it yourselves. It's your only chance to return to the family. Once you miss it, Grandpa will never give you a chance again, even if you beg him. You will also have to pay us eight million dollars and not a single cent less."

Karen immediately became anxious and hurriedly pushed William. "Hurry up and say something! Quickly agree to return to the family!"

William pushed Karen away. "I'm not going back! Cheyenne and the others got bullied so terribly, so what's the point of going back? If you want to, you can go back yourself!"

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To be honest, William had also become completely disappointed in the family.

After being pushed by her husband, who had always obeyed her, Karen flew into a rage and reached out to scratch him. "You useless good-for-nothing, you can't earn any money at all. If we don't return to the Carters, how can we maintain a livelihood? How are you going to pay the eight million dollars we owe them?"

The two of them got into a scuffle while Cheyenne and Charlotte hurriedly tried to pull them apart.

Bryce was getting impatient. If not for that box of gifts, he wouldn't bother talking to them.

"Enough. Don't put on an act in front of me either. Go and find where the items are." Bryce cocked his head toward the security officers behind him and immediately headed into the house.

"Wait!" Seeing how the situation was developing, Karen stopped fighting with William and hurriedly rushed into the house to stop them.

She just wanted to give Bryce half of the items. If he moved them away himself, he definitely wouldn't leave anything for them!

Karen stopped in front of her bed, but her actions gave the security officers a cue. Two of them went forward to pull her away while others lifted the bed and quickly took out two boxes from beneath, one large and one small.

"Hey! These are my belongings!" Karen's eyes were about to fall out. Lucas's items were in the large box, but the small box contained her personal stash that she had saved up over the years!

Bryce simply ignored her and took a brief glimpse at the box full of cash, title deeds, and share transfer documents. He was so excited that he couldn't stop himself from laughing.

He could tell at a glance that the value of these items was more than fifteen million dollars.

Watching the security officers carry the items out of the house, Cheyenne and the others naturally weren't willing to let them take the things away. But they were just a bunch of weak women, so how could they stop these people?

They didn't just take away the box of gifts. They also snatched away the Lamborghini parked by the entrance.

"Oh my god. They're a bunch of bandits!" Karen sat on the ground and patted her thigh while wailing.

"What are you crying for? It's all your fault! If you didn't show off in front of them yesterday, they wouldn't have come here!" William yelled at her.

Karen was incensed. "How dare you yell at me? It's all because you're a useless man and a loser!"

Seeing that the two were about to argue again, Charlotte was so infuriated that she shouted, "Okay, stop arguing! The items the Sawyers gifted Lucas have been snatched away. How are we going to explain it to him?!"

"Explain my foot! Bryce Carter and his men were the ones who took those things away anyway. If he has what it takes, he can very well go after the Carters!" Karen didn't care what Lucas would think. She just felt the huge pinch.

"Oh, by the way, Cheyenne, didn't Bryce say that he would let us back into the Carter family as long as we gave him those items? Does this mean that we don't have to leave the Carter family now? Now that he has taken them away, go to your grandfather and inform him about this." Karen suddenly urged while grabbing Cheyenne's arm.

Cheyenne shook Karen's hand off and said coldly, "If you want to go back, go ask them yourself."

After saying this, she took Amelia's hand and left.

All the things that the Carters had done before had completely shattered Cheyenne's heart. She would definitely not go back to the Carter family!

"Hey, you're defying me, huh?" Karen complained before turning to look at Charlotte. "Charlotte..."

Without letting her finish, Charlotte interrupted, "Whoever wants to go back can ask themselves. Anyway, I'm not going to go back to that family." She then left with a look of annoyance.

William ignored Karen and headed back inside quietly with a somber expression.

In the entire courtyard, only Karen remained, sitting on the floor and lamenting endlessly about her miserable life.

Lucas soon caught wind of everything that happened at the residence.

He stared expressionlessly into the distance, the corners of his lips curling up into a faint cold smile. "Since you Carters have a death wish, I'll grant you your wish."

Chapter 47: Drastic Change in the Carter Family

Bryce returned to the Carter main residence in the luxurious Lamborghini with the large box of cash, title deeds, and share transfer documents.

The Carters in the main residence gathered around Bryce, amazed and in awe at the luxurious car and the box with assets worth more than fifteen million dollars inside. They praised Bryce incessantly too.

"Bryce is really something. He managed to bring so many things home. The Carters are going to make a comeback again soon!"

"He's indeed worthy of being Dominic's biological grandson. He's so capable! If Bryce takes over the family in the future, we can all rest assured!"

"Not bad, not bad. Bryce has always been outstanding since he was a child. He's definitely cut out for achieving great things. He's becoming more and more capable now, isn't he?"

The flattering words and compliments of the Carters made Bryce feel like he was on cloud nine. Dominic was also grinning widely, extremely satisfied with Bryce, his grandson.

“Bryce, you’ve done well. In the future, I can rest assured handing the family over to you.” Dominic patted Bryce on the shoulder.

Bryce hurriedly said modestly, “Thank you, Grandpa. I will definitely work harder in the future and never let you down!”

At this happy moment, a member of the family suddenly dashed in nervously. “Bad news! Something terrible happened!”

“What’s wrong? Why are you so flustered?!” Bryce glared angrily at the person who suddenly ran in and ruined the atmosphere.

“The people from the factories informed us that all the factories belonging to the Carter Corporation have been closed allegedly due to violations during the manufacturing process and rectifications have to be made! The finance department has also received a notice saying that the financial risk of our corporation is too high, so we have to repay all the loans we’ve made by the end of today! Otherwise, we will be sued, and we will have to declare bankruptcy and begin the liquidation procedures!”

This news was a bolt out of the blue and like a bomb instantly dropped on everyone’s head!

Dominic’s expression changed drastically, and he stood up abruptly. “How did this happen?!”

Bryce’s face was also extraordinarily gloomy. “All of this happened too suddenly. Someone must be trying to attack the Carters!”

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Since the Carters were in pursuit of maximum profit, it was definitely difficult for them to have factories achieve 100% compliance with all regulations during the manufacturing process. Thus, if someone deliberately tried to check on them, they would definitely succeed. But usually, even if there were inspections, those who were close to the Carters would inform them in advance, and their factories wouldn’t be closed straight away.

Besides, who knew when the rectification would take place?

There would be massive losses incurred and enormous problems resulting from the shutdown of the factories for a day. Besides, they didn’t know how long the shutdown was going to last.

Although the Carters' businesses hadn't been flourishing lately, they felt that there must have been more reasons for the bank to demand all loans be repaid within a day.

While Bryce was angry, Dominic thought about it carefully. "Bryce, hurry up and call Mr. Shaw to find out what's going on in the factories and if it's possible to get some leeway through connections. Hurry and call the bank too."

Bryce hurriedly made several phone calls, but unfortunately, Mr. Shaw didn't answer at all. Furthermore, the bank only gave them cold replies and claimed that the financial risk of the Carter Corporation was proven too high after some assessment, and so the loans had to be repaid.

The news made the Carters look even more dismayed.

Mr. Shaw used to have a very close relationship with the Carters. But this time, he not only did not notify in advance but also refused to answer their calls. Clearly, someone whom Mr. Shaw dared not offend was involved in the closure of the factories this time.

The issue of the bank loans made them even more anxious.

The capital turnover of the Carters was dependent on bank loans to a large extent. The cash they had on hand was far from enough for them to repay the loans, and even if they included the assets that Bryce had just brought home, there still wouldn't be enough.

After all, of all the items in the box, only the million dollars in cash was usable. The administrative procedures for the title deeds and the luxury car hadn't been settled yet.

While the Carters were at a loss, they were struck with a greater blow!

The head of the finance department of the Carter Corporation dashed in, his forehead covered in sweat. "Oh dear, Chairman, many partner companies have asked to terminate their contracts with us. We can't dissuade them at all! Now, there are many people gathered in front of the company, demanding to terminate their contracts with us and for us to pay off our debts!"

Dominic sat down on the sofa with a loud thump, pale as a sheet. "All of you, go and find out who's the one getting up to such tricks behind our backs!"

After he ordered coldly, the Carters dared not idle about any longer and made countless calls.

"Hello, Mr. Wilson. I'm calling from the Carter Corporation. Our contract with your company... Damn it! He hung up!"

"Hello, Mr. White. I'd like to ask about our contract... Hello? Hello!"

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The people in charge of various partner companies immediately hung up after hearing the Carters' questions.

After great effort, they finally got some information from a company they used to cooperate with often.

"Don't blame me. The Carters offended a big shot and got us into trouble too," Mr. Evans said helplessly.

Dominic's heart dropped, and he hurriedly grabbed the phone. "Mr. Evans, on my account, can you tell me which big shot the Carters have offended?"

Mr. Evans sighed. "Mr. Carter, it's not that I don't want to tell you, but I really don't know. We also received a phone call from someone who said that our company would be in trouble if we didn't terminate our cooperation with you! Don't think I'm fearmongering or trying to lie to you. You'll find out if you ask others."

Mr. Evans hung up without saying anything further.

Dominic and the other Carters all had dismal expressions.

There was no longer a need to make more phone calls to confirm. The fact that that big shot could cause their factories to cease production and have the bank demand repayment of all their loans within a day meant that they were definitely powerful.

However, even after racking their brains, they still couldn't figure out how they had offended a big shot.

While remaining silent, Dominic suddenly looked at the box that Bryce had brought home.

The lid of the box was open, revealing the stacks of pink banknotes, as well as the large stack of supporting documents.

Dominic suddenly thought of something and inhaled sharply before slapping Bryce on his face. "Sinner, it's all your fault!"

Bryce was dumbstruck by the loud and sudden slap!

It took him a long time to react. Covering his face aggrievedly, he asked, "Grandpa, what wrong did I commit?"

Chapter 48: Seek Her Forgiveness

Dominic pointed at the box furiously. "Are you still clueless? What did you say in front of that family yesterday? Right after you snatched this box of items from them today, our factories had to close, and production lines had to cease for rectification. The bank even demanded repayment of all our loans, and so many of our partner companies are asking to terminate their contracts with us. Think about it. Who did we offend?"

Bryce froze immediately.

After thinking through the events of the past two days, Bryce blinked and asked in disbelief, "Grandpa, are you saying that Ethan Sawyer did these things?"

Dominic said with displeasure, "Who else could it be? It has been quite peaceful at home these days, but ever since you brought your people there to snatch this box from them, terrible things have been happening one after another. This is definitely a warning from the Sawyers because we took away the gifts meant for Charlotte Carter."

Only then did Bryce realize that the Sawyers had been watching Charlotte's family!

He covered his hot and flushed face, feeling extremely aggrieved.

He wasn't the one who suggested going to Cheyenne's home to snatch the betrothal gifts from them in the first place. Besides, they had all given their approval beforehand. Yet now, they were blaming him.

"Anyway, since you've made a grave mistake by bringing this box here, you have to solve this matter." Ignoring Bryce's displeasure, Dominic instructed with a stern expression, "Send these items back. You must seek Charlotte's forgiveness so that the Sawyers will let us off. Otherwise, it'll be over for the Carters!"

Despite his reluctance, Bryce had no choice but to go and look for Charlotte.

He searched for a long time before finding out that Charlotte had gone to work at the Stardust Corporation today. But unfortunately, he was stopped at the entrance of the Stardust Corporation office, as security wouldn't let him in.

"My cousin is working in your company. I'm urgently looking for her!"

Remaining unmoved, the security officer said, "You can give her a call and ask her to come out. Anyway, you're not an employee of our company nor a client, so you are not allowed to go in."

Bryce was furious.

He had called Charlotte countless times, but all his calls were rejected. He didn't know if Charlotte had blocked him or not, but he couldn't contact her at all.

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Otherwise, why would he go to the Stardust Corporation to stop Charlotte from leaving?

"Please leave immediately. Do not disrupt the order of our office," the chief security officer warned.

Bryce was frustrated and anxious. He really wanted to barge in, but he was at the Stardust Corporation office, and he dared not offend them.

At this moment, just as he was about to ignore the security officers and dash into the office building, the eagle-eyed Bryce spotted a familiar figure walking over.

That familiar figure was Lucas!

Bryce was extremely indignant as he rushed forward to stop Lucas. Then he yelled at the security officers, "This person isn't one of your employees either. Why aren't you stopping him?"

What surprised Bryce even more was that after the security officers saw Lucas, they actually bowed in unison. "Mr. Gray, welcome."

Lucas nodded indifferently, glanced at Bryce, and then raised his brows a little.

Since Lucas was stopped by the security officers at the entrance when he came to the Stardust Corporation office previously, the general manager, Flynn Davis, had fired all of them. Afterward, the security officers saw Davis accompanying Lucas to the top floor of the office building and also received orders from Davis that no one was to stop Lucas from entering again.

Therefore, although all of them were clueless about Lucas's identity, they dared not offend him and were very respectful toward him because they thought that he was at least a client whom Davis valued greatly.

Bryce was almost stunned speechless, but he was still indignant. "What right does he have to enter? He's just a live-in son-in-law of the Carters, a useless good-for-nothing! Why is he allowed to enter, but I'm not?"

Lucas sneered, unbothered by Bryce.

The chief security officer hurriedly stopped Bryce. "This is the Stardust Corporation. If you want to kick up a ruckus and deliberately cause trouble, don't blame us for getting nasty!"

Unwilling to concede, Bryce snapped, "You condescending security officers, I'm going to lodge a complaint against you for being biased!"

The chief security officer sneered. "Mr. Gray is an important client of Mr. Davis. Who are you? Hurry up and get lost."

A few of them came over from the side and surrounded Bryce to shoo him away from Lucas, lest he collided into Lucas recklessly.

"Him? Important client? You guys must have been fooled by this good-for-nothing!" Bryce clamored and reached out in a bid to grab Lucas. "Lucas, you loser, get your ass over here!"

Lucas frowned in annoyance while the alert chief security officer immediately said, "Mr. Gray, please go inside and let us handle the matter here."

Lucas nodded and turned around to leave.

The new chief security officer Davis hired was indeed much more reliable than the previous one.

Behind him, a couple of security officers dragged Bryce far away and then threw him onto the ground.

Lucas broke Bryce's arm previously, and it hadn't healed completely yet. After being flung onto the ground, he immediately shrieked in pain, but no one cared about him.

Bryce cursed incessantly. But he didn't dare go to the entrance of the Stardust Corporation office building again. He had no choice but to stand at a spot far away, all the way until he saw Charlotte coming out of the building after getting off work.

"Charlotte! Just got off work, huh?" Bryce exclaimed affectionately as he approached her.

"What are you doing here?" Charlotte detested Bryce greatly. In the morning, he had just snatched their belongings away. What was he doing again at the entrance of her office?

"Charlotte, it's my fault for what happened this morning. I hereby apologize to you! Actually, I just wanted to crack a joke with you. I've already returned the car and the box of things. I really have!" Bryce swore while patting his chest and feeling immense heartache deep down.

However, Charlotte didn't buy it at all. "A joke? How amusing. Why don't I stab you with a knife and then tell you that it was just a joke? Also, we've already been kicked out by the Carters, so you're not my cousin. We have nothing to do with each other anymore."

Charlotte stepped forward and was about to leave, but Bryce hurriedly rushed forward to stop her. "Charlotte, we are at least relatives. You won't be so cruel as to leave us in the lurch, right?"

"What do you mean?" Charlotte frowned and looked at him.

Bryce gritted his teeth. "We are all from the Carter family. I know I was wrong for doing what I did in the morning. Please have mercy and let us off, alright?"

Bryce's words caught Charlotte by surprise.

"What's up with the Sawyers? And what happened to the Carters?"

Bryce looked at Charlotte, unconvinced that she was clueless about what happened. "We're a family, so there's no need to pretend, is there? Right after I came home from your place, our factories were forced to close and stop production lines for rectification. The bank even wants us to repay all of our loans by the end of today. And almost all the companies we have cooperations with have asked to terminate their partnership contracts with us. We really can't hold on any longer!"

Bryce wiped his tears. "I know I was wrong to have taken your gifts, and that's the reason the Sawyers are offended. I really know my mistakes! Charlotte, please help us beg for forgiveness from the Sawyers and ask them to let us off!"

Only then did Charlotte find out what had happened to the Carters. However, to be honest, Charlotte felt thrilled to see how miserable the Carters seemed to be, according to Bryce.

"Hah, I can only say that you people deserve it. If you keep doing evil, you will end up harming yourselves one day," Charlotte said without emotion.

"Also, don't come looking for me. I've already said this morning that the box of gifts wasn't for me but Lucas. Even if you want to get someone to plead for mercy on your behalf, you've found the wrong person."

"You... are you really that heartless?" Bryce glared at Charlotte with a menacing expression.

Charlotte was so frightened that she hurriedly scurried away after saying, "Anyway, don't come looking for me."

Bryce stared at her figure from behind with a vicious gaze.

Since Bryce returned home after a fruitless trip, he naturally had to face the music from Dominic.

“Have I been overindulging you? You can’t even get such a trivial matter done right! You’re so disappointing!” At this moment, the Carters were facing a huge crisis, and Dominic was so anxious that he started being hostile to his grandson, whom he usually doted on.

Bryce clenched his fist and tried to argue. “Grandpa, I stayed put at the entrance of Charlotte Carter’s workplace for the entire day, but she refused to budge and even said that those gifts were meant for Lucas, not her. She was obviously just trying to fool me!”

“That’s your problem too! Anyway, if you can’t deal with Charlotte Carter, don’t come back to see me again! Wastrel!”

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After being scolded harshly by his grandfather, he turned around and left the house, feeling frustrated and upset.

“Dominic, the Larsons are insistent on terminating their cooperation with our company!”

“Chairman, the president of ICBC Bank refuses to give in, and he insists that we have to repay the loans by the end of today, or we will be sued...”

“We went around trying to raise funds, but to no avail. They all hung up after hearing our names...”

“The Sawyers refuse to communicate with us, and they simply said that they’re in no place to make a decision because Ethan Sawyer is not in town.”

As he heard these pieces of bad news, Dominic’s face grew increasingly downcast, and he couldn’t sit still at all.

After thinking about it, he made up his mind. He decided to swallow his pride and personally go to William Carter’s home.

Dominic’s sudden visit made William and Karen extremely nervous.

Over the years, Dominic had never visited them, and they wondered if this time...

William and Karen didn’t enjoy peace this night as well.

Bright early in the morning, Bryce had brought his men over and snatched away their chest of treasures worth more than fifteen million dollars. Karen wanted her daughters to beg Dominic to let them return to the Carter family. However, they hadn’t returned yet.

In the afternoon, Bryce suddenly returned the box of gifts and the car, claiming to have made a mistake. William and Karen were bewildered, and they wondered what he had up his sleeve.

In the evening, Dominic personally visited them, which was rather rare.

W-what's going on? Is he here to take back the house or the box of gifts?

Karen and William watched as Dominic entered. They were so nervous that they had no idea where to place their hands.

"Dad, you..." William said carefully.

To his surprise, Dominic was not as austere as he usually was. Instead, there was a smile on his face. "William, it's been hard on you staying in such a small house. Tomorrow, move back in with us. I'll pick out a nice house for you."

William and Karen glared at him in disbelief. *Is... Dominic Carter letting us move back in?*

The Carters owned a large cluster of mansions where all the direct descendants of the Carter family lived. However, due to the fact that William was not blood-related to the Carters, they were singled out and made to live in this old and shabby residence, where they had stayed for decades.

Yet Dominic is asking us to go back now?!

Seemingly thinking that it wasn't enough, Dominic Carter said, "Moreover, William has been idling at home for such a long time. I'll arrange for you to take on a role in the company. Go to work tomorrow! Karen, if you're willing, I can arrange for you to work in the company too. You don't have to go to the office, but you will be paid accordingly."

"R-really?!" Karen and William were overjoyed.

To be able to work at the Carters' company was simply their dream for many years!

Previously, they also wanted to enter the company countless times. But unfortunately, the Carters never gave them the chance.

Today, Dominic visited them personally and even announced such a good piece of news that they had never dared to imagine!

All of a sudden, the two of them felt like they were in a dream. William was gazing at Dominic with tears in his eyes. *It turns out Dominic Carter still treats me like his son after all!*

At this moment, Cheyenne entered through the door while holding Amelia's hand.

When she saw Dominic sitting in the living room, she couldn't help but widen her eyes in surprise, while beside her, Amelia was even staring at him curiously.

Forcing himself to smile kindly, Dominic asked, "Cheyenne, you're back. This is your daughter, right?"

It was actually funny. Dominic had always disliked Cheyenne and Amelia because of her scandal back then, and he even forbade her from bringing Amelia to the office and the main residence. So this was Dominic's first time seeing Amelia and talking to her, even though she was already five years old.

"Amelia, quick, greet him. This is your great-grandfather," Karen hurriedly urged.

Amelia blinked, cowered beside Cheyenne, and said fearfully, "I'm scared of this grandpa."

After she said that, everyone's faces turned gloomy.

Chapter 50: Go and Plead for Mercy

When Dominic heard Amelia's words, he was naturally displeased, as evidenced by his frown.

Meanwhile, Karen and William were afraid that Amelia's words would make Dominic upset with them.

"Amelia, what are you saying?! He's your great-grandfather. Quickly greet him properly!" Karen yelled at Amelia.

Amelia gripped Cheyenne's clothes even more tightly, refusing to go over.

Children were extremely sensitive to the emotions of others. Although Dominic was smiling, Amelia saw the ferocious gaze in his eyes when he was glaring at her and her mom.

Seeing that Amelia refused to go over, Karen grabbed Amelia's arm and pulled her over. "What's the matter with you? You're so young but already so rude. You're not greeting your elders properly!"

"Mom!" Cheyenne immediately went forward to stop her, overwhelmed with anger. *Amelia is still so young. She's going to get hurt by being yanked so hard!*

“She’s being rude to your grandfather. Why aren’t you hurrying to discipline her? Instead, you’re still defending her. You’ve spoiled her rotten!” Karen exclaimed at Cheyenne.

“I remember that we’ve already been disowned by the Carters. How is my grandfather and Amelia’s great-grandfather?” Cheyenne retorted coldly. She then picked Amelia up and headed upstairs.

She was truly speechless toward Dominic Carter.

“Cheyenne, it was indeed my fault for what happened before. It’s also my fault for causing you to harbor resentment toward me. I’m here today to apologize to you. Please forgive me!” Dominic’s old voice sounded from behind.

Cheyenne stopped in her tracks. *Since when has Dominic Carter ever apologized to me in such a mellow manner?*

She never remembered him ever doing so.

In an instant, all the numerous grievances and mistreatments that she had suffered began surfacing, making her tear up and feel a strong urge to cry her heart out.

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Unfortunately, Dominic’s previous actions had long gotten rid of the familial affection she had toward him as a granddaughter. She had also gotten a clear look at his true colors.

The fact that he came to their home today and unexpectedly offered his apologies was really unlike Dominic Carter.

She felt that things were fishy and that he definitely had a hidden agenda.

Cheyenne got a grip on her emotions and carried Amelia upstairs quietly.

“Cheyenne!” Karen called out her name incessantly, but she ignored her and returned to her room.

“Uh, Dominic, I’m sorry. We’ve spoiled Cheyenne rotten, and she’s too insensible. Please don’t hold it against her,” Karen hurriedly explained.

Dominic took a deep breath and suppressed the anger in his heart before waving his hand and pretending to be sad. “I can’t blame her. I’m old, and my days are numbered. I’ve been strict to my children and grandchildren, all for their own good, but who knew... Ahhh!”

Seeing this, William immediately felt heartache and grabbed Dominic's hand. "Dad, don't say that. You're healthy, and the Carter family needs you."

The loving scene of an affectionate father and his son was taking place in the living room downstairs.

So when Charlotte came home, she was shocked to see the two of them talking to each other affectionately.

She couldn't help but blink her eyes, wondering if her eyes were playing tricks on her.

"Charlotte, you're finally back. Your grandfather has been waiting here for a long time!" Karen hurriedly took Charlotte's hand and walked over.

Dominic's eyes lit up, and he looked at Charlotte with a heartened look before saying warmly, "Charlotte used to be a little girl. In the blink of an eye, she has already become a beautiful young woman!"

When Charlotte heard this unprecedented praise from Dominic Carter, she was extremely surprised and disgusted at the same time.

"Save it. Just get straight to the point," Charlotte said hostilely.

"Charlotte, watch your tone with your grandfather. What happened to your manners?" William berated Charlotte with a dark expression. *What's going on today? Dad finally made a trip here to ask us to move back in with the Carters, yet Cheyenne and Charlotte have been so hostile to him. What if he really gets angry?*

Charlotte sneered. "Bryce Carter came to look for me this afternoon, and now it's Grandpa's turn. You guys can drop the pretense. I'll get straight to it. I can't fulfill Bryce's request, so you'd better look for someone else."

Karen looked bewildered. "What request? What's going on?"

William had a furious expression. "What nonsense are you spouting? Your grandpa came here to ask us to go back to the Carter family. He also asked us to move back to the main residence and offered me a job at the Carter Corporation. Your grandpa is being so kind. Don't upset him."

William stated what happened explicitly, but he was also warning Charlotte, fearing that she might end up angering Dominic and causing him to change his mind.

After hearing this, Charlotte said sarcastically, "Oh, I see. Grandpa is here to throw a Trojan Horse at us! Indeed, he's pulling the same tricks as Bryce. He first played the kinship card and then tried to lure me. No wonder he's your grandson."

After saying that, Charlotte ignored William's paling face and continued, "Isn't this just a trick you're playing to get us to go to the Sawyers to plead for mercy so that they'll let the Carters off?"

Karen and William both froze in shock for a moment.

Despite having been directly exposed by Charlotte, Dominic did not seem awkward at all and still continued pretending to be kind. "Charlotte, I know that we have some misunderstandings between us, but we're still a family after all. I came here today because I'm really worried about you guys. I also have some things to ask of you. I've already punished Bryce for what he's done today, and I guarantee he won't do it again! Charlotte, just tell the Sawyers to be merciful and let us off! We will definitely treat you well in the future."

After hearing what Dominic said, Karen and William realized that he was not here to catch up with them and reminisce about the past but to get Charlotte to go to plead with the Sawyers.

He chose Charlotte as his target naturally because he still thought that she was going to marry into the Sawyer family, and he was just trying to make up with them out of convenience.

Charlotte laughed self-deprecatingly. "What makes you think that the Sawyers will forgive you on my account? Who am I to influence the Sawyers?"

Dominic said anxiously, "Aren't you the fiancée of Ethan Sawyer's son? The Sawyers did that to us because they're standing up for you. I just need you to explain to them that this is all just a misunderstanding, and things will be resolved soon."

Charlotte smiled wryly. "What fiancée? Ethan Sawyer's son has been married for a long time!"

After saying that, Charlotte felt extremely aggrieved too.

Which woman had never fantasized about marrying into a rich family, enjoying a privileged life of luxury, and being the subject of envy of everyone?

Charlotte was just an ordinary girl too. So when she suddenly received the huge betrothal gifts from the Sawyers, she was so elated that she didn't even bother to find out what Ethan Sawyer's son looked like and what his personality was like.

She had a sense of vanity too. And she was extremely pleased when she enjoyed the praises of her relatives and the looks of envy cast at her by the passersby when she was driving in her luxurious and comfortable Lamborghini.

She felt that a golden pie had fallen onto her lap and that her life was about to change drastically.

But who would have thought that it was all just a misunderstanding?!

At the Intercontinental Hotel the other day, Ethan Sawyer denied the matter right in her face, making her feel incredibly ashamed and embarrassed.

For the past few days, she had been extremely sad and aggrieved, but there was no one she could pour her feelings out to.

When saying those words in front of Dominic, Charlotte burst into tears, unable to hold them back and contain her sadness any longer.

“Ethan Sawyer’s son is already married?” Hearing this, Dominic was surprised too. “That’s not right. The words ‘betrothal gifts’ were clearly written on the list. They’re betrothal gifts all right! Did Ethan Sawyer propose on behalf of his son? Or is Charlotte going to be...”

Dominic did not say the words ‘second wife,’ but everyone was clear about what he was implying.

Charlotte didn’t catch what he meant and only heard the words ‘betrothal gifts.’

It turned out that they were really betrothal gifts, but not for her. Instead, they were meant for Cheyenne from Lucas.

Ironically, she even mocked Lucas and said that he would never be able to afford to give Cheyenne such expensive gifts. She even called him a loser and said that he ought to get out of the house. *I was such a joke!*

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Karen rubbed her hands rather awkwardly. “Dominic, those betrothal gifts really weren’t for Charlotte. It was all just a misunderstanding.”

“Misunderstanding?!” Dominic Carter immediately lost his temper. He had already wasted several hours at their home and even got provoked, only to hear that it was all a misunderstanding and that Charlotte was not going to marry into the Sawyer family at all.

He stood up, stared at them with a hostile gaze, and roared, “How could you make a mistake with such an important matter?! Weren’t you very proud and conceited when you bragged about it in front of me before?! Huh? All you do is brag and show off, but you’re so useless at solving problems! You’re a bunch of garbage!”

"I'm telling you, you people are the reason for the current situation that the Carters are facing! If you don't hurry up and find a solution to get the Carters out of trouble, all of you will get it from me!"

In a moment of pique, Dominic left.

Karen chased after him and tried to make him stay, only to watch him get inside his car and leave. She was so furious that she stomped her feet nonstop at the door.

William was in a foul mood too. "What are you yelling for? He's long gone."

"Do you really think I care about him? I just want to ask him if he's still going to let us move back in and work at the Carter Corporation," Karen said.

William sneered. "Obviously not! Can't you tell that he just came here to reminisce with us because the Carters are facing a huge crisis, and he wants us to go beg for leniency from the Sawyers?"

"If we could have helped the Carters solve this crisis, he might have considered giving us some benefits such as giving us the house and jobs. However, now that we can't help him, he's obviously not going to care about us!"

Karen was rendered speechless by William's snide remarks.

Indeed, if they were not useful to Dominic Carter, he would not even pay any attention to them.

However, William's words just now gave Karen some inspiration. She clapped her hands and said excitedly, "Right! It's not impossible. If we can help the Carters solve this crisis, Dominic Carter will definitely be very grateful to us and value us highly. He'll give us the house and jobs in the company too. He might even hand the entire family over to you!"

William looked at Karen like he was staring at an idiot and gibed, "What are you dreaming about? The Carters must have come to us as a last resort. What makes you think we can solve a problem that so many people can't? Do you still think we're in-laws of the Sawyers? Do you think we haven't embarrassed ourselves enough?"

Karen actually didn't feel that she had embarrassed herself in front of Ethan Sawyer back then because it was just a misunderstanding. However, it was indeed a shame that she couldn't become the Sawyers' in-laws, and indeed, she didn't have a say.

The two of them were so focused on complaining that they didn't even notice that Charlotte had left the house at some point.

Feeling upset and dejected, Charlotte didn't want to continue staying at home and listening to her parents complain. However, since she had nowhere else to go, she called her best friend, Sophie Turner.

"Sophie, I feel so terrible. Come out for some drinks with me."

When Sophie arrived at the bar they agreed to meet at, Charlotte had already downed several glasses of wine and was tipsy.

There were many men next to her, staring at Charlotte without any restraint. From time to time, there would be people coming over to hit on her. Even after being rejected by Charlotte, they refused to leave and continued surrounding her and flirting with her.

Extremely worried for her, Sophie dashed forward to pull Charlotte away.

"Sophie, you're here! I want to drink." Charlotte opened her reddened eyes to look at her best friend.

"Okay, we'll go to my house and drink. Let's buy more liquor, and you can drink to your heart's content." Sophie hurriedly tried to coax Charlotte and helped her out of the bar.

The duo were about to get into the car when a man suddenly rushed out from the side and stopped them at the entrance.

"Charlotte! You must help me! Just go to the Sawyers and put in some good words for us. It's very simple! I know I've done wrong things before, and I hereby apologize to you! If you don't help, the Carters will be doomed, and Grandpa will kill me! Just help me out this time!" Bryce exclaimed anxiously as he grabbed Charlotte's hand, his breath smelling like alcohol.

After being berated and driven out by Dominic in the afternoon, Bryce had some drinks with a few friends. However, if he couldn't get Charlotte to agree to beg for mercy from the Sawyers, his grandfather wouldn't let him step foot back inside the house. Thus, he tracked down Charlotte and tried to stop her again.

"Go away! I already told you, don't look for me for this matter!" Charlotte opened her eyes and shot Bryce a look of disgust. *All of these people keep coming to me, but what's the point of that? I have nothing to do with the Sawyers!*

Bryce went forward and still wanted to say something, but Sophie hurriedly shoved Charlotte into the car, started the engine, and quickly drove away.

Bryce stared at the car from behind with a menacing expression. "Since you've decided to be ruthless, then don't blame me!"

Chapter 52: Abduction

While driving, Sophie looked at Charlotte's reflection in the rearview mirror and asked worriedly when she saw how unwell Charlotte seemed, "Charlotte, did something happen?"

Charlotte shook her head as teardrops rolled down her cheeks. She wiped her eyes and forced a crestfallen smile. "Nah, I'm just in low spirits today. I'll be fine after a while."

Sophie felt that it would be inappropriate to ask further and decided to probe again when they returned home. She felt upset seeing how dejected her best friend was.

While Sophie was driving on a secluded road, a Hummer suddenly sped over from the intersection ahead and collided into the passenger side of her car.

Bang! With a loud collision, Sophie's car was forced to come to a halt as glass shattered all over the place.

Charlotte passed out under the impact.

"Charlotte!" Sophie was feeling dizzy as she anxiously tried to check on Charlotte's condition while picking up her phone to call the police.

But at this moment, the doors of the Hummer that crashed into her car opened, and several burly men who didn't seem like decent people opened the passenger door beside Charlotte.

"What are you doing?!" Sophie yelled in horror, but a hand reached in through the window and smacked her on her neck, causing her to pass out immediately.

Meanwhile, several people pulled Charlotte out of the car and carried her into the Hummer.

Soon, the Hummer restarted and quickly disappeared in the darkness of the night.

Amid the dark shadows in the distance, the dim flickering lights lit up a parked car and Bryce's face, making him look extremely terrifying. "Charlotte Carter, you forced me into this. After you end up in the same state as your sister, I'll see how you can still be arrogant in front of me!"

The secluded street was empty, and the car, which had been destroyed beyond recognition due to the collision, remained stationary in a corner quietly.

After a while, Sophie regained consciousness, and when she opened her eyes to see the ruined car, she finally recalled what had happened earlier. In a panic, she frantically looked around.

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The passenger seat was empty, the car door was open, and there were shards of glass scattered all over the ground. Charlotte was nowhere to be found.

“Charlotte!”

At this moment, Cheyenne had tucked Amelia in at home and was mulling over and over about the things that happened over the past few days. However, there was only silence in Charlotte’s room.

Cheyenne knocked on the door, but there was no sound inside. “Charlotte, are you there?”

She knocked again and turned the knob to open the door, only to see that Charlotte’s room was empty.

She frowned. *It’s almost eleven. Isn’t she home yet?*

Karen was wearing her pajamas and munching on some snacks in the living room downstairs.

“Mom, where did Charlotte go? Is she not at home?”

“Oh, she’s not?” Karen finally noticed that her youngest daughter was not at home, but she didn’t take it too seriously. She simply said nonchalantly, “She must have gone to her friend’s.”

Cheyenne was speechless and was about to call her sister to ask when her phone suddenly rang.

When Cheyenne picked up the phone, she heard Sophie crying on the other end. “Cheyenne, bad news! Cheyenne is in trouble!”

Cheyenne’s face instantly paled!

At this moment, Lucas was sitting in the back seat of a Jaguar sedan and listening to Jordan report some information that he had found from asking around lately. All of a sudden, his phone rang. It was a call from Cheyenne.

When he saw that Cheyenne was actually taking the initiative to call him, his face could not help but look gentler as he answered. "Cheyenne..."

"Lucas, Charlotte has been kidnapped. What should we do? Do you have a way to save her?" As soon as the call went through, he heard Cheyenne's flustered voice.

Lucas's face grew stern immediately. "Don't panic. Talk to me slowly. Where did she get kidnapped? Did anyone see?"

Under Lucas's calm asking, Cheyenne told him everything that Sophie had just told her, including, of course, Dominic's visit and the fact that Bryce had approached Charlotte twice but was rejected by her.

After hearing her words, Lucas had a vague guess.

He comforted, "Cheyenne, don't be too anxious. Just stay at home and wait. Don't go anywhere. I'm going to search for Charlotte now. I'll definitely bring her home safely."

After hanging up, Lucas said to Jordan, who was driving, with a cold and grave expression, "Turn around. We're going to the Carters'."

Hearing Lucas's icy-cold voice, Jordan couldn't help but feel his heart palpitate. "Yes, Lucas!"

In the Carters' main residence...

Dominic was pacing back and forth in a room in frustration.

Usually, he would have long begun resting. But now that the Carters were facing a crisis, he was overwrought and full of anxiety, so he wasn't the least bit sleepy at all.

Seeing that it was already 11 p.m. and that there was only an hour to go before the deadline for the loan repayment, he felt incredibly flustered. However, he had already resorted to all solutions and tried to contact his old friends for help, but to no avail.

Are the Carters going to be ruined just like that? No, I can't let that happen!

While Dominic was thinking about how he could send some expensive gifts and have a chat with the director of the bank tomorrow, he heard loud banging, clattering, and some shrieks coming from downstairs.

He immediately flew into a rage. He pulled open the door and yelled, "What's the commotion about?!"

However, when Dominic saw the situation downstairs, his eyes suddenly widened in horror.

The tall and luxurious gate of the Carter residence had already been deformed from violent kicking, and there were pieces of tempered glass scattered all over the floor. There were also more than ten people lying on the ground, all of whom were Carter family members and security officers.

Only one person stood in the center of the hall, exuding a fearful aura.

"Who are you? Why did you suddenly barge into the Carter residence?" Dominic's heart was thumping fast as he mustered the courage to ask.

This person raised his head, revealing a familiar face.

"It's you?!" Dominic received a great fright, after which he flew into a rage. *How dare Cheyenne Carter's loser husband barge into my home?! Does he really think we're pushovers?*

"Security! Hurry up and get this person out of here!" Dominic hollered.

Lucas remained unfazed.

Jordan stayed outside. Many people had already passed out on the ground.

"Where's Bryce Carter? Get him to come out," Lucas said coldly.

Dominic flew into a rage. "Who are you to call my grandson's name directly, you good-for-nothing?"

Before he could finish his words, his vision blurred, and Lucas immediately vanished. In the blink of an eye, he already reached Dominic and was choking him.

"I don't have the patience to listen to your nonsense. Where is Bryce Carter?!"

Chapter 53: Questioning to Find Her Whereabouts

Lucas was so fast that he appeared at the top of the stairs in the blink of an eye and strangled Dominic Carter.

Dominic was greatly shocked, and he tried hard to move Lucas's hand away, but to no avail.

"Y-you..." As soon as he started speaking, Lucas tightened his grip on his neck and interrupted him.

Lucas coldly looked at Dominic's face that was gradually turning red. "I'm going to make things clear first. If anything really happens to Charlotte, the Carters will die along with her!"

For the first time in his life, Dominic felt the threat of death. Facing the stern and grave-faced young man, he felt that his life was in danger!

There was a trace of fear in Dominic's cloudy eyes!

Lucas flicked his hand, and Dominic immediately slammed into the wall like a rag.

Covering his throat with his hand, Dominic coughed hard several times before he could catch his breath.

He looked at Lucas with his eyes full of resentment and fear.

Lucas glanced at him, and Dominic immediately looked away in fright. "I-I don't know where Bryce is."

"Call him and tell him to bring Charlotte back in one piece. If she's wounded, I'll kill him!"

"How dare you!" At the door, a woman glared at Lucas furiously. "If a cheap person like you dares to touch Bryce, I'll kill you..."

Before she could finish her words, Jordan kicked her downstairs and sent her flying far away. She passed out on the spot without even uttering another word.

"How dare you be rude to Lucas. You've got a death wish!" Jordan roared furiously.

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Lucas was the god in Jordan's heart, and he would never allow anyone to insult him.

If Lucas hadn't instructed him not to kill anyone earlier, this woman would have died just now.

Jordan's fierceness instantly subdued all those still wanting to resist, and they all looked at Lucas with fear in their eyes.

Dominic looked at Lucas's expressionless face, swallowed a mouthful of saliva, and then took out his phone to call Bryce with shaky fingers.

At this moment, Bryce was sitting in a club called 'Luxe' and smiling lewdly at a burly man with the unconscious Charlotte lying beside them on the couch.

"Mr. Douglas, my cousin is quite pretty, isn't she?" Bryce asked with a subservient smile.

The person addressed as Mr. Douglas stretched his fingers out and pinched Charlotte's face. Feeling the tenderness of her flesh, he nodded in satisfaction. "She's indeed very beautiful. But kid, you're really ruthless, huh? You're willing to give your cousin away."

"It's all for you, Mr. Douglas. Besides, this girl is really recalcitrant, and I'm just teaching her a lesson," Bryce hurriedly said.

If not for the fact that he and Charlotte were cousins in name, and it would be inappropriate if word were to get out, he would have bedded Charlotte right away instead of getting Mr. Douglas to do it.

Anyway, his intention was just to take some explicit photos and videos of Charlotte before using them to threaten her into pleading with the Sawyers for him.

"Hmph, not bad. Don't worry. As long as this girl serves me well tonight, I'll definitely offer you some benefits in the future," said Douglas, acting as if he was showing him some kindness.

"Alright, thank you so much, Mr. Douglas! I won't get in your way then. Just send me the photos and videos later," Bryce said gleefully.

"Hurry up and get lost." After saying that, he eagerly rushed to rip off Charlotte's clothes.

Charlotte suddenly retched and vomited.

She had drunk a lot of alcohol in the bar alone just now, and so she threw up while lying on the couch. Not only did she soil her own clothes, but her vomit also caused the entire private room to be full of the pungent stench of vomit.

"Shit!" Douglas hurriedly dodged in annoyance.

"Mr. Douglas, don't worry. I'll get someone to come and clean her up immediately. Please go to another room. I'll send her to the new room as soon as possible!" Bryce hurriedly got two service attendants to come and take Charlotte away to clean her up.

At this moment, he received a call from Dominic.

“Bryce, where are you? What exactly did you do to Charlotte? Hurry up and bring her back!” Dominic hurriedly yelled as soon as the call connected.

On the other hand, Bryce exclaimed with excitement, “Grandpa, don’t worry. I will complete the task you’ve given me as soon as possible. I’ll get Charlotte to plead with the Sawyers!”

Bryce’s words made Dominic feel like he had plunged into ice while Lucas’s gaze turned icy cold.

“Bastard! Hurry up and bring her back. Do you hear me? Otherwise, both of us will die a miserable death!” Dominic hollered at the top of his lungs.

From the moment Lucas came to his door to ask about Bryce and Charlotte’s whereabouts, Dominic had already had an ominous premonition.

If Bryce really did something horrid to Charlotte, Dominic was certain that Lucas would really kill them!

At this moment, Dominic was truly terrified and could only pray that his grandson hadn’t done anything outrageous yet.

However, Bryce was extremely indignant. He had already reached the crucial point of his plan, and Mr. Douglas was already waiting. He couldn’t just bring Charlotte home.

“Grandpa, Charlotte is with Mr. Douglas at the Luxe. She won’t be back tonight. Just stay out of it. Anyway, I will definitely complete the task and get her to go to the Sawyers!”

After saying that, Bryce hung up directly without waiting for Dominic to continue speaking.

“Hello? Bryce! Bryce!” Dominic shouted into the phone several times and even tried to call him again. Unfortunately, Bryce hung up right away, and he could no longer reach him.

Dominic’s body shivered. He could clearly sense the terrifying aura coming from Lucas.

“Since your grandson is seeking his own death, then you can’t blame me.” Lucas turned around and left.

“Wait!” Dominic was shocked and hurriedly shouted. “Please let him go. He’s still insensible...”

“Insensible?” Lucas turned around and continued in an icy cold voice. “He’s much older than Charlotte and Cheyenne!”

“If anything really happens to Charlotte, wait to collect his corpse!”

Lucas stopped bothering to listen to Dominic’s nonsense and led Jordan straight out of the Carters’ home.

“Head to the Luxe as fast as you can!” Lucas ordered Jordan after getting in the car.

“Yes, Lucas!”

The black Jaguar instantly disappeared into the darkness of the night like a swift cheetah.

Chapter 54: The Luxe

In a certain corner of the lobby on the first floor of the Luxe, Bryce was holding a scantily clad escort. Usually, he would have flirted with her merrily, but today, he was rather distracted.

Bryce reckoned that Charlotte should have already been cleaned and sent to Mr. Douglas’s room by now. But the photos and videos he wanted hadn’t been sent to him yet, so he felt uneasy.

Besides, for some reason, Dominic’s voice made him feel vaguely agitated.

“Damn it! What am I feeling so agitated for?! When I get those photos tomorrow and force that bitch Charlotte to go to the Sawyers to put in a good word for us... Or else the Carters will end up with nothing!”

Bryce clenched his teeth, grabbed the beautiful woman beside him forcefully, and raised his head to down a glass of alcohol.

At this moment, the black Jaguar sped toward the Luxe and came to a halt at the entrance after a sharp drift. Two figures got out of the car and hurriedly stepped into the club.

Bryce happened to be facing the direction of the door, and when he saw Lucas enter, he couldn’t help but be shocked. “Lucas? Good-for-nothing, do you actually have the money to come to a place like the Luxe?”

Then he smiled joyously. “Hmph, does that stupid bitch Cheyenne know that her loser husband is spending her money on fooling around? Tsk, tsk.”

At this moment, Bryce's phone rang again. It was a call from Dominic. He initially wanted to reject it, but thinking that the task was about to be completed, he decided that it was time to break the good news to him.

"Hello, Grandpa. Don't worry. The deed is almost done. Once I get hold of the video and photos of Charlotte Carter, we won't be afraid that she won't listen to us!"

Dominic froze. When he finally realized what Bryce was thinking, he was so furious that his face flushed. "You bastard! Who told you to do that to Charlotte? Do you really have a death wish?!"

Hearing how furious and anxious his grandfather was, Bryce thought that he must have misunderstood something. So he hurriedly explained, "Grandpa, I didn't do it. I gave her to Mr. Douglas at the Luxe. After he's done with her, he'll send me the videos and photos. This matter will then be completed!"

Previously, with Dominic's approval, he had also colluded with outsiders to set Cheyenne up. Bryce felt that there must be something wrong this time. Besides, the Carters' crisis would be resolved soon, and he reckoned that Dominic would be glad about it.

To his astonishment, Dominic was not happy to hear the news and instead lost his temper. "You're really going to be the death of me! Hurry up and bring Charlotte back in one piece!"

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Bryce said in displeasure, "Grandpa, she's already been sent to Mr. Douglas's room. How can I bring her back?"

Dominic was so furious that he almost vomited blood. "Hurry up and leave then! Lucas is rushing over to your side. Don't let him find you, got it?"

Bryce finally realized that Lucas was not here to have fun but to look for Charlotte. *That's interesting. The Luxe belongs to Mr. Douglas. If Lucas tries to look for Charlotte here, he naturally won't be able to take her away. Besides, Mr. Douglas will definitely make sure that he won't be able to bear the consequences of creating trouble here.*

Bryce suddenly got excited and exclaimed, "Grandpa, Lucas is already here. Hehe, I have to go and watch the fun. I hope Mr. Douglas beats him into a pulp. I'll get to take revenge for my broken wrist!"

After saying that, Bryce quickly hung up, eager to see how badly Lucas had been beaten up.

“Hello! Hello!” Dominic yelled while holding his phone and trembling incessantly in exasperation. *You’re going to be the death of me! If Lucas nabs him, Bryce will be in huge trouble!*

Bryce was Dominic’s only grandson, whom he regarded as the successor of the Carter family. If something were to happen to him, what was he supposed to do?!

While Dominic was anxious, Lucas and Jordan had already rushed straight to the fourth floor of the Luxe, which was the VIP area, but were stopped by several security officers.

“I’m sorry, gentlemen. Only VIP guests of the club can enter this floor.”

Lucas ignored him while Jordan stepped forward and barked, “Where are Brad Douglas and that woman he brought with him?”

The security officers looked at each other. *His tone is so hostile. Is he here to create trouble?*

The burly men at the side immediately surrounded Jordan after hearing his words.

These burly men were professional fighters who worked for Douglas. Usually, they were in charge of guarding and maintaining order in the Luxe, solving all conflicts here.

They were also the ones who took Charlotte away after crashing into the car in the Hummer.

“Brat, are you here to cause trouble? You should consider where this is!” The burly man, who was the leader, glared hostilely at Lucas and Jordan.

“You’ve got a death wish!” Jordan instantly appeared in front of the burly man like a bolt of lightning. He raised his arm and slapped the man hard on his face.

“Ah!” The burly man shrieked as he was sent flying by Jordan’s slap. He couldn’t get up after a long time, and his face instantly swelled while two of his teeth fell out.

Jordan’s strike was as fast as lightning, and he had applied a lot of force. So these men, who were usually the ones to beat others up, couldn’t help but feel a chill down their spines.

“Don’t you guys know that this club is the property of the Douglas family?” the burly men asked sternly.

“Hmph, we’re looking for Brad Douglas. Where is he?” Jordan questioned. Seeing that Lucas was losing his patience, Jordan decided not to give them any more chances. He clenched his fists with cracking sounds.

They were both emitting an incomparably terrifying aura, making the burly men too scared to fight them. They simply stood in front of Lucas and Jordan and broke out into cold sweat.

The Carter family was just a small family, and even Bryce, the scion, had to bow down and treat them with respect. The woman they abducted had gotten kicked out of her family too. How could there be such powerful people looking for her?

As Lucas took a step forward, the burly men immediately felt oppressed, and their hearts began ricocheting violently. They no longer had the intention to resist.

“Mr. Douglas is in the room inside. So is that woman.” The burly men hurriedly spilled the beans, fearing that the terrifying man in front of them would crush them into bits if they were slow.

At this moment, in a luxurious room at the innermost part of the VIP floor, Charlotte was lying unconscious on a bed with a man beside her, staring at her with strong desire in his eyes.

Chapter 55: Tell Him to Come Here

The two attendants had already cleaned up the vomit on Charlotte’s body and changed her into a translucent silk nightgown that accentuated her figure.

At the side, Brad Douglas rubbed his hands and placed a camcorder on the table opposite the bed, with the camera facing Charlotte lying on the large bed. He then walked step by step toward her while admiring her curves under the nightgown. His breathing became heavier, and the desire in his eyes intensified.

Unfortunately, Charlotte, who was still in a drowsy state and had her eyes tightly shut, was oblivious to the impending danger.

“Hahaha, beautiful babe, I’m coming!” Douglas swallowed a mouthful of saliva and leaped toward Charlotte as soon as he ripped off his pants.

At this moment, the door of the private room was kicked open with a loud bang, throwing the door off its hinges.

Shocked, Douglas turned around and yelled ferociously, “Who is it?!”

The Luxe was his turf, but someone actually kicked his door. *This person is too insolent!*

In the corridor outside, the two rogues leading the way were even more frightened by Lucas’s kick, so much so that their hair stood on end.

Lucas managed to send the steel door flying with a single kick. If he were to kick them, they would die. They were certain that their bones were much weaker than steel!

Luckily, they were smart enough not to continue going against the two terrifying men!

Lucas quickly glanced around the room and was relieved when he saw Charlotte lying on the bed in a nightgown and Douglas still wearing his briefs.

Fortunately, he had arrived in time, and Charlotte hadn't been violated.

"Kid, who do you think you are? How dare you come and ruin things for me? Are you tired of living?" Douglas barked while glaring at Lucas gloomily, wishing he could rip him apart.

He was interrupted right before he was about to enjoy a night with the beautiful Charlotte, greatly displeasing him.

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In particular, Lucas was creating a huge mess and ruckus on his turf. It was clearly a slap to his face!

"You should be thankful that you haven't touched her. Otherwise, you wouldn't be standing here right now," Lucas said indifferently.

"Damn it! You arrogant bastard!" Douglas raised his hand in fury and smacked a hidden button on the wall. In an instant, about twenty ferocious henchmen charged in with menacing auras.

"Beat these two people! Leave them at their last breaths and then break one of their hands each before throwing them out!"

Seeing that his subordinates had come over, Douglas was extremely conceited. After ordering them, he sat on the couch at the side and began smoking a cigar leisurely.

This was the only fate troublemakers would suffer after creating a ruckus here!

"Hmph, break our hands?" Lucas glanced at the henchmen and remained composed, not fazed at all. He snorted. "Since you like hands so much, all of you will stay! Jordan, break both their hands!"

"Yes, Lucas!" Jordan exclaimed with excitement in his eyes. It had been a long time since he got to hit someone!

Like a phantom, he instantly appeared beside one of the henchmen. Before they could see Jordan's movements clearly, the crisp sounds of bones being snapped rang out, followed by miserable cries from the henchman whose wrists had been crushed!

"Ah! My arms!" The intense pain on his wrists caused the tall and burly henchman to kneel on the ground and break out into cold sweat immediately.

Before the shock could appear on the others' faces, Jordan's figure reappeared beside another henchman like a bolt of lightning. No one could evade him at all.

Ka-ka!

Ka-cha! Ka!

Ka-ka!

...

The crunching sound of bones being crushed one after another resounded in the room, and the henchmen began wailing one after another.

Finally, someone was so terrified that he wanted to flee, but before he could run away, the terrifying hand of death that was like an iron clamp landed on his wrists and crushed his bones right away.

"Help! Ah!" Their miserable cries rang out one after another.

In an instant, the nearly twenty burly henchmen fell to their knees and began wailing while clutching their broken wrists.

The cigar in Douglas's mouth had fallen to the ground, and he couldn't help but shiver, frightened by the scene before him. He no longer felt fearless and bold like he was earlier and was now as pale as a sheet. His lips trembled, and his legs had already turned into jelly.

He could not even utter a word now because Jordan and Lucas were both staring at him coldly.

All of a sudden, Douglas's phone on the table began ringing.

Lucas took a glance at the caller ID and sneered when he saw the words, 'Wastrel of the Carters.' "Bryce Carter?"

"Yes!" Douglas hurriedly nodded frantically.

"Answer the call."

Douglas dared not defy Lucas's order and hurriedly reached his trembling finger out to painstakingly press the answer button.

"Mr. Douglas, are you done?" Bryce asked. "Why don't you send me a few photos? In the future, you can toy with that woman however you like."

Lucas snorted coldly. *Bryce Carter really doesn't know any better!*

Frightened by Lucas's murderous snort, Douglas immediately fell to the ground. Holding his phone, he wished he could rip Bryce into pieces! *Damn it! What a lousy idea from this dog!*

Bryce made him kidnap Charlotte and said that it was a special tribute to him, but instead of getting to enjoy sleeping with her, he ended up provoking two horrifying people!

All the henchmen, whom he had spent lots of money on, had their wrists broken before they could even attack.

"Get him to come here," Lucas ordered coldly.

Douglas was clenching his jaw with resentment. Seeing that Lucas seemed to want to deal with Bryce, he frantically said, "Hurry up and get your ass here."

After hanging up, Douglas hurriedly begged Lucas for mercy. "I really don't know anything. That bastard Bryce Carter came to me for help and said that he would let me sleep with his cousin as long as I take some videos and photos of her. Had I known earlier that she's related to you, I wouldn't have touched this beautiful girl!"

"Mr. Douglas, are you looking for me..." Bryce's voice abruptly ceased at the door.

He thought that Douglas had called him up because he was done and was going to give him the photos and videos. But he was dumbfounded by the scene before him!

What did he see?!

The burly henchmen in the room were rolling on the ground while the mighty Brad Douglas was kneeling in front of someone!

And that someone was Lucas!

Chapter 56: Paying People Back in Their Own Coin

Bryce's legs instantly went weak, and he knelt on the ground.

Everything in front of him made him suspect that his world had become fantastical. *Brad Douglas is actually kneeling in front of Lucas?!*

Lucas glanced at Bryce indifferently, as though he was looking at something dead.

He looked back at Douglas, who was lying on the ground. "You said he came to you for help? In that case, was he the one who instigated you to handle the incident six years ago?"

"Which incident?" Douglas was a bit confused for a moment. Over the years, Bryce had approached him and asked him to do many sordid things. All of a sudden, he couldn't guess which one Lucas was referring to.

"Cheyenne Carter, the Brilliance Corporation," Lucas reminded snappily.

"Oh!" As soon as he heard Cheyenne's name, Douglas instantly remembered and nodded frantically.

"Yes, Bryce made me do it. At that time, he wanted to encroach on the Brilliance Corporation and snatch it away from Cheyenne Carter, so he came to me and asked me to help him get some drugs. Afterward, due to a freak combination of factors, Cheyenne got involved with a lowly chauffeur. Later on, Cheyenne became pregnant, and Bryce got us to go make trouble. That woman was so angry that she ended up going into premature labor, resulting in them taking over the Brilliance Corporation."

Douglas was afraid of Lucas and almost immediately answered all the questions asked.

Lucas's face got increasingly gloomy. At the end, he began glaring daggers while smashing his fists on the wall, causing a large cobweb-like crack to appear on the finely-furnished wall with a pit the size of a basin in the middle.

Douglas instantly fell silent, not daring to continue.

Meanwhile, Bryce's fear intensified, and he almost got shocked into peeing his pants!

Douglas was clearly terrified of Lucas too!

Lucas and Jordan had clearly attacked the henchmen clutching their broken wrists in the room!

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In that case, w-what will happen to me?

At the thought of how much he had been bullying Cheyenne over the past few days, the insults he had hurled at Lucas, the misdeeds he had done to Cheyenne back then, and how he had just tried to set up Charlotte...

Bryce's heart immediately began ricocheting violently as cold sweat surged out of his body. He felt a warm and moist sensation in his lower body.

At this moment, Bryce recalled everything that Dominic had said to him over the phone earlier: "Lucas Gray has gone to look for you. Hurry up and leave. Don't let him find you!"

Now, he finally knew why Dominic gave him this warning. It was because Lucas was really too terrifying!

At this moment, Bryce was full of regret!

He regretted not listening to his grandfather's warning and not bringing Charlotte back home earlier. He even regretted digging his own grave by provoking and offending Lucas.

"Lucas, I know I did something wrong. Please let me off..." Bryce pleaded spinelessly.

Lucas glared at him coldly and sent him flying with a kick. He slammed against the door frame and immediately spat out a mouthful of blood.

Then Lucas kicked Douglas until he wailed endlessly.

Of course, this was the result of Lucas restraining his strength. Otherwise, both of them would have died long ago.

Lucas obviously wouldn't let them die, but he didn't plan to let them off either.

"Hmph, don't you guys like playing such tricks? Go ahead and have a taste of your own medicine then!" Lucas turned his head to face Jordan. "Carry them both to the room at the side and feed them their own drugs. Remember to record a video."

Thinking about that image, Jordan couldn't help but shudder in disgust!

However, in order to deal with such people, they had to pay them back in their own coin!

Soon, Jordan enthusiastically carried both of them to the room next door, bringing with him the camera and the bottle of medicine.

Before long, bizarre sounds of pain mixed with pleasure came from the room next door.

The henchmen on the ground couldn't help but shiver when they heard the sounds. They didn't even dare to shriek in pain!

This man is too terrifying!

Soon, Jordan came out with the camera.

"Damn it! It was such an eyesore! I have to wash my eyes when I get back!" Jordan exclaimed with a look of disgust. "Lucas, what do we do with this?"

"Put it on the internet with their names spelled out. Make sure their faces are in HD."

"Yes!" Jordan put the camera away excitedly.

The henchmen were frightened. *Too ruthless!*

Not only did they film such a video and decide to put it on the internet, but they also wanted to make sure their faces were in HD and clearly seen. The two of them were going to be shamed thoroughly, and they would never have the cheek to face others again! Even their families would be disgraced by them!

Lucas looked at the group of horrified henchmen and barked, "Get lost!"

The henchmen immediately stopped rolling around and wailing, as if their pressure had suddenly been released. They hurriedly got up and scrambled out of the room in panic, fearing that Lucas would change his mind if they were too slow.

After everyone was gone, Lucas walked over to the bed. He frowned and draped a large bathrobe over Charlotte's translucent and revealing nightgown.

Lucas was utterly disgusted by Bryce and Douglas's behavior!

As men, they actually resorted to using such despicable tricks on women. Not only did they ruin the women, they even recorded videos and photos to threaten them. They were worse than beasts!

Back then, they successfully set up Cheyenne, but something went wrong in between, and Lucas was made to take responsibility for her. Otherwise, Cheyenne wouldn't have had her company taken away from her due to her premature labor. Instead, she would have had explicit photos taken and used against her. Her life would have been ruined.

Charlotte ended up in such a setup today too. If he hadn't rushed here in time, she would have really had her body and reputation tarnished by Douglas. Charlotte might not be able to endure having the explicit photos taken while Cheyenne would be sad for life because of what happened to her sister!

They deserved to be punished harshly!

Taking a deep breath and forcing himself to suppress the anger within, Lucas bent over and pinched Charlotte's temples skillfully.

This was a method he had learned in the military, which was very effective for awakening unconscious people.

Indeed, after Lucas pressed a few times, Charlotte's eyelashes fluttered, and she slowly opened her eyes.

Charlotte clearly still hadn't gotten a clear idea of the situation yet.

The moment before she passed out, she was still sitting in Sophie's car. Afterward, something seemed to have rammed into her...

Charlotte blinked, sat up, and then realized that the bathrobe draped over her had already slid off, revealing her translucent nightgown. To her horror, she wasn't wearing anything underneath!

"Ah!" Charlotte screamed. She covered her chest and slapped Lucas, who was in front of her. "You're shameless!"

Chapter 57: Heartwarming Family

A trace of anger surfaced on Lucas's stunned face, but he immediately saw Charlotte picking up her bathrobe anxiously before starting to wail like a child. He instantly curbed his anger.

"You have the wrong idea. I'll call your sister over."

"Y-you still have the cheek to call my sister to come... You bastard..."

Lucas didn't bother paying attention to her again. He simply called Cheyenne and told her the address of the Luxe.

Lucas originally wanted Jordan to go and pick her up, but she had been extremely worried at home for a long time. Now that she had received some news about her younger sister, how could she continue waiting? She simply said that she would call a cab and rush over immediately.

Lucas asked Jordan to wait for Cheyenne downstairs so that she wouldn't run into some idiots when arriving at the club.

Soon after, Cheyenne rushed up from downstairs under Jordan's escort.

"Where's Charlotte?" Cheyenne asked worriedly.

"Inside." Lucas tipped his head toward the room behind him. Cheyenne dashed in immediately.

"Cheyenne!" Upon seeing her sister, Charlotte hugged her and cried her heart out.

Cheyenne hugged her for a while to comfort her and confirmed that her younger sister hadn't been violated. Charlotte finally calmed down and said sobbingly, "Cheyenne, Lucas is a bastard. Just now, he... If I hadn't woken up, he would have gotten what he wanted! He even had the cheek to call you to come. Cheyenne, you have to leave a scumbag like him!"

Cheyenne was caught between laughter and tears. "Charlotte, there must be some misunderstanding. Lucas came to save you. If it weren't for him, you would have really been in danger."

Charlotte was instantly stunned. Before she passed out, she was still in Sophie's car. And when she woke up again, she saw Lucas right in front of her while she was surrounded by a strange aura. Her clothes had also been changed into a skimpy nightgown...

So she subconsciously thought it was Lucas who brought her here and committed some disgusting acts on her.

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Yet it turned out that Lucas was here to rescue her.

"How did I end up here then?" Charlotte hurriedly asked.

Cheyenne told her, in general, everything that happened earlier.

After hearing this, Charlotte clenched her fist fiercely and punched the bed. Gritting her teeth, she barked, "Bryce Carter! It's all his fault! I'm not going to spare him!"

However, when she thought about the slap she had just given Lucas, Charlotte felt extremely remorseful. "Cheyenne, I'm sorry. I misunderstood Lucas just now and slapped him..."

"Uh..." Cheyenne was at a loss for words and merely coughed twice. "H-he won't blame you. Let's hurry home!"

After they cleaned up and came out, Lucas seemed to be acting as per usual. "It's late. I'll send you guys back."

Charlotte blushed and followed him together with Cheyenne, feeling grateful yet embarrassed. She wanted to apologize but didn't know how to, so she felt very complicated.

By the time Lucas drove them to the entrance of the Carters' old residence, it was already almost midnight.

Karen and William had no idea that Charlotte had been kidnapped and almost violated tonight, so they had already fallen asleep.

Cheyenne looked at Lucas and hesitated for a moment before saying, "Do you want to stay with Amelia tonight? She hasn't seen you all day today, and she kept clamoring about you before she went to bed."

Lucas saved Charlotte tonight, but he ended up getting slapped by her because of a misunderstanding. While feeling grateful, Cheyenne felt bad too.

Biting her lip and looking at Lucas, Charlotte suddenly said, "Lucas, just stay."

Seeing both Cheyenne and Lucas look at her in surprise because of what she said, Charlotte hurriedly turned around and scurried upstairs. "I'm going to take a shower first. You guys rest early too!"

Seeing her reaction, Cheyenne shook her head helplessly.

Soon, the two of them went back upstairs to Cheyenne's room.

As soon as they entered, Amelia, who was lying on the bed, rubbed her eyes and got up.

"Mommy, you're back..." When Amelia saw Lucas beside Cheyenne, her eyes instantly lit up in surprise, and she was suddenly awake.

"Daddy!" Amelia leaped into Lucas's arms happily. "Daddy, where were you today? I didn't see you all day."

Lucas stroked her head. "I was busy with something today. It's so late. Why are you still awake?"

"I was waiting for you, Daddy! Mommy went out too. Mommy, did you go out to find Daddy just now? Is Daddy going to sleep with us tonight?" Amelia blinked her large innocent eyes expectantly.

Cheyenne's face turned red, and she pretended to be angry. "What nonsense are you saying? It's late. Quickly go to bed!"

Amelia leaned closer to Cheyenne and touched her face seriously with a look of worry. "Mommy, your face is so warm. Are you sick again?"

Cheyenne had been running a high fever a few days ago, which had given Amelia a fright.

Hearing Amelia's words, Cheyenne felt even more embarrassed.

Fortunately, Lucas carried Amelia away. "Good children have to sleep at night. Otherwise, if you can't get out of bed tomorrow, you'll be late for kindergarten!"

Amelia put her arms around Lucas's neck and smiled. "It's Saturday tomorrow. I don't have to go to kindergarten."

Lucas froze for a moment. Amelia continued, "Mommy, Daddy, take me to the amusement park to play tomorrow! Other children often go there to play with their parents and take a lot of photos. I've never played at the amusement park with both of you..." Amelia's voice grew softer, but there was some cautious anticipation in her eyes, as if she was afraid that Lucas would turn her down.

Lucas felt heartache and was overwhelmed with guilt too.

His daughter was already six years old, but he had never taken her out to play. He had indeed failed as a father.

He turned his head to look at Cheyenne and asked for advice softly, "What do you say we take Amelia out to the amusement park to play tomorrow?"

"Okay." Cheyenne agreed with a nod without looking at him.

After hearing this, Amelia leaped with joy and gave Lucas and Cheyenne each a kiss on their cheek. She was as happy as a lark.

Seeing their daughter being on cloud nine over such a simple matter, both Lucas and Cheyenne felt a little upset.

"Okay, cut it out. Go to sleep quickly. If you get up late tomorrow, we won't be able to go to the amusement park!" Cheyenne carried Amelia back to the inner side of the bed and covered her with the blanket.

After hearing this, Amelia was so anxious that she hurriedly laid down obediently. "Okay! Goodnight Mommy. Goodnight Daddy! I'm so happy!"

Soon, Cheyenne slept on the same bed as Amelia as usual, while Lucas quietly lay on the mattress on the ground beside her.

The room was silent except for the tender sounds of breathing that made Lucas's heart grow warmer.

Chapter 58: Danger on the Bridge

Bright early the next morning, many people tapped away on their phones or computers while eating breakfast to catch up with current affairs, only to be shocked speechless by a piece of groundbreaking news. They almost spat out the food in their mouths!

The astonishing images, videos, high-definition faces, titles, and articles that directly exposed the identity of the people involved in a scandal occupied the front pages of countless forums and social media platforms.

All of a sudden, the scandal caused a huge uproar in Orange County. After all, the people involved in the scandal were famous figures with whom many in Orange County were familiar.

"Wow, oh my god! I didn't expect those two to be so disgusting! They even played with glass?!"

"Tsk, aren't they the playboys Brad Douglas and Bryce Carter? Everyone knows them. They seemed like decent people, but I didn't expect them to be so... ugh!"

Countless people were discussing that matter and perceiving the Carter and Douglas families in a different light.

When Dominic saw the images and footage of the news, he shook violently and almost vomited blood!

Bryce... his grandson, whom he regarded as his successor, had done something so unsightly and outrageous that he became the laughing stock of the entire county!

At this juncture, the butler of the Carters walked in and reported softly, "Mr. Carter, Mr. Bryce Carter has returned, but he doesn't seem too well..."

Before the butler finished speaking, Dominic immediately lost his temper. "Tell him to get lost! Get him out of here! From now on, I, Dominic Carter, will have nothing to do with Bryce Carter again!"

At the same time, the esteemed and authoritative patriarch of the prestigious Douglas family was also infuriated as he slapped his hand on a table ferociously. "Bastard! Everyone in the county knows about your scandal!"

Brad Douglas knelt in front of the old man, not even daring to breathe. However, he still tried to explain. "Grandpa, I was set up by someone! He beat me up, drugged me, and locked me up with that loser Bryce Carter. He even deliberately filmed those videos and spread them around..."

"Who did it?" The old man was even more furious when he heard this. *Anyone who dares to do that to a Douglas must be tired of living!*

"It's Lucas Gray, that useless son-in-law of the Carters!" Brad gritted his teeth. When he woke up last night, he had already looked for Bryce and forced him to reveal the culprit's identity.

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To be toyed like this by the live-in son-in-law of the Carters was his shame!

"Hmph, a loser like him managed to land you in this state. You're such a disappointment! If you can't settle this matter, you don't deserve to be my grandson," Mr. Douglas Senior said coldly.

Brad hung his head low and clenched his jaw. "Don't worry. I will definitely get revenge on him!"

A resentful gleam of light darted out of his eyes. *Lucas Gray, I must get revenge, or I'm not a human!*

At this moment, Lucas was taking Cheyenne and Amelia to the largest amusement park in Orange County. They first boarded the Ferris wheel, followed by the Viking ship, and lastly the carousel.

Amelia, who was wearing a beautiful princess dress, was smiling elatedly.

She finally went to the amusement park with her parents, just like other kids!

Along the way, she had been holding Cheyenne's hand with her left hand and Lucas's hand with her right, with pure bliss written all over her face.

All of a sudden, Amelia stopped and placed their hands together. "Daddy, Mommy, hold each other's hands."

Upon his hand coming into contact with Cheyenne's small and tender hand, Lucas's heart skipped a beat while she felt helplessly embarrassed.

She was about to retract her hand, but Amelia put their hands together tightly. "Jamie told me that if Mommy and Daddy hold hands like this, they will soon have a little baby. Daddy, Mommy, hurry up and give me another little brother or sister so that I won't be an only child!"

Cheyenne's face instantly turned red, and even her ears reddened. She quickly retracted her hand like she had been electrocuted.

"Children shouldn't be spouting nonsense!" Cheyenne chided Amelia.

"Huh? Is that wrong? Then how do little brothers and sisters come?" Amelia asked, tilting her head in curiosity.

Looking at her daughter's innocent and expectant little face, Cheyenne couldn't resist her at all. She glared at Lucas angrily.

Dumbstruck, Lucas laughed, finding the angry Cheyenne from embarrassment just as adorable as Amelia.

He couldn't bear to let Cheyenne continue being embarrassed, so he picked Amelia up in his arms and ran forward. "Quick, let's go watch the dolphin show!"

"Wow! Dolphins!" As soon as Amelia heard that they were going to see dolphins, she immediately forgot about the things she just clamored about.

Cheyenne let out a long sigh of relief. Watching the father and daughter duo running in front of her and laughing happily, she couldn't help smiling gently.

After playing in the amusement park for more than half the day, Lucas and Cheyenne left together with Amelia, who was reluctant to leave.

Lucas drove Cheyenne and Amelia home in his black Jaguar.

After a day of fun, the three of them became closer.

As the car drove along, Amelia climbed in the back seat and snuggled up to Cheyenne while chattering happily about what she had seen today. Then she said to Cheyenne, "Mommy, when will we go out to play with Daddy again? I'm so happy today!"

Cheyenne pinched Amelia's little nose. "We've already played for an entire day. Aren't you tired yet?"

The two of them laughed and played with each other in the back seat while Lucas watched them through the rearview mirror, the corners of his mouth curling into a smile.

Suddenly, Lucas's gaze turned cold. On the bridge they were on, a Hummer was speeding toward them diagonally from the lane beside them, trying to collide with the black Jaguar!

"Be careful! Hold on tight!" Lucas exclaimed. He floored the gas pedal while turning the steering wheel, revving up the Jaguar and speeding off, avoiding the Hummer by a close shave.

On the other hand, the Hummer couldn't brake in time because of its enormous momentum and thus crashed directly into the bridge railing and then into the river below.

"Are you guys alright?" Lucas immediately turned around to check on Cheyenne and Amelia after pulling over to the side of the road.

Scared soulless, Cheyenne hugged Amelia tightly and had turned as pale as a sheet from the fright. In contrast, Amelia hadn't realized the danger they were in just now and was simply shocked because she thought that Lucas had braked in an emergency.

Luckily, both of them had their seat belts securely fastened and were not injured.

With lingering fear, Cheyenne turned around, looked at the destroyed bridge railing, and asked softly, "What's the matter with that car?"

Lucas shook his head, pretending to be thankful to have escaped the close shave with death. "No idea. Maybe the brakes broke. It was so close to hitting our car."

Looking at the vast river worriedly, Cheyenne said, "I wonder how the driver is doing." They were on the bridge and couldn't see what was going on in the river below.

"Someone over there has already called the police. The police and rescue teams should be arriving soon. We'd better go first, or the road will be closed later," Lucas said.

Cheyenne nodded. She hugged her daughter tightly, feeling fortunate.

Lucas restarted the car, but this time, his eyes were ice cold.

Chapter 59: Creating a Ruckus

Lucas knew very well that this was definitely not an accident, but rather, someone had deliberately tried to crash into them to kill them!

Given the size and speed of the Hummer just now, they would have either been pushed to the edge of the bridge or knocked over and dropped into the river below if Lucas hadn't reacted quickly and dodged early!

If he were alone, he could still escape from the danger. But there were two vulnerable females in the car!

They were also the two people he loved the most!

They were his weakness, and no one was allowed to touch them!

A figure dived silently into the river below the bridge and swam to the Hummer that was gradually sinking into the water. He then punched the window to break it and pulled the driver out.

After swimming to the shallow waters hundreds of meters away, the figure finally dragged the driver, who was about to drown and suffocate, ashore.

The figure was Jordan, Lucas's right-hand man!

Jordan turned the driver's body face up and stepped on his stomach. Immediately afterward, a large amount of river water mixed with mud and sand surged out of the driver's mouth and nostrils.

The driver came to and coughed violently, coughing up the water in his stomach.

After the driver was almost done, Jordan stepped hard on his stomach and questioned, "Speak. Who put you to it?"

The driver just had a near-death experience. As he stared at Jordan towering above him, his face turned even paler. "I don't know what you're talking about."

"You still don't want to come clean, huh?" Without hesitation, Jordan picked up the driver by his collar and pressed his head toward the water. "If you don't say anything, you can stay inside!"

Watching the icy-cold river water getting closer and closer to him, the driver, who just experienced drowning, immediately shrieked in terror and began struggling.

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However, Jordan was pressing his hand hard against the driver's neck, rendering him unable to struggle. Seeing that his head was about to be pressed into the water again, the driver no longer cared about anything else. He simply broke down and started yelling loudly. "Ah! I'll speak up! Please spare my life..." Teary-eyed, the driver begged for mercy.

Jordan pulled his head up slightly with one hand and ordered, "Speak!"

"I-it was Mr. D-Douglas. Brad Douglas was the one who instructed me to hit that car!"

Lucas sent Cheyenne and Amelia back home and watched the two of them enter the house, but he didn't stay behind.

"Lucas." Just as Lucas was about to drive away, Cheyenne suddenly called out to stop him.

"Do you have something to do now?" Cheyenne asked hesitantly.

Lucas nodded. "Yes, I have some trivial matters to handle."

"You were the one who did those things to the Carters recently, right?" Cheyenne asked, her jaws clenched.

Since Cheyenne asked, Lucas did not intend to hide it from her. He nodded. "Yes, but they deserve it."

Cheyenne hesitated for a while but nevertheless said, "Can you let them off? They must have learned their lesson from what happened lately."

It was not that Cheyenne was being a saint, but rather, she had grown up with the Carters after all, and those people used to be her relatives. She still cared about their kinship and didn't want to take things too far.

Lucas looked at Cheyenne affectionately and nodded. "Okay."

When Lucas was driving and halfway into his journey, Jordan called. "Lucas, the culprit is really that bastard Brad Douglas!"

"Hmph, as expected!" Lucas snorted coldly. He stepped on the gas pedal and sped to the Luxe maniacally. *Seems like Brad Douglas hasn't learned his lesson yet!*

Lucas wasn't fazed by the fact that Douglas was a member of a first-tier family that commanded great power among the gangs in Orange County.

Anyone who dared to harm the two people he cherished the most and put them in danger deserved to die!

At this moment, Douglas was sitting in the Luxe with a menacing expression.

The incident last night made him utterly embarrassed and even left him in great pain, especially in his private area. He couldn't even sit properly without feeling agony.

"Mr. Douglas, that bastard must be dead now. Even if he didn't die from the collision, he must have died from drowning. Our people also deliberately created some obstacles on the road so that the rescue vehicles wouldn't be able to get there in time," said an underling.

"Hah! It was too easy for him! I heard that his beautiful wife, Cheyenne Carter, was also in the car. It's quite a pity she died with him. Otherwise, it'd be nice to toy with the former greatest beauty of Orange County!" Douglas gibed as he puffed out a mouthful of a cigar.

"Haha, Mr. Douglas, you can get any kind of woman you want. The one yesterday is Cheyenne's sister. She's quite pretty too. If you'd like, I'll get her immediately!" A few of his underlings were hurriedly trying to curry favor with him.

"Haha, good! Yesterday, that bastard messed things up for me and even incurred my wrath! I must get that woman over here again to vent! Let's see who'll try getting in my way again!"

Douglas began laughing without restraint while the people around him egged him on.

At this moment, the black Jaguar stopped at the entrance of the Luxe.

Lucas stepped out of the car, and Jordan, who had been waiting at the side, immediately greeted him. "Lucas, tell me what to do!"

Luxe looked up at the luxurious Luxe clubhouse with an icy cold gaze. "Smash it!"

Upon receiving the order, Jordan immediately charged forward without hesitation and kicked the exquisite door and the stone monument with the word 'Luxe' carved on it, smashing them into pieces!

The flying stone debris smashed against the huge tempered glass door with a loud bang, and glass shards scattered all over the floor.

The numerous people in the club were frightened by the sudden noise and started screaming loudly.

Several security officers and henchmen immediately came over. "Who are you people? How dare you make trouble at the club?!"

"Get lost!"

All they received in response was a series of sounds of things breaking.

Jordan broke a stool leg in his hand and smashed everything in sight.

He smashed the opulent bar counter!

He smashed the wine cabinet full of famous and expensive alcohol!

He smashed the dazzling chandelier!

He smashed the tables, windows, chairs, and other furniture!

Everyone in the club frantically scurried out shrieking.

“Damn it! These two are here to cause trouble! Just beat them to death!” a henchman as burly as a tower immediately hollered. More than ten of his subordinates rushed over from all directions.

Lucas snorted coldly. *Brad Douglas’s twenty-odd henchmen got their wrists broken yesterday and definitely can’t make it to work today. He probably hired these backup goons from somewhere. They really don’t know any better.*

Jordan charged forward and shuttled through the people as quick as a phantom. In less than a moment, ten-odd people had their wrists snapped just like those yesterday!

One of the henchmen scrambled into the private room where Douglas was and exclaimed in a fluster, “Bad news, Mr. Douglas! The two people from yesterday are here again!”

Chapter 60: Paying the Price

Hearing his underling’s report, Douglas immediately stood up and asked with a glowering expression, “What did you say? Are you sure it’s those two from yesterday?”

The underling nodded profusely in horror. “Yes, it’s those two from yesterday. I wouldn’t recognize them wrongly! They’re currently smashing the things in the main hall of the first floor, and the guests are terrified.”

Douglas kicked the coffee table furiously, but he accidentally touched his hidden injury, making him fly into a rage. “Didn’t you say that Lucas Gray was knocked off the bridge? Why is he still alive?”

The one who came to report the matter earlier didn’t seem too well, and cold sweat broke out on his forehead. “He indeed... fell into the river. We saw from afar that he fell off the bridge and plunged into the river. The rescue teams rushed over, but they were stopped.”

Bam—Douglas slapped the underling hard on the face.

“Bullshit! If he really plunged into the river and drowned to death, are the ones here creating trouble ghosts? You trash!”

Douglas was just celebrating the fact that he had killed Lucas and took revenge. But now, they were here slapping him in his face!

“Let’s go. Gather everyone and go down with me. I refuse to believe he can defeat us!” Douglas exclaimed as he hurried downstairs with a furious and menacing expression.

At this moment, the people in the hall below were all badly bashed up by Jordan, and broken glass, wine bottles, ceiling lights, and shattered debris of furniture covered the ground. The initially luxurious hall was smashed and ended up looking like a garbage dump.

Today, Douglas had just hired more than ten henchmen, but they were all currently rolling in pain on the ground with broken wrists!

Seeing this, Douglas was overwhelmed with exasperation. *Those bastards!*

“Damn it! Beat them!” Hearing Douglas’s order, his underlings behind, who were all holding steel rods and weapons, immediately charged forward.

“Hmph, you must have a death wish!” Before Lucas said anything, Jordan picked up a chair and rushed over.

His movements were far quicker than Douglas’s underlings. Before the underlings’ weapons could hit him, the leg of Jordan’s chair had already slammed onto their wrists and thighs.

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Bang!

“Ah!”

“Waaa!”

With Jordan’s fast and accurate hits, the dozen or so people who rushed up all shrieked in pain miserably as they dropped their weapons and started rolling on the ground, clutching their wrists and thighs and wailing loudly.

Seeing this, Douglas became terrified and furious.

The ten-odd people holding weapons actually failed to even harm Lucas in the slightest. Instead, they were beaten up by the other party!

“Stop! Lucas, what exactly are you trying to do?” Douglas gritted his teeth and glared at Lucas while the fear and horror in his heart surged again like yesterday.

“What do I want to do? Aren’t you aware of what you got someone to do today?” Lucas looked at Douglas with an icy cold glare.

On that bridge today, his wife and daughter had had a close shave with death. How could Lucas let Douglas off easily?

Douglas suddenly choked.

He had sent someone to run over Lucas and his wife and daughter with a car, but his plan failed, and Lucas was now at his door and seeking revenge. This was totally out of his expectations.

Facing Lucas’s icy cold eyes, Douglas subconsciously took a few steps back. “There must be some misunderstanding somewhere. Actually, there’s no unresolvable feud between us. Why don’t we sit down and have a good talk? What do you think?”

Despite saying that, Douglas didn’t really plan to bury the hatchet.

He would never forget the shame Lucas had brought him last night! He would never spare Lucas!

When they sat down to chat, he would have someone spike Lucas’s drink and then get his subordinates to make him have a taste of his own medicine!

Once he was done taking revenge, he would make him vanish forever!

Lucas sneered and glanced at Douglas in disdain, as if he had seen through his thoughts. “Have a good talk? Who are you to do that with me?!”

Lucas gripped the wine bottle on the table next to him and fiercely smashed it on Douglas’s head.

Smack!

With a crisp sound, the bottle shattered and cut open Douglas’s head. Crimson blood began gushing out from the top of his head.

After being stunned for a while, Douglas touched his bloodied head and glowered at Lucas furiously. “You... How dare you...”

“Hmph, you’d better remember this. If you dare to provoke me and the people I care about again, I’ll definitely make your life a living hell!” Lucas kicked Douglas in his knees, twisting his legs into a warped angle, and made him tumble out far, far away.

Without being able to utter a single word, Douglas passed out.

Everyone in the room was scared into silence, not daring to breathe a single word as they watched Lucas and Jordan leave. *Too terrifying!*

Only when the figures of these two people had completely disappeared did someone from the Luxe quickly take Douglas to the hospital.

Soon, Brad Douglas’s father, Gordon Douglas, hurried to the hospital.

When he saw his son, whose head was wrapped in bandages and legs were covered with casts, Gordon Douglas was infuriated.

In Orange County, no one had ever disrespected the Douglas family or had the guts to beat his son so badly!

“Find him! Get someone to find him! I must take revenge and kill him!”

At this moment, Lucas was already on his way back to the lakeside villa with Jordan.

He was covered in blood just now, so he didn’t want to go back to the Carters, lest Cheyenne and Amelia saw the state he was in.

Thinking about Cheyenne’s request for him to let the Carters off today, Lucas called Flynn Davis and gave him some instructions.

After taking a shower, Lucas stood by the railing on a balcony and looked at the sparkling lake outside with a bitter smile.

Previously, he proposed to Cheyenne at the Intercontinental Hotel but was turned down by her. Later on, he revealed his identity to her and wanted to return the Brilliance Corporation to her.

Unfortunately, Cheyenne refused to accept it.

Cheyenne had always had a strong backbone and wasn’t willing to accept favors for nothing. She merely said that she would go to the Brilliance Corporation, but she hoped to work her way up to her former position from the bottom.

Cheyenne was determined, so Lucas had no choice but to give in.

This was how kindhearted, intelligent, and independent the woman he loved was.

The following morning, Dominic Carter, who had stayed up all night, suddenly received an excellent piece of news.

The Brilliance Corporation, which the Stardust Corporation had snatched away, suddenly gave the Carters an offer to become the guarantor of their debts and even decided to sign a cooperative contract with them!

Chapter 61: Treat You to a Meal

When a member of the family came in to report the good news, Dominic was so excited that his fingers began trembling. He asked profusely, "Really? Are you not lying to me?"

The family member nodded agitatedly. "Yes! The Brilliance Corporation has really decided to cooperate with us, and they have already sent someone over to sign the contract with us. Our factories are also back in operation. And the bank has decided to give us some leeway for the loan repayment because the Brilliance Corporation has decided to be our guarantor. They're no longer going to apply for compulsory execution!"

"Good!" Dominic was so excited that he rubbed his hands together. The Carters' crisis would be resolved!

At this moment, another family member hurried in. "Good news, Mr. Carter Senior! The companies that previously terminated their partnerships with us have called to resume their cooperation with us!"

"Great! Wonderful! The Carters have finally gotten through this ordeal!" Dominic's face reddened in excitement.

All the Carters were overjoyed after surviving this calamity. God knows how hard it had been for them the past two days. They almost wanted to leave the family and find their own way out!

"Bryce deserves credit for this matter!" A woman's voice suddenly sounded. It was Bryce Carter's mother, Sarah Hadley.

At the mention of Bryce, Dominic's face immediately turned gloomy again. "Don't mention that sinful bastard in front of me! That impudent bastard acted presumptuously and got embroiled in a scandal that embarrassed us greatly!"

Sarah began pouting aggrievedly. "Dominic, you know very well that someone set Bryce up. If that loser Lucas Gray... hadn't spiked Bryce's and Brad Douglas's drinks and even filmed a video of them, they wouldn't have ended up like that. Besides, if Lucas hadn't suddenly gone to create trouble that day, the crisis the Carters faced might have been resolved two days ago."

With a few words, Sarah blamed everything on Lucas and reminded Dominic of the horror he experienced when Lucas broke into the Carters' main residence and strangled him.

He was now full of fear and hatred toward Lucas.

Sarah Hadley looked at Dominic's face and continued, "Bryce was chased out of the family, and he's very upset too. Yesterday, he was going around running errands for the Carters. Doesn't he deserve any credit?"

"Also, Bryce is your only grandson after all. It's right for you to be angry with him, and you can teach him a lesson as much as you'd like, but can you really bear to drive him out of the family?" Sarah pretended to wipe her tears.

Dominic felt conflicted as well.

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Bryce was his only direct descendant, and he would definitely take over the family in the future. Yesterday, he chased Bryce out of the family only because of a moment of folly, but he mainly wanted to teach Bryce a lesson and did not really want to disown him.

Seeing Sarah keep pleading for mercy and several other family members also helping him, Dominic sighed and agreed. "Okay, since you're all pleading for him, I'll give him another chance. But if he creates any trouble or disgraces the family again, don't blame me for being ruthless!"

"Yes, definitely! I'll also take Bryce in hand and make sure he listens to you!" Sarah agreed frantically with a joyful expression.

On the other hand, after hearing Dominic's decision to let him return to the family, Bryce simply felt that that should have been the case anyway.

He was Dominic Carter's only biological grandson, and the entire family would be handed over to him in the future, so how could Dominic really drive him out?

Lucas is too despicable! He went against me and ruined things for me. He even made me become the laughing stock of the entire county!

Bryce swore that he would never let Lucas off easily!

While the Carters were immersed in the joy of the family crisis being over, no one knew that it was only because Cheyenne had asked Lucas to give them a way out on account that they used to be family.

Otherwise, the Carters would have long fallen apart.

However, neither Lucas nor Cheyenne thought of letting the Carters find out the truth.

At this moment, Lucas suddenly received a phone call, and the person who called was surprisingly Charlotte.

“Um... are you free now? I'd like to treat you to a meal!” Charlotte's voice was shaky, and she clearly felt uneasy.

Lucas burst into laughter. Of course, he knew why Charlotte wanted to treat him to a meal out of the blue. He had saved her that day, but she got the wrong idea and even slapped him.

After Cheyenne explained it to her, Charlotte had been feeling very embarrassed and conflicted. She wanted to thank him and apologize to him, but in the end, she was too shy to say anything.

She should have mulled over it for a long time before finally calling him.

Lucas smiled. He did not intend to hold it against Charlotte. “There's no need to treat me to a meal...”

Before Lucas finished, Charlotte quickly interrupted him, “I'll book a private room and be waiting for you at Lion Restaurant.”

After saying this, she hung up the phone.

Lucas was caught between laughter and tears. *How can she insist that I let her treat me to a meal?*

Nevertheless, Lucas arrived at Lion Restaurant at noon.

The relationship between him and Cheyenne had finally become less strained, and Charlotte mattered a lot to Cheyenne. So no matter what, Lucas had to give in to Charlotte.

Lion Restaurant was a long-established restaurant in Orange County, and it was famous for being the go-to place for banquets held by businessmen and ordinary patrons.

As soon as Lucas got out of his car, he saw Charlotte waiting for him not far away. When she saw him, she finally heaved a sigh of relief, as if she was scared that he wouldn't come.

Lucas walked over and touched his nose. "Actually, there's really no need to do this."

Charlotte glared at him. "Since I said that I'd treat you to a meal, I have to honor it. I can still afford to treat you to a meal."

Lucas was instantly dumbfounded and speechless.

Well, Charlotte was actually not an annoying girl, but she was childish and arrogant.

Lucas did not blame her for it. As they were about to enter the restaurant, a voice suddenly sounded from the side. "Huh? Charlotte, it's really you!"

Gazing at Charlotte, a young man walked over with a gleeful expression. There was a woman with bouncy, curly hair standing close beside him. They were obviously very intimate with each other.

Charlotte's expression instantly changed when she saw the man. Afterward, she held onto Lucas's arm somewhat uneasily and smiled radiantly at the couple in front of her. "Ah, it's you, Declan. I didn't expect to run into you here."

Lucas was caught by surprise when Charlotte suddenly held onto his arm. But afterward, Lucas felt Charlotte turning stiff.

It seemed that there was some history between her and this man.

Chapter 62: Coincidental Encounter in the Restaurant

Declan Adams was tall and seemed to be around his mid-twenties. His features were handsome, and he dressed fashionably. Although he was a man, he put a lot of effort into skincare, and he looked just like the young heir of a well-to-do family.

The long-haired woman next to him was about the same age as him. Her face was covered in exquisite makeup, and she was decked out in luxury designer labels such as Gucci, Chanel, Hermes, and others. She was beautiful at first glance, but unfortunately, her face was too plastic. She had obviously had cosmetic surgery on her eyelids and jaw.

Declan's gaze lingered on Charlotte's arm for a second, after which he smiled and held onto the shoulder of the woman beside him. He introduced, "This is my wife, Estelle Brooke."

Estelle snuggled up to Declan and sized Charlotte up. "Well? Introduce Charlotte..."

Sensing Estelle's vague jealousy, Declan hurriedly put his hand on her waist to comfort her. "She's Charlotte Carter, my schoolmate from college."

Hearing Declan introduce her in this manner, Charlotte couldn't help but bite hard on her lower lip.

"Ah, so it's Charlotte Carter! I heard Declan mentioning before that there was a schoolmate from college who had been courting him for years, but he never agreed. I didn't expect it to be you." Estelle said these words smilingly and casually pretended to reveal a large diamond ring on her ring finger.

Charlotte's smile stiffened.

She did like Declan Adams back in college, but she felt mocked when his wife said it to her face and in such a sarcastic tone.

It was worse especially because even Declan seemed conceited.

Charlotte was about to say goodbye when she heard Declan say, "It's a coincidence today. Estelle and I happen to have booked a private room here for a meal. You two should also come along. After all, it's been a long time since we've seen each other."

After glancing at Declan, Estelle said, "Yeah, the Lion is the most famous and established restaurant in the city. It's noon now, and it'll be hard to get a private room. Let's eat together. Declan and I will be bored if it's just the two of us."

Charlotte was about to decline because she had already booked a private room long ago, but Lucas suddenly nodded. "Sure then."

Charlotte immediately panicked. But since Lucas already spoke and agreed, she could not refute him in front of them. So she could only pinch Lucas's arm secretly.

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However, Lucas kept a straight face and wasn't bothered by it at all.

Soon, a waiter ushered them to a room on the second floor.

After they were seated, Declan grabbed the menu and handed it to Estelle. "Estelle, see if there's anything you'd like. You can order first."

Estelle grabbed the menu smilingly, but she chided Declan, "Our guests are still here. How can I order first?" She glanced at Charlotte and Lucas but remained still, not intending to hand the menu over to them.

"We're former classmates. What's the point of being so formal with each other? They won't mind, right?" Declan held Estelle's waist as he kissed her forehead affectionately. He was directing his last question at Charlotte and Lucas.

"Back in the day, Charlotte used to bring me my meals for several months when she was courting me. She never missed my breakfast or lunch. Unfortunately, I didn't reciprocate your feelings and shared the food with our classmates. Charlotte, you don't hold it against me, do you?" Declan chuckled.

Charlotte squeezed her own fingers tightly under the table, almost digging her nails into her flesh.

She had once spent a lot of time and effort bringing food for him with her utmost sincerity. Every day, she would get up early just to cook for him, no matter rain or shine. Yet she ended up becoming a laughingstock.

Charlotte remained silent. Controlling her emotions was already extremely tough.

Seeing the sullen expression on Charlotte's face, Estelle giggled provocatively and coquettishly. "However, I really have to thank Miss Carter for being so nice to my husband. I also have to be thankful that Declan didn't give in to your pursuit. Otherwise, we wouldn't have gotten together and be living such a blissful life."

Declan held Estelle in his arms gently. "It's my honor to be able to marry you."

The two of them were showing their affection for each other like nobody's business while Charlotte clenched her jaw and said, "I wish you conjugal bliss."

Estelle suddenly seemed to realize that there were outsiders around, so she sat up straight shyly. "Fortunately, you've found your better half too, Miss Carter. Are you married yet? How may I address this man beside you?"

Charlotte tried to calm herself down before saying calmly, "Not yet. His name is Lucas Gray."

"Oh, hello, Mr. Gray. We're both about the same age, so you don't mind me addressing you as Lucas, right?" Declan chuckled.

Lucas glared at Declan with a mirthless grin.

It had been long since anyone talked to him in such a condescending manner. Besides, he was a few years older than Declan, but Declan talked down to him so haughtily.

Not at all bothered if Lucas minded it or not, Declan continued to ask in an arrogant tone, "Lucas, where do you work now?"

Lucas smiled. "I was a soldier for a few years, but I'm now a freelancer."

Hearing this, Declan's and Estelle's eyes were full of disdain.

On the other hand, Charlotte glared at Lucas. *Why do you have to be so honest?!*

"Freelancer? You mean unemployed?" Estelle gibed, then covered her mouth while giggling.

"Lucas, that's not right. As a man, how can you loaf around? You don't want to be sponging off your wife, do you?"

"Ah, I really do." Lucas nodded seriously, as if he found that a great idea.

Declan was instantly at a loss for words.

He found Lucas handsome and sophisticated at first, but he didn't expect him to be an incompetent wastrel.

Charlotte must regret not winning my heart and marrying a handsome and competent man like me. Declan was getting ahead of himself while thinking about it, and he even felt a tremendous sense of superiority.

Chapter 63: Untitled

Having confirmed that Lucas was a good-for-nothing, Declan could no longer be bothered to continue talking to him. He turned to look at Charlotte and asked, "Charlotte, what are you doing now?"

Charlotte was already sick and tired of Declan's attempts to show his superiority and answered indifferently, "I just joined the Stardust Corporation not long ago."

"Hey, that's such a coincidence." Declan clapped and laughed out loud. "I'm in town this time to talk about the cooperation with the Stardust Corporation. I'm old friends with Mr. Davis, the general manager of your company. I'll put in a good word for you in front of him and ask him to look out for you, lest a low-level employee like you have a tough time climbing the corporate ladder."

Declan waved his hand and leaned backward proudly, as if he had already gotten Flynn Davis to arrange for Charlotte's promotion.

Estelle was a little displeased and glared at Charlotte. "Declan may be kind enough to help you, but you have to work hard too. Don't depend entirely on him. Otherwise, it might be difficult for Declan to broach the topic with Mr. Davis even though they're close. Don't you agree?"

Her tone was derisive, and she made it sound as though Charlotte was pestering Declan to help her get promoted.

Charlotte did not have a good temper, and she could tolerate this for such a long time entirely because of her former crush's sake.

At this moment, she couldn't tolerate it any longer and sneered. "Did I say that I wanted you to help? I will earn my promotion with my own efforts. I don't need you to worry about it."

Having been retorted by Charlotte out of the blue, Estelle immediately looked at Declan aggrievedly. "Hubby, we were just being kind by offering to help. Why did she say that?"

With a gloomy expression, Declan patted Estelle's back to comfort her. He said with a frown, "Charlotte, I only offered to help you on account that we used to be classmates. Even if you refuse to accept my goodwill, you don't have to be so hostile."

Charlotte was almost going to laugh out of anger.

At this moment, a waiter knocked on the door of the private room and walked in.

"Excuse me, everyone. Today, we will be receiving a distinguished guest, so we won't be able to serve you for the time being. I'm extremely sorry. As compensation, all your orders will be on the house today, and we will also gift you a few discount coupons," the waiter spoke courteously and handed over a small goody bag that had exquisite packaging.

Although the waiter apologized, it was obvious that he wanted them to leave immediately.

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Declan flew into a rage and shouted, "You're trying to drive me away? Do you know who I am? Get your manager to come here!"

"Excuse me, sir. This is our manager's intention. Everyone has to leave, no matter who. Please pardon us for the convenience," the waiter said in a respectful tone. However, his attitude was firm.

“Hmph, I just don’t believe it. What kind of distinguished guest can make us leave? If you don’t tell me clearly, I will smash this restaurant!” Declan pointed at the waiter furiously.

However, his movements were too large, and he accidentally knocked over a wine glass at the edge of the table, causing it to fall onto the ground with a loud bang.

The crisp sound of glass shattering immediately spread.

Declan stiffened.

He was actually just issuing a verbal threat. A renowned and established restaurant like the Lion was definitely backed by a powerful figure. How could he afford to provoke them?

“What’s going on?” A middle-aged man wearing a tag that said ‘Restaurant Lobby Supervisor’ pinned on his chest came over with a frown on his face.

The waiter hurriedly pointed at Declan. “Mr. Jones, you wanted us to clear the rooms, but this gentleman here isn’t willing to leave. He wants to know which guest is here, and he accidentally broke the wine glass in the midst of throwing a fit.”

The manager, Mr. Jones, glanced at Declan and said aloofly, “I’m sorry, Sir. But Mr. Ethan Sawyer is treating his guests to a meal in our restaurant today. In order to prevent him from being disturbed, everyone else has to leave. I hope to seek your cooperation.”

“Ethan Sawyer?” Declan was flabbergasted. Ethan Sawyer was the richest man in the county, and he owned businesses in several states. Even those from outside Orange County had heard of him.

Compared to Ethan Sawyer, Declan Adams was nothing.

In fact, if possible, Declan wanted to stay behind, as that might give him the opportunity to have a good talk with the richest man in the county. It would be even better if he could become friends with him.

Unfortunately, he probably would have no chance of getting close to Sawyer since he was hosting some guests and wanted the restaurant to be cleared.

Declan hurriedly stood up and smiled. “I’m so sorry. Had I known earlier that it was Mr. Sawyer, we would have left long ago. I’ve created such a mess.”

He put his arm around Estelle’s shoulders and said to Charlotte and Lucas, who were still sitting, “Charlotte, Lucas, what are you waiting for? Didn’t you hear that we have to make way for Mr. Sawyer?”

Charlotte looked at Declan, whose smile had become humble and deferential. She couldn't help but feel infinite disappointment. *Is this the person I carried a torch for, for such a long time back then?*

"Hmph." However, Lucas remained in his seat and even sneered in amusement.

"Are you still not going to get up? We'll be in trouble if we offend Mr. Sawyer!" Declan couldn't help but holler angrily when he saw Lucas sitting still in his seat.

"Is that so? Is Ethan Sawyer kicking up such a big fuss over a meal?" Lucas remarked as he held a wine glass playfully.

Panic-stricken and furious, Declan said, "You actually have the audacity to call Mr. Sawyer by his full name. He's the richest man in the county, and his assets are unimaginable. If you don't respect him, you're going to implicate us, you fool!"

Estelle said impatiently, "Why are you wasting your breath on them? Let's hurry and leave. If they end up offending Mr. Sawyer, that'll serve them right!"

Declan didn't go on any longer and simply glared at Lucas coldly before taking a few more looks at Charlotte's pretty face. "Forget it. We have said what we should say. If you don't know any better, don't blame us. Let's go."

Holding Estelle's hand, he was just about to leave when a few people coincidentally came upstairs at this moment.

They were Ethan Sawyer and his friends, whom the restaurant manager was personally showing the way for.

With some joy and surprise, Declan hurriedly greeted them and bowed. "Hello, Mr. Sawyer..." *Isn't this a Godsent opportunity for me to get close to Ethan Sawyer?*

Sawyer frowned. Whenever he was walking, he would often be approached by random strangers trying to get close to him.

The restaurant manager at the side was about to step forward to pull Declan away, but all of a sudden, Sawyer saw a familiar figure through the open door of the private room.

"Mr. Sawyer, I..." Declan wanted to say something, but...

"Get lost!" Sawyer had no time for him now. He simply pushed past Declan and hurried into the private room.

Chapter 64: Blind

Declan was caught off guard and began stumbling away, but he definitely didn't dare to get angry. As soon as he regained his balance, he saw a person standing behind Sawyer, and his eyes lit up.

"Mr. Davis! You're here too..." Declan hurriedly greeted Flynn Davis.

"Shut up!" Davis similarly pushed past him. Without even looking at Declan, he hurried into the private room.

Sawyer rushed into the private room and looked at Lucas, who was sitting on a chair. He smiled and bowed. "I never expected to run into you here today, Mr. Gray. It's such a coincidence. I happen to be treating some friends to a meal here today. Please grant me the honor of having a meal with you."

Davis greeted too. "Hello, Mr. Gray."

He almost addressed Lucas as chairman, but he held it back because he recalled Lucas's instructions not to reveal his identity.

Lucas looked at Sawyer and Davis and grinned mirthlessly. "Mr. Sawyer, you booked the entire restaurant for yourself just for a meal. I don't dare to stay."

Sawyer was puzzled. "Booked the entire restaurant? Who said that?"

The manager at the side immediately shuddered, thinking that his plan to cozy up to Ethan Sawyer by bootlicking had failed.

The manager stood up and smiled. "I was just scared that others might ruin your mood, but I didn't know that this gentleman here is your friend. I'm very sorry!"

The restaurant supervisor at the side also turned pale in shock. Actually, it was considered a common practice of their restaurant. Ethan Sawyer was the big boss of the restaurant, and since he was hosting some guests, the staff drove everyone away.

However, he didn't know that one of the guests he had driven away was Ethan Sawyer's friend. *This is horrible!*

The waiter who came over to clear the room was so scared that he started shuddering in fear and was on the brink of tears.

He was just a waiter, and these things had nothing to do with him...

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"Mr. Sawyer, I'm very sorry..." The supervisor hurriedly bowed and apologized to Lucas.

However, Sawyer directly interrupted him, "Enough. Since you've offended a distinguished guest, you're fired. Go collect your salary and leave!"

The manager and supervisor wanted to plead for leniency. But when they saw the stern expression on Sawyer's face, they were too scared to say anything and had no choice but to hang their heads low and go to the HR department to handle the procedures.

Meanwhile, the waiter really felt like crying.

"Forget it." Lucas waved his hand. "They just assumed that that was what you wanted. I wasn't offended either."

With a look of embarrassment, Sawyer said smilingly, "I will instruct them to pay more attention in the future and never repeat such a mistake again."

After that, Sawyer glared at the three people in front of him, "What are you still standing there for? Hurry up and thank Mr. Gray. If he hadn't spoken up for you, you would have lost your jobs! Remember, don't do such things again in the future. I'm not that demanding!"

Hearing Sawyer's words, the restaurant manager, the supervisor, and the unlucky waiter hurriedly bowed to Lucas and thanked him. "Thank you for being so generous, Mr. Gray! Thank you so much!"

This scene made Declan Adams and Estelle Brooke, who were standing at the entrance of the private room, stare wide-eyed at them!

None of them expected that Ethan Sawyer, the richest man in Orange County, and Flynn Davis, the general manager of the Stardust Corporation, would actually swallow their pride in front of Lucas.

They tried to fire the manager and supervisor because they thought that they had offended Lucas. However, the staff were saved by Lucas's words.

How can he be an ordinary person? Declan felt that he was dreaming.

In particular, a few minutes ago, he still treated Lucas as a loser who was just sponging off a woman. He even talked to him condescendingly.

Thinking of this, Declan wanted to give himself a few slaps!

"Um... Mr. Gray, I'm so sorry for offending you just now. Please let me off on Charlotte's account and pardon me for my ignorance." Declan Adams bowed to Lucas carefully.

Seeing her husband stooping so low, Estelle couldn't help but be furious. However, she also knew that someone who could make Ethan Sawyer and Flynn Davis stoop low too must be extraordinary and reckoned that she probably could not afford to provoke him.

At the thought of this, Estelle glared at Charlotte with jealousy and resentment. *What right does this woman whom my husband doesn't want have to find a boyfriend who's even more impressive than Declan?*

After hearing Declan's words, Lucas smiled. "I'm just a jobless man waiting to sponge off a woman. How can I compare to you, Mr. Adams, who's so close to Mr. Davis of the Stardust Corporation?"

As soon as Declan heard this, he broke out in a cold sweat.

Earlier, he had blindly bragged in front of Charlotte and Lucas, saying that he had a good relationship with Davis and would help Charlotte talk to him so as to help her get promoted. However, the truth was that Davis didn't know him at all!

The worst thing was that Davis was right here! Wouldn't his lie be exposed then?

As he had expected, Davis looked at Declan in bewilderment and asked with a frown, "Who are you?"

These three simple words were like a loud slap on Declan's face!

Declan's face began to heat up, and he hurriedly said, "Mr. Davis, I'm from the Sunshine Corporation, and I'm here in Orange County to discuss the cooperation with your company..."

Davis had long heard what happened. He also understood that Declan must have offended Lucas and even deliberately bragged about being close to him. *Someone like him wants to cooperate with the Stardust Corporation? He can forget about it!*

Davis interrupted Declan, "The Stardust Corporation will not cooperate with you. From now on, we will reject all business dealings with you! Please leave."

Declan immediately stiffened.

But at this moment, Sawyer added, "The same goes for the Sawyer Corporation. From now on, we will refuse any cooperation related to the Sunshine Corporation!"

The two big shots spoke at the same time and turned down all cooperations with the Sunshine Corporation, making Declan frightened speechless!

This time, he came to Orange County on his family's orders to sign a cooperation agreement with the Stardust Corporation to expand the business scope of the Sunshine Corporation to Orange County.

When his family finally handed the task to him, he was full of confidence, thinking that he would definitely be able to clinch the deal with his good looks and even expand into Orange County.

However, before he did anything, he was condemned and declined by Flynn Davis, the general manager of the Stardust Corporation, and Ethan Sawyer, the richest man in Orange County, all because of this incident!

Chapter 65: Proposing on the Street

Declan's face was pale. He had completely foiled the matter regarding the cooperation. How could he face the people in the company when he returned?

Hearing this, Estelle panicked too. "You guys can't be such bullies! Mr. Davis, you clearly promised to cooperate with our company prior to this, which is the reason we rushed all the way here. How can you go back on your words?"

Davis frowned impatiently. "When did I promise to cooperate with you?"

Estelle said indignantly, "When my father called your company a few days ago, you clearly promised to consider cooperating with us!"

When Davis heard that, he was irked yet amused.

He didn't remember promising to cooperate with the Sunshine Corporation, but it turned out that they had taken to his excuse, which was just a common response given to all companies.

Thinking of this, Davis lost interest in arguing with the ignorant Estelle. He simply beckoned the waiter to bring them out.

Feeling indignant, Estelle wanted to say something, but Declan hurriedly stopped her and dragged her out of Lion Restaurant.

"Why are you stopping me? I haven't suffered this kind of mistreatment since I was a child!" Estelle slammed her Hermes bag against the floor and threw a tantrum.

"Ah, I'm doing this for your own good. If you keep prodding and end up pissing off Flynn Davis, the Sunshine Group will be in huge trouble too. Your father might be implicated

as well,” Declan said as he picked up Estelle’s handbag and patted the dust off of it for her.

“He’s not as impressive as you make out to be. He’s just the general manager of a company in Orange County. What’s the big deal?!” Estelle was agitated.

“Hey, pipe down!” Declan hurriedly pulled Estelle to the side, fearing that others might hear what she said.

After looking around and realizing that there was no one around, he whispered into Estelle’s ears, “If it’s just Flynn Davis alone, it’s not a big deal. But the Stardust Corporation is not simple at all. It’s backed by the Huttons, one of the eight wealthiest families of the capital! You should have heard of how powerful and rich they are.”

Estelle had obviously heard of the Hutton family, who were well-known in the country.

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She finally knew what the consequences of offending Davis were, and she couldn’t help but be a little terrified.

However, Davis was not in the mood to hold it against a small fry like her now.

Davis and Sawyer were standing in front of Lucas with respectful smiles and trying to persuade him to have a meal with them.

However, Lucas shook his head and declined. “No thanks. I’m having a meal with my friend here. You guys go ahead.”

Since Lucas refused, Davis and Sawyer naturally couldn’t stay behind any longer. Instead, they ordered the restaurant staff to prepare all the signature dishes as quickly as possible and send them to the private room where Lucas and Charlotte were.

Soon, various colorful delicacies that smelled heavenly were delivered to Lucas and Charlotte.

Charlotte looked at the sumptuous spread on the table, but she didn’t move her fork and knife.

After seeing that scene just now, she had a ton of questions for Lucas, but she didn’t know where to start.

“Didn’t you say you want to treat me to a meal? The dishes have been served. If you’re not going to dig in, I will.” Lucas didn’t care what was on Charlotte’s mind and instead just started eating casually by himself.

Charlotte picked up her utensils and began eating, but the thoughts in her mind made the food seem bland and tasteless.

Charlotte began to think about the details of events that occurred after Lucas's return.

She thought of the large chest of expensive betrothal gifts that the Sawyers had delivered to her home and the fact that Ethan Sawyer said later on that they were thank-you gifts for Lucas.

Just now, Ethan Sawyer and Flynn Davis were obviously polite and subservient to Lucas, as though... Lucas was their superior. But was that possible?

Another incident was when they were at the kindergarten, and Lucas and Jordan displayed their terrifying combat skills. They even looked like they had killed and witnessed bloodshed before, as they could break limbs and fight without hesitating.

The day before yesterday, Lucas also saved her at the Luxe, and when they finally left, the security officers in the club looked at Lucas with horror and fear in their eyes.

What kind of a person is Lucas?

What exactly did he do during the years he was missing?

Charlotte was so absorbed in her own thoughts that she didn't notice that she had been staring at Lucas for a long time.

After having his fill, Lucas wiped his mouth with a napkin. Then he realized that Charlotte was still staring at him blankly with her fork in her hand.

With raised brows, he knocked on the table. "Why do you keep staring at me? Do I have food on my face?"

Only then did Charlotte suddenly snap back to her senses. Her face turned red, and she hurriedly lowered her head to polish off the food on her plate.

Unfortunately, she didn't even put any food on the plate and was just pretending to eat to hide her embarrassment.

"There are so many dishes in front of you. Do you prefer eating air?" Lucas asked in bewilderment.

"It's none of your business!" Charlotte hollered, angry because of her embarrassment.

After that, Charlotte suddenly felt that she and Lucas were finally back to the way they were before, and she felt a sudden sense of relief.

Forget it. No matter who he is, it's enough as long as he treats Cheyenne and our family well.

In the afternoon, Lucas drove to the Brilliance Corporation to pick up Cheyenne from work.

Although Cheyenne was very familiar with the Brilliance Corporation, and there was no need for her to be ferried to and fro, Lucas still wanted to do his best to fulfill his responsibilities as a husband.

After waiting outside the Brilliance Corporation for a while, Lucas saw Cheyenne coming out with a crowd and was about to walk up to her...

All of a sudden, a man dressed fancily rushed forward and knelt on one knee in front of Cheyenne.

"Seth Miller?" Cheyenne was stunned beyond words.

Seth raised the diamond ring nestled in a box in his hand and gazed at her affectionately. "Cheyenne, I genuinely adore you! So much has happened at home lately, but I still can't forget you! I think about you all day, and I even dream of you at night. Every day has been so bittersweet for me!

"So, I've decided to propose to you. Cheyenne, marry me! I will definitely bring you happiness!"

Many staff of the Brilliance Corporation and passersby surrounded them upon the sight of the street proposal. They started taking photos and cheering loudly, "Say yes! Marry him!"

Cheyenne was so furious that her face turned red, and she snapped, "Seth Miller, what are you trying to do? I've already told you I'm married. I have a husband and a daughter. I won't marry you!"

Huh? He's proposing to a married woman on the street?

That's exciting!

More and more people started crowding around them, and many of them even began imagining countless versions of horrible storylines.

Overwhelmed with exasperation, Cheyenne clenched her fists so tightly that her knuckles turned white.

She wanted to walk away directly, but she couldn't do so at all because of the gossipy crowd surrounding them.

"I know, but your husband is a thorough wastrel. After going missing for so many years, he's still a good-for-nothing who's worlds apart from me! I'm different. I'll definitely treat you well. I can give you what he can't! That person isn't worthy of you at all! I'm thousands of times better than him!" Seth exclaimed loudly, wishing he could undermine Lucas as much as possible.

"Enough! I don't want to hear you talk anymore! Do you know him? What right do you have to say anything about him?" Cheyenne retorted coldly, full of disdain toward Seth for thinking that he was thousands of times better than Lucas.

Seth couldn't hold a candle to Lucas, but even if he was really better than Lucas, it had nothing to do with her.

At this moment, Cheyenne's eyes widened in surprise because Lucas was squeezing through the crowd and walking toward her step by step.

"Why are you here?" Cheyenne looked at him in surprise.

"Lucas Gray!" Seth glared at the uninvited guest hostilely, completely forgetting that Lucas was Cheyenne's rightful husband.

"I'm here to pick you up to go home." Lucas looked at Cheyenne and handed her a ring made out of grass. "I saw this along the way, so I made you one."

It was a small ring woven of thin strands of green grass with a small purple flower in the middle.

The crowd craned their necks and looked over, after which they couldn't help but burst into laughter.

"Oh my god! Do people still weave rings out of grass these days?"

"That's so lowly! If he can't afford a diamond ring, he should at least buy a gold ring or a platinum ring, right? A glass ring is worthless!"

"No wonder this man said that he's thousands of times better than the other man. It really seems to be the case!"

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"It's such a huge difference. This man proposed with a diamond ring that's at least a few carats, while the other proposed with a grass ring. Oh my god. Any woman would know who to choose!"

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But to everyone's surprise, Cheyenne reached out and grabbed the grass ring Lucas handed her and put it on her finger.

"I like it a lot. Thank you!" She smiled at Lucas radiantly.

"What? That woman actually chose the grass ring!"

"Are you serious? Is there really a woman in this world who would choose a grass ring over a diamond ring? I don't believe it!"

"Tsk, what a beautiful yet silly girl. Why didn't I meet her earlier? Ah, such a pity! That rascal got an advantage!"

All of a sudden, everyone looked at Cheyenne like they were looking at a fool before looking at Lucas in envy!

This rascal is too lucky!

Ignoring the bizarre gazes on him from the people standing around them, Lucas took Cheyenne's hand and walked away.

Boiling with fury, Seth glared at the two of them from behind and watched them leave.

"Lucas Gray! You loser, I won't let you go!" Seth barked while gritting his teeth.

Lucas and Cheyenne got into the car and headed to the kindergarten to pick Amelia up.

Upon seeing her parents picking her up together, Amelia grinned widely and sprinted toward them. "Daddy! Mommy!"

Lucas walked forward, picked Amelia up, and held her in his arms.

Cheyenne originally wanted to say that Amelia was already six years old and didn't need to be carried all the time, but when she saw how happy and excited Amelia was, she couldn't bring herself to say it.

Amelia had been looking forward to having a father for a long time, and now that she finally got closer to him, Cheyenne decided to just let them be.

The three of them got into the car and headed home.

Throughout the journey, Amelia couldn't contain her excitement and chattered incessantly about the new things that happened at school today. Although they were just some childish things, both of them were happy to hear her talk about them.

Lucas was smiling, but he suddenly noticed that Cheyenne did not look too well. She was frowning slightly and seemed to be out of sorts. She only returned to her senses when Amelia shook her hard.

Lucas inwardly frowned and asked seemingly casually, "Did something happen at the office today?"

"Huh?" Cheyenne was in a trance again, and she finally realized that Lucas was asking her a question.

Hanging her head low, she stroked Amelia's head and tried to seem relaxed. "Nothing. Everything's going well."

Seeing her reaction, Lucas was even more certain that something must have happened to her at the Brilliance Corporation.

However, he didn't state it explicitly. Upon returning home after dinner, Cheyenne said hesitantly, "I have to go out to do something. I'll be home late."

Lucas was a little surprised because Cheyenne almost rarely went out at night. She didn't like shopping or socializing, and she would spend most of her free time at home with Amelia, apart from the occasional overtime.

"Where are you going? I'll give you a lift," Lucas offered.

Cheyenne shook her head. "No, it's alright. I'll get a cab. Stay home and accompany Amelia."

Lucas gazed at her and nodded.

After Cheyenne left, Lucas immediately called Davis.

"Find out what happened to Cheyenne at the Brilliance Corporation today and inform me right away."

Davis shivered. "Yes, Mr. Gray!"

Lucas had always been very concerned about matters involving Cheyenne. Davis dared not be negligent as he hurriedly instructed his subordinates to find out.

As a result, when the details of the matter were reported to him twenty minutes later, Davis turned pale.

Even Davis was irked and angry after reading it. What more Lucas, who cared a lot about Cheyenne?

Davis carefully told Lucas what happened. And just as he expected, Lucas flew into a rage and almost crushed his phone into pieces.

“Um... Mr. Gray, I'll order them to handle it immediately and cancel that task for Miss Carter, alright?” Davis asked carefully.

“That's not necessary. It's too late.”

Lucas hung up with a gloomy expression and hurriedly said something to Amelia before rushing off somewhere.

Lucas's gaze was cold. After he made Davis acquire the Brilliance Corporation, he had merely fired all the Carters who were employees instead of conducting a purge.

Yet someone was now bullying Cheyenne!

The place Cheyenne was going tonight was a company named Heaven Media, a famous company helmed by Brad Douglas's father!

The task Cheyenne received was to discuss cooperation with Heaven Media. If she failed to complete it, she would be kicked out of the Brilliance Corporation!

Chapter 67: His Last Name Is Douglas Too

Cheyenne was just a low-level employee who held little authority and did not have a say at the Brilliance Corporation now. So she couldn't decline the task at all.

Heaven Media was supposedly a film and television media company, and the company had signed many small-time artists. But in reality, it had failed to produce any decent films or television productions. The artists were more like escorts specialized in maintaining the social connections of Heaven Media.

Therefore, the office building of Heaven Media had extremely tacky decor. It was currently nighttime and thus even livelier than usual in the office. The small-time artists could be seen entertaining clients in every corner. Their behavior was frivolous and seductive, and the office seemed more like a nightclub.

Cheyenne frowned from the moment she stepped into the Heaven Media building.

But when she thought about the fact that she was here to discuss cooperating with Heaven Media, she had no choice but to look away and pretend not to see what was happening.

She walked straight to the front desk and inquired, "Hello, is Mr. Douglas available? I'm Cheyenne Carter from the Carter Corporation, and I'm here to discuss our cooperation with him."

The woman at the front desk scanned Cheyenne from head to toe with obvious contempt in her eyes.

"Mr. Douglas is available. Come with me," the receptionist said, as if she was already used to such matters. She then led Cheyenne to a private room upstairs.

As soon as the door was pushed open, the pink and purple walls and lights almost blinded Cheyenne.

Cheyenne stood at the door of the private room without going in and looked at the receptionist in confusion. "Um... I'm here to talk about business. Shouldn't we go to an office for the discussion?"

The decorations and the facilities inside the room made it look just like a sordid entertainment joint, giving her a bad feeling.

"Is Miss Carter here? Come in," said a domineering voice.

The receptionist gestured for Cheyenne to enter. "Mr. Douglas is waiting for you inside. Miss Carter, please."

Cheyenne took a deep breath, bit the bullet, and entered the room in a dignified gait.

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There was a middle-aged man of about fifty years old with a checkered shirt sitting on the couch. His hair was slightly sparse, and despite the smile on his face, he didn't seem very affable or approachable.

He was Gordon Douglas, the chairman of Heaven Media and Brad Douglas's father.

When he saw Cheyenne enter, a flash of amazement appeared in his eyes.

"Haha, Miss Carter, I've heard a lot about you. You're worthy of being the greatest beauty of Orange County!" Gordon stood up and extended his hand toward Cheyenne.

Cheyenne extended her arm politely and shook his hand. "Hello, Mr. Douglas."

She was about to let go, but she realized that Gordon was still holding her hand tightly. In fact, he even grazed his thumb against her hand.

“Indeed, you look even more beautiful up close in person. They all say that women look even more beautiful under the light. That’s indeed true.” Gordon chuckled with his eyes glued to Cheyenne’s face.

Cheyenne frowned, thinking that Gordon Douglas had already crossed the line.

“You’re being too polite,” Cheyenne said calmly while retracting her hand.

If not for the cooperation, Cheyenne wouldn’t even have bothered to talk to him. She would have long opened the door and left.

“Mr. Douglas, I’m here today mainly for the cooperation between the Brilliance Corporation and your company. As you know, the Brilliance Corporation and the Stardust Corporation reached a long-term strategic partnership a few days ago. Enterprises and companies of various sizes have extended their invitations to us to seek cooperation. I won’t say much about the development prospects of the Brilliance Corporation. We hope to achieve win-win cooperation with the major companies. What do you think?” Cheyenne said politely in a businesslike manner.

During the banquet two days ago, the Brilliance Corporation became a famous company in the county with whom everyone vied to cooperate.

In fact, the cooperation invitations of the various companies were already enough. There was no need for her to specially go to Heaven Media to discuss.

After all, there were many companies wanting to cooperate with the Brilliance Corporation, and if Heaven Media rejected them, it would be their own loss.

“Haha, I know what you mean, Miss Carter. The Brilliance Corporation is now very famous!” Gordon sat down on the couch again, leaned back against it, and pointed to the seat beside him. “Have a seat too, Miss Carter.”

Cheyenne frowned inwardly and sat down on the other couch beside the coffee table.

Gordon Douglas acted as if he didn’t see it at all. He picked up two glasses of champagne from a tray nonchalantly and gave one to Cheyenne.

“Miss Carter, you came here personally to discuss cooperating. Of course, I have to discuss it with you on your account. You want to cooperate? No problem! We can sign the contract in a bit! Let’s toast to our happy cooperation!” Gordon said straightforwardly.

Cheyenne was a bit surprised. She initially thought that the cooperation would definitely fail, but she didn't expect him to agree so quickly.

Seeing the wine glass being handed to her, Cheyenne grabbed it and clinked her glass with Gordon's. "Thank you, Mr. Douglas. Here's to our happy cooperation!"

Gordon laughed and finished the champagne in one gulp. "I've downed my glass. Miss Carter, help yourself."

Since Cheyenne couldn't turn him down, she could only drink it. Fortunately, it was not high in alcohol content.

Gordon grinned. "I heard that you're married, Miss Carter, and your husband is a live-in son-in-law."

Cheyenne frowned slightly, not knowing why he suddenly brought up this matter. Nevertheless, she nodded to express assent. "I didn't expect you to have heard about my personal life."

Gordon propped himself up with his hands on the couch. "Of course. Your husband is very capable!"

Cheyenne was confused by his answer. *Does he know Lucas?*

Cheyenne only just realized that Lucas was an extraordinary person during the banquet a few days ago. Based on what Gordon said, she wondered if he was friends with Lucas.

Cheyenne asked, "Mr. Douglas, are you friends with my husband?"

Hearing this, Gordon suddenly burst into laughter, as if he had heard a funny joke. "Hahaha. Friend? Of course not! Miss Carter, do you still remember what happened at the Luxe the day before yesterday?"

At the mention of the Luxe, Cheyenne obviously remembered everything that happened that day. Charlotte was abducted by Bryce, brought to the club, and almost violated...

Wait!

The person who colluded with Bryce to abduct Charlotte was Brad Douglas!

He's a Douglas too!

Chapter 68: Showing Up at the Door

Cheyenne was overwhelmed with shock for a long time before asking, "Mr. Douglas, what is your relationship... with Brad Douglas?"

Gordon smiled. "He's my incompetent son."

Cheyenne suddenly clenched her fist.

This chairman of Heaven Media in front of her was actually the father of Brad Douglas!

Since Gordon asked about Lucas, he definitely knew who Lucas was!

Gordon continued, "It's because of your capable husband, Lucas, that my unfilial son has become the laughingstock of all of Orange County! Miss Carter, what do you think I should do in return?"

Gordon's wry and insincere smile made Cheyenne feel a chill run down her spine.

If Cheyenne still didn't understand by now that he wasn't intending to discuss cooperating with her, she would be a huge fool!

"No!" Recalling the half cup of champagne she just drank, Cheyenne stood up abruptly, her expression drastically changed.

However, as soon as she stood up, she felt dizzy and couldn't even stand straight.

"You!" Cheyenne glowered at Gordon furiously. But before she could even finish saying anything, she blacked out and fell onto the couch.

"Hmph." Standing beside the couch, Gordon looked down at Cheyenne, who had already passed out because of the medicine, and a vicious and sinister expression appeared on his face. "Lucas Gray, you've hurt my son and tarnished his reputation, so you'll have to pay the price!"

On the way, Lucas sped as fast as he could in his Jaguar, rapidly weaving through the traffic. It took him less than twenty minutes to reach the Heaven Media office building.

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It had been more than half an hour since Cheyenne had left.

He couldn't reach Cheyenne on the phone, so he didn't know if she was safe currently.

If anything really happened to Cheyenne, he would definitely make everyone in the Douglas family die with her!

Lucas's gaze was cold, and he had a murderous aura as he kicked the door of the Heaven Media office building with all his might.

"Hey! Who are you?" The pretty receptionist stood up in a flustered manner and retreated.

However, Lucas was already standing right in front of her. "Did a woman named Cheyenne come here earlier? Where is she now?"

Lucas's gaze was horrifying, and he looked like he wanted to devour someone. The receptionist was so frightened that she started shuddering in shock. However, she dared not speak up. *Mr. Douglas specially brought that woman named Cheyenne to the private room. They're definitely still doing the deed now. I'm just a receptionist. How can I let someone go and stop them?*

Lucas's patience was running thin, and he kicked the marble table at the side. The solid marble table immediately shattered into bits like tofu before collapsing in the middle! "Speak!"

The pretty receptionist's body was shaking violently, and she was so frightened, her legs turned weak. She fell onto the ground, petrified with fear. *He kicked the solid marble table and managed to make such a big hole in it. If he kicks me...*

At this moment, she could no longer care about how terrified she was of Gordon Douglas. The man in front of her was too terrifying!

"S-she's upstairs... in the private room..." the receptionist said while shivering, suddenly finding the cold aura even more terrifying.

Lucas left the front desk, leaving the horrified receptionist behind, and walked directly toward the stairs.

"Who dares to create trouble here in Heaven Media?" A bunch of security officers rushed out to stop Lucas.

"Hmph, tell Gordon Douglas to come out!" Lucas didn't take those insignificant security officers seriously at all.

"How dare you call the chairman by his full name!" the captain of the security officers hollered as the security officers surrounded Lucas.

The manager of Heaven Media hurriedly ran upstairs and reported from outside the private room, "Mr. Douglas, a young man has barged in and demands to see you and Miss Carter! He's very proficient in fighting, and I'm afraid our security officers won't be able to stop him!"

“Oh?” Gordon knew who had come as soon as he heard it, and a playful smile appeared on his face.

“Tell him to come up. I’ve prepared a big gift for him here!”

The manager hesitated slightly. But as he thought about the means that Gordon Douglas usually resorted to, he answered respectfully, “Yes, Mr. Douglas!”

The manager rushed downstairs and was ready to ask the security officers to stand down, only to realize to his horror that not a single security officer in the lobby could stand!

The manager felt his blood turn cold. Facing Lucas’s icy-cold gaze, the manager felt like he was about to collapse onto the ground.

“M-Mr. Douglas w-would like you to go up-upstairs,” the manager stammered, his teeth chattering due to his fear.

At this moment, Lucas’s aura was too terrifying. A single glance was scary enough to make him shiver.

After shooting him a hostile glance, Lucas headed upstairs.

Jordan appeared at the door behind him, holding a person’s ankle like this man was a dead dog drenched in blood. He dragged him through the door and followed Lucas upstairs without saying a word.

The manager pressed his body against the wall and only heaved a sigh of relief and sat down after the two walked past him. His heart pounded rapidly as he looked at the trail of blood left behind on the floor.

After Lucas and Jordan went upstairs, many small-time artists and rich clients, who had been hiding and watching, finally started whispering to each other.

“This is the business of the Douglasses. Who dares to be so brazen as to create trouble here?”

“Those two are just too young and have a death wish!”

“Exactly. The Douglas family is powerful and has connections with all the gangs. Even we don’t dare to mess with them. Those two youngsters probably won’t even know how they died!”

As the discussion got heated downstairs, Lucas and Jordan had already arrived upstairs.

The door of the private room opened. Gordon was sitting on the leather couch nonchalantly. Upon seeing the two of them, he narrowed his eyes and sized them up. *Hah, just two young punks. How dare they beat my son so badly?!*

Gordon snapped his fingers, and a muscular and burly man more than two meters tall waked over from the side and stood next to him.

When the muscular man walked, the floor of the room trembled slightly. He was clearly trying to intimidate Lucas and Jordan.

However, Lucas did not even bother glancing at the tall and muscular man in front of him. Instead, he stared at the couch beside Gordon.

Cheyenne was lying on the couch. Fortunately, she was fully clothed, and there were no other traces on her body.

The tension in Lucas's heart finally eased up.

"You should be glad that you didn't touch her. Otherwise, you wouldn't be able to sit here and talk to me now." Lucas glared coldly at Gordon.

Chapter 69: Smashed With a Single Punch

Hearing this, Gordon smiled. "Young man, you're very arrogant, huh?! However, I didn't touch her precisely because I was waiting for you to come. I want you to see that scene with your own eyes! Watching your woman being violated and destroyed while you're unable to do anything must be wonderful, wouldn't it?!"

The murderous intent in Lucas's eyes intensified. Initially, he wanted to be lenient with Gordon Douglas, but it now seemed unnecessary.

"Damn it! Old dog, what are you saying?!" Jordan flew into a rage and immediately wanted to charge forward to kill Gordon, but he was stopped by Lucas.

"I'm not as arrogant as you two. You abducted someone and drugged them. You guys seem to like this trick a lot. I wonder how your son felt when he got a taste of his own medicine. Do you want to have a try too? In any case, you've got a candidate here, so I might as well fulfill your wish." Lucas narrowed his eyes as he glanced at Gordon and the muscular man beside him.

"Kid, you're very gutsy!" Gordon was stunned for a moment but soon started laughing again despite his anger. "You're just a live-in son-in-law of a lowly family. You're a useless loser. Where did you get the courage to speak to me like that?! The Douglas family is well respected in the county. You're not afraid of dying, huh?"

“The Douglas family is nothing.” Lucas sneered disdainfully, not taking the Douglas family seriously at all. “Also, you’re wrong. You’re the one who has a death wish. Who gave you the courage to touch my wife?”

“You’re on the brink of death, and you’re still so sharp-tongued, huh? I’ll see if your bones are as tough as your mouth!” Gordon sneered sinisterly and was about to beckon the muscular man beside him to make a move when...

“Jordan, what are you waiting for? Deliver the big gift we prepared for him,” Lucas shouted.

“Yes, Lucas!” Hearing his order, Jordan immediately flung the man he had been dragging along, and the bloodied body rolled toward Gordon. He was completely motionless, and it was unclear if he was alive or not.

Gordon glanced at the pathetic figure. His limbs had been broken, and he was lying limply on the ground. His face was also battered with bruises, and his flesh was badly mangled with blood all over the place, so much so that he was unrecognizable.

Gordon sneered and looked at Lucas and Jordan. “Where did you get this man from? Are you trying to scare me? I’ve been mingling among gangs for decades. I’m not that easily intimidated.”

Jordan couldn’t help but snicker and mock. “Old dog, you’d better open your dog eyes and take a good look. Otherwise, it’ll be the end of your family lineage.”

“What do you mean?” Gordon furrowed his brows.

“Don’t you have eyes? Can’t you see for yourself? There you go.” Jordan pointed his chin at the hideous figure.

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Gordon lowered his head and pressed his foot against the bloodied figure on the ground. Then a familiar-looking gold pendant tumbled out.

Startled, Gordon hurriedly took a closer look. Indeed, there was the word ‘Douglas’ engraved on the pendant. It was the gold pendant his son had been wearing ever since he was a child!

Looking at the bloodied figure in front of him, he began to find him more and more familiar-looking, so familiar that his heart palpitated.

Gordon stood up abruptly and roared furiously, “Brad!”

Jordan grinned and said to Lucas, "Lucas, I've beaten him to the point that his old man can't even recognize him."

Lucas smiled. "Good job. I'll reward you later."

Gordon grimaced in rage. When he heard their words, he was so furious that he turned hysterical. "Good, great! You two brats, I must kill you! I'll make sure you die without a complete corpse!"

Gordon hollered at the tall, muscular man beside him, "Go, beat them until they die! I'll give you one-and-a-half million dollars! I want you to crush their bones and make them wail and repent!"

"Yes!" The burly and muscular man clenched his fist, and the sounds of his bones cracking immediately filled the air.

He took a few steps forward, and the entire ground of the room quaked a few times.

However, Lucas glanced at the muscular man calmly and said to Jordan, "I'll leave it to you." Without looking at him anymore, he walked toward Cheyenne.

After being ignored, the muscular man roared and raised his fist to punch Lucas hard on his head.

If the punch really landed on his head, it would definitely be smashed into bits!

Lucas remained calm, as if he didn't notice the punch coming at him.

"Hmph, you've got a death wish! Wade is a king of underground boxing, and he can blow your head into pieces with a single punch! Let's see how you can keep being arrogant!" Gordon's lips twisted into a smirk, as though he could already see Lucas's head getting smashed.

At this moment, a figure flashed out, and a faster fist slammed against Wade's fist. With a loud bang, the muscular Wade was forced to retreat several steps.

At the same time, Wade shrieked in pain.

His right hand was hanging in front of his body at an extremely unnatural angle, and his right arm was quivering violently. His fingers and wrists were all broken!

Gordon's eyes widened in disbelief.

Wade was a combat expert he had hired at a high price. With his fists alone, he had already crushed the heads of countless people.

Gordon Douglas paid this high price all for the sake of killing Lucas and taking revenge for his son.

However, not only did Wade fail to hit Lucas with his punch, he had the bones of his fingers and wrists broken by Jordan's punch. How could Gordon stand it?!

In fact, he was already prepared to get Wade to beat Lucas Gray and then make him watch Cheyenne Carter get violated to appease the hatred in his heart.

Now, all his plans were foiled!

In contrast, Lucas ignored it. He simply walked to Cheyenne, picked her up in his arms, and then turned around to leave.

He didn't want Cheyenne to stay in such a dirty place any longer.

"Hold it!" Seeing that Lucas was about to take Cheyenne away, Gordon obviously wasn't willing to take it lying down.

"If you guys dare to step out of here, I will kill you immediately. Do you believe it?" Gordon grimaced.

All he heard was Lucas's derisive sneer. "Hmph!"

Chapter 70: I Don't Want to Die

"Hmph, what are you being arrogant about? You're just a live-in son-in-law. So what if you have an impressive brother? Do you dare to touch me? Moreover, if the Douglasses want to kill you, it'll be a piece of cake!" Gordon hollered.

Jordan rushed forward and slapped Gordon on his lips. "How dare you be so arrogant in front of Lucas? I'm going to hit you!" *How dare he threaten Lucas. He must have a death wish!*

Gordon was dumbfounded by Jordan's sudden slap. In the decades of his life, he had never been hit on the face before, especially not by a good-for-nothing's sidekick!

Gordon was so furious that he wished he could kill the two of them immediately! Unfortunately, the expert he hired had his hand crippled.

"How dare you beat up the future successor of the Douglas family! There's no need for your family to exist anymore!"

He thought that Lucas would be scrupulous and fearful, but Lucas simply laughed nonchalantly after hearing his words. "Do as you please. But you're just throwing your weight around because of your family's prestige. Do you think the Douglas family is a big deal? If your family is destroyed, do you think you'd still have the right to be so arrogant to me?"

"Haha, you want to destroy the Douglas family? You can dream on! Even the richest man in the county wouldn't dare to say that he could destroy my family, let alone a loser like you!" Gordon looked at Lucas like he was a fool.

Lucas smiled, not wanting to speak anymore.

The Douglas family was insignificant to him.

It was a piece of cake for him to destroy the Douglas family.

Carrying Cheyenne in his arms, Lucas was about to leave when Gordon suddenly pulled out a Bergmann–Bayard automatic pistol and pointed the muzzle at him.

"Like I said, if you dare to leave this place, I will kill you immediately! Put her down! Or else don't blame me for pulling the trigger!" Gordon shouted, appearing rather hysterical.

His plan for today was to avenge his son by making Lucas watch Cheyenne get violated. Before reaching his goal, he would not let them leave!

Besides, Jordan had just slapped him!

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How could he, Gordon Douglas, stand such an insult?!

Now that he had his pistol in hand, he no longer feared anything.

Even if Lucas and Jordan were impressive fighters, they wouldn't be faster than a bullet.

Lucas was really annoyed at this moment.

Since Cheyenne was safe and sound, he originally planned to let Gordon Douglas off with a light punishment. However, he didn't expect him to be so ignorant. *Since he has a death wish, I won't be merciful to him!*

Lucas glanced at the Bergmann–Bayard automatic pistol that Gordon was holding, but he wasn't fazed by it at all. "Do you think you can shoot me with that tiny pistol?"

Lucas's disdainful attitude irritated Gordon even more.

Gordon held up the pistol and said in annoyance, "What are you pretending for? I don't believe you can dodge a bullet! If you put that woman down and kneel in front of me, I will consider giving you a way out. Otherwise, this pistol will shoot all three of you dead! I've been involved with gangs for a long time, so it's not like I haven't killed anyone before!"

It was clear that Gordon was threatening him.

Lucas remained unfazed. "If you have what it takes, you can try shooting me. If you can't kill me, all the members of the Douglas family will die with you!"

Lucas's tone was brimming with cold killing intent, and the temperature around him abruptly plummeted.

Lucas could not tolerate the fact that Gordon repeatedly tried to violate Cheyenne in front of him.

"Great! I gave you a chance! You're the one who wants to die!" Gordon gritted his teeth with a menacing expression. He raised the pistol and was about to pull the trigger to shoot Lucas.

"Wait! Don't shoot!" Wade, the muscular man at the side, suddenly interrupted. He glanced at Lucas with scruples and tried to stop Gordon.

"What? Do you want to betray me? Don't forget. I paid you to be here, even though you were totally useless!" Gordon barked while glaring at Wade with reddened eyes.

Now, he just wanted to kill Lucas, and whoever stopped him would be his enemy!

"No, you can't kill him at all! Do you think a gun is invincible? You won't even hit him. And once you shoot, he won't let you off. He won't let me off either. I don't want to die here!" Wade exclaimed with a frown.

"Hmph, I don't believe it! You're a useless good-for-nothing, and he's just pretending to be powerful, yet you're so scared. You're such a coward! Get lost. I must kill him!" Gordon roared furiously.

Wade shook his head regretfully. "Since you insist on ignoring my advice, don't blame me then."

Before Wade finished speaking, he suddenly dashed at Gordon and strangled him from behind with his uninjured left hand.

"W-what are you doing?!?" Gordon panicked. He never expected Wade to bite the hand that fed him!

At the same time, both Lucas and Jordan were also a little surprised.

“Like I said, I just want to live. If you had shot, they definitely wouldn’t have let me go. If you refuse to take my advice, I’ll have to kill you first!” Wade tightened his grip on Gordon’s neck, causing the latter to choke and his eyes to roll backward.

The fear of death instantly surged in Gordon’s heart. At this moment, he no longer cared about taking revenge or restoring his pride. He just wanted to survive!

“Stop... I... I will listen... to you...” Gordon struggled to say a few words in a muffled voice.

Wade felt a tingling sensation on his wrist and subconsciously let go of Gordon.

He looked over in horror, only to see Lucas staring at them with a straight face and Jordan fiddling with the Bergmann pistol.

Jordan had grabbed the pistol in Gordon’s hand just now in an instant. Even Wade didn’t see how he actually moved!

Wade had no idea what struck his wrist either... In short, he didn’t get a clear glimpse despite having sharp vision.

This could only mean that Jordan’s combat skills were far superior to his!

If they really wanted to kill him, he’d never be able to escape!

After Gordon escaped from a close shave with death, his legs and feet went limp, and he collapsed onto the ground while covering his neck and panting heavily.

The threat of death had overwhelmed him with fear!

Chapter 71: Loyal Follower

After finally catching his breath, Gordon raised his head and saw that the pistol originally in his hand had somehow ended up in the hand of Jordan, who was opposite him.

At this moment, Jordan was pointing the muzzle at him and threatening to pull the trigger.

Gordon was stunned to the point of turning pale and sweating profusely. His body stiffened, and he dared not move at all, fearing that he might upset Jordan and cause him to pull the trigger and shoot him.

“Hah, weren’t you very arrogant just now? Is that all the guts you have?” Jordan sneered while looking at Gordon with disdain.

Gordon’s face turned red, but he no longer wanted to retort.

Suddenly, Wade did something that no one expected.

He suddenly knelt on one knee facing Lucas and bowed. “I, Wade Spartan, would like to pledge my allegiance to you. Please grant me permission to follow you!”

As soon as he said that, Gordon was dumbfounded, and he looked at Wade in disbelief.

As Wade’s employer, he was naturally aware of his origins. Wade was a king of underground boxing and known to be ruthless and unforgiving. There had been many times where he severely injured the opponents who challenged him in the ring.

Wade deserved his title as a king of underground boxing, and the price of hiring him once was hefty.

Now, such a strong man was actually kneeling in front of Lucas and asking to pledge allegiance to him!

Gordon felt like he was dreaming.

Lucas asked with slightly raised brows, “Why?”

Wade said seriously, “You are very strong. Although you didn’t make a move, I can feel that your aura is even more terrifying than the aura of the man beside you. I want to be the follower of a mighty figure!”

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Lucas smiled. “That’s your reason. But why should I keep you by my side?”

“I can do anything you command, be it murder or arson. As long as you want me to, I will do it and ensure that it won’t cause you any problems!” Wade promised. This was what most people paid him to do anyway.

However, this was of no appeal to Lucas.

“I’m not interested,” Lucas declined without hesitation.

Not only was he not interested in murder and arson, but even if he were, he wouldn’t employ Wade.

“Um... I can be your bodyguard and protect you or protect the people around you,” Wade hurriedly said after some thought.

This statement made Lucas tempted.

He naturally did not need Wade to be his bodyguard. But Cheyenne and Charlotte had been getting into trouble lately, and things would have been different if they had someone to protect them.

As a king of underground boxing, Wade naturally had passable combat proficiency. Although his bones had been broken by Jordan, he could still withstand it. Besides, the quick actions and reflexes he exhibited when he threatened Gordon meant that he was a smart man.

Lucas wasn't afraid that he would betray him like he betrayed Gordon either. After all, for someone as strong as Wade, he would never betray someone stronger than him.

The only thing that he had to consider now was Wade's background. If someone was deliberately trying to plant Wade beside him as a snitch, he naturally couldn't keep him around.

Lucas thought about it and nodded. “I can consider it. I'll look for you in the future.”

Overjoyed, Wade exclaimed, “Okay! Thank you, Mr. Gray!”

Gordon, who had seen everything, was extremely frustrated.

The thought of the expert he had hired at great cost deciding to betray him and defect to his enemy made him feel like vomiting blood.

“Wade, are you sure you want to betray me?” Gordon turned to Wade and said angrily.

But Wade smiled indifferently. “Betray? You must be mistaken, Mr. Douglas. I'm not your subordinate, and I haven't received any money from you, so how can it be considered betrayal?”

Gordon was so furious that he started trembling. However, he really didn't know how to retort.

Previously, he and Wade had agreed to settle the payment after completing the matter. It was true that Wade had not received a single cent from him yet.

Gordon gritted his teeth. “You! Don't you regret your choice! If you choose that good-for-nothing, you will be an enemy of the Douglasses! Do you think you can stand up to us? We can always hire another group of experts!”

Lucas was tired of hearing these threats from Gordon. "You keep mentioning your family. Do you really think your family is that impressive? Without your family, you'd be nothing, Gordon Douglas!"

Gordon flew into a rage and shouted, "Hmph, you're just a boor who beats others all the time. How would you know how horrifying my family is? The Douglas family is a first-class family in Orange County, and we are incredibly wealthy and well-connected. We can crush you with just a finger! When the time comes, and the Carters are annihilated, you will regret what you've done today!"

Hearing these words, Jordan deliberately pretended to be frightened and wrapped his arms around himself. "What should we do? Lucas, I'm so scared!"

Seeing this, Gordon stood up from the ground and held his head up high proudly. "Hmph, you're scared, huh? It's not too late to regret it! Leave that woman behind, kneel down in front of me, and kowtow three times, and I'll consider sparing you!"

"Kowtow my ass! Dream on, you idiot!" Jordan immediately stopped pretending and walked up to kick Gordon to make him wake up.

"Forget it." Lucas glanced at Gordon coldly like he was looking at a dead man. "When the Douglas family falls, he won't be able to be arrogant anymore."

After saying this, Lucas stopped caring about Gordon and left with Cheyenne in his arms.

Jordan and Wade hurriedly followed behind him.

With a burly and muscular man like Wade behind them, when they left the Heaven Media office, no one dared to step forth to stop them at all.

Gordon was the only one who failed to get anything after painstakingly setting everything up. He even got angered and had to see his son dragged to him, all battered with bruises.

Gordon was enraged. He yelled at his men to call for an ambulance to take Brad to the hospital while smashing everything in the room to vent his anger.

Meanwhile, Jordan followed behind Lucas and asked, "Lucas, seems like that idiot won't give up. Why didn't you teach him a lesson so that he won't dare to get any funny ideas?"

Wade hurriedly chimed in, "I can make him disappear from this world tonight if you'd like!"

Lucas shook his head with a smile on his lips. "No, we don't have to do that. If we want to get rid of them, wouldn't it be more interesting to make them kill themselves?"

Wade suddenly shuddered, thinking to himself that he had made the wisest choice of his life by not choosing to be Lucas's enemy!

Chapter 72: Seize Everything

Lucas chose not to send Cheyenne back to her home because it'd be inappropriate since she was unconscious. In order not to make the Carters worry, he brought Cheyenne back to his residence in Orange County, Pearl Lakeside Villa.

On the way, Lucas called someone and said briefly, "Make the Douglas family disappear from Orange County within three days."

"Yes!" Hearing Lucas's voice, the person on the other end dared not be negligent at all.

At this moment, the Douglas family still had no idea that a calamity was about to strike them.

Gordon Douglas's father, Hugo Douglas, was the patriarch of the Douglas family.

Although he had long ago handed over the major businesses owned by his family to his sons and no longer tended to them, he would occasionally ask about them.

At this moment, Hugo was lying relaxedly on a comfortable couch and flipping through newspapers.

When he saw the piece of news titled 'The Stardust Corporation has settled a cooperation for a key project in Orange County' in bold on the financial section of the newspaper, he took off his presbyopic glasses and sighed with some envy.

"The Douglasses have been trying hard to clinch that project for such a long time, but we were never successful. The Stardust Corporation managed to get it instead. The Stardust Corporation is really something!"

Next to him, a man in his late forties grabbed the presbyopic glasses from Hugo, wiped them carefully, and put them into a glasses case. He then said, "It is indeed. The Stardust Corporation may have just settled in the country a short while ago, but its development is rapid. Not only do the businesses of various sizes in Orange County want to cooperate with it, but it even managed to clinch all the key projects. It's really impressive!"

The middle-aged man was Hugo Douglas's eldest son and Gordon Douglas's elder brother, Chris Douglas.

Hugo watched Chris's movements and smiled. "Put the glasses there. A servant will come to put it away later. Why do you bother doing that?"

"It's not much trouble. After I pack them, it's convenient for you to use them the next time." Chris smiled. He had always been filial and took care of all of Hugo's needs. He would do everything he could personally as far as possible and would not let others help.

"Since the Stardust Corporation has such great potential, why don't we try cooperating with it?" Chris asked.

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Hugo Douglas sighed. "Why? When the Stardust Corporation announced that it was looking for a partner in Orange County, we immediately sent someone over. Everything was going well previously, but two days ago, the Stardust Corporation suddenly changed its mind and gave us the cold shoulder."

"W-what's going on? Have we offended the Stardust Corporation in any way? Or is it so arrogant and lofty that it is looking down on us?" Chris frowned.

Hugo Douglas sighed. "Who knows? Anyway, we haven't found out yet. Chris, when you have time, go and get in touch with Mr. Davis, the general manager of the Stardust Corporation. Try to ease our relationship with the Stardust Corporation and find out where the problem lies. Try to find some opportunity to cooperate with it too."

"Yes, Dad. I'll surely deal with Mr. Davis. Rest assured," Chris hurriedly agreed.

"Yes, you're definitely someone I can trust." Hugo Douglas patted the back of his eldest son's hand and nodded in satisfaction. "By the way, how's the matter with Gordon and Brad going?"

Hearing his question, Chris smiled. "It should be fine. Yesterday, Gordon asked me to introduce a competent hitman to him. It's a king of underground boxing who's rather ruthless. He can deal with that insignificant Lucas Gray easily. They should have already taken revenge by now."

Hugo nodded. "Okay, that's good. How can we get bullied by that brat and let him get away with beating Brad so badly? If we don't get revenge, won't anyone dare to take advantage of us? However, you have to be careful. Don't let Gordon go overboard. Don't create extra trouble."

“Okay, I know, Dad. Don’t worry. Gordon is my brother. I’ll certainly help him.” Chris nodded with a smile.

At this moment, someone from the Douglas family hurried over and exclaimed anxiously, “Bad news, Mr. Douglas Senior. Heaven Media, the Luxe, and several other entertainment joints and bathhouses have been seized!”

“What?!” Hugo stood up in shock, and his expression changed. “What’s going on? Why were they seized all of a sudden?”

The family member stammered, “Someone reported us and... they found some illegal items in the companies... Some of our artists have also exposed us and said that we forced them... Anyway, they found a lot of evidence against us!”

Chris suddenly stepped forward, grabbed him by the collar, and hollered furiously, “Didn’t I tell you long ago to hide those things that shouldn’t appear? Aren’t those artists under strict control? Why did they suddenly sue us?”

“I-I don’t know...” The family member looked at Chris, whose face was twisted into an angry grimace, and he was so scared that he started shivering in fear and was on the verge of tears.

“Oh dear, oh no...” Hugo muttered to himself as he thumped himself onto the couch.

The Douglases’ businesses were more or less related to the entertainment and sex industries. They were the mainstay of the family.

Of course, they could not operate these businesses openly. So on the surface, they were known as media companies and entertainment joints. But in private, they had a lot of dirty dealings.

Due to the Douglases’ extensive network of connections, they managed to escape the strict regulations and purges. However, they were nabbed out of the blue and accused with plenty of evidence against them today. This was simply unprecedented.

Besides, once all their misdeeds were exposed, it would absolutely result in a huge uproar, and the Douglases would definitely suffer huge losses even if they didn’t collapse!

Chris calmed down a little and said resentfully, “Dad, there’s definitely something wrong! If it was just one company and something terrible was exposed, we can blame it on our carelessness. But it’s absolutely not a coincidence that so many have been affected! Someone must be deliberately trying to harm us!”

Chapter 73: Douglas Family Conference

Hugo nodded. Chris was right. There had to be more than meets the eye!

If they didn't resolve it properly, the Douglases would suffer heavy losses!

"The situation is urgent. Call everyone over immediately for a meeting to discuss countermeasures!" Hugo shouted.

Soon, all the direct descendants of the Douglas family and the top executives of the companies were all gathered in the Douglas family mansion.

Almost all of the companies under the Douglases' name had been seized. These people had naturally heard of it since it had blown up to such a huge extent. Hugo Douglas even called for a meeting late at night. It was definitely because of that matter.

Hugo sat in the middle of the couch and looked around at the dozens of people standing in the living room. His eyes narrowed. "All of you, tell me the truth. Did you do anything to offend a big shot recently?"

As soon as Hugo spoke, he asked about this matter, and everyone started guessing that the Douglases must have offended a formidable figure of status, which led to the crisis. However, most of their businesses were illegal, so who knew if they had unintentionally offended someone?

For example, two years ago, a Douglas saw a beautiful girl dressed in simple and normal clothes, so he resorted to some means to get her to one of their companies, only to find out later that she came from an extraordinary family. In the end, the Douglases suffered enormous losses, had to apologize, and ended up owing many people favors in order to get the woman's family to let them off.

Moreover, that was only because the woman didn't get hurt too badly. Otherwise, the Douglases wouldn't have been able to settle it so easily.

Of course, they didn't get involved in such things often, and since the last incident, Hugo had also taught them a hard lesson.

However, slip-ups would happen every now and then. Who knew when they might have offended someone?

All of them shook their heads in unison.

"I don't know. I've been behaving lately and haven't done anything to offend anyone!"

“I haven’t either!”

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“Me too. I didn’t offend anyone.”

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Hugo narrowed his eyes as he looked at them threateningly. “I want to hear the truth! If I find out someone is lying to me, you’ll be kicked out of the family immediately!”

Hearing this, everyone panicked. But after racking their brains for a long time, they still couldn’t think of an instance where they had offended someone.

At this moment, Hugo suddenly noticed that someone was missing—Gordon Douglas.

“Where’s Gordon? Wasn’t he informed of the meeting?” Hugo questioned while looking at Chris with displeasure.

Chris hurriedly said, “I was about to report to you. But since everyone is gathered here for the meeting, I can’t say it out loud...”

Hugo’s face turned gloomy. “Speak. We’re all family, so there’s nothing you have to hide.”

Chris glanced around at the crowd listening attentively and sighed. “Gordon is in the hospital now. He has a broken toe and has suffered some injuries. Brad is also severely injured and is being resuscitated in the hospital...”

“What?” Hugo was astonished. His son and grandson had landed in the hospital, and Brad had even reached the point where he had to be resuscitated...

“Who did it?” Hugo asked with an angry expression.

Chris shook his head. “I don’t know. Gordon was really angry and didn’t say anything.”

At this moment, a Douglas suddenly said, “Gordon and Brad suddenly got injured tonight, and all our businesses were seized. Could there be any connection between the two?”

These words made everyone frown and sink into deep thought.

Indeed, if Gordon Douglas and Brad Douglas offended some big shot outside, got severely injured, and even caused all of the Douglases’ businesses to be seized, that would make sense!

Everyone turned to look at Hugo, who was exasperated. “Drag that sinful son back here at once!”

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In Pearl Lakeside Villa, Orange County.

Flynn Davis called Lucas. “Mr. Gray, according to your instructions, all of the Douglasses’ companies and joints have been seized. All the evidence has been collected, and there is no way they can deny it. This time, the Douglas family definitely won’t survive.”

Lucas expressed approval and said, “Good. I want them to perish for good.”

Davis hurriedly said, “Don’t worry about this. I’ve had people prepare a lot of evidence and photos, as well as videos of the victims’ complaints, all of which have been uploaded on the internet. It caused a massive uproar online and also attracted the attention of many departments. This time, even if the Douglasses’ have wide connections in Orange County, it will definitely not help.”

Hearing this, Lucas was pleased.

Many of the nasty things that the Douglasses did were challenging the law and going against ethics and morals. Once their dirty deeds were exposed, it would definitely result in outrage and public discussion. Even if the Douglasses tried to suppress it, it would be to no avail.

“Has the matter over at the Brilliance Corporation been investigated?” Lucas suddenly asked.

“Yes, I was just about to report it to you. The person who sent Miss Carter to discuss the cooperation with Heaven Media was Jane Harper, Miss Carter’s former assistant and the current deputy head of the business department. As far as I know, she tried to make things difficult for Miss Carter several times today. Should we get rid of her?”

With an ice-cold gaze, Lucas said, “No, don’t fire her yet. I still need her for something.” Sacking her right away would be giving her an easy way out.

“Yes, Mr. Gray!”

Lucas put away the phone and glanced at the large bed at the side.

Cheyenne was lying on the bed, sound asleep.

She would frown at times and seemed to be unable to sleep peacefully.

Gordon Douglas had given her a strong sleeping pill. As long as she slept well, she should be awake by tomorrow morning.

Lucas walked to the side of the bed, bent over, and gently stroked Cheyenne's forehead.

"I won't let those who tried to harm you, including the Douglas family and Jane Harper, off. Sleep in peace," Lucas whispered gently into Cheyenne's ear.

As if she heard Lucas's voice, the frowning Cheyenne in her sleep gradually stopped frowning and relaxed.

In the Douglas family mansion...

Gordon still had gauze wrapped around his toes and was helped into the hall.

Everyone waiting in the hall turned to look at him.

Gordon immediately saw Hugo in the middle. He quickly strode forward with a look of grief in his eyes, as though he had suffered great mistreatment.

"Dad, you have to help me! That rascal almost killed Brad, and he kept threatening me. The fighter I hired even turned against me and defected to him. If I weren't lucky enough, I wouldn't even be able to see you now!" Gordon exclaimed while pointing to the bruises on his neck.

Smack!

However, Gordon didn't hear the words of comfort he was expecting and instead received a loud slap on his face by Hugo.

Chapter 74: Punished Using the Family Laws

Gordon was dumbfounded by the sudden slap, and it took him a long time to react. Covering his face with his hand, he exclaimed, "Dad, why did you hit me?!"

Hugo said coldly, "Hit you? I really wish I could kick you to death! You son of a bitch, tell me, what have you done out there?!"

Gordon was naturally displeased. "What could I have done? I've been staying in the office! When I was bullied, you didn't even ask the doctor about my condition. You just blamed me!"

Hugo barked angrily, "Hmph, you're still trying to defend yourself, huh?! If you hadn't fooled around outside and offended someone you can't afford to offend, would we be facing this crisis today? Things have already gotten to this point, but you still won't tell me the truth, huh?"

Chris tried to knock some sense into him. "Gordon, who have you offended? Just tell us. Don't provoke Dad any further. If you tell us, we can also come up with a solution for you!"

Chris's words made Gordon lose his temper, and he vented all his anger on him. "Sure, I was wondering why I'm getting blamed and accused by everyone as soon as I came home. You must have been fanning the flames and deliberately trying to frame me! Chris, you're just afraid that I'll compete with you for the position of successor, so you deliberately set me up in front of Dad and the rest of the family, didn't you?"

Hearing his words, Hugo became even more exasperated, and his blood pressure rose. "Sinful son! Sinful son! If you still don't repent, don't blame me! This is the death of me! Someone, punish him with the family laws! I must kill this unfilial son!"

"What? Family laws?" Gordon immediately widened his eyes in disbelief.

Only when a few family members moved a bench over and a burly man walked toward Gordon with a wooden mace did he believe Hugo!

His father was actually using the family laws against him!

Families like the Douglas family with a rich heritage would often have some family laws for constraining the behavior of the members.

However, people nowadays rarely used their family laws to punish their members.

The Douglas family's most-used punishment tool was the terrifying mace that would form holes in your body. It was horrifying!

Seeing that two more family members were coming to take him and tie him to a bench under the order of Hugo, Gordon was terrified out of his wits and no longer cared about anything else. He immediately knelt in front of Hugo and begged for forgiveness.

"Father, I was wrong! I won't dare to disobey you anymore, and I won't quarrel with Chris either. Please don't punish me using the family laws! If you're upset, you can scold me a few more times or slap me a few more times!"

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Hugo looked at Gordon with a straight face and reprimanded, "Then tell me honestly what you've done and which big shot you've offended to cause our family to suffer such a great calamity."

Gordon really wanted to cry. "Father, I really didn't offend any big shot. I've been in the business for decades, so what kind of person could I have offended? Why would I be so ignorant as to offend a big shot? What's wrong with the family? What calamity? I just came back. No one told me about it!"

Hugo waved his hand, and Chris stepped forward. "Just half an hour ago, all of our companies, clubs, bathhouses, and more were all seized, and there's a lot of evidence against us. If we can't find out which bigwig we've offended, our family will be destroyed!"

Gordon was shocked on the spot. He asked in disbelief, "How is that possible?! Our family has deep roots in Orange County, and we've established a wide network of connections long ago. Who would disregard our status and directly seize all of our companies?"

Looking at his son, Hugo roared coldly, "You think it's impossible? Would we deliberately scare you with this kind of thing?! The most important thing now is to think carefully about who you offended!"

Gordon immediately panicked, but a word that Chris said just now appeared in his mind.

Destroyed.

Right. Why does this word... sound so familiar?

Do you think the Douglas family is a big deal? If your family is destroyed, do you think you'd still have the right to be so arrogant to me?

Lucas had said these words to him with a sneer. Gordon was immediately reminded of it, but he was in disbelief.

"No... Impossible... How can he have the ability to destroy my family... That's impossible!" Gordon's eyes glazed over as he muttered to himself continuously.

After hearing his words, Hugo immediately grasped his main point. He narrowed his eyes and stared at Gordon. "Who are you talking about?"

Gordon blinked and looked at Hugo as though he was having a nightmare.

"I-it's Lucas Gray, the son-in-law of the Carters. He beat Brad, so I nabbed his wife and wanted to get back at him. But he has an underling who's a good fighter. He even threatened me by saying that he would destroy the Douglas family, but how is that possible? The Carters are a powerless third-rate family, and he's a wastrel! Besides, he was the one who beat Brad badly and almost made the fighter I hired kill me instead..."

Gordon was rather muddled, but his words allowed everyone to get a clear idea of what happened.

Hugo kicked Gordon hard. "Indeed, the trouble was caused by you!"

After getting kicked, Gordon fell to the ground and shrieked in pain when his fractured toe hit the hard floor. However, facing Hugo's rage, he could only explain, "But Dad, Lucas Gray is really a good-for-nothing! This must be a coincidence!"

"Good-for-nothing? Coincidence? You're just a fool!" Hugo hollered angrily while looking at Gordon with a resolute gaze. "Serve him the family punishment! Break his legs!"

"No, don't, Dad! Please spare me!" Gordon panicked and begged loudly for mercy.

A few family members got the hint from Chris's gaze. They went forward, pulled Gordon on top of the bench, and tied him with his face facing down. Then they hit him hard on his thighs with the mace.

"Ah!" The loud shriek of misery resounded in the Douglas family residence.

Hugo closed his eyes, unable to bring himself to watch this scene. However, the incessant cries made his face twitch.

"Dad, look, why don't we spare Gordon? He didn't do it on purpose..." Chris persuaded.

Hugo opened his eyes abruptly, and his gaze became firm again, "No, we must make Gordon go through the punishment! Take him with you tomorrow to see Lucas Gray to apologize. You must obtain his forgiveness!"

"Yes, Dad." Chris agreed with a faint but peculiar glint in his eyes.

Chapter 75: Because I Like It

The next morning, Cheyenne's eyelashes moved slightly, and she, who had slept through the entire night, slowly opened her eyes.

However, she didn't wake up to the warm bedroom she was familiar with but a luxuriously decorated room completely new to her.

Cheyenne's heart dropped. The last image she saw before losing her consciousness was the scene of her discussing the cooperation with Gordon Douglas of Heaven Media last night. After which, she downed a glass of champagne and then...

Have I...

No!!!

Cheyenne's expression changed drastically, and she screamed with her head in her hands!

The door of the room was suddenly pushed open, and a figure hurriedly rushed in. "Cheyenne, what's wrong?"

Hearing Lucas's familiar voice, tears welled up in Cheyenne's eyes, and she immediately jumped into his arms. She hugged him tightly and burst into tears.

Lucas hurriedly embraced Cheyenne in his arms and patted her back to comfort her. "It's alright. Nothing happened to you. You accidentally took some strong sleeping pills, which is why you slept until now. Nothing else happened. Don't be afraid."

After hearing this, Cheyenne finally returned to her senses from her extreme horror. She carefully sensed her body, and it seemed to be alright.

"But... I remember Gordon Douglas and that glass of champagne..." Cheyenne suddenly shivered at the thought of that scene.

"It's okay. I rushed over yesterday and brought you home in one piece. That bastard Gordon Douglas will also be punished. You don't need to be afraid anymore." Lucas comforted Cheyenne warmly.

It was extremely normal for women to be flustered and terrified after encountering something like that.

After being comforted by Lucas, Cheyenne slowly regained her composure. Only after a while did she realize that she was hugging Lucas tightly.

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"Ah." Cheyenne hurriedly let go of him and turned away to wipe the tears off her face. She suddenly felt extremely embarrassed and shy. *I actually took the initiative to jump into his arms and cry. How embarrassing!*

Looking at Cheyenne's back, Lucas could see that her tiny ears were already red even though he couldn't see her expression clearly.

Lucas burst into laughter and coughed. "Um, I brought you back here last night, and it wasn't convenient for me to help you change out of your clothes. There's a bathroom in the room and some women's clothes in the closet. Go and take a shower, and then come have breakfast."

After saying this, Lucas went out and considerately closed the door after him.

Only after Lucas left did Cheyenne lift her hand and pat her warm cheeks while subconsciously smiling.

Cheyenne looked around the spacious and luxurious room and saw a huge floor-to-ceiling window with a balcony facing the south. To the east, there was a large closet the size of the wall.

Cheyenne leaped off the bed and opened the closet.

To her surprise, the closet was mostly filled with women's clothes, and half of it was filled with clothes for little girls. There were very few men's clothes.

The women's clothes were all in her size while the children's clothes were in Amelia's size, all of which were exquisitely crafted and fashionable. Most of them were custom-made designer clothing by major luxury brands.

There was also a plethora of accessories such as handbags, shoes, hats, etc. It was simply a luxurious and impeccable closet that most women dreamed of owning!

Cheyenne suddenly figured out that all of this was prepared by Lucas for her and Amelia.

It turned out that Lucas had secretly prepared a lot of things by himself while she was clueless.

Previously, he wasn't making empty promises when he swore that he would treat Cheyenne and Amelia well.

For some reason, Cheyenne suddenly felt her nose getting a little sore and a strong urge to cry.

After showering, she changed into a light yellow dress and walked out of the room, only to be stunned speechless by the exquisite decor in the luxurious villa.

The stairs were made of pure crystal, and there was a spacious and lofty dome, a chandelier inlaid with colorful gemstones, and elegant and exquisite antique artifacts. The entire villa was as lavish and opulent as a beautiful palace.

Looking at everything in astonishment, Cheyenne was suddenly at a loss for words.

Does all of this belong to Lucas?

"All of this belongs to us and Amelia. This is our home," Lucas said softly with a smile as he walked toward Cheyenne.

Cheyenne's face once again reddened, and she glared at Lucas. "I'm not your family."

However, her flare wasn't deterring or hostile. Instead, it was rather cute.

Lucas knew that Cheyenne would get shy easily, so he didn't say anything else and brought her to the dining room.

The furnishings in the bright and open dining room were gorgeous and opulent. There was also a large floor-to-ceiling window facing outside, which allowed her to see the clear lake outside. The gentle breeze was blowing in slowly and caressing her face, making her feel relaxed and at ease.

Cheyenne saw that the table was covered in a snowy white tablecloth and a large spread of dishes on it.

There was fragrant porridge, sweet corn, fried eggs, crab sandwiches, and two glasses of milk.

Lucas pointed at the crab sandwich. "Sorry, I'm not good at making sandwiches, so these are store-bought and reheated. Don't mind it."

Cheyenne was even more shocked when she heard this. Pointing at the sumptuous breakfast spread, she asked, "You made all of this?"

Lucas nodded. "I don't cook often, so my culinary skills are mediocre. Try them and see if they're to your liking. If not, I'll cook something else."

Cheyenne was really speechless now.

After seeing Lucas's wealth, she originally thought that some servants or cooks had prepared breakfast. But to her surprise, Lucas cooked everything himself!

A man who didn't cook much actually whipped up a sumptuous feast for her. He was even worried that she might not like it and wanted to prepare a new set.

She was definitely touched.

At this moment, Cheyenne was overwhelmed with complicated emotions. She was feeling bittersweet.

"Why are you doing all of this for me?" Cheyenne asked, sobbing.

Lucas smiled. "Because I like you, so I want to treat you well."

Cheyenne had no idea that Lucas had been carrying a torch for her for more than six years.

During his time in the army, Lucas managed to overcome those hardships and dangers time and time again because he kept himself going by thinking of Cheyenne until he reached where he was today.

After six years, his feelings for her had turned into love.

He, the God of War Lucas Gray, was willing to do so much for Cheyenne all because of his love for her!