

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

- Chapter 553 – 584

: She's Alive

Chapter 553: She's Alive

Moses froze for a moment, but his expression soon changed drastically as he barked, "What do you mean by that?"

Lucas frowned and said coldly, "Since you can't do it, don't make empty promises! You want me to let him off? Impossible!

"If you continue to pester me, I'll immediately kill him!"

"You!" Moses was so enraged that he was about to explode. But he knew that he was in a passive position, and Lucas was in control of everything now. If he angered Lucas, his son would definitely die!

He had no choice but to suppress his anger, keep quiet, and stand at the side.

Without the interference of others, Lucas squatted down beside Marc and pressed down hard on his philtrum.

"Mmph!" Marc grunted softly and came to his senses. But the instant he woke up, he was overwhelmed by the immense pain in his legs again, making him scream in misery.

"Shut up!" Lucas roared coldly to stop him before asking again, "I'll ask you one last time, and you'd better answer me honestly. Where is Karen Turner's corpse? I've run out of patience."

He had already given Marc three chances to tell the truth. If he chose to continue hiding it, there wouldn't be a need for Lucas to continue to keep him alive.

He thought that he would eventually get an answer from the Kingstons regarding the whereabouts of Karen's corpse.

Marc's body was already drenched in cold sweat, and he looked as though he had been fished out of the water.

His eyes were already somewhat glassed over and out of focus, but he subconsciously wanted to continue lying to use it as a straw to clutch at. "She... she is really..."

"Marc Kingston! You'd better tell the truth immediately!" Explosive yelling suddenly sounded in Marc's ears.

Lucas wasn't the one who shouted. Rather, it was Moses.

"You're already on the brink of death. What else do you care about? Tell me everything you know immediately!" Moses hollered.

Just now, he sensed Lucas's intention to kill. If Marc's answer was still unsatisfiable, he would definitely not spare him!

At this moment, he was so furious that he wanted to beat his intelligent son into a pulp. They all said that a father knew his son best. As Marc's father, he obviously knew that he was hiding something.

Regardless of the reason, he would be a complete fool to be so stubborn despite being on the brink of death!

Stunned by the scolding of his father, who had always been meek and mellow, he finally came back to his senses.

Yes, if Lucas ran out of patience and wanted to kill him right now, none of his trump cards would be of use!

He gritted his teeth and looked at Lucas before suddenly asking, "Can you let me off if I tell you the truth?"

Lucas sneered in response. "I'm not negotiating with you. You'd better remember this clearly."

Marc raised his hand with difficulty to wipe off the cold sweat about to flow into his eyes and said with menace, "If you don't promise me, I won't tell you the answer even if I die!"

A trace of mania appeared in his eyes. Although he was about to die, he still wanted to take a gamble and bank on Lucas being desperate to know about Karen's information.

However, he was soon filled with disappointment, or rather, despair!

Reason being, Lucas's expression didn't even change in the slightest, and he merely sneered. "In that case, go to hell!"

Amid Marc's horrified gaze, Lucas's foot was like a giant mountain enlarging in his view as it stomped down toward his head.

The fear of death instantly occupied Marc's mind.

Unable to tolerate it any longer, he yelled hysterically, "I'll tell you! I'll tell you! Karen Turner isn't dead!"

"..."

A fierce and powerful gust of wind blew past Marc's face.

He closed his eyes tightly and gasped for air when he finally felt that he could still breathe and knew that he had escaped death.

But his body was now limp and weak. He didn't want to experience the horror of escaping a near-death situation again.

Lucas's foot was less than a centimeter away from his face.

After hearing what Marc said, he amazingly stopped right at that instant.

Had Marc been half a second later with his confession, he would have already died by now.

"What did you just say? Repeat yourself." Lucas's icy cold tone contained some bewilderment.

Although he had sensed long ago that Marc was lying, he hadn't expected to hear that Karen was still alive!

If Karen didn't die, things would be much better because he would at least be able to answer to Cheyenne and Charlotte!

Otherwise, not only would Lucas be perpetually uneasy, but the kindhearted Cheyenne would live in self-reproach and be riddled with guilt for the rest of her life, for she would forever regret her decision to drive Karen away from the hospital last night.

Marc stabilized his mental state before saying while trembling, "I'm telling the truth this time. I intended to kill her at first, but I didn't do it in the end, so she's still alive now."

"Where is she now?" Lucas immediately probed.

"She's... at the Taylors'!" Marc immediately came clean after being utterly frightened out of his wits by his close shave with death.

“The Taylors?” This was beyond Lucas’s expectations.

He had first gone to confront Scott Taylor, who had told him that Karen had been abducted by Marc.

“If you dare to lie to me again, I’ll immediately kill you! Tell me exactly what’s going on,” Lucas commanded in an aggressive tone.

Seeing that he was enraged, Marc immediately said, “I won’t lie again! She’s really at the Taylors’. I said that I killed her and fed her corpse to the dogs only because I wanted to anger you and goad you into coming here to die... Anyway, I really didn’t take her away!

“Think about it. If I really wanted to kill her, I could have just gotten Scott Taylor to get rid of her on the spot. Why would I have brought her all the way back to San Francisco?”

Lucas raised his eyebrows, finding that Marc’s words did make some sense.

If he really wanted to kill Karen, he truly only needed to tell the Taylors to do it instead of going to the trouble of taking her back to San Francisco.

Marc also said that his purpose was to use Karen’s death to force Lucas into coming to the Kingston manor and then lock him inside before sending his so-called experts to kill him.

If not for the fact that Lucas was too powerful, he might have really been tricked by Marc.

After hearing what Marc said, Edmund snorted coldly. “Hah, that’s called being a smart aleck. You thought you could take down Lucas with this stupid plan you devised, but I bet you didn’t think you would end up in this situation today, huh!?”

Damon, Connor, Joe, and others all sneered at Marc in contempt. “When you harm others, you’ll eventually end up harming yourself! The old saying is indeed true!”

“Since she’s still at the Taylors’, we should immediately head there and tell them to hand her over!” Joe suggested.

Connor agreed. “Yes, since Mr. Gray’s mother-in-law is still alive and at the Taylors’, we should immediately go back to Orange County and get them to hand her over!”

Damon hurriedly exclaimed, “I’ll go with you! Although I’m not from Orange County, with the Parkers’ current status, I’m sure I can deter the Taylors!”

But just as everyone was discussing going to the Taylors to make them hand Karen over, Edmund suddenly frowned and said solemnly, "We can't be too reckless about this!"

Chapter 554: Going to the Taylors' Again

Edmund's words made Lucas glance at him in surprise.

Logically speaking, with the strength of the Coles in San Francisco, they wouldn't be afraid of the Taylors at all, unless there was something more to this.

At the thought of Edmund being old and experienced, Lucas knew that he definitely knew more than him, so he chose to consider his opinion first.

At this moment, Marc, who had both legs crippled and was now lying on the ground with a miserable look on his face, suddenly said, "Lucas... Mr. Gray, I've already told you everything you want to know. Please spare my life!"

His father, Moses, also quickly walked over and begged for mercy on Marc's behalf. "That's right, Mr. Gray. Today's incident was indeed my son's fault. But now that your mother-in-law is still alive, and you've already taught Marc a lesson by crippling both his legs, please spare him!"

While speaking, he hurriedly took out a bank card from his breast pocket and handed it to Lucas. "Of course, if you are willing to spare my son, I'm willing to give you all my life savings. I have more than fifteen million, and I'll give it all to you! The password is written on the card!"

He had never been valued by the Kingstons. So he had earned most of his money from the businesses he owned and his investments in futures.

Moses was going all out to save his son.

Lucas looked at him and couldn't help sighing. Although most of the Kingstons were ruthless and unloyal, he was impressed by Moses' fatherly love.

As Moses said, if Karen had been killed by Marc, Lucas would have definitely not let him off since he was the murderer. But now that Karen was still alive, while Marc was destined to be crippled for the rest of his life, he should have learned his lesson. Therefore, Lucas didn't want to pursue it further.

However...

"Before I find Karen Turner, I'll let you keep your life for the time being. But if I find out that you dared to lie to me again, I will definitely come back and take it away from you!"

After speaking coldly, he grabbed the bank card from Moses and turned around to leave.

Although he didn't need the money, the Coles, the Parkers, the Hales, Joe, and the others had brought a large number of people over to help him. They had even fought with the Kingstons' bodyguards, and many of them were injured.

Thus, Lucas took the money on their behalf. It was considered a reward and compensation for them.

As Lucas turned around to leave, all the people who had followed him here left with him too.

The Kingstons' affairs should naturally be handled by themselves.

After leaving the Kingston manor, Lucas finally looked at Edmund and asked, "Mr. Cole, what did you mean by what you said earlier?"

Edmund took a deep breath, looked at Lucas seriously, and asked, "Do you really want to make a move against the Taylors?"

Lucas raised his eyebrows and asked rhetorically, "Based on what you're saying, it seems that the Taylors can't be touched, huh? Are they more domineering than the Kingstons?"

Edmund shook his head, but he said solemnly, "In terms of strength, the Taylors of Orange County naturally can't compare with the Kingstons of San Francisco. But their backer isn't simple!

"On the surface, the Taylors' backer seems to be the Kingstons. After all, the Kingstons have always been supporting them, and the Taylors have been obeying their orders and have helped them more than once or twice. But the true backer behind the Taylors is another entity.

"That is... the Peerless Martial Association!"

When he said the last four words, even Edmund had a scrupulous gaze in his eyes.

Lucas was no stranger to the Peerless Martial Association.

After all, he had already dealt with the members of this organization twice.

The first time was when he caught the murderer who had killed Tristan. At the time, he had clamored that he was a member of the Peerless Martial Association. And he even said that if Lucas dared to hit him, he would definitely face the revenge of the Peerless Martial Association.

The second time was the night he saved Skylar. Lucas had killed seven members of the Peerless Martial Association who were after Skylar in seconds. Moreover, Skylar, who was now Lucas's subordinate, was also a former member of the Peerless Martial Association.

Previously, Skylar had mentioned to him that the Peerless Martial Association committed all sorts of evils, one of which was searching for beautiful women everywhere and forcing them to work for the organization as social escorts to win over others or to coerce them and whatnot. At the time, Lucas had recalled the mysterious organization that supplied beautiful women to the Taylors.

After hearing what Edmund said, Lucas was almost certain that the organization that had sent beautiful women to the Taylors had to be the Peerless Martial Association!

"The Peerless Martial Association... I've also heard some information about it. It's said that in DC, the Peerless Martial Association is so powerful that even the eight great giants of DC will not easily offend it."

Edmund nodded. "Yes, the Peerless Martial Association is an extremely tightly-knit and massive organization, and it has branches in almost every state and many branches all over the world. It is truly a behemoth, but at the same time, it is very low-profile and secretive. Generally, very few can detect its existence.

"Take San Francisco, for example. Everyone only knows that the Coles, the Kingstons, and the Walkers as the powerful trinity. But in fact, the Peerless Martial Association's San Francisco branch has far greater financial strength and power than us.

"I also inadvertently learned about the contact between the Taylors and the Peerless Martial Association. So if you aren't well-prepared and just take your men to the Taylors' to ask them to hand over your mother-in-law, I'm afraid it won't be that simple. This is why I told you not to act rashly," he said earnestly.

Lucas nodded, but he said with a faint smile, "It's fine. I have to go to the Taylors eventually. If the Peerless Martial Association doesn't appear, I'll forget it, but if it must interfere with my affairs, I'll annihilate it!"

Lucas's entire body was emanating an imposing aura, and his handsome face was full of confidence.

"..." Edmund was so shocked by Lucas's words that he couldn't come back to his senses for a long time.

If he had heard Lucas's words prior to today, he would have laughed at him for being overly ambitious and idealistic or even somewhat ignorant.

But now, after witnessing Lucas's terrifying strength and his surging, righteous aura, he couldn't help feeling that Lucas might really be able to achieve it.

No, in fact, as long as he said it, he could definitely do it!

"Good, you're very ambitious! It's time for me to admit that I'm already an old man!" Edmund laughed and looked at Lucas with more appreciation in his eyes.

Lucas answered with a smile, "Mr. Cole, you helped me today, and you even went out of your way to become enemies with the Kingstons for my sake. I will always remember our friendship. If you ever need my help in the future, don't hesitate to let me know!"

Although Lucas hadn't really needed it, he would always remember those who were willing to come over to stand on his side today and oppose a strong enemy like the Kingstons.

Edmund laughed heartily. "Hey, what is this? You saved my life, and I merely showed my support for you. I didn't help with anything. Haha, Lucas, you're standing on ceremony!"

After talking and laughing with him for a while, Edmund bid goodbye and left with his granddaughter Alexis.

"Bye, Lucas!" Alexis waved at Lucas smilingly and then left with Edmund.

Damon, Connor, and Joe walked over.

"Mr. Gray, shall we go to the Taylors' to ask them to hand Karen Turner over?" Damon asked with excitement.

Lucas shook his head. "No, you are from LA, so it's not suitable for you to go to the Taylors'. Go back to LA first. I will call you if I need your help with anything. However, don't spread a single word to anyone about what happened today. Inform your subordinates too!"

Damon immediately agreed.

After he left, Lucas walked toward his Jaguar.

Connor, Joe, and the others all walked over and asked, "Mr. Gray, where are you going? To the Taylors'?"

Lucas nodded. "Yes, I'm going to the Taylors'!"

Chapter 555: The Taylors' Secret Meeting

When Connor and Joe heard that Lucas was going to the Taylors', their eyes immediately lit up.

In Orange County, the Taylors were merely on par with the Hales, so they would be much easier to deal with than the Kingstons!

"Mr. Gray, it's merely the Taylor family. It doesn't warrant your effort. I'll go to the Taylors' immediately and tell them to hand over your mother-in-law!" Connor said confidently.

Joe also agreed. "That's right. I'll go with Mr. Hale. We'll definitely bring her back!"

But Lucas shook his head. "No, I'm going to the Taylors' by myself. You guys have already helped me today, and I'm afraid it has already caused you to attract a lot of attention. You'd better go home first!"

Then Lucas went straight to his car and drove back to Orange County.

Connor and Joe naturally didn't oppose Lucas's arrangement, and they could only watch him leave before proceeding to assemble their subordinates and return to Orange County.

At this moment, in the hall of the Taylors' main residence in Orange County...

At this moment, the hall had already turned into a small conference room, where all the direct descendants of the Taylor family had gathered with grave expressions on their faces. The head of the family, Frederick Taylor, was sitting at the main seat.

They had just received the news that the numerous experts they had sent to seize Lucas had failed their mission and let him escape.

Frederick clenched his fists. "I think all of you must be aware of what happened. Lucas Gray crippled almost all of the experts we sent and escaped successfully. I asked all of you to gather here to discuss what to do next!"

After a moment of silence, someone finally said, "Lucas Gray actually had the audacity to kill our men and made Scott die so tragically. We can't let him off! Since he escaped this time, let's go find an even more powerful expert to capture him at all costs!"

"Yes! The Taylors' pride and dignity can't be trampled on by him just like that. We must capture him and use his blood as a sacrifice to our late family member!"

"Yes, we can't let him escape!"

...

All of the Taylors were full of indignation as they swore to capture Lucas back.

But one of them had remained silent with his brows furrowed tightly throughout, seemingly pondering about something.

“What about you, Preston? What do you think?” Frederick suddenly looked at Preston, who hadn’t spoken for a long time.

Only then did Preston come back to his senses and hurriedly say, “Dad, I’ve just been thinking that Lucas Gray probably didn’t escape at all.”

“What do you mean?” Frederick asked with a frown.

“Based on my understanding of him, that guy has always been arrogant and would never compromise, so it’s impossible for him to escape. Moreover, he clearly defeated so many of the experts we sent out, so it’s even less likely that he fled. I think he left Orange County because he had something else to do. We mustn’t let our guard down regarding this person!”

Preston had previously dealt with Lucas before, and he was the one in the family who knew him the best.

Truth be told, he even felt that the reason Lucas suddenly left Orange County was to go to San Francisco to confront the Kingstons.

But Preston didn’t quite believe that Lucas would be so stupid as to shoot himself in the foot by doing something tantamount to suicide.

For some reason, he had an ominous hunch that trouble was about to strike him.

He didn’t know if this feeling was related to Lucas or not, but the truth was clear. The Taylors couldn’t stop Lucas at all, and if Lucas decided to deal with them, they would never be able to stop him.

“I suggest we immediately ask the Peerless Martial Association for help with retaliating against Lucas Gray!” Preston said firmly.

The moment he said this, all the Taylors were taken aback.

“Preston, do you know what you’re saying? You actually want us to ask the Peerless Martial Association for help to deal with Lucas Gray, who’s nothing but a small fry?” a middle-aged man stood out and rebuked sternly with an austere expression on his face.

This middle-aged man was none other than Preston’s elder brother, Gaston Taylor.

He said with righteous indignation, “Do you know what doing that means? It will only make the people of the Peerless Martial Association think that the Taylors are a bunch of incompetent fools who can’t even deal with a mere live-in husband. If they label us as useless, how can we possibly continue to cooperate with them in the future?”

“Also, I heard people say that you lost the Ocean Bathhouse a long time ago. Do you know how important the Ocean Bathhouse is to us? Moreover, you haven’t even told us about it until now. Are you planning to continue hiding it?!”

Gaston’s questions immediately made Preston’s face turn sullen.

In particular, his last question exposed all the things that Preston had been trying so hard to conceal.

Frederick, the head of the Taylors, had a drastic change in expression, and he suddenly stood up to question Preston. “What?! The Ocean Bathhouse is gone? What’s going on? Preston Taylor, tell me the truth immediately!”

The rest of the Taylors appeared astonished too.

Every descendant of the Taylor family knew that Ocean Bathhouse was the root of the Taylors’ development and their channel to connect to the mysterious, unpredictable, and powerful Peerless Martial Association!

When Frederick handed it to Preston to manage back then, countless members of the family had been green with envy. Yet Preston actually lost it.

They wondered, *How did he lose it, and whose hands is it in now?*

Countless pairs of eyes focused on Preston.

Preston gritted his teeth, well aware that Gaston definitely wouldn’t give him the chance to defend himself since he had deliberately chosen to expose him during this meeting with all the family members gathered.

Although Preston, Scott, and Gaston were blood brothers, they weren’t very close to each other because they were all vying to be the next helmsman of the family.

In particular, now that Scott had died, the two of them were the only ones left competing for the position of the next helmsman. Thus, Gaston wouldn’t let go of this wonderful opportunity to condemn his mistake.

Preston took a deep breath before saying, “Dad, the reason I said we should ask the Peerless Martial Association for help is precisely because the person who took the Ocean Bathhouse away from me is Lucas Gray!”

“It’s not that I didn’t want to inform you about it. But rather, I didn’t want you to worry about it for nothing. I decided to try and get the Ocean Bathhouse back from Lucas Gray with my own means. But unfortunately, he’s very cunning. Moreover, he has the protection of a top expert like Stanley Ray. I simply couldn’t find an opportunity!

“Now, Lucas Gray has snatched away the Ocean Bathhouse originally belonging to us and the Peerless Martial Association and even killed a direct descendant, so the Peerless Martial Association definitely won’t ignore our request for help!

“Furthermore, Lucas Gray is definitely not a mere nobody that we can deal with easily. I suspect that the annihilation of the Brookes from LA and the subsequent destruction of the Owens are both related to him!”

The revelation of these several pieces of earth-shattering news immediately made all the Taylors dumbfounded!

Chapter 556: Expert of the Association

“What did you say?!” Gaston was the first to doubt him. “I bet these are just excuses you came up with to cover up for your mistakes and incompetence!”

Preston said coldly, “Of course I’m not making up excuses! If I had only mentioned Lucas Gray, you would probably have still thought that he was just an incompetent live-in son-in-law of the Carters. But all of you should have heard of Stanley Ray, right? He was the best expert of the Brookes in LA, and he had never lost a single fight before. He even helped the Brookes take out countless enemies, both openly and secretly. It can be said that without Stanley Ray, the Brookes wouldn’t have made it that far! Even many top families in San Francisco have extended an olive branch to him.

“Yet such a powerful man actually appeared beside Lucas Gray after the overnight destruction of the Brookes. The massive businesses left behind by the Brookes have also been integrated to form the incredible Solar Corporation. And the general manager of the Solar Corporation is Flynn Davis, the former general manager of the Stardust Corporation’s Orange County branch!

“And I’m sure you’ve all heard of the news that caused an uproar on the internet today. It turns out that Lucas Gray is actually the person in charge of the Stardust Corporation’s Orange County branch! Do you still need me to tell you in detail what all this information means when you connect them together?”

Upon hearing this, the Taylors looked even more astounded.

They had indeed heard of most of this information, such as the general manager of the Stardust Corporation’s Orange County branch suddenly becoming the general manager of the Solar Corporation in LA. They had also heard the shocking news that Lucas was actually the person in charge of the Solar Corporation’s Orange County branch.

When they heard these pieces of news, they were all shocked and in disbelief. But after Preston connected the dots for them, they finally discovered the shocking truth.

Lucas, whom they thought was nothing more than a small fry, actually had such a terrifying influence!

“So...” Preston turned to face his father, Frederick, and once again firmly suggested, “I think Lucas Gray is an extremely dangerous person, and if we’re a little careless, the Taylors will also face the risk of destruction! So, send a message immediately and ask the Peerless Martial Association for help!”

“...” Frederick pondered about it quietly for a long time before finally making up his mind. “Okay, let’s go to the Peerless Martial Association immediately to ask for help!”

“Yes!” Preston was overjoyed and secretly relieved, feeling as if a huge boulder had been lifted off his chest.

As long as they had the help of the Peerless Martial Association, Lucas would never be able to escape again!

Besides, the Ocean Bathhouse, which he had accidentally lost, would be back in his hands, and he would be even closer to the position of the head of the family, which he had always wanted!

San Francisco was a seven-hour drive away from Orange County.

Lucas drove his black Jaguar all the way back to the border of Orange County and then drove directly toward the Taylors’.

Soon, the black Jaguar stopped at the entrance of the Taylor manor.

He stepped out of the car and looked at the plaque with the words ‘Taylor Family’ written on it, his eyes displaying an astonishing imposing manner.

In the living room of the Taylors’ main residence...

At this moment, a powerhouse of the Peerless Martial Association had already arrived, and he was enjoying the admiration and praise of the crowd alongside Frederick, Gaston, and Preston.

It was a man in his fifties, wearing a black suit and looking rather gaunt. But his eyes were bright, and his skinny hands were particularly conspicuous. They could tell at a glance that he was definitely a true expert with rich combat experience.

He was Jude York, an expert of the Peerless Martial Association.

At this moment, one of the Taylors' servants hurried in and reported, "Mr. Taylor, bad news! Lucas Gray has already arrived and is fighting the bodyguards at the door!"

Frederick immediately stood up and bellowed, "How many people has he brought with him?"

The flustered servant froze for a moment before answering, "He... he's alone!"

"Where's Stanley Ray? Didn't he come with him?" Frederick asked.

"I didn't see anyone else. Lucas Gray barged in alone!" the servant answered truthfully.

Frederick looked at Jude, who was sitting at the side, and said respectfully, "Mr. York, I'll have to trouble you then!"

Jude suddenly burst into laughter. "The Taylors are really becoming more and more useless! You can't even deal with a punk, and you want me to help you with such a trivial matter. How boring!"

The faces of Frederick, Preston, and Gaston suddenly stiffened.

To them, the comment 'useless' was a slap on their faces!

In fact, they invited Jude over not because they were afraid of Lucas but because they were afraid of Stanley, who had a terrifying reputation.

But they hadn't expected Lucas to come without Stanley.

However, Jude was from the Peerless Martial Association. And regardless of how harsh his words were, the Taylors didn't dare to refute at all!

Still, in the end, Jude stood up and said lazily, "But since I'm already here, I'll go out and take a look at how arrogant and conceited he is!"

Then he walked straight out.

...

At the entrance of the Taylor manor, there was a one-sided battle taking place.

Lucas effortlessly knocked down all the bodyguards who dared to attack him. He was sharp, resolute, and ruthless as he broke their arms or legs. So all of a sudden, the Taylors' bodyguards were terrified of him and only dared to surround him from afar. No one dared to go forward to block him.

Lucas's expression didn't change in the slightest as he leisurely stepped onto the bodies of the wailing bodyguards, making his way to the main villa of the manor.

"Oh, are you that punk Lucas Gray that Frederick mentioned? You seem decent!" Jude suddenly remarked while looking at Lucas with a hint of interest in his eyes.

Lucas raised his eyebrows slightly. *Seems like this thin middle-aged man is a significant figure since he called Frederick Taylor by his name in his territory.*

"Who are you?" Lucas asked.

Jude's face darkened a little.

As an expert of the Peerless Martial Association, even the helmsman of the Taylor family had to speak to him respectfully. Yet this greenhorn in front of him actually dared to question him in such a rude manner.

"Punk, hasn't anyone taught you to be polite when talking to your elders?" Jude chastised coldly.

Lucas sneered in disdain. "Who do you think you are? Throwing your weight around in front of me just because you're old, huh? You'd better save those words for your unfilial children and grandchildren!"

"Punk, you're courting death!" Jude flew into a rage!

He stomped his foot, and his aura suddenly exploded, causing the green stone ground beneath his feet to crack into web-like cracks.

"Don't be arrogant! I'll discipline you right now!"

Before Jude even finished speaking, he was already charging at Lucas like an arrow leaving a bow!

Chapter 557: Be My Subordinate

However, when Jude was about a meter in front of Lucas, he came to an abrupt halt.

Reason being, he noticed that Lucas's eyes didn't contain the slightest trace of panic, nor was he eager to block and dodge like others. He even stood still in place without avoiding. This degree of mental fortitude in young people was extremely rare.

Jude stroked his beard and suddenly said, "Kid, you are indeed a bit different from others. How about this? I'll give you a chance. From today onward, you will stay by my side and be loyal to me. I promise I won't mistreat you. How does this sound?"

Frederick and the others, who were tagging along behind Jude, simply couldn't believe their ears.

"Uh... Mr. York, we invited you over because we wanted you to help us deal with Lucas Gray. Why do you suddenly... want to accept him as your subordinate?"

Preston and Gaston were also full of astonishment.

Jude frowned in displeasure. "I don't need your permission to do anything."

Frederick's heart skipped a beat, and he hurriedly lowered his head. "No, no, no. That's not what I mean. I definitely don't dare to interfere with your actions!"

He naturally hoped that Jude would kill Lucas straight away and take revenge for his son. But since Jude wanted to let Lucas off, he didn't have the right to oppose.

"It's settled then! From now on, Lucas Gray is my subordinate. The Taylors are not to look for trouble with him again. Your feud is resolved, and no one can pursue this matter again! Frederick, you don't have an opinion, do you?" Jude ordered sternly.

Frederick's heart was full of fury, but he didn't dare to refute him at all. He had no choice but to say, "In that case, we'll go ahead with your decision, Mr. York! The Taylors have no objections."

Since Frederick said so, the rest of the Taylors naturally wouldn't disobey.

A somewhat chubby woman was glaring at Lucas with anger and indignation.

Gisele was really furious.

Ever since she knew that a top expert from the Peerless Martial Association had arrived at their residence to deal with Lucas, she had been waiting excitedly to watch him get killed.

The last time she was at Lion Restaurant, she had been displeased with a vixen-like waitress and had merely taught her a lesson. But she had ended up getting humiliated by him and forced to slap herself ten times on the face!

She had been bearing the humiliation in mind, and she would be infuriated whenever she thought of it.

Finally, the Taylors were going to deal with Lucas. Yet all their bodyguards were good-for-nothings who, despite outnumbering him, didn't manage to harm him at all!

Then Jude, the expert of the Peerless Martial Association, was finally going to deal with Lucas. But for some reason, he decided to make Lucas his subordinate and even warned the Taylors not to harm him. She was really infuriated!

Preston looked incredibly sullen.

Unlike the rest of the Taylors, he knew very well why Lucas had suddenly come to their residence. Without a doubt, it was for Karen.

Karen was now in Preston's hands!

If Lucas was really taken in as a subordinate by a noble man like Jude, whom they couldn't afford to offend, he would certainly satisfy Lucas's wish as a benefit for him.

In that case, he would no longer be able to hide the matter about Karen!

Moreover, there was a more secretive and fatal matter that he couldn't let anyone find out!

The reason he had strongly encouraged Frederick to invite Jude over was to kill Lucas.

However, he hadn't expected that Jude would take a liking to Lucas, making it impossible for him to harm Lucas!

Now, there was nothing he could do anymore. In order not to get exposed on the spot, he could only find a way to leave the Taylors as soon as possible and then think of another solution!

He looked at the people to his left and right. After seeing that their attention was all on Lucas and Jude, he quietly moved backward.

Jude said to Lucas domineeringly, "Okay, from now on, you are my subordinate. I'll take you to the Peerless Martial Association later. You're not allowed to pursue this matter any further either."

He made the decision for Lucas.

Lucas looked at Jude like he was looking at a fool. "Who do you think you are? You're in no place to make arrangements for my affairs. And you want to take me as your subordinate? Seriously, you?"

It was totally a blatant slap in the face!

For a moment, the Taylors stared at Lucas in disbelief with their eyes wide open.

He... he actually dared to speak to Mr. York like this!

How bold. He must be courting death!

Preston immediately stopped in his tracks while the resentment in Gisele's instantly turned into euphoria.

They had thought that Lucas was going to escape by making use of Jude's power, but they hadn't expected that he would dare to undermine Jude in front of so many people. He totally had a death wish!

Jude's face instantly turned gloomy.

With a dark face, he questioned sinisterly through clenched teeth, "Punk, what did you just say? Repeat yourself!"

Lucas stood in place and said slowly, "Are you too old to hear me clearly? Then, it doesn't matter if I say it again. You are not qualified to make me work for you!"

Jude was instantly enraged, so much so that his face turned beet red.

The Taylors hurriedly chimed in from the side, "Mr. York, please calm down. This punk is just a fool. So many people are dying for a chance to work for you, but they can't impress you at all. Yet this punk actually insulted you. He must be tired of living!"

"Yes, it's disgusting! You intended to give him a hand, but he doesn't know any better at all. He ought to be taught a lesson!"

"Mr. York, you want to groom a talented person, but this punk is horrendous! He's absolutely crazy! The Taylor family has to stand up for you no matter what! He's all alone now, so we can make him stay without your help! When we seize him, we will definitely bring him to you so that you can vent your anger on him!" Frederick hurriedly said.

Jude had been humiliated in their residence, and if they couldn't let him vent his anger, he would probably blame the entire Taylor family too.

Since Lucas came alone without an expert like Stanley, the Taylors probably wouldn't have to put in much effort to take him down.

Jude was furious, and he sneered incessantly. "Good, do it then. You must catch him and bring him to me! I will personally teach him a lesson and teach him the right way to talk to me!"

At this moment, he changed his mind to take Lucas as his subordinate after being mocked by him.

He didn't need a disobedient and disrespectful subordinate!

He snorted and walked into the Taylors' villa, leaving the Taylors to deal with Lucas.

He wasn't interested in dealing with Lucas, who didn't know any better.

Seeing Jude enter the villa, Frederick roared, "Where are the bodyguards?!"

Hearing his command, all of the remaining bodyguards of the Taylors immediately surged out and surrounded Lucas.

Chapter 558: Failed Show of Force

"Lucas Gray, don't think you can continue being arrogant. You definitely won't leave the Taylors' alive!" Frederick shouted. "Go, break his limbs for me! Just leave him on his last breath!"

Then he turned around and went back into the villa to appease Jude, who was in a bad mood.

In Frederick's opinion, Lucas's outcome was already set in stone, so the most important thing for him now was to try his best to get close to the expert sent by the Peerless Martial Association.

Otherwise, if Jude badmouthed them to the Peerless Martial Association in a fit of anger, they would be doomed.

"Haha, Lucas Gray, I've been looking forward to this day for a long time! I've always wondered when you would die!" Gisele finally couldn't suppress her inner excitement and stood out to laugh at Lucas, who was being surrounded.

With a slight frown, Gaston hurriedly looked at his daughter and asked with concern, "What's wrong? My dear daughter, did that punk Lucas Gray offend you?"

Gisele nodded vigorously. "Yes! Dad, do you still remember how I was forced to slap myself when I was out dining last week? The person who forced me is this bastard!"

She momentarily remembered the humiliating feeling she had at the time, and her eyes reddened again.

Gaston remembered that there was indeed such an incident. Gisele had seemed out of sorts when she returned home that day, and he knew that something was wrong. At the time, he had even asked her who had bullied her, but he had been soon called to a meeting by Frederick. Later on, he had been so focused on getting dirt on Preston that he forgot about it for a while.

At this moment, Gaston was boiling with fury after hearing his daughter say that Lucas had forced her to slap herself! "Punk, how dare you treat my precious daughter like

this?! Today, you even barged into our residence alone and landed yourself in our hands. You've brought this upon yourself!"

Lucas sneered indifferently, "It's still not certain who the one in trouble is today. Maybe it's your family."

Gaston burst into laughter. "Are you dreaming? You are now surrounded by our guards. How dare you still blow your trumpet? I bet you won't fear death until you face it!"

Then he glanced at Preston in contempt. "You actually let such a fool who doesn't know any better snatch the Ocean Bathhouse away from you? You're so useless!"

Preston's face turned ugly.

His older brother, Gaston, was just out to find faults with him and undermine him. Had Gaston been in his position, he wouldn't have been able to keep the Ocean Bathhouse either. What right did he have to mock him?

Gaston and the several bodyguards behind him walked straight toward Lucas and said arrogantly in a high and mighty manner, "Punk, you humiliated my daughter and forced her to slap herself, right? In that case, kneel down and apologize to her right now. Then slap yourself ten, no, twenty times, and admit your mistake!"

"Oh? Why don't you ask your daughter what she did to deserve such punishment?" Lucas said coldly.

Gaston didn't care about this and instead said brutally, "My daughter is the princess of the Taylor family. No matter what she has done, you're in no place to bully her! Now, we're much more powerful than you, so if you immediately get on your knees and slap yourself, I may still let you suffer less. Otherwise, I won't be polite!"

"Oh, you're more powerful? Since that's the case, I won't be polite either!" Lucas sneered and slapped Gaston directly on the face.

Smack!

Gaston's body was hit so hard that he spun around twice and then fell to the ground!

His face immediately swelled with several bright red slap marks, and he spat out a few broken teeth.

"You! How dare you hit me?!"

Gaston's head was buzzing from the blow. By the time he realized what had happened, he was so furious that his brain was spinning. He immediately got up from the ground,

and seemingly having lost his rationality, he leaped at Lucas with a menacing expression.

“I... must kill you!”

Bang!

Lucas leaped up and kicked Gaston in the chest.

“Aaahhhh!” With a long and miserable scream, Gaston’s entire body flew straight up and crashed heavily into the villa door behind him!

“You’re not worthy of threatening me!”

Everyone watched in horror as Lucas walked directly through the Taylors’ bodyguards, who had yet to recover from the shock, to the villa door.

Gisele’s eyes were almost about to fall out!

She could have never imagined that Lucas would dare to strike at her father while surrounded by bodyguards.

The infuriating thing was that none of the bodyguards stopped him!

She was so livid that she wished she could rush forward. But she found that her legs had already gone limp, so she could only watch Lucas walk past her. She didn’t even dare to move!

Atrocious!

How obnoxious!

For a while, she didn’t know if she was angry at the useless guards or at herself for not daring to move in front of Lucas.

...

In the villa, Frederick was standing beside Jude deferentially and chatting with him about the Taylors’ recent development while hinting that they would be giving Jude a large sum of money.

Only then did Jude feel much more pleased. But at this moment, the villa door suddenly slammed open with a loud bang from outside.

At the same time, a figure darted in and slammed hard against the ground.

Upon seeing the figure's face, Frederick immediately stood up in shock. "Gaston!"

Before he could send someone to find out what was going on, a tall figure stepped into the villa and stood in front of them.

It was the indifferent-looking Lucas!

"You... How did you get in? Shouldn't you have been seized by the guards?" Frederick looked at Lucas in shock and suspicion before quickly looking at the bodyguards outside.

When he saw the way these guards, who he had had high hopes for, were all cowering at the entrance in fear because they were too timid to step forward, he was so enraged that he almost vomited blood.

"Garbage! There are so many of you, but you couldn't even take down someone alone!" Frederick cursed furiously.

The guards outside were also extremely aggrieved.

Lucas had knocked down a large group of bodyguards on his own when he had just arrived at the Taylors'. Besides, he had just kicked Gaston a dozen meters away, so who would dare to stubbornly go against him?

Getting berated by Frederick was better than rushing forward to fight and then losing an arm or leg!

Frederick helped Gaston, whose face was covered in blood, up and glared at Lucas with a deadly gaze! "Lucas Gray, you bastard, I will kill you to vent my hatred!"

Jude's face turned gloomy again. He looked at Lucas standing proudly in front of him and once again found him to be really extraordinary.

It had been a long time since he came across such an excellent young man, so he felt that it would be a shame to kill him now.

"Kid, I'll give you one more chance. As long as you work for me, I will forget about today's matter! Consider it carefully! This is a very rare opportunity!" he offered again.

However, Lucas said with a faint smile, "I already told you. You're not fit to do that! But if you want to work for me, I can consider giving you the rare opportunity to do so. Think about it carefully!"

Chapter 559: The Power of A Blow

“Hah, kid, you’re really arrogant!” Jude was so furious that he laughed out loud mirthlessly and stood up before drawing, “I was going to give you another chance to let me groom you, but you’ve angered me again and again! Since you don’t know any better, go to hell!”

While he was speaking, a terrifying massive aura burst from his body!

Numerous cracks immediately appeared on the glass coffee table in front of him, and the invisible aura spread out in all directions with Jude as the center!

Unable to withstand the pressure, Frederick and Gaston frantically retreated several steps and cowered far behind a sofa in the living room. Only half of their heads were exposed, and only then did they feel some relief from the suffocating aura.

As expected of a top expert of the Peerless Martial Association, his aura was enough to make ordinary people terrified!

But at this moment, Frederick and Gaston were overjoyed despite the shock.

Such a terrifying powerhouse was standing on their side!

They knew without a doubt that Jude would definitely kill Lucas!

At this moment, Lucas’s always indifferent eyes had a slight change.

He was slightly surprised because Jude seemed to be a little stronger than he had imagined.

But he was only slightly surprised. He wasn’t in the least bit scared at all.

The intimidating and astonishing aura erupting from Jude’s body couldn’t even get close to Lucas or lift a single hair of his.

In fact, the strength displayed by Jude was nothing compared to the real powerhouses that Lucas had fought in the past.

But in the eyes of ordinary people, Jude was indeed a top expert.

To Lucas, Jude was just someone sent by the Peerless Martial Association’s California branch.

How many powerhouses like Jude were there in the entire Peerless Martial Association?

How strong was the leader of the Peerless Martial Association’s California branch or even the chairman of the Peerless Martial Association?

Lucas was surprised by the true strength of the entire Peerless Martial Association, which was revealed from Jude's combat power.

But before Lucas could think about it further, Jude's body suddenly swayed and instantly disappeared from the spot he was standing.

The next moment, he appeared 20 centimeters in front of Lucas and reached his thin, talon-like fingers toward Lucas's throat to grasp him!

He was extremely fast. Ordinary people definitely wouldn't be able to dodge in time, and they would end up being choked by Jude!

But his speed was still sub-par compared to Lucas.

Lucas tilted his head backward and leaned back to dodge Jude's attack perfectly.

Without waiting for Jude to make another move, Lucas twisted his waist and then turned to the side to kick Jude in the waist, sending him flying straight away!

Bang!

Caught off guard, Jude felt as though a cannonball had shot him in the waist. He was instantly flung out several meters and slammed against the wall!

An enormous indent formed in the wall that Jude slammed into, and spiderweb-like cracks began to spread out, occupying half of the wall.

“ ... ”

Frederick and Gaston were dumbstruck while watching the horrifyingly surreal scene in front of them and feeling as if they had suffered a tremendous visual and emotional impact!

Under the wall with the enormous indent laid Jude, who had been emitting a formidable aura just now. But now, his bones were distorted abnormally, and his spine had already broken into two, starting from his waist. After the powerful impact, his internal organs were also completely shattered.

He vomited blood, looked at Lucas, and used the last bit of his strength to ask Lucas a question. “Who... exactly... are you?”

Lucas looked at Jude indifferently and remained silent.

But Jude suddenly seemed to remember something as he said with horror all over his face, “I remember now. You... you are from the Falcon... Ah!”

Before he could finish speaking, a small chess piece suddenly darted out from Lucas's hand and completely pierced his throat, causing blood to spurt out in a jet.

Jude couldn't utter another word as his widened eyes slowly closed. He died right on the spot!

Lucas glanced at his corpse coldly, and the gaze in his eyes once again turned calm and indifferent.

He knew what Jude's last words were and was aware that Jude had probably guessed that he was a member of the Falcon Regiment in the state of Calico.

But Jude probably would never have thought that Lucas was not only a member of the Falcon Regiment but also the leader, who was known as the mighty 'Invincible God of War'.

But Lucas didn't plan to have his identity and relationship with Calico revealed, so he didn't let Jude finish his sentence.

Just as Lucas finished doing everything, Frederick and the others were almost going mad.

Jude, the incredibly powerful top expert of the Peerless Martial Association, had been killed by Lucas just like that!

He died in the Taylor residence!

For a while, Frederick couldn't even figure out if he was petrified because Jude died in his home, which was impossible for him to explain to the Peerless Martial Association, or because Lucas had actually killed Jude in seconds, displaying a horrifying strength and power that was far beyond his imagination.

"Lucas Gray... do you know what you've done? You actually killed Jude York! He's from the Peerless Martial Association. They won't let you off!" Frederick hollered hysterically in anger.

Lucas said coldly, "You'd better worry about your family first!"

His words had hit the nail on the head because this was exactly what Frederick was afraid of!

But he didn't want to show weakness in front of Lucas, so he gritted his teeth and argued, "No matter what, there is a cooperative relationship between us and the Peerless Martial Association. So regardless of how furious they are, they won't do anything to us because you're the one who killed Jude York! You can't escape their

punishment no matter what! Since Jude York is dead, the Peerless Martial Association will definitely send more people to investigate and pursue this matter. Just wait to die!”

Frederick hoped to see some fear on Lucas’s face but to no avail because, to his disappointment, Lucas was still as composed as ever. There wasn’t a single fluctuation in his emotions at all.

He said, “I can easily kill Jude York. What can the rest of the Peerless Martial Association do to me? I’ll kill anyone who dares to make a move against me!”

Lucas’s domineering and condescending aura immediately made Frederick feel furious and frightened.

At the same time, a vague thought appeared in his mind—Lucas didn’t seem to be an ignorant fool who was just arrogantly blowing his trumpet.

Jude’s corpse was still lying not far away from them.

Most importantly, Lucas had killed Jude effortlessly after merely bending his back to dodge. Jude had been killed within seconds!

This was enough to show that Lucas probably hadn’t exerted his true strength yet.

In that case, even if the Peerless Martial Association sent more experts here, their efforts might be futile.

He was incredibly dejected. Meanwhile, Gaston was deathly pale.

Lucas glanced at them, walked over, and said calmly, “In fact, I’m here today with the sole purpose of asking you to hand someone over. You’ve taken my mother-in-law away. I hope you will hand her over.”

Chapter 560: I Didn’t Kill Him

“What?!” Hearing what Lucas said, Frederick asked in puzzlement, “Why would your mother-in-law... end up in my home? What exactly happened?”

Lucas frowned. “Are you not aware?”

Frederick immediately exclaimed, “I really don’t know about this! When did it happen?”

Seeing that he didn’t seem to be faking it, Lucas reckoned that Frederick was really kept in the dark about this.

“Then you should be aware of the livestream that went viral on the internet tonight, right? Your son Scott sent his subordinates to abduct my mother-in-law and even

threatened her to defame me on the stream. He even paid netizens to clamor about boycotting the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch! Now, my mother-in-law is still being held captive in your home, and you're telling me that you don't even know about it?" Lucas questioned.

Frederick's heart dropped, and he hurriedly asked, "Is your mother-in-law Karen Turner? You mean, Scott forced her to say those things on the stream?"

At this moment, he felt like his brain was starting to run out of oxygen.

Of course, Frederick was aware of the stream that had caused a tremendous uproar in Orange County.

Even though he usually didn't watch streams, the content of Karen's stream today involved quite a large number of things, such as the revelation of Lucas Gray being the person in charge of the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch and the fact that he had allegedly tried to kill his parents-in-law in order to seize the family fortune to fill the company's financial deficit.

Be it the impact on the economic situation of the Stardust Corporation or the entertainment value of watching everyone fight for money, everyone reported the matter to Frederick.

But he had never expected to hear from Lucas that this matter was done by Scott and that Karen was now in their home, so Lucas wanted him to hand her over!

Everything seemed surreal to him.

Seeing Lucas glaring at him with an icy cold gaze in his eyes, Frederick immediately shivered and hurriedly said, "I... I really don't know about this matter! I only read the news about the stream, but I know nothing about the rest! Could there be some kind of misunderstanding in between?"

Lucas smiled sarcastically. "There's no misunderstanding. Get Scott Taylor to come here now, and you'll find out the truth! He's now hiding my mother-in-law, and I've come to make him hand her over!

"In addition, this stream has caused me and my company to suffer heavy financial losses. I want you to make a clarification and compensate the Stardust Corporation for the losses. You don't have an issue with this, do you?"

Lucas saw Frederick's eyes widening all of a sudden, as if he was incredibly shocked. Afterward, his expression became extremely sullen.

"What? Do you have an opinion, Mr. Taylor?" Lucas frowned.

Frederick's face was extremely gloomy, and his lips were trembling hard. Only after a long while did he ask while shivering, "Lucas Gray, don't you know that my son Scott is dead?"

"What? Scott Taylor is dead?" This time, it was Lucas's turn to be extremely surprised.

He quickly frowned and said with disbelief, "I just saw Scott Taylor more than an hour or so before I went to the Kingstons'. How could he die so soon? How did he die?"

Hearing this, Frederick revealed a mirthless smile while tearing up. He murmured, "In that case, were you the one who killed Scott?"

Lucas frowned. "Of course not."

As soon as he finished speaking, he realized something and asked, "You mean, you've always thought that I killed Scott Taylor?"

Frederick nodded and said through clenched teeth, "He was suddenly shot dead while speaking to me on the phone about two hours ago. The bodyguard who escaped and returned told me that it was you who killed Scott!"

Lucas was quite speechless at this moment.

Based on the chronological events, Lucas speculated that after he had just confronted Scott, Scott should have been killed while he was on his way to the Kingston manor in San Francisco.

In that case, it made sense for Frederick to harbor so much animosity against him and treat him with so much hostility by making his bodyguards besiege him the moment he arrived here.

"Look, you should really investigate the internal situation of your family," Lucas said indifferently without explaining much.

He knew that Frederick would definitely understand the meaning of his words.

Indeed, Frederick had understood from the moment Lucas said that he wanted to question Scott in person—Lucas definitely hadn't killed Scott.

Lucas even had the guts to kill Jude of the Peerless Martial Association, so why would he need to cover up his actions if he had really killed Scott?

The only truth was that Scott's death had nothing to do with Lucas, and the bodyguard who had escaped to testify against Lucas for murdering Scott was the most problematic one!

Standing at the side, Gaston was overwhelmed with shock. Lucas glanced at him for a moment, only to discover that he probably wasn't faking his astonishment.

Therefore, this matter probably had nothing to do with Gaston.

By using the method of elimination, it seemed that the identity of the mastermind became clear.

"People!" Frederick suddenly yelled at the door.

The two bodyguards outside didn't dare to delay at all and immediately hurried in.

But as soon as they entered, they saw Jude on the ground and dead in an extremely bizarre position. They couldn't help being agitated.

The expert of the Peerless Martial Association, whom even the helmsman of the Taylor family respected, had actually died just like that...

The two bodyguards were so frightened that they didn't dare to look at him any longer. They quickly hung their heads low and asked, "Mr. Taylor, wh-what orders do you have?"

Frederick said coldly, "Clean up this corpse and make sure no one finds out!

"Also, bring the bodyguard who followed Scott and was the only one who returned alive here. Remember, you must catch him and bring him back once you see him. There mustn't be any mistakes!"

Frederick finally gritted his teeth and commanded, "Also... bring Preston here too!"

The bodyguards received orders and immediately carried Jude's corpse out of the villa through the back door.

Frederick looked at Lucas and slowly said, "Don't worry, Mr. Gray. If this is really... We will definitely give you an explanation!"

At this moment, it was as if he had aged several years at once, and even his spine was hunched.

But Lucas didn't feel any sympathy for him.

At the end of the day, these were just the internal affairs of the Taylor family, while Karen's plight and the cyber attacks and the financial losses that the Stardust Corporation had suffered were indeed caused by the Taylors.

Soon, the two bodyguards hurried over and said anxiously, “Mr. Taylor, bad news! The bodyguard who followed Scott is dead! Also, we can’t find Preston anywhere, and no one knows where he has gone!”

Chapter 561: Finding His Mother-in-Law

“The bodyguard is dead, and Preston is missing?” Frederick was stunned for a moment before immediately flying into a rage. “Find him! Find Preston at all costs, even if you have to deploy all your subordinates!”

“Also, find out how exactly that bodyguard died and who he saw before dying!”

At this moment, anger was surging in his heart.

The bodyguard who had testified against Lucas and alleged that Lucas was the person who had killed Scott was already dead. In that case, someone must have killed him to silence him.

Furthermore, the fact that Preston suddenly disappeared at this juncture meant that he was a likely suspect!

He had initially wanted to question his son to find out if there had been a misunderstanding or if someone else in the Taylor family was deliberately stirring up trouble.

But now that Preston had escaped, it almost immediately clarified something.

Once Preston was pinpointed as a suspect, many of the suspicious points regarding the previous matters surfaced too.

For example, when they received news of Scott’s death, Preston had been the first to suggest asking the Peerless Martial Association for help in getting rid of Lucas.

At the time, Frederick had thought that it was because Preston cherished his brother and was somehow terrified of Lucas’s power.

But now, he understood that Preston had wanted to invite an expert of the Peerless Martial Association to come over and kill Lucas directly so that he wouldn’t be exposed for framing Lucas.

As for why he had wanted to kill Scott and frame Lucas for it, it was probably related to the fact that he had lost the Ocean Bathhouse.

He had lost the important venue of the Taylor family and didn’t dare to mention it to the rest of the family, but he couldn’t get it back with his own abilities. Without a valid reason, he couldn’t get Frederick to agree to ask an expert of the Peerless Martial

Association to help them. Thus, he had decided to take the risk and scheme against Lucas to frame him for killing Scott.

Besides, Preston probably didn't really care much about Scott as a brother. But rather, he had just seen Scott as a stumbling block in his pursuit for the position of the future head of the family. This was probably why he had chosen to be so ruthless!

But they would have never known that the reason Frederick turned a blind eye to his sons' power struggle was that he wanted them to all feel a sense of crisis so as to hone their abilities and become even more outstanding!

The thought of it made Frederick's eyes turn slightly red. *We're all family. Why must we do this?!*

He blinked and suppressed the bitter emotions within him before saying to Lucas, "Mr. Gray, please wait a moment. Just a moment ago, I saw Scott standing outside the door. He may have escaped now, but he couldn't have gone too far yet. I've sent all the Taylors to look for him, and I believe we will have results soon!"

His attitude toward Lucas was much more respectful now. First of all, he knew that Lucas wasn't the murderer of his son but instead a victim who had come to seek justice. And second, he was afraid of Lucas's formidable and horrifying abilities. If he accidentally angered Lucas, the family's fate probably wouldn't be any better than that of Jude, who had just been dragged out.

Lucas glanced at Frederick and said coldly, "I hope you act fast. I don't have much time to waste with you here. If you can't find Preston within half an hour, I'll hold all of you accountable!"

It wasn't that Lucas wanted to intimidate him intentionally. After all, Scott was Frederick's son, and in case Frederick had tender feelings for him and decided to hide him somewhere secretive, Lucas couldn't just sit back and wait.

Frederick hurriedly nodded. "Yes! Within half an hour, I will give you an answer no matter what!"

Time passed, but there was still no news of Preston.

Frederick secretly glanced at Lucas's face and began to panic. Then he shouted at the Taylors and instructed them to bring Preston back as soon as possible no matter what.

The deadline of half an hour was about to arrive soon.

Frederick's face was covered in cold sweat, and he was extremely anxious.

As for Gaston, who had been staying at his side with half his head battered with bruises and his hand on his dreadfully painful stomach from the kick he had suffered, he didn't even dare to look for a doctor to have his wounds treated without Lucas's permission.

At this moment, a bodyguard finally ran in and said hurriedly, "Mr. Talyor, we just received news that Preston has been found! But he refuses to come back and demands that you and Mr. Gray go meet him! He's holding the woman Karen Turner hostage, so we didn't dare to do anything to him and came back to report to you first!"

"How dare he?!" Frederick sprung up and slammed his hand against the table. "Preston is really audacious! How dare he demand that Mr. Gray and I rush to see him and threaten us with a hostage? Outrageous!"

"Where the hell is that beast now?"

The bodyguard hurriedly said, "He's in a villa two streets away from here. It's a property he secretly bought!"

Lucas stood up and said, "Since he's asked to meet me, let's head there now. Lead the way!"

Frederick didn't dare to disobey. He frantically yelled at the bodyguard, "Quickly take us there!"

The group soon arrived at a villa located two streets away.

When they walked into the entry hall of the villa, they saw Preston, who had disappeared for some time, standing in the middle of the hall openly with a sharp dagger in his hand. The blade of the dagger was pressed against a woman's neck.

The woman's face was bruised and swollen, and her facial features were mostly distorted. Her body was also marked with purplish bruises and welts, seemingly having been abused.

Under the threat of the dagger, she shivered incessantly. But as soon as she saw Lucas enter, her eyes lit up, and she called out loudly to him for help. "Lucas! Lucas, quickly save me!"

Lucas immediately heaved a sigh of relief.

Although he absolutely abhorred Karen, he had to admit that he was sincerely relieved to see that she was still alive.

Cheyenne and Charlotte wouldn't have to be that devastated.

He wouldn't have any emotional burden because of it either.

Seeing this scene, Frederick almost erupted with fury.

Although he had already made some mental preparations, he didn't expect things to turn out the same way as Lucas had mentioned—Preston had abducted Karen and was holding her captive in such an obvious manner!

It was so obvious that it was impossible for him to even find a reason to justify the foolish acts of his idiotic son.

“Scoundrel, what exactly are you doing? Hurry up and let go of her!” Frederick hollered at Preston in fury.

Preston subconsciously shuddered. But he soon got rid of the instinctive fear he had toward his father and suddenly burst into hysterical laughter.

He seemed to be delirious, and all of a sudden, everyone was confused about his motive.

Chapter 562: Discord Between Father and Son

Preston ignored Frederick and regained some composure before turning his head to say to Lucas, “I have to make it clear to you that I didn't take this woman from you. The person who abducted her was Scott, not me.”

Lucas nodded. “I know. If you let her go right now, I won't hold you responsible for it.”

Indeed, the person who had abducted Karen was Scott, so Lucas wouldn't put the blame on Preston. But at the same time, he wouldn't just forget that Preston was using Karen as a hostage now.

He was just dealing with them separately because they were two different things by nature.

Frederick hurriedly said, “Yes, Preston, hurry up and let her go! We can talk things over calmly. Even... even if you've killed your brother Scott, you are still my son. I won't press charges against you.”

As soon as he heard what Frederick said, Preston became even more agitated instead. His expression became maniacal again as he asked, “Your son? I don't care to be your son! Frederick Taylor, do you think that you're being a great and noble father by choosing to bury the hatchet and not hold it against me despite knowing that I killed your other son?”

“Damn it! You're just a devil! You're a devil who treats your sons like pawns and toys with them as you please! You're the reason I ended up in this plight today!”

Devil?

A devil who treats his sons as pawns?

Frederick was extremely bewildered by this description, but he was also full of fury. "What nonsense are you spouting? If you have a problem with me, you can tell me everything when we get home! Now, I want you to let go of her immediately. Do you hear me?! As your father, I'm ordering you to let go of this woman right now!"

"Father? You don't deserve to be my father!" Preston hollered furiously. "When have you ever treated us as your sons? Ever since we were children, you've been telling us that if we want something, we have to fight for it ourselves and take it from others! Whoever is the best at getting what they want is your best son! The passive one who chose not to fight or snatch things away from others was berated harshly by you for being incompetent, useless, and not driven enough to take on important responsibilities in the future!"

"That's how you have taught us since we were children! So you're the one who has honed and turned us into such heartless creatures now. What right do you have to make us obey you and order us around by throwing your weight around as our father?"

He was extremely emotional, and the dagger in his hand shook a little because of how agitated he was. Several times, the blade almost slid past Karen's neck, scaring her so badly that she closed her eyes and screamed in horror. "Don't... don't kill me! Help! Please, please don't kill me!"

"Shut up! Make another sound, and I'll kill you right now!" Preston yelled at Karen impatiently, immediately making her shut up tactfully.

But at the same time, the gaze in her eyes was full of eagerness and resentment when she looked at Lucas. She seemed to be upset with the fact that Lucas was still standing in place instead of saving her from the lunatic.

Lucas sighed slightly without saying anything or moving.

Preston wasn't in the right state of mind, so he wouldn't let her go easily.

Besides, as long as Lucas was here, it was impossible for Karen to die.

Frederick's entire face paled for a moment after hearing his son's accusations. He felt as if his heart had been stabbed by a sharp dagger.

"Spare the rod and spoil the child. I did what I did all for the sake of shaping you brothers into better people! In the current era, if you don't compete and vie with others for what you want, others will snatch your things away from you! I-I just wanted you all to develop such consciousness from a young age. Only then can the Taylors keep

improving! Was I wrong to have done so?" he explained with a frown, trying to make Preston understand the rationale of his actions.

"No, it's not like that at all! You just treat us as pawns and tools for helping the family develop. You just like seeing the ugly sight of us fighting for things!" Preston retorted sternly.

"Have you ever cared about what we think? Have you ever cared about our feelings? No! Not at all!

"I was born to a different mother from Scott and Gaston, so they've been bullying me since I was a child, calling me a bastard and an illegitimate child. Even the servants bullied me. And when I went to you crying and airing my woes, you'd only chastise me for being useless and crying over such a trivial matter, which shouldn't be expected of a man!

"I also thought of avoiding them and choosing not to compete with them because I thought they'd let me off if I did so. But neither of them did because you told them that as your sons, they must be competent enough to snatch things away from others, or else they'll be considered good-for-nothings!

"I was almost killed by them several times. They pushed me down the stairs, put snakes in my blanket... Once, they even pushed me into a pond and caused me to almost drown. Yet you merely lightly reprimanded them a few times for their nonsensical behavior, and that was it! You never intervened again!

"Have you ever treated me as your son? My life and wellbeing don't matter to you at all! All you need is the most obedient and useful pawn who can fight and snatch what you want!

"So later on, in order to survive, I also learned to fight and become vicious and malicious. Yet you started praising me for being a competent and capable son, and you even said that I'm very likely to be your successor in the future. But do you know that your words caused me to be a thorn in their flesh, and I almost died at their hands on several occasions!

"No, you knew. You were aware of all of this, but you chose to ignore it. What kind of sons are we to you?! What kind of father are you?"

Preston was hollering at the top of his lungs, so much so that his voice became hoarse. He had obviously bottled up lots of grievances and anger over the past decades and was venting all of it now in one go.

Frederick was astonished to be accused by his son.

He hadn't expected that the education approach he had always taken pride in was so detrimental in the eyes of his son Preston.

Only at this juncture did he suddenly realize that he had indeed been focusing too much on the outcome, such that he rarely paid attention to what his sons had thought and felt.

He really had nothing to say about these grievances and anger that Preston harbored.

"Preston, I admit that I may not have been a good father because I've ignored your feelings. But I really never treated you guys as pawns. I really did it for your own good! If it has hurt you, I will change in the future and treat you well! Just forgive me!" Frederick said remorsefully.

"Change? How can you change? You are already in your seventies, and I'm almost fifty. Most of my life has passed, so what's the point of you changing now?"

"Moreover, ever since you killed my mother back then, I was certain that I'd never be able to forgive you in this lifetime!"

Preston gritted his teeth, and a strong hatred emerged from his eyes.

The expression on Frederick's face suddenly stiffened as he said in disbelief, "What? How do you know about this?"

"Because I happened to be hiding in the closet when you killed her with your own hands. I witnessed everything!" Preston roared with all his might, and at the same time, his tears finally rolled down his cheeks.

"You killed my mother because you wanted to take me back to the Taylors' with you, but she was dead against it! She didn't want me to become another one of your pawns, so you brutally killed her! I will always remember this scene, and I'll never be able to forgive you!"

Then Preston suddenly turned to Lucas. "Lucas Gray, if you kill Frederick Taylor right now, I'll immediately return Karen Turner to you!"

Chapter 563: Last Option

Lucas didn't expect Preston to hold Karen hostage and even say so much just to get him to kill Frederick.

Although he had just been watching everything from the perspective of an outsider, he couldn't help feeling some sympathy for Preston, who had been educated and raised in such a monstrous way, especially after hearing that Preston's mother had been killed by Frederick. But he was still surprised that Preston asked him to help him kill his father.

If Preston really hated his father so much, he could have done it himself since he had countless opportunities to do so. Why would he need an outsider to help him?

“Why do you want me to help you?” Lucas asked indifferently with his arms crossed.

After hearing what Scott said, Frederick immediately flew into a rage. “You unfilial thing! I am your biological father, but you want to kill me! Aren’t you afraid of being struck by lightning?!”

Preston ignored Frederick and closed his eyes as he said to Lucas, “I can’t do it myself precisely because he’s my father. This is also my only purpose. As long as you help me kill him, I will let this woman go immediately!”

Frederick’s heart sank, and he hurriedly said to Lucas, “Mr. Gray, you mustn’t trust him! He’s gone mad. Even if you kill me now, I’m afraid he won’t let your mother-in-law off and instead will raise even more demands!”

He was really terrified. After all, he also knew that Lucas’s goal was to get Karen back. And since he and the others were not friends with Lucas, their lives meant nothing to him at all.

If Lucas really wanted to kill him in exchange for Karen, he would have absolutely no means to resist.

“I’m not crazy, and I’ll keep to my word! As long as you kill Frederick Taylor, I promise that I won’t hurt this woman. But if you don’t, I will have to force you to do it!” Preston said through clenched teeth.

The dagger resting against Karen’s neck suddenly moved, and the sharp blade immediately formed a small slit on Karen’s fragile neck. Blood slowly seeped out.

“Ah! I-I’m going to die!” Karen immediately screamed and shouted at Lucas, “Lucas! What are you waiting for? Hurry up and save me! If I die, I’ll see how you can explain it to my daughters!”

Lucas looked at the small slit on Karen’s neck and narrowed his eyes slightly as he said to Preston, “If you let her go right now, I can still give you a way out.”

Preston laughed out loud. “Since I’ve made this choice, I have no intention of continuing to live! But before I die, I must see this old villain Frederick Taylor die in front of me! Lucas Gray, just tell me if you’re going to do it or not! If you don’t kill him, I’m going to move the dagger in my hand!”

Frederick panicked and hurriedly said, “Preston, you must not be impulsive! Why do you want to seek death? I promise you now. As long as you let this woman off, I won’t hold

you responsible. And when you return to the Taylors, I will immediately hand over my position as helmsman of the family to you.”

“Hmph! Do you think I care?” Preston sneered coldly. “I just said, if you don’t do it, I’m going to!”

Then he immediately cut Karen’s neck again with his dagger. This one was even deeper than last.

Karen felt a cold and hot pain coming from her neck, after which she felt some kind of liquid sliding down her neck. She was totally scared out of her wits.

“Ah! Ah! I’m really going to die! Lucas Gray, you dog, are you really going to watch him kill me?”

“If I die, I’ll see how you can have the cheek to face my daughters!”

“Hurry up! Obey him and kill that old man! Anyway, he’s already lived for so many years and has one foot in the grave. I’m your mother-in-law. Are you willing to watch me die for the sake of an outsider?”

Karen was really petrified, and she began screaming at the top of her lungs callously.

The corners of Frederick’s mouth twitched when he heard one of the sentences she said. *What does she mean I’m old and have one foot in the grave? Is that even something a human would say?*

But he looked at Lucas next to him and could only pretend that he didn’t hear Karen’s words.

Lucas glanced at Frederick, but he didn’t intend to kill him.

No matter what, this was a conflict between Preston and Frederick, and he didn’t intend to get involved in it.

Moreover, he didn’t like being threatened to do things.

If Frederick had angered him, he would have killed him without saying much. But since Preston was forcing him to kill Frederick, he wouldn’t do it.

At some point, he had an inconspicuous coin in between his fingers.

“Preston Taylor, I don’t have any more time to spend here. I’ll tell you one last time. Let go of her immediately, and I can spare your life.” Lucas gave an ultimatum coldly.

Frederick looked at his son heartbrokenly and said in misery, "Preston, no matter what, you are my son! Perhaps my previous education approach was indeed wrong, but I really do love you with all my heart! Now, I've lost one son, and you and Gaston are the only two left. If you hate me, I can promise that I will make it up to you in the future, and I will give you the entire family. You can have whatever you want, okay?"

Looking at Preston's indifferent face, he even got down on both knees!

"Preston, just take it that I'm begging you! Please stop what you're doing! I really don't want to lose another son!"

His old eyes were full of tears as he begged miserably.

The moment Preston saw him getting on his knees, there was a clear trace of movement on his face. But soon, it turned into even more intense hatred.

"Now, it's too late for you to say anything! I won't trust you anymore!"

"I've already done so much and gone so far. How can I still go back to the Taylors as if nothing has happened? And how can you just accept me as if nothing has happened and let me take over the family?"

"Do you think I'm still the same gullible kid I was back then? I'm afraid that just before I return to the Taylors, I will die under the men you send!"

"Back then, you were the one who said the gentlest words while strangling my mother until she took her last breath! Do you think I'll still believe you?"

"The reason that I've lived in misery until now and ended up in this plight is all thanks to you! My greatest wish now is to see you die in front of me!"

Preston had a hysterical look on his face. Just as he said, he no longer cared about his own life because the only thing he wanted to see was the immediate death of his father, who had tormented him for decades.

"Preston, aren't you going to give me another chance to change my ways?" Frederick pleaded.

"Impossible. Since things have come to this, it's impossible!" Preston also seemed rather sorrowful.

Then he turned to Lucas again and said with a calm look on his face, "Between Frederick Taylor and this woman, only one of them can live, and it depends on who you choose. I'll give you twenty seconds to think about it. If you still don't kill him, I'll immediately end this woman's life!"

Now, he had indeed left his life and wellbeing at the back of his mind as a look of determination formed on his face.

Chapter 564: Taking His Mother-in-Law Home

After hearing Preston's ultimatum, Karen immediately panicked. *There's only twenty seconds left. Why is that damn Lucas not saving me yet?*

"Lucas! Why are you still standing there? Hurry up and save me! I'm your mother-in-law! If I die, how will you explain to Cheyenne and Charlotte? You're simply leaving me in the lurch! Even if I die, I won't spare you!

"Lucas, I... I may not have treated you very well before, but I'm your elder after all. So what if I chided you? Do you still hold a grudge against me? I promise I'll treat you well in the future as long as you save me. I won't force you to divorce Cheyenne again!

"And there's more! The things I said during the stream this morning must have impacted you greatly, huh? If you want to clarify things, I'm the only one who can help you! If I die, you won't be able to clear your name for the rest of your life!

"Also, if Cheyenne finds out that you chose to leave me to die, she'll definitely hate you for the rest of her life and never forgive you!

"Lucas, please just quickly save me!"

At this juncture, where she was on the brink of death, Karen vented all her emotions at Lucas hysterically. She would lash out at him for a while and then start threatening him before pleading in misery. It could be said that if not for the lack of time, she would have put her lifelong experience of scolding others to use and cursed her heart out at Lucas!

But Lucas turned a deaf ear to her and merely kept a close eye on Preston's actions.

"You have five seconds left!" Preston gritted his teeth and began the countdown.

"Five..."

"Four..."

"Three..."

"Two..."

"One!!

"Time's up!"

When he counted down to the last second, he looked at Frederick with a bizarre smile on his face. "It doesn't matter. If this woman dies, you won't live either! I'll see you in Hell soon, my dear father!"

Then he moved his dagger toward Karen's neck!

"Ah!" Karen was frightened out of her wits, and she started yelling at the top of her lungs with her eyes tightly shut.

Lucas moved his fingers, but he didn't end up flicking the coin in his hand.

At the same time...

Bang!

With the clear and loud sound of a gunshot, a tiny hole appeared in the middle of Preston's forehead!

A look of confusion appeared on his face. Regardless of how indignant he was, he couldn't say anything at this point.

Clang!

The dagger in his hand fell to the ground.

Then his body fell backward!

A pool of blood gushed out from the back of his head.

"Mr. Taylor, he's dead!" At this moment, a bodyguard walked up to Frederick and pinned the lever-release rifle in his hand to the ground.

It turned out that the person who had shot Preston at the very last second was Frederick's subordinate.

Frederick looked at Preston's corpse on the ground, and a look of grief and misery appeared on his face.

Only after a long time did he look away and say with incredible fatigue, "Bring his corpse back to the Taylor estate and let it rest in peace!"

Then he turned to Lucas and said with a bitter smile, "Mr. Gray, I'm relieved that you've finally retrieved your mother-in-law safely.

"As for the negative impact my son has caused to the reputation of you and your company, I'll hold a press conference to clarify this matter to the public.

“My family will also compensate for the losses your company incurred!

“Also, in order to avoid inconveniences, I’ll make sure that no one knows about this. You didn’t come to my home today, and Jude York vanished without a trace after leaving my place. Please rest assured that I will arrange for everyone to have the same testimony and ensure that no one breathes a word about this.”

After taking a final glance at Lucas, he walked toward the door.

But his back seemed much more hunched than before.

Lucas felt rather emotional looking at Frederick.

But he was only an outsider, so he wasn’t in any position to comment on it. In the end, he could only sigh silently.

Lucas took Karen, who was so frightened that she had passed out, to the hospital.

The wound on her neck wasn’t that serious, as they were just two tiny cuts. She just had to get them disinfected and covered with band-aids.

But Karen had sustained much more severe injuries when she was held captive by Scott. The bruises, swelling, cuts, and welts on her body were meticulously taken care of by the nurse.

The moment Cheyenne saw that Karen was still alive, she burst into tears of joy.

But while watching the nurse take care of Karen’s injuries from the side, she felt extremely worried too.

Over the course of one short day, Karen had ended up in such a sorry plight, making Cheyenne feel uneasy and ridden with guilt.

So when Karen woke up, Cheyenne immediately hugged her and cried loudly, “Mom, you’ve suffered! If I hadn’t driven you out last night, you wouldn’t have ended up in such a state! It’s all my fault!”

Karen had escaped from the brink of death and finally left the terrifying Taylor brothers. In the ward, she hugged Cheyenne and cried uncontrollably. “Cheyenne! I almost couldn’t see you again! I’ve been through so much misery today! You have no idea how much I suffered!”

Both Karen and Cheyenne wept incessantly while hugging each other.

Lucas watched from the side and couldn’t help frowning slightly.

Karen was now using her miserable plight to successfully make Cheyenne forget about her attempt to kill William last night.

But Lucas knew that she just wouldn't change her ways. As long as there was still a possibility that William would come to one day, she definitely wouldn't let him go.

Reason being, as long as William woke up, the evil misdeeds she had done would be exposed!

If she wanted to stop this from happening, she would still try to harm him.

Lucas sighed in his heart. Then he called Charlotte, who was working at the office, to inform her that Karen had already returned safely.

As expected, Charlotte heaved a sigh of relief and felt extremely grateful to Lucas. She told him that she would immediately rush over to see Karen after getting off work.

No matter what, they had been living as mother and daughter for decades. There was no way Charlotte could forgo her feelings for Karen easily.

After hearing what Lucas said over the phone, Cheyenne finally recalled something extremely important.

"Mom, you said those things during the stream this morning because you were coerced into it, right? But this matter has sparked a huge uproar on the internet and affected Lucas and the Stardust Corporation very negatively. You'd better find an opportunity to clarify this matter immediately!" Cheyenne hurriedly said.

Due to the fact that what Karen had said on the stream was still a trending topic on all the major platforms, Lucas was still being insulted and berated by the public.

Moreover, the Stardust Corporation's image had already hit rock bottom, and the economic losses it had suffered were very severe too.

Karen wasn't glad at all. In her opinion, the worse Lucas's image was, the better she would feel. In that case, why would she bother clarifying things for Lucas?

She pursed her lips and stayed silent without saying yes or no.

Cheyenne immediately began to get anxious. "Mom, aren't you going to help clarify things for Lucas?"

Chapter 565: Clarification of Everything That Happened

Of course, Karen didn't want to help Lucas.

But she also knew that she had to do it.

After all, the things she had said might deceive the completely clueless netizens. But Cheyenne, Charlotte, and the people around them all knew that her words were pure nonsense.

Now that she had been brought back safely by Lucas, if she continued to let the rumors spread, her daughters, Cheyenne and Charlotte, would be displeased.

After thinking about it, she acted like she was crying and said, "Cheyenne, I was forced to say those things during the stream this morning! You can't blame me for it!

"And... about what I did to your dad last night... I didn't mean to do it at all. The Taylors were the ones who forced me to do it. If I didn't obey them, they would definitely have killed all of us!

"I was so terrified and frightened. I really had no other solution. In order to save you and Charlotte, I had no choice but to be ruthless to your father, especially since he's already in this state!"

Cheyenne's eyes widened in disbelief. "What? The Taylors forced you to do that to Dad too? Why? And why didn't you tell me yesterday?"

Karen's eyes flickered for a moment, and she quickly thought of a better way to phrase it. She then continued to cry sorrowfully and said, "Just like what they forced me to say during the stream, they wanted to kill your dad and then frame Lucas for it so that it would be convincing! I didn't tell you about it because the Taylors threatened me not to say anything, or they would take you and Charlotte away! That's why I couldn't reveal anything to you even though you drove me away..."

When Cheyenne heard this, she couldn't help tearing up.

She had been furious and upset about Karen's attempt to kill William last night and had already decided not to see her again for the rest of her life. But after hearing about the cruel truth from her mother, her anger turned into an intense wave of regret.

She hugged Karen while bursting into tears. "Mom, it's my fault for blaming you! I didn't know you were forced into it and that you went through so much torment. I... I even said such harsh things to you and chased you away. I was really wrong to have done that! Mom, I've let you down!"

The mother and daughter hugged each other and wept bitterly.

Standing next to them, Lucas immediately frowned upon seeing this scene.

He was flabbergasted by how shameless Karen was being. She conveniently took advantage of the situation and pushed the blame on her attempt to take William's life last night onto the Taylors' coercion so that she could clear her name in front of Cheyenne.

Since Cheyenne wasn't able to sever ties with Karen completely, deep down, she was unwilling to believe that her mother was a vicious woman. So after hearing Karen's seemingly reasonable explanation, she immediately took her word for it and forgave her.

But Lucas merely glanced coldly at the pretending Karen and didn't say much.

If he told Cheyenne that Karen wanted to kill William because of her own intentions and not because of any coercion, Cheyenne probably wouldn't be able to accept it.

Forget it. Given Karen's character, she'll reveal her true colors sooner or later. I don't have to rush it yet.

After both of them calmed down, Cheyenne once again requested Karen to clarify the matter about Lucas. "Mom, the stream's impact is still continuing to escalate on the internet. It's better to clarify things as soon as possible to minimize the damage. Shall we start making arrangements immediately?"

This time, Karen didn't make any more excuses to delay and agreed.

Soon, with the help of the Taylors' company platform that Frederick had arranged, Karen and the Taylors released a joint clarification on a stream to explain what had happened and even apologized to Lucas and the Stardust Corporation solemnly.

Since it was a clarification made by the protagonist of the stream this morning, who was now assuming the role of the victim, together with the helmsman of the prestigious Taylor family, the stream sparked an enormous reaction among netizens once it started.

"Oh my god! When I saw the stream this morning, I was so angry that I kept cursing. Yet it turns out to be fake? My feelings have been wasted!"

"What a twist! This is such a great twist! Sure enough, I shouldn't be so quick to take sides. Now, I've been proven wrong! Lucas Gray, I apologize to you for scolding you and the Stardust Corporation!"

"Scott Taylor is really malicious! How shameless of him to do such a heartless thing!"

"Surprisingly, the Taylors' helmsman has personally stepped forward to clarify. It seems legitimate! Ah, I'm suddenly speechless. I hereby apologize to Lucas Gray and the Stardust Corporation for slandering them for no reason!"

...

Due to the fact that the matter had a tremendous impact and the plot twist was completely unexpected, the clarification once again became a hot topic on major platforms on the internet.

Soon, topics and hashtags such as #KarenTurnerTruth #OweLucasGrayAnApology #TheStardustCorporationIsPitiful reached the top of the hot search lists.

Below the news, there were countless people spontaneously apologizing to the victims. And although Karen had lied to them this morning, she didn't receive a scolding because she was a victim who had been forced. Instead, many began to be sympathetic toward her.

All in all, after this clarification, the immense negative impact that the stream had on Lucas and the Stardust Corporation was negated immediately, and the public even specially apologized or took sympathy on them.

There were also some people with an overwhelming sense of justice who specially showed more support to the Stardust Corporation as a means of apology.

Two hours later, Charlotte called Lucas and said in an exceptionally excited and relaxed tone, "Good news, Lucas! The crisis we've faced this time has been eradicated! Public opinion has changed, and the stock price has increased again. It's even better than before!

"Also, many of the business partners who terminated their contracts with our company have called one after another to say that the termination is null and that they will sign larger contracts with us!

"In addition, there are many new partners who have taken the initiative to contact us. Also, the sales of some of our company's stores and online stores have surged within the last two hours! According to our preliminary deduction, today's incident not only recovered all the losses for the company but also gave us a boost in popularity and profits. It's totally a blessing in disguise!"

Charlotte was so excited that she spoke for a long time, reporting all kinds of good news to him.

At the end, she hurriedly said, "My assistant just brought some new contracts. I have to seize the time and take a good look. Lucas, I'm hanging up now!"

Then Charlotte, who was full of energy, hung up the phone and went to deal with the matters regarding the new cooperation contracts.

Lucas smiled.

“Honey, were you talking to Charlotte? Why are you so happy all of a sudden?” Cheyenne walked over and put her arms around Lucas’s arm while looking at him with a warm and gentle expression.

Chapter 566: Hope For Treatment

Lucas smiled. When he saw that there was no one else around, he reached out and gently pulled Cheyenne into his arms. Only then did he let out a long breath of relief.

Only he himself knew how flustered and vexed he had been when he lost track of Karen last night and even mistakenly thought that she had been killed.

He had been afraid that Cheyenne would bear a grudge against him because of Karen’s death. They had just reconciled a short while ago, and he had been afraid that their relationship might become strained again because of Karen and never go back to the way it used to be.

Fortunately, Karen didn’t die in the end. He was glad that Cheyenne would no longer bear a grudge against him.

He took a gentle whiff of the faint fragrance emanating from the top of Charlotte’s head and then told her about what he had talked about on the phone. “Charlotte just called to tell me that the Stardust Corporation has tided through the crisis, and we even obtained a lot of new contracts and business opportunities. It’s a blessing in disguise. This will also be beneficial to the future development of the company, which is good news.”

Hearing this, Cheyenne felt happy for Lucas too.

“That’s great. This is your company, and Charlotte is also the company’s general manager. I’ve been really worried. Now that things are resolved, I’m finally relieved for you guys!” she said sincerely from the bottom of her heart.

But she didn’t know that the matter today wasn’t caused only by the manipulation of the Taylors but also the Kingstons from San Francisco and the Huttons from DC.

In order to avoid making Cheyenne worried, Lucas didn’t even tell her that he had gone to the Kingston manor in San Francisco to confront them.

At this moment, Lucas looked at Cheyenne’s relaxed smile and said with a faint smile, “Yeah, I’ll have to trouble Charlotte. During this period of time, it’ll definitely be very busy at the office. I’m afraid that we won’t have much time to come and visit William.”

Cheyenne laughed. “It’s okay. Since she’s busy, she can go ahead with her matters. I’ll try to spend more time with Dad. That’ll be enough.”

All nestled in Lucas's arms, she suddenly said, "Hubby, I'm sorry for what happened previously!"

Lucas froze for a brief moment, but he soon realized what Cheyenne meant.

Just this morning, Cheyenne had called Lucas and questioned him about Karen's whereabouts right after Karen started the stream.

At the time, she didn't believe everything Karen said. But she had also suspected that Lucas had something to do with her mother's accident.

But Lucas didn't mind it anymore. After all, Cheyenne was a kind and filial person, so it was only normal for her to be concerned because she still cared about Karen.

Lucas stroked her hair and said gently. "It's okay. It's all in the past."

At this moment, far away in DC...

In an extremely gorgeous villa belonging to the Huttons, a young man was sitting in the study with a sullen expression. There was a video playing on the computer on the desk.

It was the scene of Frederick Taylor and Karen Turner making a joint clarification.

The comment section below the video was full of scoldings and criticisms for the manipulators behind the scenes and apologies to Lucas and the Stardust Group.

While the young man listened to the clarification of the two people in the video, his face became increasingly sullen as he looked at the infuriating comments.

Bang!

An exquisite, white porcelain teacup was violently smashed against the floor and shattered into countless pieces with a loud bang.

"Lucas Gray, I didn't expect you, my good-for-nothing brother, to be somewhat capable. Despite the desperate situation, you could turn the situation around. I've really belittled you!

"But you can only rely on luck to pull these little tricks! You've long been driven out of the family, and not many people in the Huttons are aware of your existence. And I, Jace Hutton, am the most promising successor of the family. You are nothing in front of me!

"Since you've been abandoned, you should have stayed in your lane and continued being a good-for-nothing. Why did you suddenly return and create such a stir?!

“Just you wait. I have greater power and authority than you. Even if you can survive for the time being, it won’t be long before I trample you under my feet and make it impossible for you to make a comeback!”

Jace clenched his fists menacingly, and his furious roar echoed in the study without anyone else.

In the evening, Lucas and Cheyenne had just finished their dinner and were about to walk back to the hospital ward when Lucas’s phone suddenly rang.

As soon as he saw the number, his face lit up with joy.

“Lucas, I’ve finished my mission here and can come back tonight! You’re in Orange County now, right? I’ve already booked the earliest flight back!” Maddy said cheerfully over the phone.

Lucas said with delight, “That’s great. What time will your plane arrive tomorrow? I’ll go pick you up at the airport tomorrow.”

Maddy smiled. “If there’s no delay, I’ll arrive tomorrow at noon.”

“Okay, I’ll pick you up tomorrow at noon!” Lucas was still smiling after hanging up, clearly in a good mood.

“Lucas, who called?” Cheyenne felt a little sour because she had heard a woman’s voice on the other end.

Lucas had never talked much with other women. But now he was suddenly so delighted, and he even said that he would personally pick up that woman at the airport...

But before she could continue to be jealous, Lucas quickly explained, “It’s my former comrade. She’s an extremely competent medical expert. She is highly skilled in medicine and internationally renowned. I’ve already sent her information about William’s condition, and she said there’s a great chance that he can wake up again. But she just finished a mission abroad and won’t be back until tomorrow to check on William’s condition.”

“Really?” Cheyenne was immediately overjoyed, and she grabbed Lucas’s hand with great excitement. “Can Dad really wake up again? Can that expert really cure him?”

It was no wonder that Cheyenne was so excited.

Ever since William had suddenly gotten into such a serious car accident and was diagnosed to become a vegetable by the doctor, Cheyenne had been in great agony.

Who would want to see their father unconscious and bedridden forever?

Cheyenne was especially hopeless when she heard the doctor announce that the chances of William waking up were extremely slim and that they could only wait for a miracle to happen.

Now that she had received this piece of good news, she burst into tears of joy. "Can Dad... Can he really recover?"

Lucas smiled and nodded. "Yes, Maddy's medical skills are very impressive, and she has cured countless patients with complicated conditions. As long as she comes to help William, there will be no problem!"

Cheyenne was so touched that she couldn't contain herself and excitedly wiped her tears. "Hubby, thank you so much!"

She leaned forward and gave Lucas a loud kiss on his face.

Lucas was instantly stunned.

Chapter 567: Whereabouts Leaked

After Cheyenne couldn't help herself from kissing Lucas's face, she immediately noticed that the two of them were still standing on the street, and people were coming and going. She blushed, quickly turned her head, and coughed twice. "Ahem, let's... quickly go back to see Dad!"

With a gentle smile on his face, Lucas reached out to hold Cheyenne's hand and grinned. "Okay!"

Hand in hand, the two of them returned to William's ward with a sweet look of joy on their faces.

Tonight, the two of them would stay by William's side on the spare bed beside William's in the ward.

Cheyenne held onto William's hand and whispered into his ears with determination, "Dad, don't worry. You'll regain consciousness soon!"

They were both silent for the rest of the night.

The next morning, after finishing handling some daily affairs in the Stardust Corporation, Lucas drove to the airport near noon to pick up Maddy.

In fact, it had been nearly two years since he last met Maddy. This time, Maddy came to help him treat William, which was a huge favor to him. He thought that he had to thank her well.

Meanwhile, in a hospital in San Francisco...

In one of the VIP wards, Marc's legs had medicine carefully applied to them and then bandaged with snowy white gauze.

A young nurse gave Marc, who had broken out in cold sweat from the excruciating pain, a painkiller injection and left.

Standing at the side with a look of dejection, Marc's father, Moses, said to the attending doctor, "Doctor, is there really... no way to save my son's legs?"

The attending doctor let out a long sigh and said with an apologetic tone, "I'm sorry, but the bones in the calves of your son's legs have all suffered severe fractures, and his muscles and tendons are severely damaged. We really don't have a solution, and the only thing we can do in his case is to amputate his legs."

"Amputation? No way!" Moses gritted his teeth, suddenly grabbed the doctor's collar, and hollered furiously, "How can you not do anything?! My son is the most promising descendant of the Kingston family, and now his legs are terribly injured... No matter what, you must find a way to cure him and let him stand up again!"

Marc had already been expelled from the Kingston family by Lance, the head of the family. But because this incident was humiliating to the Kingstons, they had given a strict order at the time that no one was allowed to breathe a single word about what had happened yesterday morning at the Kingston manor.

Therefore, not many people were aware that Marc had been expelled from the family, apart from those who were there at the time.

For the sake of his only son, Moses had even compensated his life savings. From beginning to end, he always cared about his son.

Now that Marc's legs were injured, and he might become a disabled person who could no longer stand and walk for the rest of his life, how could he possibly continue living?

Moreover, Marc had always been the most valued grandson in the eyes of Lance, and Moses firmly believed that his father had only agreed to kick him out because he was compelled and left with no choice. As long as Marc's legs were cured, and they thought of some other solutions, they would definitely be able to convince Lance to rescind his order and accept Marc again!

But the premise for all of this required that Marc's legs be restored to how they used to be!

Moses knew that if Marc's legs couldn't be cured, he'd become crippled, and there was no way the Kingstons would let him go back and inherit the family!

The attending doctor's heart jumped, and he felt rather suffocated because of the strain on his neck.

There was nothing he could do about Moses's fury!

"Wait, wait! Even if you act like this, I still can't cure Mr. Kingston's legs... Oh, right! If you can find the expert Maddy Stone, Mr. Kingston's legs might still be curable!"

"Maddy Stone? Who is that?" Moses immediately asked, finding a straw to clutch at.

"Uh, Miss Maddy Stone is an extremely competent doctor. Rumor has it that she has extraordinary medical skills, almost reaching a legendary level. Of course, this might be a little exaggerated. But her medical skills are really superb. If there's someone in this world who can cure Mr. Kingston's legs, it must be her!" The attending doctor hurriedly revealed what he knew.

Moses overjoyed for a moment and hurriedly asked, "Is that so? That's great! Where is she now!"

"This..." A look of hesitation appeared on the doctor's face.

In fact, a medical practitioner of Maddy's level wasn't someone a mere attending doctor like him could know. The main reason he knew about her was that when he was on the phone with his mentor last night, he had inadvertently overheard his mentor mentioning that the top medical expert Maddy Stone would arrive in Orange County tomorrow. His mentor was rather emotional and regretted that he was too far away to meet this legendary expert.

Strictly speaking, the attending doctor didn't have the right to reveal Maddy's whereabouts.

He was also a little worried that he might get himself into some unnecessary trouble because of this.

Moses was extremely anxious, and he hurriedly took out a check from his pocket, signed it with a whoosh, and handed it to the doctor. "Here's four hundred thousand! I just need you to tell me her whereabouts!"

The doctor naturally agreed happily because he just had to give Moses an address, and he could obtain a few years' worth of his salary.

"I got the news just yesterday that Miss Stone is touching down in Orange County at 12:30 p.m. today. You can go there to try your luck, but I can't guarantee the rest," the attending doctor said while taking the check from Moses.

"Okay, no problem, as long as I can find her! Also, I don't know Miss Stone, so we'll need you to provide us with a picture of her."

The attending doctor naturally agreed.

Although he didn't have a picture of Maddy, he was certain that his mentor, who admired her a lot, definitely had one, so he could just send a copy to him.

Soon, the attending doctor sent Maddy's flight information and photo to Moses.

At the side, Marc saw all of this. He had already lost interest in life and had been dejectedly waiting for his death. But when he suddenly heard the good news that he could still be cured, he became extremely excited. "Dad, is it really possible for me to stand up again?"

Moses said with great certainty, "Definitely! I will certainly invite Miss Stone over to treat you! Don't worry. One day, you will be able to stand up again, and then you'll still be the glorious scion of the Kingston family!"

Marc exclaimed excitedly, "Thank you, Dad! If I really get well, I will definitely meet your expectations and not let you down!"

Both father and son had excitement written all over their faces.

Without delay, Moses immediately set off for the airport after speaking to Marc for a while.

No matter what, he had to bring Maddy over so that his son could be treated!

Chapter 568: Stopping A Doctor Halfway

At this moment, in the airport...

An aircraft on an international flight was about to land.

A tall and slender lady nearly 1.75 meters tall strutted out in a pair of high heels.

She was wearing a pair of dark brown sunglasses, making her face look really small. She had a high nose bridge and diamond-shaped red lips. Even though only half her face was visible, she was obviously a beauty.

Moreover, she was tall and had an excellent figure. Exuding a valiant aura, she was particularly outstanding as she walked through the crowd, attracting the attention of many people around her.

She was holding a small suitcase in her hand while walking forward leisurely.

She raised her hand and looked at the exquisite Chanel J12 watch on her wrist. Seeing that the big hand wasn't pointing at 12 yet, she couldn't help sighing. "I didn't expect to arrive so early today because flights are usually late. How rare."

She took out her phone and was about to call Lucas when three figures suddenly approached her eagerly and asked, "Are you the medical expert Dr. Maddy Stone?"

Maddy looked over and saw that the person asking her was a man in the fifties, with two bodyguards in black suits standing behind him.

She was a little puzzled because she was expecting to see only Lucas. But now, Lucas was nowhere in sight. *Lucas couldn't make it because something cropped up at the last minute, so he sent someone to pick me up?*

"Did Lucas send you?" she asked in puzzlement.

The middle-aged man suddenly smiled with joy and exclaimed, "Dr. Stone, we finally get to meet!"

He was so elated that he didn't even notice what Maddy said. He stretched out his hand. "I am Moses Kingston from San Francisco, and I'm here to pick you up. Nice to meet you, Dr. Stone!"

Maddy immediately frowned.

Hearing his words, she could tell that he obviously wasn't Lucas's subordinate but someone who had probably learned of her identity through some other channel.

Over the past few years, her attainments in the field of medicine had been rather high, and her fame had risen again and again along with it. She often had many people coming up to her all of a sudden to try to get to know her or ask her to help treat someone, so she had been rather annoyed.

Generally speaking, she would keep her whereabouts private and known only to a few people.

Clearly, the middle-aged man in front of her was one of those who came to her because he had heard about her somewhere.

Maddy had never been polite to such people. "I'm sorry. I don't know you, nor do I intend to get to know you. I have something important to do now. I'll get going."

Then she walked toward the side.

But just as she took two steps, the two bodyguards in black suits immediately stood in front of her.

"What do you mean by this?" Maddy immediately flew into a rage and glared at Moses with a frown.

Moses said domineeringly, though with an apologetic look on his face, "Dr. Stone, I don't harbor any ill intentions toward you. I have no choice but to stop you. The doctor told me that you're the only one who can save my son from having his legs amputated!

"My son hasn't even reached the age of thirty yet, nor has he even gotten married and had children. How can he live for the rest of his life if his legs are amputated? My son has lost the courage to continue living because of his injury, and as his father, it really hurts me to see him like this!

"So, I beg you. Please save my son. No matter how much money you want, I'll give it to you as long as you can save my son!

"Oh yes, I'm from the Kingston family, one of the top families in California, and the family head, Lance Kingston, is my father. We will fulfill any request you have, and we won't shortchange you! As long as you cure my son, the Kingstons will owe you a favor, and we'll help you solve all trouble you encounter as long as it's within California!"

Finally, Moses declared his family's status, partly because he wanted to make Maddy have faith in their financial power. Another reason was naturally to deter her.

Almost no one in California dared to offend the Kingstons.

Of course, the only exception was Lucas, who had gone to their door to confront them yesterday.

Maddy could naturally tell what Moses meant, so she felt a little repulsed.

But she had seen many patients' families who were mostly extremely anxious or callous with their words because they were too worried.

Out of benevolence as a doctor, Maddy felt a trace of compassion after hearing about the tragic situation of Moses's son.

If she could save a young man who was seriously injured to the point that he was suicidal, she wouldn't reject it.

But she had agreed to meet Lucas and treat his father-in-law first after all. Be it because of principals or her ties with him, she should treat his father-in-law first.

Besides, Lucas's father-in-law was an urgent patient to deal with.

"I'm really sorry. I have two patients here in Orange County who are in urgent need of treatment. I'll contact you to help you with your son's illness as soon as I finish with things here. How about that?" Maddy said.

To be honest, she was already doing this out of the kindness of a doctor and consideration of Moses and his son's relationship.

Otherwise, if she agreed to help just anyone who ran up to her and asked her to help save their family members, she would have died of exhaustion long ago.

But Moses panicked when he heard that she had to treat other patients before helping his son.

He immediately took out the check for 4 million dollars from his pocket and handed it to Maddy. "Dr. Stone, here's four million dollars! As long as you promise to save my son, this money will belong to you immediately! Furthermore, this is just an advance payment. Once my son recovers, I'll give you another six million. How does that sound?"

Although he had forked out his life savings of about 15 million dollars yesterday in order to redeem his son's life from Lucas and claimed that it was all he had, he obviously wasn't as stupid as to give away all his savings.

He hadn't really been regarded highly in the family all these years and couldn't gain any direct benefits from them. But it also meant that he received less attention, so it was more convenient for him to do other things.

Therefore, he had secretly stashed away a large sum of money over these decades.

He was actually a very scheming person who knew to keep a low profile. Even though Marc had been expelled from the Kingstons, Moses was confident that he would be able to become the next helmsman as long as he put his mind to it.

At that time, his son, Marc, would naturally be able to return to the family again!

As long as his son's leg could be cured, he wouldn't mind paying a few million dollars or even tens of millions of dollars.

Maddy was extremely displeased with the way Moses was trying to entice her with money.

He was acting as if she would agree to treat his son as long as he paid her.

This, on the contrary, made Maddy feel rather disgusted.

“I just told you that I have two very important patients to treat in Orange County. Once I’m done treating them, I’ll naturally go take a look at your son,” she said coldly.

Moses said indignantly, “No, my son’s condition is very serious, and we can’t afford to delay treatment any longer! How about this? I’ll give you another six million dollars now to make it ten million! When my son’s legs get better, I’ll give you another four million!”

Maddy was really enraged this time. “Can’t you understand English? It’s not about money! Get out of the way!”

Then she turned around and tried to bypass them.

“No, you can’t leave!” Moses’s face turned gloomy, and he waved his hand. Both his bodyguards trapped Maddy in between them, preventing her from leaving.

Chapter 569: It’s Actually Him

Moses narrowed his eyes slightly and said slowly, “Dr. Stone, I’ve already told you just now that the Kingstons are one of the top families in California. And I will soon be the next helmsman of the family, and my son will become my successor. You understand what I mean, right?”

“Although I don’t want to use power to oppress you, my son has a noble status that no one in Orange County can compare to! So I don’t care if you’ve made appointments with any important patients before. They’re nothing compared to my son’s injuries!

“I don’t want to use force against you, but if you continue to insist on staying here, I can only take you back to San Francisco by force. I hope that you will consider it carefully, Dr. Stone!”

Moses’s words were full of threats. At this moment, he had completely forgone pleasantries. Although he said that he did not want to use the power of his family to oppress Maddy, his words meant otherwise.

Moreover, his words undermined everyone in Orange County to be worthless, as if only his son was the most honored and noble.

“Hmph!” Maddy sneered.

What kind of person was Maddy?

She was internationally renowned, and the heads of many countries would receive her personally with gifts.

She really didn't take a mere Kingston family seriously.

Only a frog at the bottom of the well like the Kingstons would think they were impressive and throw their weight around.

Her gaze became extremely hostile, and she said coldly, "If you leave now, I might still save your son. Otherwise, you can let him get amputated!"

She had just promised to save Moses's son, but it was only out of kindness. It didn't mean that she was a pushover who would let anyone manipulate her!

If he angered her and coerced her, she could only say sorry and refuse.

Moses was angered by Maddy's hostility and refusal to cooperate.

In his opinion, anyone who dared to speak to him so rudely had to be taught a lesson!

"Dr. Stone, don't push your luck! If you still refuse to come with us, then I have no choice but to resort to force!"

He barked at the two bodyguards, "Take her away immediately!"

The two bodyguards immediately went forward to hold Maddy's arm.

"Get lost!" Maddy shouted angrily. With a lift of her long leg, she instantly kicked the bodyguard in front of her in his vital area.

"Arrrghhh!" The bodyguard instantly covered his vital part, cried out in pain, and bent down.

As for the bodyguard behind her, she abruptly stomped her foot before he could grab her and nailed one of the sharp and thin heels of her high heels like a spike on his foot.

"Aahhhh!" The bodyguard behind felt excruciating pain, as if he had been slashed by a knife on his feet, and almost lost his balance. Then he immediately inhaled sharply as Maddy kicked him away.

Moses was astounded.

He had originally thought that Maddy was just an ordinary woman whom his burly bodyguards would definitely have caught easily.

But he hadn't expected that the woman in front of him would dare to resist and had decent martial arts!

His bodyguards had not only failed to seize her but were even dealt heavy blows by her.

Maddy sneered. Although she appeared to be a delicate woman, she had spent a lot of time in the Falcon Regiment, where numerous experts gathered. Even though she was an expert in medicine and hadn't formally trained in martial arts before, she had at least witnessed many brawls and could defend herself adequately with simple self-defense skills or grappling. She wouldn't be completely unable to fight back like other ordinary women.

Moses flew into a rage and hollered at his bodyguards, "Good-for-nothings, you can't even capture a woman. What do I need you for?"

After being reprimanded, the two bodyguards forced themselves to endure the pain and grabbed at Maddy again.

This time, they put away their contempt and moved much faster than earlier.

After all, they were bodyguards that Moses had spent a large sum of money to hire, and they were much stronger than the average person. Just now, they had missed because they didn't take Maddy, a woman, seriously and were thus caught off guard.

Now that they were being serious, Maddy, who hadn't undergone any professional training, immediately couldn't fight back.

She managed to avoid the hand of one bodyguard, but the other bodyguard appeared behind her and reached out to grab her hair.

Maddy caught sight of this scene from the corner of her eye, but she couldn't physically react in time.

She saw that she wouldn't be able to escape. But at this very moment, the bodyguard behind her suddenly shrieked and was sent flying away.

Bang!

Bang!

The two bodyguards surrounding Maddy were instantly kicked away with two loud bangs before landing hard on the clean floor of the airport. They even skidded away a long distance.

"How dare you lay a hand on her, Moses Kingston? Do you want to have your legs broken too?"

The cold and merciless voice filled the air, making Moses's expression immediately change.

"Lu... Lucas Gray?!" His heart was beating wildly as he looked at the familiar young man who suddenly appeared in front of him, filled with disbelief.

"Lucas, you're here!" After hearing Lucas speak, Maddy immediately looked over with a look of surprise and hurried toward him.

When Moses saw that Maddy was acquainted with Lucas, his heart sank to rock bottom.

He suddenly remembered that Maddy seemed to have asked him if he was sent by Lucas when they first met. But at the time, he didn't quite care. He finally realized that Maddy was referring to his arch nemesis, Lucas Gray!

Lucas turned to face Maddy and asked in concern, "Are you alright?"

Maddy shook her head and smiled. "Luckily you came in time. Otherwise, I would have been in trouble!"

Lucas said apologetically, "I'm sorry. I agreed to pick you up, but I caused you to encounter this because I was late."

"You're not late. My plane just arrived ahead of schedule. I didn't expect the first flight to Orange County to arrive half an hour early. It's rather rare," Maddy said with a smile.

Seeing that the two of them were chatting amicably and seemed familiar with each other, Moses was flustered yet furious because they didn't seem to be taking him seriously.

The legs of his precious son had been crushed by Lucas's feet, and Marc was so badly injured that even the best hospitals in California couldn't treat him. The only resort at present was an amputation. Moses was full of resentment toward Lucas!

But at the end of the day, he didn't dare to take revenge on Lucas.

The image of Lucas showing his prowess yesterday at his home was still fresh in Moses's mind. What could he do to take revenge on Lucas, who could kill the Kingstons' strongest expert, Scarface, within seconds?

He had finally received news that Maddy could treat Marc's legs, but when he was about to bring her back, Lucas suddenly popped up out of nowhere and even turned out to be friends with her!

At this moment, Moses strongly felt that he had been played by destiny.

Chapter 570: Three Demands

After Lucas and Maddy exchanged a few pleasantries, he said to her, "Let's go. My car is right over there."

"Okay." Maddy agreed and followed behind Lucas, and the two of them walked toward the parking lot outside the airport.

"Hold it!" Moses could no longer think about anything else and immediately stopped the two upon seeing them leaving.

"Lucas, since you and Dr. Stone know each other, I'll get straight to the point. As long as you ask your friend to help cure my son's legs, I won't pursue the matter of you causing trouble at the Kingston manor yesterday. I'll also forget about the feud between my family and you!" he said through gritted teeth.

Lucas sneered and looked at him like a fool. "Do you have a problem with your brain? Don't forget. It was you Kingstons who took the initiative to make peace with me yesterday, and you even gave me money. That's why I agreed to let you off for the time being. Now, you're bargaining with me and saying that you won't pursue the matter? Hah, how arrogant of you!

"Besides, I crippled your son's legs because it's the punishment he deserves. Yet you want my friend to cure your son. What makes you think I should help?"

Moses was so furious that he was about to fly into a maniacal rage. But at the same time, his rationality told him that everything Lucas said was true.

"Lucas Gray, don't be too arrogant!

"It's true that the Kingstons begged for peace first yesterday, but do you think we're afraid of just you? If not for the Coles and those families from Orange County and LA who came over together to cause trouble when we weren't keeping our guard up, do you think you would have succeeded?

"Also, do you think that we're really afraid of you guys and that we don't dare to go to war with you? You're gravely mistaken! The Kingstons have been operating in San Francisco for many years. I can't say that we are invincible and have all the connections, but the Kingstons will at least be able to gather around twenty allies. What are small families like yours considered?

"We just didn't want to blow things up. That's why we chose to let this matter blow over. If you think the Kingstons are afraid of you, then you're being too arrogant!

“Now, I’m willing to give you another chance. As long as you ask your friend to cure my son’s legs, I can guarantee in the name of the next helmsman of the Kingston family that I definitely won’t make life difficult for you again in the future!”

Moses’s tone was full of gusto while speaking, and he genuinely meant it from the bottom of his heart.

In his opinion, the reason that Lucas was able to defeat the Kingstons and leave safely yesterday was only that they weren’t prepared and had their guard down.

Even if Lucas was good at martial arts, he believed that the Kingstons would be able to defeat and kill him if they sought help from other experts or even the Huttons.

Therefore, if Lucas was smart, he shouldn’t refuse to accept Moses’s offer. Otherwise, when the Kingstons were fully prepared, he would probably die to make up for the humiliation they had suffered.

At the side, Maddy couldn’t help becoming interested.

She had just returned to the US today and wasn’t aware of the feud between Lucas and the Kingstons. But after hearing what Moses said, she realized that his family seemed to have suffered a huge loss at Lucas’s hands yesterday and were feeling disgruntled now, so they were using the excuse of being unprepared.

Hah, so interesting!

As expected of Lucas, he’s still as impressive as ever, even after leaving the Falcon Regiment. He won’t let anyone bully him!

In response to Moses’s threats, Lucas sneered. “In that case, from today onward, none of the Kingstons are to appear in Orange County again. Otherwise, I’ll kill every single one I see!

“All the Kingstons’ businesses will vanish from Orange County and LA. Mark my words!

“Also, you can get lost now. If I discover that you’re still in Orange County after half an hour, don’t blame me for being rude to you!”

After saying this domineeringly, Lucas stopped looking at Moses and left with Maddy.

Behind him, Moses almost flew into a rage!

By mentioning these three things, it was apparent that Lucas didn’t take the Kingstons seriously at all!

Not only did he want to drive all the Kingstons out of Orange County and LA, but he also threatened to make the Kingstons' businesses vanish from both cities.

Lucas Gray is too conceited and arrogant!

Hah, I'll see how exactly you can make the Kingstons' businesses vanish from these places!

Moses cursed furiously, but in his heart, there was a trace of uneasiness. Although Lucas was indeed really infuriating, he wasn't joking when he said those arrogant remarks. For example, when he said that he was going to war with the Kingstons yesterday and that he was going to break Marc's legs, he seemed arrogant, but he had indeed done it in the end.

This was the most terrifying thing about Lucas!

Moses didn't dare to use common sense to speculate on Lucas's behavior, nor did he dare to gamble with his life as a stake. Although he was enraged, he could only grit his teeth and leave the airport.

As for the medical expert Maddy, she obviously wouldn't return with Moses to treat Marc's legs since she was Lucas's close friend.

Moses left Orange County furiously and indignantly.

In the black Jaguar, Maddy looked at Lucas with a smile and joked, "Lucas, I've suddenly discovered that you're really kindhearted today! The Kingston family must have offended you badly, huh? But you merely crippled his son's legs, and you actually let him off today. You're the invincible God of War of Calico and the leader of the Falcon Regiment. You used to be murderous and decisive, but you were so soft-hearted this time. How rare!"

Lucas smiled faintly. "After all, we're in Orange County now and not the battlefield in Calico. If I kill people at will, it will cause a lot of trouble. Besides, it's just a wealthy family in San Francisco. Even if they've offended me, they can't do anything to me, so I just let it go."

In the past, he used to be harsh and decisive in killing because the enemies he faced were those who posed a threat to his country, so he naturally wouldn't be merciful to them. But he didn't take a mere Kingston family seriously at all.

After a moment of silence, Maddy suddenly asked, "Lucas, are you not going to return to the Falcon Regiment ever again?"

Lucas was stunned for a moment, and a trace of nostalgia appeared in his eyes. He nodded gently. "Well, I won't go back. Now that the situation in Calico has already calmed down, I can retire completely. It's not a bad thing to come back and live the life of an ordinary person here."

"..." Maddy stayed silent for a while before saying reluctantly, "To be honest, I was quite sad when you left all of a sudden. Moreover, you came back to Orange County for your wife and daughter, right?"

Lucas immediately and subconsciously smiled warmly. He nodded and admitted, "Yes, I owed them too much in the past, so I can only use the rest of my time to make it up to them."

Seeing the gentle expression on his face, which was extremely rare, Maddy was immediately stunned and couldn't come back to her senses for a long time.

Lucas, the former mighty and domineering leader of the Falcon Regiment, actually revealed such a gentle expression. The jaws of their comrades would definitely drop if they saw it!

Chapter 571: Don't Regret

Seeing the rare gentleness on Lucas's face, Maddy couldn't help smiling and sighing emotionally. "It seems you really love your wife and daughter! Your wife must be beautiful, huh?"

Lucas nodded. "Yes, but her beauty isn't the only reason I love her. She's also a very good woman. Once you meet later, you'll like her too."

The mention of Cheyenne put a gentle and blissful smile on Lucas's face.

Maddy smiled in relief. *This isn't bad either!*

Ten minutes later, the two of them arrived at the entrance of the hospital in Orange County.

As soon as they got out of the car, Jordan, who had been guarding outside the hospital, immediately greeted them with a smile on his face. "You're finally here, Maddy!"

Maddy smiled at him. "Jordan, I'm surprised you're still sticking to Lucas! It's been more than a year since we last met. You've grown more handsome!"

Jordan's face, which had always been somewhat roguishly handsome, was a little rosy as he got shy, which was rare of him. "Nah, Maddy, you're the one who's getting prettier and prettier!"

The two complimented each other before smiling and following Lucas into the hospital. Lucas didn't lead them straight to William's ward but instead proceeded to the director's office.

Previously, Lucas had told the director that he would invite a highly-skilled expert to help treat William.

The director had plenty to consider and couldn't just casually agree to let someone treat William. Otherwise, in case something untoward happened to him, it would be difficult for the hospital to shirk responsibility.

But after Lucas introduced Maddy to the elderly director, the director grinned widely in joy from ear to ear.

"What? You... you are that famous medical expert. I didn't expect you to be so young. You've got a promising future!"

The director's eyes were shining, and he looked as though he had finally met his idol. He eagerly dragged Maddy away to discuss some issues that had puzzled him for a long time.

"Dr. Stone, I'd like to ask you about cardiovascular resuscitation..."

Maddy barely had time to say anything before she was pulled away by the director, who proceeded to bombard her with questions. She couldn't refuse and could merely turn around to look at Lucas resentfully.

Lucas responded with a helpless shrug.

Although he had always known that this elderly director was extremely concerned about all kinds of conditions and patients and was a truly respectable old doctor, he didn't expect him to be so eager as to drag Maddy away and bombard her with questions before she could even greet him properly.

Looking at the two people in the office using medical jargon they couldn't understand, Lucas dragged Jordan out of the office.

"Haha, Maddy is still as impressive as ever! Even the elderly director is full of praise for her." Jordan stared at her through the glass window with a proud expression on his face.

Lucas looked at Jordan and suddenly said, "Jordan, if you don't express your feelings this time, Maddy is going to marry someone else."

"What?!" Jordan exclaimed in astonishment immediately, as if he had been struck by lightning.

Jordan's face turned pale immediately, and he asked in a flustered manner, "Maddy is going to marry someone? Who? When?"

Seeing him finally getting anxious, Lucas stopped trying to agitate him and said seriously, "Although she hasn't married anyone yet, Maddy's family is already arranging a marriage alliance for her. So if you don't seize the opportunity, you'll miss your shot with her forever."

As a companion who had spent a lot of time together with Jordan in the Falcon Regiment, Lucas had naturally long discovered that Jordan had feelings for Maddy.

However, Jordan had been keeping his feelings for her well hidden in his heart, and he had never revealed them to Maddy before.

As Jordan's best friend, Lucas had to remind him at this time.

He wasn't trying to scare Jordan, but he was stating facts.

When they were having a casual chat on the way to the hospital, Maddy had told Lucas with a bitter smile that her family was urging her to get married and was looking for a marriage partner for her.

After all, Maddy was already in her thirties.

Her talent and achievements in the field of medicine were extremely high, and she was well known in the international medical community. But in the eyes of conservative people with backward mindsets, a woman's value was not reflected in her career but her marriage, children, the wealth of her husband, and so on, which was really sad and ridiculous.

In particular, Maddy's family was a big family in DC, and most women born in families like hers had already gotten married in marriage alliances in their twenties. They were treated as goods and married off to the scions of other wealthy families, leaving many green with envy.

Thus, a woman like Maddy, who was in her thirties but had yet to get married, had already become an anomaly in the eyes of many people.

While Maddy was talking about these things, a trace of self-deprecation and misery had appeared in her eyes.

Lucas knew that if a smart and independent woman like Maddy was really forced to marry a man she didn't love due to the pressure put on her by her family, she would be reduced to an ordinary woman who stayed home to serve her husband, which was destructive to her.

So Lucas decided to tell this to Jordan, who had a crush on Maddy.

If Jordan could be brave enough to take that step, and if Maddy also happened to fancy him, they wouldn't have to face such a tragedy.

But Jordan stayed silent for a long time and finally said with a self-deprecating smile, "I... How am I worthy of her?"

Jordan clenched his fists tightly and said with agony, "She's from the notable Stone Family in DC, while I... am just an orphan without a high status or powerful background. Even if I love her, there's absolutely no way I can marry her, and confessing my feelings to her will only get us both in trouble."

Indeed, he had long had a crush on Maddy since a few years ago when he got severely wounded on a certain battlefield and was rescued by her. He had gradually fallen in love with her even though she was five years older than him.

But after he nervously and expectantly asked his other comrades about Maddy's family, his heart that was beating wildly from the butterflies slowly sank.

Jordan was no longer an ignorant teenager who only knew to be rash when it came to love. He already knew that, as much as he wanted it, it was impossible for them to be together when there was such a huge difference in their family backgrounds.

Looking at Jordan's brooding expression, Lucas opened his mouth a little and seemed to want to persuade Jordan. But he didn't end up saying much. Instead, he patted him on the shoulder and said, "Maddy will be staying in Orange County for some time. While she's here, think about it carefully. You only live once, and no matter what, don't make a choice that you'll regret!"

Chapter 572: Gathering of Three

Jordan suddenly clenched his fists tightly.

Would he regret it...

If he didn't confess his feelings to her, would he regret it in the future? Or would he regret it more if he chose to confess now?

Jordan was momentarily confused.

"You don't have to feel inferior at all. You're not an orphan who has nothing to your name. You are my best friend and my best brother!" Lucas looked at Jordan with a confident smile.

Ever since they got to know each other in Calico, the two of them had been through several life-or-death situations, during which they built their brotherhood. The ties and bonds between them were extremely precious to them.

Even though they now had a superior-subordinate relationship in the eyes of outsiders, who even thought that Jordan was just an underling working for Lucas, Lucas had always treated him as his best friend and brother.

Jordan raised his head and seemed rather touched.

He had always followed Lucas and was full of admiration for him. But after hearing Lucas say that he was his best friend and brother, Jordan still couldn't help feeling a surge of emotion and zeal within him.

He was no longer just someone who lived all alone in the world without any kin.

"Thank you, Lucas!" Jordan thanked him from the bottom of his heart as tears welled up in his reddened eyes.

Lucas smiled. "Hey, you'd better think carefully about Maddy. Since you love her, are you going to watch her marry someone else just because you lack the courage to even confess your love to her?"

Jordan glanced at the woman talking to the director about medicine in his office. When he saw how attractive she was because of her confidence, a trace of admiration appeared in his eyes, but he soon lost his confidence. "She's from the Stone family in DC after all. I..."

This time, Lucas interrupted, "So what? You should know that I don't even take the eight major families of DC seriously. What's the big deal about the mere Stone family? If you're afraid her family won't approve of it, I'll personally accompany you to the Stone family and ask for Maddy's hand in marriage for you!

"The only thing you need to consider is how to let Maddy know how you feel about her and make her fall in love with you. You don't have to consider the rest!

"With me around, you don't even need to consider those unnecessary things!"

Lucas's words were extremely domineering.

Jordan was instantly motivated.

Indeed, Lucas didn't even take the eight giants of DC seriously. Now, the Stone family no longer seemed that out of reach.

“Lastly, think about it again. Do you think Maddy is willing to become a pawn of her family and marry a man she doesn’t like or even know? Since you love her, you must want her to be truly happy, so think about what kind of life will truly make her happy!” Lucas said.

Jordan nodded and said more firmly, “Lucas, I understand! I won’t let Maddy end up living a miserable life. Only I can give her a happy future!”

Lucas had a heartened smile on his face.

At this moment, they saw through the glass windows of the office that Maddy had finally finished chatting with the diligent elderly director, who was also an avid learner. She walked out.

Maddy seemed to have lingering fears, while the elderly director said with a look of satisfaction, “Dr. Stone, your guidance today has really enlightened me and benefited me greatly. You are indeed a top medical practitioner with excellent skills in the field of medicine! Mr. Gray has informed me of your purpose for visiting, and I’ll proceed to help you with the procedures now. You may treat the patient diagnosed as a vegetable as a medical expert of our hospital. There won’t be any issues.”

Lucas and Maddy both said in unison, “Thank you, Director!”

After leaving the director’s office, Maddy glowered at Lucas and Jordan. “And you two call yourselves my friends. You two left me alone to speak to the director while you ran outside to hide. So annoying!”

Lucas laughed. “You were discussing medicine. Jordan and I couldn’t understand anything. What would be the point of us staying there?”

Jordan looked at Maddy’s slightly fatigued face. Considering that she had flown back from abroad overnight and had rushed straight to the hospital without getting any rest after her flight, he reckoned that she was exhausted. It happened to be lunchtime, and they hadn’t eaten lunch yet.

Jordan suggested, “Lucas, Maddy, why don’t we go out for lunch? It’ll take some time for the administrative procedures to finish. Even if you want to provide treatment for Lucas’s father-in-law, you’ll have to wait until the afternoon.”

Lucas nodded in agreement. “That’s right. I’ve already made a reservation at a restaurant. Let’s go there now. We’ll talk about the treatment in the afternoon.”

After all, Maddy had just returned from a long trip abroad. Besides, she had always been a workaholic, so she would definitely start working on the treatment plan for William immediately. Once she started, she might forget to eat.

They headed to a restaurant called 'Flavors' near the hospital and went to the private room that Lucas had booked.

Soon, all the food was served.

They were chatting while eating. Seeing that Jordan wanted to help Maddy to some food but was blushing because he was too shy to do so, he couldn't help being amused.

Since Jordan was his best friend, he naturally had to help him.

Halfway through the meal, Lucas suddenly pretended to ask casually, "By the way, Maddy, you mentioned before that your family wants to arrange a marriage alliance for you, right? What's up with that?"

Jordan suddenly froze while eating and quickly turned to look at Maddy to listen to her words carefully.

Maddy sighed despondently. "Ah! I can't help it. I'm already in my thirties, and in the eyes of many people, I'm an old woman. Naturally, tongues will wag at home. My parents can't withstand the pressure, so they've been urging me to get married!

"But I have never wanted to marry a man I don't like and then have children and spend my life raising them. I don't want to muddle through the rest of my life. So I pursued what I was most interested in and started learning medicine. For this reason, I went to Calico, where I met you. One of my purposes at the time was to give myself a chance to put my medical skills to use and save the patients who needed to be saved. I also wanted to realize my own value. The other purpose is also to stay far, far away from home.

"Only in this way could I temporarily escape the oppressive environment where I was forced to get married. Only then could I feel like an independent person worth more than just being a pawn of the family or someone's wife."

The light in Maddy's eyes gradually dimmed, and she said in a low voice, "But I can never be a resolute person. The responsibility of being a member of my family, my parents' accusations, and so on have all determined that I can never be unfettered.

"So when my parents heard that I was returning, they eagerly told me that they had already found a great partner for me from the Smith family. They're just waiting for me to return to DC to take a look. Maybe we'll get engaged then if there are no issues."

Her tone was full of despondence and helplessness.

Jordan kept clenching his fists before releasing them again and then clenching them again. Finally, he couldn't tolerate it any longer and slammed it against the table. Bang!

“How... how can they make arrangements for your life like this?”

Chapter 573: Revealing Her Intentions

Jordan's face was full of anger.

“You are clearly an excellent doctor and much more outstanding than anyone else. On what grounds are they making you marry someone you don't even know or like and turn you into an ordinary housewife?”

Jordan was really furious. Seeing the dim light in Maddy's eyes and her lackluster gaze, he was full of pain in his heart, and anger erupted within him.

Maddy was surprised to see how furious Jordan was, and she was so touched by his words that she felt an urge to cry. “Jordan, you...”

“I... I'm sorry. I wasn't acting like myself!” Jordan also realized that he had overreacted, so he frantically apologized and picked up the cup of juice next to him. He quickly took large gulps to cover up his embarrassment, only to suddenly choke and cough loudly. “*Puff! Ahem, ahem!*”

Maddy was amused. She hurriedly handed him some tissue paper while complaining, “You're already an adult. Why are you still behaving like a child? You actually choked while drinking?!”

After wiping the juice from the corners of his mouth, Jordan looked at Maddy and asked, “Can't you... go against your family?”

Maddy sighed. “In fact, girls from families like mine are generally compelled to accept our families' arranged marriages when we reach adulthood. Those like me who have been able to stay single until now are already considered rare. My parents have been put under a lot of pressure because of me, and I can't continue to be willful.

“Besides, it's said that a man's life begins at the age of thirty. But generally, a woman is considered an old woman who will be left on the shelf if she doesn't get married after thirty. So I'm afraid no one will want me if I still don't get married!”

Jordan immediately said with excitement, “Who said that? You are so nice. How can no one want you? I...”

But when he saw Maddy's puzzled gaze, his lips moved for a long time, and his face was flushed, but he still couldn't bring himself to say it.

Seeing this, Lucas felt anxious, but he also understood that Jordan's feelings had been buried deep in his heart for many years. Even if he wanted to confess now, he wouldn't be able to reveal it so simply.

Moreover, he didn't know how Maddy felt about Jordan now. If Maddy didn't fancy him or merely saw him as a younger brother, it would be awkward once he confessed.

Indeed, he had previously encouraged Jordan to bravely come to terms with his feelings, but relationships were the most complicated thing ever. He hoped that Jordan would get what he wanted and pursue the person he loved. But at the same time, he also hoped that Maddy could obtain true happiness. So he thought that he'd better get a clear idea of how Maddy felt before Jordan confessed.

"Exactly, Jordan's right. Maddy, you're such a great person. How can you possibly be left on the shelf? If anyone dislikes you, he must be blind!" Lucas chuckled. He was not only comforting Maddy but also giving Jordan an out.

Maddy smiled faintly. "Haha, thanks a lot, you two!"

With that, she raised her glass of juice and said, "Come, let's toast. I can't drink alcohol today, so I'll toast you two with this!"

All three of them clinked their glasses with a smile and downed the juice in one go.

Maddy elegantly wiped the corner of her mouth with her handkerchief. "It's rare for the three of us to get together, so let's not talk about those unhappy things. Let's talk about something else instead!"

She looked at Jordan and smiled. "Jordan, now that Lucas has gotten married and has a five-year-old daughter, how about you? Have you got a girlfriend?"

Jordan glanced at her and shook his head. "Not yet."

"Why don't you hurry up and find one too? I heard there are lots of pretty girls here. You've been here for almost half a year, but you haven't even met a girl you like?" Maddy couldn't help asking curiously.

With reddened cheeks, Jordan took a deep glance at Maddy, but he nevertheless mustered up the courage to say, "I... actually have been carrying a torch for someone for a long time, but I've... never been able to tell her how I feel!"

After saying this, he couldn't bear it any longer and turned his face away like he was fleeing. He pretended to look at the scenery outside instead of Maddy's eyes.

"..." Maddy wasn't a fool, and Jordan's behavior surprised her.

Is it possible that...

Impossible! I'm almost five years older than him. This is a huge difference!

For a while, the atmosphere in the private room was a little bizarre.

“Ahem!” Lucas coughed. “We’re more or less done with eating, right? I think the director should be done too. Let’s go back to the hospital, and Maddy can help me check on my father-in-law’s condition. Maddy, quickly get some rest afterward! Your flight last night was more than ten hours, and you haven’t had any proper rest!”

“Okay, let’s go then!” Maddy and Jordan quickly said in unison.

After the three of them returned to the hospital and received the temporary employment agreement stamped with the hospital’s official seal from the director, they went to William’s ward.

Cheyenne was sitting next to William’s hospital bed and talking to him as usual. There was someone else next to her—Karen.

Lucas frowned slightly but didn’t say anything.

“Cheyenne, come here. Let me introduce you to...”

Lucas was about to introduce Cheyenne and Maddy to each other. Upon getting a clear look at Cheyenne’s face, Maddy’s eyes lit up, and she said happily, “You must be Lucas’s wife, Cheyenne. You’re really gorgeous!”

Cheyenne was stunned and looked at the woman in front of her. She was tall and beautiful yet also extremely valiant.

Lucas took Cheyenne’s hand and introduced her. “This is Maddy Stone, whom I mentioned to you before. She’s an internationally renowned doctor!”

With a look of surprise on her face, Cheyenne walked over excitedly and immediately held Maddy’s hand. “Hello, Maddy! I’ve heard a lot about you from Lucas, and now I finally get to meet you! You are much more beautiful than I imagined!”

Maddy laughed. “Haha, you too! When I saw you just now, I thought I saw a fairy descending upon the world! Lucas is really lucky to have a beautiful wife like you!”

Hearing the compliment, Cheyenne felt a little embarrassed. “No, not at all. Maddy, you’re the beautiful and elegant one.”

Seeing the two of them complimenting each other non-stop upon their first meeting, Lucas couldn’t help bursting into laughter. “Well, you two can take your time chatting later. Maddy, why don’t you help me check my father-in-law’s condition first?”

“Okay, I’m on it.” Maddy immediately got serious at the mention of this.

She walked to William's side and was about to take his pulse when her hand was suddenly grabbed by another hand!

"Wait! Who the hell are you? Are you a doctor who works here? Are you qualified to examine my husband's condition?" Karen hollered menacingly while clutching Maddy's wrist.

Chapter 574: Throwing a Tantrum and Stopping

Maddy was immediately stunned by the interruption, and she subconsciously looked at Lucas. *She... should be his strange mother-in-law, right?*

Before she returned yesterday, she had browsed the internet to see if there was any news worth paying attention to, only to see the news about Lucas being slandered by his mother-in-law, Karen, and the subsequent plot twist.

At the time, Maddy had found it hilarious.

The esteemed commander of the Falcon Regiment in Calico actually appeared in the news in such a manner.

But she was naturally on Lucas's side, and she reckoned that his mother was probably not easy to get along with.

As expected, after she entered the ward, Lucas didn't even introduce her to his mother-in-law, which just went to show that their relationship was extremely strained.

Now that Karen had grabbed her wrist and bombarded her with interrogative questions, her impression of Karen became even worse.

Her tone of voice and expression were completely like those of an uncultured shrew. Moreover, her voice was extremely shrilling and unsettling. It was difficult for others to like her.

Seeing this, Cheyenne hurriedly went forward and pulled Karen's hand away. "Mom, what are you doing? Maddy is Lucas's close friend and an internationally renowned medical expert. She's returned from abroad this time specially to treat Dad. Maddy has seen Dad's medical report, and she thinks there's a high chance he will regain consciousness! She just wants to check his condition again."

As soon as Karen heard this, she seemed even more flustered and furious.

As early as a few days ago, she had learned from Lucas that he would be inviting a top medical expert from abroad to treat William.

But how could Karen let William wake up again?

William had already been diagnosed as brain damaged, and he would remain in a vegetative state. The probability of him regaining consciousness again was extremely low, so Karen had directly treated him as a dead person. Not only had she abused him to her heart's content, but she had also told him about all the evil things she had done, including how she had hired someone to murder him in a vengeful tone.

If William remained unconscious for the rest of his life, everything would be fine. But if he suddenly came to, all the things that she had done would be exposed.

So the moment Karen heard Lucas say that he had invited a medical expert from abroad, she had gotten a great fright and finally took the desperate decision to attack William again. But she had been unexpectedly discovered by Cheyenne, which led to many other subsequent events.

She had just escaped from the brink of death at the Taylor residence just now and hadn't had time to ponder about how to continue dealing with William. But the doctor Lucas invited had already arrived and was going to treat William. How could she allow it?!

No matter what, she had to find a way to stop it!

Karen glanced at Maddy in disdain and harrumphed coldly. "Cheyenne, don't let them fool you! Look at this woman, she should only be less than thirty years old, and she's dressed so scantily. Who knows what she really works as? Do you believe that she's an internationally renowned doctor just because she says so? Which highly respected doctor would be so young?"

"I bet she's just some wild woman Lucas Gray found out there and colluded with to find a chance to kill your father!"

Karen seemed to believe her own lies as she spoke, and she suddenly smacked her thigh. "Yes, this must be the case! I'm afraid you're the one who caused William to get into that accident, right, Lucas Gray?"

"You deliberately tried to kill Cheyenne's father because you think it'd be easy to bully us when once I'm widowed and Cheyenne has lost her father, right?"

She glowered at Lucas furiously. And after making this long, illogical speech, she complained to Cheyenne tearfully, "Cheyenne, you're just too soft-hearted and kind-hearted. You were tricked by this adulterous pair! Think about it. Even the most distinguished doctor in this hospital has said that the chances of your father waking up again are extremely slim, so how can this young woman know anything about medicine and treatment? They're just lying!"

"Didn't you also say before that there's something fishy about your father's car accident? Maybe Lucas and this shameless woman arranged it! Now that things have

come to this, they're pretending there's a doctor who can heal your father so that they can sneakily try to kill him again!

"This adulterous pair must not have any good intentions. Cheyenne, don't trust them! Don't let them touch your father!"

After Karen said all of this hysterically, Maddy was dumbfounded!

Although she already had a terrible first impression of Karen, she was a qualified doctor who had dealt with many members of upper society. The foul words that came out of Karen's mouth really made Maddy flabbergasted!

She never knew that a woman's imagination could be so rich and vicious, so much so that Karen had developed dirty thoughts about her and Lucas as soon as she saw her. She even slandered them, making Maddy so shocked that she couldn't even feel angry at all. Instead, she found it really ridiculous.

Lucas's eyes instantly darkened.

He had gotten used to being insulted by Karen, so he could just pretend not to hear her. But he wouldn't tolerate her insulting his friend.

He looked at Karen's villainous expression and suddenly asked, "Are you that afraid that William will wake up after his condition gets better?"

"What did you say?!" Karen was instantly shocked because Lucas's words hit the nail on the head, making her panic.

But she obviously couldn't admit to it.

Looking as if she had been gravely insulted, Karen burst into tears aggrievedly. "Cheyenne, look at your husband. How can he say something like that to me? No matter what, I'm his mother-in-law. Yet he actually thinks that I'm such a vicious person. I... I'm really going to be angered to death by him!

"Cheyenne, look at what kind of a life I'm living. Your father is still lying in bed unconscious, and I'm already so old. I can only rely on you and Charlotte to support me in the future, but Lucas actually did this to me. How am I supposed to live in the future? I might as well die here or let the Taylors kill me yesterday so that I wouldn't be such an eyesore here and face your insults!"

Karen was really good at being shameless, a skill she had perfected after decades of training and practice. She could tear up as soon as she wanted to and make herself look extremely aggrieved as if she had been bullied.

In the past, Cheyenne would have shown Karen lots of sympathy and caved in.

But after learning about Karen's horrendous misdeeds, Cheyenne was no longer going to be the good daughter who would immediately be at a loss upon seeing Karen cry.

Cheyenne looked at Karen calmly and said coldly, "Mom, no one is bullying you. If you keep behaving so nonsensically and interfere with Dad's treatment, you should leave the hospital right now!"

Chapter 575: Diagnosis Outcome

As Karen's daughter, Cheyenne began to realize more and more that whenever her mother decided to be unreasonable, it was mostly because she had deliberately caused a stir out of a guilty conscience.

The words Karen used to scold Maddy were extremely awful and vulgar. Even though it was the first time she met Maddy, Cheyenne couldn't bear to hear those malicious remarks.

If not for the guilt she felt for driving Karen away and making her suffer from the abduction by the Taylors, she probably wouldn't have agreed to let Karen stay in the hospital.

Karen's jaw dropped. She was deeply shocked by Cheyenne's unusual action!

"Cheyenne, you... What are you saying? Do you not believe me? Are you going to take this woman's side instead?"

"Are you silly?! This woman is obviously not a decent person. Which doctor behaves and looks like her? She and Lucas are colluding to deceive you. I'm your biological mother. Why would I harm you?"

"Look at the two of them. Lucas brought her here, and he's now defending her too. Do you really think they're innocent?"

"I've been in such situations. I can tell at a glance what tricks this little vixen is using! She claims to be trying to treat your father's illness? That's nonsense!"

Karen tried to persuade Cheyenne earnestly while not forgetting to continue framing Lucas and Maddy.

Maddy was so enraged that her face flushed red. She clarified, "Ma'am, you can't spout nonsense about such things! Lucas and I are innocent! You can't slander us! If you tarnish my reputation like this again, don't blame me for suing you in court for defamation!"

Maddy wasn't a pushover who could be manipulated easily. She decided to use the law as a weapon to warn Karen against spouting nonsense again.

Karen got a great shock, but she soon sneered. "Hah, it seems that you're really the same as Lucas! I've merely made some remarks about you, and you already want to take me to court. I bet you're intent on driving me away from Cheyenne so that you can take the opportunity to kill Cheyenne's father and then bully my daughter as you wish, right?"

"I'm telling you, you two can dream on! As long as I'm around, you won't be able to bully me and my daughter!"

Karen was still acting as if she was an advocate of justice as she continued to insult them righteously.

"Enough!" Lucas finally couldn't take it anymore and yelled, immediately stopping Karen.

Karen merely thought that Maddy was a weak and vulnerable woman who couldn't stand up for herself, so she had been bullying her and nitpicking on her at every turn. Her agenda was to insult Maddy callously and make her leave.

Thus, she wouldn't have to be afraid of Maddy checking on William's condition and saving him so that he would regain consciousness.

How evil and vicious! Lucas thought.

Maddy was his comrade and the person he had specially invited. Why should he stand here and allow a shrew like Karen to continue insulting him and Maddy?

"If you dare insult us again, don't blame me for being ruthless!"

Icy cold killing intent appeared in Lucas's eyes, immediately making Karen recall many terrifying memories. She couldn't help shuddering.

Only then did she remember that her son-in-law was no longer the weak and incompetent son-in-law he used to be. Instead, he really held the power that could kill her at any time.

At the thought of this, Karen didn't dare to speak again.

Although she really wanted to immediately kick out Maddy, who said that she could cure William, so that he would never regain consciousness again. But she was now indeed at a loss for what to do, leaving her with no choice but to come up with another solution.

Lucas turned to Maddy and looked at her apologetically. "Maddy, I'm so sorry. Please take a look at my father-in-law's condition now."

Maddy nodded and let out a sigh, expelling all the pent up anger within her because of Karen's malicious remarks. She walked over and gently placed her index and middle fingers on William's pulse to take it carefully.

Traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture were her forte, and she had already seen the CT scan of William's brain, as well as the other data that Lucas had shown her. Maddy was now using traditional Chinese medicine as an alternative treatment method.

For a while, the few people in the ward fell silent, not even daring to breathe, for fear of disturbing Maddy from reaching an accurate diagnosis.

Karen also stood in the ward with her head hung low instead of going outside.

When she saw that Maddy was actually using a traditional Chinese medicine method to take William's pulse, she pursed her lips and subconsciously felt an urge to mock her.

At this moment, Lucas glared at her fiercely with a warning gaze in his eyes.

Karen's heart skipped a beat, but she finally remained silent.

She knew that Lucas's patience with her was about to run thin. If she tried to continue to interfere with Maddy's treatment, there would only be one outcome—she would immediately be driven out by Lucas!

After taking his pulse, Maddy carefully examined William's eyes, tongue, and other body parts. More than ten minutes later, she finally completed the diagnosis.

She straightened her back and said to Lucas and Cheyenne with a smile on her face, "His condition isn't too bad. It's actually a little better than I thought. He's already showing initial signs of recovery. If I use acupuncture and medicine to stimulate his recovery and condition his body, he'll probably be able to wake up within five days."

Cheyenne said gleefully, "Really? That's great! Thank you so much, Maddy!"

Tears of joy welled up in her eyes.

Lucas heaved a sigh of relief. Hearing that William would be able to come to in a few days was definitely a piece of great news to him.

Only Karen, who was having trouble maintaining her worried expression, was almost on the verge of erupting. Deep down, she yelled with indignation, *Ahhhhh! Why? Why is that dog William Carter going to regain conscientiousness? If he wakes up, what on earth am I going to do? Damn Lucas and this damn woman! You all deserve to die!*

She clenched her fists with all her might to stop herself from losing control and strangling Maddy to death on the spot. But she didn't dare to look up, afraid that she could no longer hide the strong resentment in her eyes.

Maddy chuckled, "You're welcome. You're Lucas's wife, and that's like being my sister. Okay, I'll go prepare the prescription and some western medicine. I'll have to see if they're available in this hospital. I'll return in the evening and begin his acupuncture treatment."

She smiled faintly and turned around to walk out of the door.

But Lucas keenly noticed that although Maddy was smiling, she was in low spirits at the moment.

Cheyenne naturally also discovered this, so she said to Lucas guiltily, "Hubby, I... I feel very sorry toward Maddy. She obviously came here to help Dad out of kindness because of you..."

Although the person who had insulted Maddy wasn't her but her mother, Cheyenne still felt very sorry about it.

Lucas shook his head. "It's not your fault. Besides, Maddy is not that petty. I will explain it to her properly.

"But the most important thing to do now is to help William regain consciousness sooner. By that time, I'm afraid that the truth that some people have been trying to hide will be unraveled."

With that, Lucas glanced at Karen, who was at the other side of the ward, and smiled coldly.

Chapter 576: So Determined

After Karen heard this, she couldn't help shuddering.

Lucas's words were like a death notice striking at Karen's head, causing her to break out in a cold sweat.

Indeed, once William regained consciousness, the things she had been trying to hide would all be exposed!

What should I do? What should I do now?

The only way to stop this is to make sure that William can never regain consciousness!

"The truth? What do you mean?" Cheyenne asked in bewilderment.

Lucas looked at Karen sneeringly and said, "Didn't you just say that William's car accident was rather fishy and that you even suspect I hired someone to do it? In that case, once William comes to, it will be clear as day who was behind the accident and who actually tried to kill him."

Karen didn't dare to look into Lucas's eyes and quickly retorted in a moment of panic, "When did I say that there was something fishy about William's car accident? Don't spout nonsense!"

Just now, she was so focused on framing Lucas and Maddy that it slipped her mind that she had given him the chance to grab hold of what she had said to put the blame on her.

But her flustered denial made Cheyenne suspect something all of a sudden.

Since William's car accident, the official investigation had determined it to be purely an accident, and the party that caused the accident had also died. So Cheyenne hadn't been thinking about the other aspects.

Even when Karen said there was something fishy about the car accident, she didn't pay too much attention to her words because she thought that Karen was just trying to frame Lucas, given how much she hated him.

But now that Lucas said that there might be someone else behind the accident, Karen's behavior seemed rather wrong.

In fact, Karen was quite silly, so most of the time, her acting skills were terrible. For example, she couldn't hide the look of panic on her face now at all.

Cheyenne's heart suddenly sank.

She looked at Lucas and asked worriedly, "Lucas, Dad's car accident isn't purely an accident, is it? Are you already aware of something?"

She wasn't a fool, and she could tell that Karen was behaving strangely. She would be a fool if she still hadn't realized what was going on here.

The only thing she wanted now was for Lucas to tell her clearly that William's car accident had nothing to do with Karen...

A few nights ago, when Cheyenne discovered that Karen had secretly unplugged William's oxygen tube in the middle of the night in an attempt to kill him, Cheyenne had almost broken down in misery.

After Karen had been rescued by Lucas later, she had wept and told Cheyenne that she had been compelled by the Taylors to do it to William.

Cheyenne had believed her and felt really sympathetic toward her predicament. She had also felt extremely apologetic and guilty for indirectly causing Karen to end up in such a plight.

But she now couldn't help but suspect and wonder if she could really believe Karen's explanation. *Was it really the Taylors who forced her to kill Dad?*

The moment she thought of a certain possibility, Cheyenne felt as if she had plunged into icy cold water again, and her heart was full of chilliness.

Karen suddenly panicked and hurriedly asked with tears in her eyes, "Cheyenne, you're my daughter. Don't you trust me at all?"

Cheyenne said with difficulty, "I really want to believe you, but I really can't tell which of your words are true and which are not. How can I trust you?"

If possible, no one would want to doubt their own biological parents.

But what Karen had done had really made Cheyenne extremely disappointed.

She closed her eyes in misery.

Seeing this, Karen panicked even more, and she anxiously tried to emotionally blackmail Cheyenne with kinship.

"Cheyenne, you can't do this! I'm your mother. How much pain did I suffer to give birth to you back then? You're a mother yourself. You went through ten months of pregnancy to give birth to Amelia, so you should know how I feel! I'm so hurt by your words!

"I worked so hard to raise you and Charlotte. I cooked for you two, did your laundry, and showed you concern all the time. I was afraid that you'd catch a cold when it was cold, and I was so anxious every time you got sick when you were little. Now that you're all grown up and have a family of your own, you don't need me anymore, so you've cast me aside and said those things to me!

"Cheyenne, touch your heart and tell me. Do you still have a conscience? Do you have filial piety?

"I'm really disappointed and heartbroken now! I've worked so hard to raise you, and you're doubting your own mother for this man who's only been back for a few months! I wish I could die right now and end up in the same state as your father. I'd be better off dead, lest I suffer from being angered by you!"

Karen began to act like an aggrieved mother again as she wept incessantly in a pitiful manner.

If it was the old Cheyenne, she might have been guilt-tripped by Karen's words and be overwhelmed with regret. She would have felt extremely unfilial to have caused her mother to be so upset. She would have then cried and hugged Karen, begging her to stop saying those words and promise to treat her well in the future while continuously blaming herself.

Karen had long mastered the art of manipulation using kinship.

Unfortunately, Cheyenne once again took her by surprise.

Although Cheyenne was feeling terrible because of Karen's words, she didn't compromise this time. Instead, she gritted her teeth and said, "Mom, you don't need to say those things now, and I don't have to explain anything to you either. Anyway, Maddy just said that Dad will definitely wake up within five days!

"Once Dad wakes up, no matter what you're hiding from me and no matter what the truth is, everything will come to light!

"If, and I mean if, Dad's accident really has something to do with you, I will definitely not be as soft-hearted as I was last time and just tell you to leave. If you're the culprit who wanted to kill Dad, I will surely do justice and make you pay the price!"

At the end, tears streamed down her cheeks, but she had a firm look of determination on her face!

Even Lucas was a little surprised. But immediately afterward, a trace of heartache appeared in his eyes.

Cheyenne, who was gentle and kind-hearted, had to be full of agony since she was forced to say such ruthless words.

After Karen heard what Cheyenne said, her expression changed drastically, and she became incredibly flustered.

Chapter 577: Try Touching Her

This time, Karen truly felt that her daughter Cheyenne had gradually gotten out of her control and that she would soon no longer be able to manipulate her with some simple tricks like she had in the past.

Due to her panic of losing control and the fact that William was soon about to regain consciousness to reveal everything she had done, Karen felt extremely frustrated.

A wave of anger instantly surged in Karen's heart, and she yelled at Lucas menacingly, "It's all your fault! It's all your fault! You must have deliberately badmouthed me behind my back and urged Cheyenne to go against me, her own mother! Cheyenne would

never talk to me like this in the past, so you must have sowed discord! Lucas Gray, you can't stand to see Cheyenne and me getting along well, huh?"

Karen targeted Lucas and shrieked at him at the top of her voice.

Lucas glanced at her indifferently and sneered. "You don't need to continue pretending to be a loving mother and a virtuous wife here. Even before I returned, have you ever sincerely treated William as your husband and Cheyenne as your daughter? You don't have to deliberately try to provoke me or put the blame on me. I'm sure you know better than anyone why William got into that car accident!

"Don't worry. William will wake up in a few days, and by then, whatever you've done will all be revealed! When that time comes, I will definitely not let that person off!"

Lucas's words were so decisive that Karen couldn't help feeling a pang of panic.

The massive panic made her face turn pale, and all she could think about was the outcome she would face once everything was exposed.

At that time, not only would William not spare her, but Lucas wouldn't spare her either! Cheyenne and Charlotte would probably disown her as well...

When the time came, what would she do?

Lucas looked at her panicked face and said coldly, "You'd better leave William's ward. We don't feel safe about you being here!"

Lucas's words were extremely direct, and he was almost about to blurt out blatantly that Karen would harm William.

Karen screamed in anger and shame, "You... you don't go too far! Who are you to make me leave? William is my husband, and he's now lying in a hospital bed. I'm his rightful next-of-kin. Who are you to throw me out?"

"If anyone has to get out, it should be you two! You unfilial ingrates, you treat your mother so badly. How can I still hand William over to you with peace of mind? Get lost now!"

While cursing furiously, she ran over like a shrew and grabbed Cheyenne's hand to drag her out.

"Cheyenne, you're just a heartless ingrate! What are you still doing here pretending to look after your father? Your mother is being driven to her grave by you, and yet you're still here every single day. Do you want your father to die sooner?"

“You bastards, I bet you want us to die sooner because once we die, no one will be watching you two, and you’ll be free to inherit all the assets. That must be your plan, huh?!”

“And you’re pretending to be a filial daughter here every single day. Psht! Get lost immediately!”

Karen cursed loudly like a madman while pulling Cheyenne’s wrist with all her might to drive her out.

She deliberately wanted to be extremely callous with her words and make sure everyone in the hospital heard her so that Cheyenne would be too ashamed to stay!

As long as Cheyenne and Lucas scrambled out of the ward, she could find an opportunity to make a move against William again and kill him to prevent him from revealing the truth!

With these evil thoughts in mind, she suddenly raised her hand and slapped Cheyenne’s delicate little face while pulling her along.

“You are not worthy of being my daughter at all!” Karen hollered with a twisted expression.

“Stop it!” Lucas grabbed Karen’s hand and stopped her from hitting Cheyenne while roaring menacingly, “Try touching her again!”

At this moment, Lucas was extremely murderous, and the gaze in his eyes was ice cold, like a sharp dagger piercing into Karen’s heart.

The wrist Lucas was holding seemed to snap into half. She was in so much pain that she couldn’t speak!

But at this moment, Karen couldn’t care less about the excruciating pain in her wrist. All of her senses were overwhelmed by fear.

Looking at the gaze in Lucas’s eyes, Karen finally understood that he would definitely take her life without saying a word if she slapped Cheyenne again!

Scared by Lucas’s menace and murderous aura too, Cheyenne raised her head and grabbed his arm. She persuaded carefully, “Hubby, why don’t...”

She was truly afraid that Lucas would really do something to Karen in a moment of anger.

That result was definitely not what she wanted to see!

Lucas restrained his aura and looked at Cheyenne comfortingly to hint to her that he hadn't lost his rationality yet.

But Lucas's eyes were still as cold as a knife when he stared at Karen.

"Cheyenne is my woman. Even you can't lay a hand on her! This is the last time. If you dare to make a move on her again, I will break whichever hand of yours that you use to hit her. I will do what I say!" Lucas said coldly and let go of Karen's wrist.

At this moment, Karen was about to wet in her pants because of how frightened she was. She had broken out in cold sweat and didn't dare to utter a single word. Holding her bruised wrist, she shrunk into the single sofa in the corner of the ward.

To be honest, Karen was now so terrified of Lucas that if she could, she would scurry away and stay far, far away from him!

But she also knew that it wouldn't be as easy for her to come back once she left.

Once she couldn't even enter William's ward, how could she find the opportunity to kill him?

So despite trembling with fear, she was determined to stay!

Lucas glanced at Karen, knowing full well what her intentions were, but he wasn't bothered at all.

Anyway, there was no way Karen could get what she wanted regardless of the nonsensical intentions she had!

Through Cheyenne's determination just now, Lucas was aware of her thoughts.

If Karen's evil deeds were exposed, Cheyenne would no longer indulge her and would instead make her bear the consequences she deserved.

Lucas was a lot less scrupulous.

Time flew by, and soon it was evening.

Maddy gave Lucas a call. "Lucas, I've already made all the preparations, and I can start giving your father-in-law his first treatment any time!"

Chapter 578: His Fingers Moved

Lucas was overjoyed, and he hurriedly exclaimed, "Alright, come here now then, Maddy!"

Maddy soon arrived in William's ward.

But she didn't come alone. Instead, she came in together with the old director and several doctors of the hospital, including the attending doctor who had performed the life-saving surgery on William.

All of them had heard of Maddy's great reputation and came over to observe the treatment to learn something from her.

After all, it was usually extremely difficult to meet internationally renowned medical experts such as Maddy, let alone observe her treatment process on the spot in person.

The director had even swallowed his pride and begged Maddy for a long time before she finally compromised and gave in.

Maddy skilfully opened the small box she was carrying to reveal several sets of sharp and thin gold needles, as well as some other Chinese medical instruments.

Next, Maddy began to rapidly insert needles in many acupuncture points on William's head while also supplementing it with some Chinese medicine massage techniques to many acupuncture points on William's body.

The doctors watched carefully, and many took out small notebooks to record what they were seeing and what they didn't understand.

Since acupuncture was a process that required extremely detailed technical work, she not only needed to determine a good treatment plan in advance, but she also had to remain entirely focused during the entire process because a slight mistake might lead to extremely serious consequences.

So although there were many people here, everyone was holding their breaths and concentrating, not even daring to cough, for fear of disturbing Maddy's treatment.

Karen was also secretly glancing at everything from the corner.

She really wanted to suddenly make some noise at this time and deliberately disrupt Maddy's acupuncture treatment, preferably so that she could stab William to death in a moment of shock. That would be the best thing!

But Lucas was also in the ward and had even cast a warning glance at her. No matter how gutsy she was, she didn't dare to do anything with Lucas around.

So she could only pray in her heart that this young woman didn't know anything about medicine and was just messing around.

After all, in the eyes of most people, things like traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture were completely like superstitious metaphysics.

After half an hour, Maddy carefully removed the last gold needle from William's head and put the entire set of gold needles back into the small box. She then heaved a sigh of relief and ended the treatment for the day.

The doctors, who had been crowding around for a long time, finally spoke up.

"Dr. Stone, you are truly worthy of being an internationally renowned medical expert. Those gold needles seemed to have come alive in your hands. Your skills are divine!"

"Yes, it's amazing! I counted, and you inserted needles no less than two hundred times, but the timing and order of each acupuncture point were completely different. It's really breathtaking! Compared to you, our humble medical skills are not worth mentioning at all!"

"Although I'm almost sixty and much older than you, and I've immersed myself in traditional Chinese medicine acupuncture for more than thirty years, I feel that I've lived in vain previously!"

"Haha, Dr. Stone, you may be young, but your medical skills are really quite superb and admirable! You said before that you could make this patient wake up within five days, and in my humble opinion, you can definitely do it, despite it being a near-impossible miracle!"

...

For a while, all the doctors were praising Maddy's medical skills.

Karen, standing at the side, turned pale and clenched her fingers with indignation.

She had always thought that although Lucas had praised Maddy and introduced her as a medical expert invited from abroad, she was too young to have any decent medical skills at all. She had even thought that Lucas was just boasting.

But after personally hearing so many doctors praising Maddy, Karen instantly felt flustered.

If Maddy's medical skills were really that superb, it meant that William likely would really wake up within a few days. When the time came, what should she do?

"Huh!?! This... this is simply incredible!" William's attending doctor suddenly exclaimed excitedly.

"What happened?" hurriedly asked the person next to him, startled by his sudden shout.

The attending doctor excitedly pointed at William's hand. "His hand! His fingers! Just now, I saw his fingers move twice! I swear I definitely saw it!"

As soon as he said this, another doctor immediately chimed in, "I... I saw it too! I just thought my eyes were playing tricks on me. That's why I didn't dare to say anything, but I didn't expect you to see it too, Dr. Will! This is really incredible!"

"Oh my god, this is really amazing! It's only the first acupuncture treatment, and the patient has already shown such a good reaction. It's really miraculous! It seems that William Carter will wake up within the next few days, as Dr. Stone said!"

"As expected of Dr. Stone, her medical skills are really outstanding! It makes us much older doctors ashamed, haha!"

Lucas and Cheyenne were also immediately surprised to hear what they said and quickly walked over to check on William's condition.

But it seemed that William just moved his fingers twice under the stimulation because they couldn't see any other movement now.

Cheyenne was slightly disappointed about not being able to see William's reaction with her own eyes, but she quickly adjusted her emotions and grinned happily. "Great, it seems Dad will wake up soon! Maddy, thank you so much!"

She grabbed Maddy's hand excitedly.

Lucas looked at Maddy with a smile and said from the bottom of his heart, "Maddy, thank you for your hard work!"

Maddy replied with a warm smile, "It's nothing. You guys are being too polite!"

Although she was smiling, there was a clear trace of fatigue on her face. Clearly, the process of concentrating on acupuncture just now had brought her a considerable burden.

In particular, Maddy hadn't actually rested much since she got on the plane last night until now. And after taking William's pulse, she had been researching and trying to formulate an acupuncture treatment plan. She had to be exhausted.

"Maddy, go back and rest well! You've been busy all day, and you must be exhausted," Lucas said with concern.

Maddy rubbed her brow, and instead of trying to put on a strong front, she nodded. "Well, then I'll go back to the hotel. I'll come back tomorrow morning to check on his condition."

“Okay.”

Lucas then said to Jordan at the side, “Send Maddy back to the hotel! Also, you don’t need to come here for the time being for the next two days. Just take full responsibility for Maddy’s personal safety!”

He raised his eyebrows, seemingly trying to say, ‘That’s as much as I can help you with’.

Jordan was overjoyed, and he immediately agreed excitedly, “Alright! Just leave it to me!”

He escorted Maddy out of the hospital, and even his footsteps were much lighter.

Those familiar with Jordan, such as Lucas and Cheyenne, could tell at a glance that he was brimming with happiness at this moment.

“Huh? Jordan... and Maddy, could it be...?” Cheyenne asked softly, immediately feeling gossipy.

Lucas smiled. “It depends on whether or not Jordan can impress the beauty.”

The two were in a great mood while speaking.

But Karen was staring at William with a sinister look in her eyes.

Chapter 579: She Actually Made A Voice Recording

William can actually move his fingers. He’s probably not far from regaining consciousness...

No way!

I have to think of a way to get him killed sooner!

But over the next two days, Karen hadn’t been able to find any opportunity to make a move.

During these two days, not only Lucas had been staying in the ward, but even Cheyenne had taken her annual leave to stay here and wait for William to regain consciousness.

During this period of time, Maddy had been coming to the ward twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening, to perform an acupuncture treatment on William. She was indeed quite competent. After her treatment, William’s condition had been

improving significantly, and the doctors gathered around Maddy to learn were all singing praises about her.

Seeing this, Karen felt extremely anxious.

Knowing that William might open his eyes and regain consciousness at any time, Karen panicked. But she couldn't find any opportunity to do anything and could only watch fearfully with anxiety.

Finally, she found an opportunity to run to a hidden corridor of the hospital and call someone.

"Nikki, you have to help me!" Karen yelled anxiously.

Nikki frowned, but she nevertheless asked, "Aunt Karen, what's wrong? What happened again?"

Karen quickly told Nikki what had happened in the past few days, saying that Maddy, the female doctor Lucas had found, was very competent and that William's condition was getting better and better. Thus, he might regain consciousness very soon.

"Nikki, what do you think I should do now? If he wakes up, we'll both be done for!"

Karen called Nikki for help only because she couldn't find a solution herself.

"Done for? Aunt Karen, what do you mean by that? I don't seem to understand! What do Uncle William's affairs have to do with me?" Nikki said gloatingly.

Karen immediately panicked, and her voice got louder. "Nikki, are you trying to shirk responsibility? Don't forget. It was you who came to me at first. That's why we decided to take action together. Besides, even the money... used to hire a killer came from you. Are you trying to say it has nothing to do with you?"

When saying the latter sentences, Karen couldn't help looking around guiltily like a thief as she lowered her volume.

Nikki sneered. "Aunt Karen, I don't understand what you're saying. All I did was lend you some money. I don't know anything else! But don't blame me for this. If you continue coming to me, I'll have to expose all your misdeeds personally!"

She was in complete denial now.

If William had died, Karen would have been able to carry out the second step of their plan smoothly. But it turned out that the person Karen found didn't work efficiently and had merely turned William into a vegetable who was now about to wake up any time soon. So why should she continue working with a fool like Karen?

Nikki clearly didn't want to continue being embroiled in this, so Karen immediately panicked.

"Nikki, how can you be like this? If it wasn't urgent, I wouldn't have called you for help! Hurry up and help me come up with a solution!

"Over the past two days, William has been surrounded by many people, so I couldn't even find a chance to do anything. I'm begging you!

"If we wait until William wakes up, then everything will be over! Nikki, as long as you help me once more and get William killed, I will surely think of a way to help you deal with Lucas immediately!"

She spoke urgently.

But Nikki harrumphed coldly in disdain. "Aunt Karen, you can't even deal with an unconscious, vegetative person who's hospitalized. How can I still expect you to help me deal with Lucas Gray now?"

"I'm staying out of this forever. Don't contact me again in the future!"

With that, she immediately hung up.

"Nikki! Nik...!" Karen yelled twice anxiously, only to discover that the call had already ended. She gnashed her teeth furiously.

She called Nikki twice more. But without exception, they were all declined by Nikki.

Nikki, you bitch! We were in this together in the first place. Do you think you can get away with it and shirk responsibility? Don't you dare think so! I won't let you get what you want!

Even if it's hell, I'll drag you down with me!

Karen browsed through her phone, found a short recording, and sent it to Nikki.

"Nikki, this is the voice recording of our discussion at the time. If you're smart enough, you should know what to do!"

Far away in the Herons' home in LA...

Since she received Karen's phone call, Nikki was in an extremely foul mood because the incompetent Karen had caused her more than 100 grand to go to waste. She couldn't even get William killed and had repeatedly called for help. How could she expect Karen to help her get Lucas killed?

The thought of it made her exasperated!

Thus, she declined all of Karen's calls, not wanting to speak to her at all.

If William really came to and exposed Karen, she wouldn't let herself be implicated in any way!

At this moment, her phone suddenly rang with a new text.

When she saw the message from Karen, she almost flew into a rage after hearing the content of the audio recording.

"Karen Turner, you bitch! How dare you make a voice recording?!"

She suddenly raised her hand and directly smashed a vase in front of her onto the floor.

Bang!

The beautiful vase instantly shattered, and the bright red roses scattered all over the floor.

Nikki never thought that a stupid woman like Karen would be so scheming as to record their discussion about hiring someone to murder William.

Although Karen had sent her only a short audio clip, she had every reason to believe that Karen must have the complete recording.

She had actually been schemed against by such a foolish woman, who now had evidence against her. There was no way Nikki could shirk responsibility now!

If Karen was really exposed, she would definitely expose Nikki too!

"Ahhhhh! This is infuriating!"

"Damn it, Karen Turner! Damn Lucas Gray!"

Nikki grabbed her hair frantically and hollered.

"Nikki, what's the matter with you? Did something happen?"

All of a sudden, a deep voice came from behind, and a middle-aged man who was nearly fifty years old walked in and asked with a look of concern.

The middle-aged man was none other than Nikki's father, Justin.

"I heard something breaking in your room just now. I knocked on your door a few times, but I didn't hear you say anything. Are you okay? You look awful. What exactly happened?" Justin asked with a frown.

Chapter 580: Between Father and Daughter

Nikki received a great shock and frantically stammered, "It's nothing... I'm fine. I-I just accidentally broke the vase."

Justin didn't believe her at all. "I'm your father. I can tell if you're really fine or not. Nikki, tell me. what exactly happened?"

Although he no longer had any more feelings for Nikki's mother and wanted to divorce her, he still cared a lot about Nikki, his only daughter.

No matter what, Nikki was his biological daughter.

Nikki bit her lower lip and hesitated for a long while before finally resting her head on Justin's shoulder and bursting into tears. "Dad, I did something wrong, and I might be in deep trouble. You have to help me!"

Justin was startled. His daughter had always been smart and usually seemed adorable and obedient. He would rarely see her crying like this.

Something major must have happened!

"Nikki, calm down. Come on, tell me slowly. What happened? What did you do wrong?" he asked with a gloomy expression.

Nikki huffed and sputtered everything about how she and Karen had plotted William's murder and even hired someone to kill him, followed by their plan to kill Lucas. But things were about to be exposed, and Nikki might be exposed too.

Justin's expression changed again and again. He finally couldn't restrain himself from slapping Nikki on her face.

"Are you stupid? How could you do such a thing with a stupid woman like Karen Turner?"

"Moreover, you actually dared to hide a planned murder from me. You're really becoming bolder and bolder!"

"If the situation hadn't changed, were you planning never to tell me about this for the rest of your life? Do you still regard me as your father?"

Nikki covered her face and burst into tears. "I-I didn't mean to hide it from you! I didn't want you to worry about it, so I planned to tell you after the matter was done!"

"Besides, why do I want to kill Lucas Gray? It's obviously for the sake of the Herons. When we were at Dylan's wedding, he caused us to be so aggrieved, so much so that no one is willing to associate with us anymore. Our business is in the doldrums now. I hate Lucas Gray!"

"That's why I thought of a way to get back at him, and it just so happened that Karen found me, and we finally decided to get rid of him together. I didn't expect her to be so useless and cause things to blow up to this point!"

"Dad, you have to help me now! That bitch Karen has a voice recording. If she gets exposed, she will definitely drag me down too! When that happens, Lucas won't let me off, nor will he spare the Herons! Dad, please help me think of a solution!"

Naturally, Nikki wouldn't take the initiative to reveal her personal feud with Lucas. She merely made it seem like she was doing it for the Herons' sake.

As expected, the anger on Justin's face slowly vanished after hearing her words.

Nikki hated Lucas because of the current situation of the Herons, and she wanted to get rid of him partly also because of the Herons.

Although she had used a radical approach and even went so far as to hire a murderer, no amount of complaining would help since it had already happened.

As Karen had said, if William woke up and exposed what Karen had done, she would definitely drag Nikki down with her.

Even if Karen was the mastermind and Nikki was just an accomplice, it was still a huge crime, which would ruin her completely. He would have raised his daughter for nothing too.

Furthermore, Lucas would definitely take revenge on the Herons.

The most important thing to do now was to make sure Nikki didn't get implicated.

After thinking about it, he could only come up with two solutions.

One, as Karen had said, was to kill William before he woke up so that he would never be able to speak again.

Two was to just kill Karen so that she could never get Nikki implicated, and the Herons would be fine then.

But there was a tremendous risk in the second method because he didn't know how many copies of the voice recording and how much evidence Karen had.

He had always thought that Karen was an extremely stupid woman, so he hadn't needed to bother with her. But now, he couldn't see her as a fool since she knew to record conversations as evidence.

In case she kept copies of the voice recording elsewhere or quietly recorded other evidence that would be revealed after her death, Nikki's name would never be cleared.

Nikki looked at Justin with a pleading expression on her face. "Dad, have you thought of something yet? Quick, save me!"

Justin glared at her. "Now you know to be scared, huh? What have you been doing? When you hired someone to commit murder behind my back, weren't you very daring?"

"Dad, I really know my mistakes. I won't dare to do it again!" Nikki pursed her lips and lowered her head obediently.

Only then did Justin say, "I just thought about it. The only way to get this matter resolved is to kill William Carter."

"That's what I thought too! As long as he is dead, his lips will be sealed forever. And without evidence, Lucas can't do anything to me even if he suspects that there's something fishy about the car accident!"

While speaking, she quickly frowned. "But we can't kill William now. That bitch Karen told me that his ward is guarded well, and Lucas and Cheyenne are both staying by his side all day and night now. There's no chance to take action at all. That's why Karen turned to me."

Seeing Justin frowning, she said tentatively, "How about we let Karen find an opportunity to lure Lucas and Cheyenne out so that we can wait for an opportunity to strike?"

"No!!!" Justin denied resolutely. "That woman is simply useless. She's nothing but a failure. Instead of counting on her, we might as well rely on ourselves!"

"Besides, she actually secretly recorded your conversation and tried to manipulate you with it. If we go to her again, she might get more evidence against us."

"Once this matter is over, we'll think of another way to get all the evidence back from her, lest she continues to use it to threaten you."

He gave Nikki a deep glance and said coldly, "If we can't, I'll have to think of a way to kill her too!"

Nikki immediately inhaled sharply.

Chapter 581: Spiking The Drink

Nikki was just a little shocked when she first heard what Justin said, but she soon figured it all out.

Indeed, as Justin said, Karen had a voice recording of her, which was evidence against her. It was just like a ticking time bomb that could explode at any time.

Even if they successfully get rid of William, what would Nikki do if Karen used this matter to blackmail her to do something else?

So no matter what, they had to get the evidence back from Karen. And if they couldn't, they would have to kill her.

"Okay, Dad!" A trace of ruthlessness flashed in Nikki's eyes.

In fact, ever since Karen sent her the voice recording to threaten her, she had been incredibly furious and annoyed with Karen. Even if they killed her in the future, Nikki wouldn't feel any guilt at all.

"But the most important thing now is to deal with William Carter. What exactly do you want to do? His ward is so tightly guarded, so there's no way we can do anything to him easily!" Nikki hurriedly asked.

Justin's gaze constricted, and he said coldly, "Don't worry. He's in the hospital now. We'll just get a suitable person to kill him without anyone knowing!"

Nikki was immediately overjoyed. "That's wonderful! Dad, you're really impressive! Even if I wanted to, without your connections, I wouldn't be able to find someone!"

"Hmph, that's needless to say!" Justin glowered at her. "Don't get involved with this type of thing ever again! If something happens again next time, I won't help you solve it!"

"Also, stay away from that bitch Karen from now on. Do you hear me?" he warned solemnly.

Nikki hurriedly nodded. "Okay, I'll listen to you, Dad! I will definitely tell you everything in the future, and I won't act presumptuously!"

Justin nodded and made a call. "Mr. Kairo, this is Justin Heron. I need your help to get rid of someone..."

Soon, the two negotiated various details, including the price.

In the end, Justin spent 500 grand on the operation that was set to begin at night.

In the past, 500 grand would have meant nothing to the Herons.

But the Herons were being targeted now, and they had suffered heavy losses and were on the verge of bankruptcy. At this moment, this 500 grand was a huge burden for them.

He really felt the pinch. Glowering at Nikki, he said, "This is the last time! Bear it in mind!"

Nikki was feeling the pinch too, and she immediately agreed, "Yes, I promise there won't be a next time!"

At the hospital, Lucas and Cheyenne were still clueless about these conspiracies and schemes.

They continued to take care of William every day, checking his condition from time to time to see if he would have any more movements.

The good news was that they had really seen William's fingers move slightly, indicating that he was gradually recovering his stress response to the outside world. He might open his eyes and regain consciousness anytime soon.

But when Cheyenne saw Lucas's bloodshot eyes, she felt a trace of heartache.

Over the past few days, Lucas had been guarding William's ward and getting very little sleep. Moreover, whenever there was some movement at night, he would immediately wake up.

If this went on, his body probably wouldn't be able to take it anymore by the time William woke up.

"Hubby, don't sleep in the hospital tonight. Go home and accompany Amelia! We've been so busy lately that we've almost neglected her."

This was because they had to stay with William in the hospital recently. And Charlotte had also been busy with many affairs of the Stardust Corporation, so she could usually only spare an hour or two to visit William at night.

Amelia had been under Grace's care during this period of time.

Although Grace was very nice and got along well with Amelia, children liked to cling to their parents after all. So they felt sorry toward Amelia for failing to accompany her during this period of time.

Cheyenne's heart ached for her daughter and her husband.

Lucas hesitated without saying anything.

At the side, Karen's eyes lit up when she heard this, and she hurriedly said, "That's right! Lucas, it's useless for you to stay in the hospital every day, and you're not a doctor anyway. Cheyenne and I can watch him here. If not for the fact that hospitals aren't suitable for children to stay for long periods of time, I would have asked you to bring her here!"

Lucas's dark eyes turned over, and he stared at Karen expressionlessly, immediately causing her to panic and lower her head.

She was afraid that he would see through her thoughts.

But after looking at her, Lucas suddenly nodded and said to Cheyenne, "Okay, then I'll go home to stay with Amelia today and come back tomorrow morning. I'll leave all the matters in the hospital to you. Call me if there's anything."

Cheyenne smiled gently. "Okay, I'll take care of everything here. Don't worry! Go home and keep Amelia company. Take a good rest too. Look at how tired you are."

Lucas nodded and got up to leave the ward.

Behind him, a burst of ecstasy surged on Karen's face.

She had been painstakingly waiting for two days, and finally, the fiendish monster Lucas was going to leave!

Tonight was the perfect opportunity to act!

A scheming gaze appeared in her eyes, but she didn't notice the cold contempt at the corner of Lucas's mouth before he left.

Once she peeked through the window and saw that Lucas had really left, Karen let out a huge sigh of relief, and her whole body became relaxed as if it was she had broken free from shackles.

She crossed her legs and sat on the bed beside William's. Every now and then, she would instruct Cheyenne to peel fruits and pour water for her or go out and buy snacks for her.

But Cheyenne didn't pay attention to her.

When Karen was about to lose her temper, she met Cheyenne's calm eyes.

“Mom, I am here to take care of Dad, and I think you should be too. If you just want me to serve you here, you’d better go home instead,” Cheyenne said coldly.

“You!” Karen was furious, but she couldn’t say anything more. In the end, she remained sitting and muttered, “Hmph, I’m your mother, but I can’t even get you to do something. I’ve raised you for nothing!”

Cheyenne continued to act as if she hadn’t heard her.

Since the incident two days ago, Cheyenne had been feeling extremely disappointed with Karen.

Cheyenne couldn’t bring herself to talk to Karen without any hard feelings.

Furthermore, she couldn’t let Karen stay in the ward alone.

Soon, it was evening.

After they finished the takeout, Cheyenne continued to sit by William’s hospital bed and started talking to him as usual.

After sitting for a while, Karen quietly dropped a small white pill into Cheyenne’s glass of water when she didn’t notice.

There was only a slight ripple on the surface of the water, and soon, the small pill sank to the bottom of the glass, slowly melting away and vanishing.

Chapter 582: The Killer Appears

After Cheyenne finished talking to William, she picked up the glass of water on the bedside table beside her and started drinking some water.

Karen stared straight at Cheyenne without blinking at all. Only after watching Cheyenne finish downing the half-filled glass of water did she feel relieved. A trace of joy appeared in her eyes.

Soon, Cheyenne began to feel extremely drowsy.

She yawned loudly and took a look at the time. It wasn’t 10 p.m. yet.

“Strange, why am I feeling so sleepy today...” Cheyenne muttered to herself, and soon, she yawned again.

“...” Karen didn’t say anything and instead lay down on the bed to pretend to sleep.

She knew that Cheyenne was on guard against her, and if she told Cheyenne to go to sleep earlier, it might arouse suspicion and cause Cheyenne to be wary instead.

Indeed, Cheyenne was extremely sleepy. When she saw that Karen was already asleep, she went back to her bed. Almost as soon as she rested her head on her pillow, she drifted off. She was in such a deep sleep that she probably wouldn't even wake up if someone yelled into her ear.

Only then did Karen get up and glance at Cheyenne, who was already fast asleep because of the effects of the drug. She then walked toward William's bed.

"William Carter, oh, William Carter, my opportunity is finally here! But don't blame me for this. If you must, you should blame yourself for making me suffer with you. You asked for this!

"Moreover, as long as you die, no one will ever get in my way again, and no one will know that Cheyenne Carter isn't my biological daughter!"

With a menacing expression, she grabbed a fluffy pillow and pressed it onto William's face.

Since William's condition was improving day by day, he didn't need an oxygen respirator anymore.

At this moment, the door of the ward suddenly opened with a loud creak!

"Who is it?!" Karen was so frightened that she jumped out and screamed in horror. She even dropped the pillow in her hands onto the floor.

A doctor wearing a white coat and a surgical mask on his face was standing at the door, with both his hands pushing a cart that had some syringes, drugs, and other equipment.

"I'm a doctor, and I'm here to give an injection," the man who came said succinctly and then pushed the cart into the ward.

"What? It's already so late. Why is there a sudden need for an injection?" Karen complained with displeasure.

Karen was extremely upset because the doctor who suddenly barged in had almost witnessed her attempt to kill William just now.

The doctor ignored her and instead used a syringe to draw up a drug contained in a small vial and walked toward William to give him an injection.

"Stop it!"

Just as the sharp needle was about to be inserted into the vein of William's hand, someone suddenly grabbed the doctor's wrist firmly, stopping him.

"Lu-Lucas?!" Karen shrieked.

She never thought that Lucas would suddenly appear in the ward and grab the doctor's wrist!

Why did he suddenly come?

Didn't he already go home to be with Amelia long ago?

How did he suddenly appear here?

A wave of horror immediately surged in Karen's heart.

But even more shocked than her was the doctor, whose wrist Lucas was grabbing tightly.

"What are you doing? Don't hinder me from administering an injection for the patient." The doctor's eyes flickered twice as he spoke, forcing himself to stay composed.

Lucas looked at him and suddenly sneered. "Who are you?"

The doctor continued calmly, "Can't you see that I'm the doctor here? Let go."

Lucas ignored him and continued holding his wrist to stop him from moving. Lucas smirked and mocked, "You're a doctor? How come I don't know that there's someone like you in the hospital? Moreover, why does my father-in-law need an injection at night? And why is the injection being administered by a doctor instead of a nurse? How do you explain these loopholes?"

In the Orange Coast Medical Center, there was a clear division of duties between doctors and nurses, and there were precise times for ward inspections and injections.

The masked 'doctor' in front of him had suddenly walked into the ward at such a late hour and said he wanted to give William an injection. It was really bizarre, regardless of how Lucas looked at it.

Lucas had actually quietly returned to the hospital early in the morning.

The reason he promised Cheyenne to leave the hospital in the evening was actually to give Karen a chance to make a move.

He knew all along that Karen hadn't given up and was instead constantly trying to find an opportunity to make a move against William again, so he left as she wished for the

time being. If his guess was right, Karen would definitely seize this rare opportunity to take action against William tonight.

But Lucas hadn't expected another person also targeting William to appear suddenly at the critical moment when Karen was about to make a move.

It was really quite a coincidence.

After hearing Lucas's question, the 'doctor' in the white coat knew that he had been exposed. He immediately picked up a small sharp scalpel hidden in the cart and swung it at Lucas without hesitation.

Whoosh!

The trail left behind by the glint of the scalpel shone brightly as it was swung toward Lucas!

The 'doctor' was actually a killer with quick and agile reflexes!

An ordinary person would probably be stabbed by the killer before they could even react in time.

But Lucas obviously wasn't one.

He stepped back and turned to the side to dodge the sharp blade swinging at him.

Immediately afterward, Lucas grabbed the killer's hand and pulled it violently away from William.

He was naturally much stronger than the killer, and with this tug, the killer felt as if his wrist bones were about to be torn apart.

But this wasn't all. Before the killer could stand still, Lucas kicked him in the gut.

Bang!

The killer's body suddenly flew up high and slammed against the wall on the opposite side before rolling down, landing on the couch below, and bouncing onto the floor.

"Aaaahhhh!" He opened his mouth and cried in misery. The slam almost made him pass out, and the pain was so immense that he could barely utter a single word.

Just as he was about to brace his body to get up from the floor, Lucas's tall body appeared in front of him again and stepped on his chest with one foot.

Lucas looked at him from above and asked coldly, "Tell me. Who are you, and who sent you here?!"

Chapter 583: The Hitman Confesses

The mask on the hitman's face had fallen off, revealing a menacing face full of indignation. "You... I advise you to behave yourself and let me go. Otherwise, you will know what happens!"

Lucas's eyes constricted. Without hesitation, he stepped on the hitman's arm, instantly crushing it.

Snap! The crisp sound of bones cracking was exceptionally distinct in the silent ward.

"Aaahhh!" The killer immediately widened his mouth and screamed.

But Lucas moved extremely swiftly as he stepped on the hitman's mouth with the sole of his shoe and warned, "Shut up! If you dare to make another sound, I'll crush your head!"

The hitman's eyes were immediately filled with panic and horror. He clenched his teeth and burst into cold sweat, but he didn't dare to utter another word.

After the brief encounter just now, he had already profoundly understood that the young man in front of him was not someone he could deal with.

He knew that Lucas was extremely resolute and ruthless. If he dared to disobey him, he would end up miserable!

"Now, tell me honestly. Who sent you?" Lucas stood with his back against the light and his face shrouded in shadows, looking just like a devil.

The hitman's heart trembled, and he didn't dare to hide at all. He hurriedly revealed everything he knew. "It was Mr. Kairo who sent me. I'm one of his subordinates, and he asked me to come to this hospital ward in Orange County to kill a bedridden man in a vegetative state!"

"Who is Mr. Kairo? Also, you're not from Orange County?" Lucas asked.

The hitman hurriedly explained, "Yes, we... we are from LA. Mr. Kairo is in charge of the underground joints in LA, and all the underground dealings are under his control! I-I'm just his subordinate, and I was just following his orders. Please spare me!"

LA? Lucas raised his eyebrows, not expecting the hitman to actually be from LA. This probably meant that the mastermind who hired him should also be from LA.

Now that the Parkers, the most powerful family in LA at the moment, had already completely submitted to Lucas, the various other forces and families shouldn't have the guts to openly go against him.

But because this was yet another assassination targeted at William, a woman's face immediately surfaced in Lucas's mind.

Although there was no concrete evidence yet, Lucas was almost certain that this matter had to be related to her!

The murderer at his feet was still begging for mercy, annoying Lucas to the point of kicking him in the head and knocking him unconscious.

Afterward, Lucas said softly to the door, "Someone, come here."

Two tall men immediately appeared at the door of the ward, walked up to Lucas with their eyes fixed in front, and bowed. "Mr. Gray."

These two men were the experts of the Hale family who Lucas had arranged to guard William's ward.

He had long known that Karen had ill intentions, so he definitely had to be prepared. How could he let Karen be alone with Cheyenne?

So even though Lucas had left for a short while, the situation in William's ward was under Lucas's control at all times.

First, he wanted to monitor Karen, and second, he wanted to secretly protect William and Cheyenne.

"Take this man away and make him vanish forever," Lucas said coldly.

"Yes!" The two men immediately acknowledged and swiftly carried the hitman away.

It had only been less than three minutes since the sudden appearance of the hitman.

Karen watched all of this with her eyes full of confusion, and she couldn't stop shivering at all.

Karen's nerves were greatly impacted and stimulated by Lucas's combat abilities, as well as the expression on his face when he stomped on the hitman's arm without hesitation.

What does it mean to make that person vanish forever?

Does that mean killing him?

Karen's teeth began chattering.

At the same time, an unprecedented fear and tension rose in her heart.

Lucas actually appeared here all of a sudden, and he even had someone guarding outside the door...

If the hitman pretending to be a doctor hadn't suddenly appeared just now, the person who would have been exposed for attempted murder now would be her!

The thought of what she would have faced if she had really gotten caught by Lucas made Karen so scared that she could barely even stand on her feet, and she slumped down onto the floor.

"You... you..." she stammered, seemingly wanting to ask Lucas why he had suddenly returned and wanted to explain to him that she hadn't done anything to William.

Lucas glanced at her coldly and ignored her. He walked to Cheyenne, and after hearing her breathing peacefully, he finally felt relieved.

When he saw Karen lacing her drink with something just now, he had felt a strong desire to kill her.

But he knew that Karen had merely added some strong sleeping pills to her drink, which wouldn't be harmful to her health. So he forced himself to hold back instead of exposing Karen immediately.

Since they were just sleeping pills that wouldn't harm Cheyenne's health and would even let her have a good rest for the night, Lucas decided to allow Karen to continue.

Otherwise, if Karen had fed Cheyenne some harmful drug, Lucas wouldn't have let her off!

He took out his phone and made a call.

"Go investigate a person named Kairo in LA. He just sent his subordinate to the hospital to assassinate my father-in-law. Pry open his mouth and find out who instigated him," Lucas instructed coldly.

The person on the other end was astonished, and he hurriedly exclaimed, "Yes! I'll send someone to investigate immediately!"

After hanging up, Lucas sat down at the end of Cheyenne's bed and waited quietly for the news.

Karen waited for half a day, but she didn't see Lucas doing anything else. Only then did she get up from the floor in fear and return to the bed quietly.

But at this moment, she was overwhelmed with anxiety and uneasiness.

Had Lucas questioned her, she could still make up some excuses and muddle through. Since she didn't succeed in killing William earlier, Lucas wouldn't be able to blame her for anything.

If he had to blame something, he could only blame the fact that she hadn't realized the phony doctor's trick. After all, she was nearly fifty years old, and it was only understandable that she failed to see through his facade.

Karen kept giving herself psychological prompts to calm herself down. Only then did she feel slightly less flustered.

But Lucas didn't say anything or ask her any questions. Instead, he remained sitting calmly, quietly putting Karen under massive psychological pressure.

It felt as if there was a knife hanging above her head, but she didn't know when it would fall.

Time passed, and Lucas's phone suddenly rang.

Karen was startled to see Lucas answer the phone and directly press the loudspeaker.

Soon, a man's voice came from the other end. "Mr. Gray, I've just found out clearly. Kairo's subordinate confessed that the person who sent him to kill your father-in-law is Justin Heron from LA!"

After hearing Justin's name, Karen was so shocked that she suddenly stood up from the bed with a pale face, her heart pounding rapidly.

She now finally knew that Justin had hired the hitman to help Nikki!

Chapter 584: Great Change Late At Night

Karen should have been glad to learn that Nikki had really sent someone to deal with William as she had wished.

Well, only under the premise that the hitman had gotten the job done.

But the situation now was that the hitman had tried to harm William but failed to do so and instead got caught by Lucas. He might even very likely end up dying.

How could Karen possibly be happy in this situation?

She was now incredibly terrified!

Since Lucas had now found out that Justin was behind this, he might easily find out the deal she had made with Nikki!

In the past, Karen would probably still think that Lucas wouldn't dare to do anything to her because she was Cheyenne's mother. But now, Cheyenne was gradually getting out of her control while Lucas...

Just recalling the scene of him stepping on the hitman's arm and crushing it with a straight face just now made Karen completely convinced that he definitely dared to lay a hand on her or even kill her!

When she thought about this, her face became extremely ugly, and she wished she could immediately escape.

The person who brought the news to Lucas was none other than Damon, the head of the Parkers.

Lucas had long guessed that the person who sent the hitman was Nikki.

Damon's investigation had to confirm his suspicion.

Lucas ordered through the phone, "I believe you should know what to do. I hope the Herons will completely disappear from LA, and I want you to get rid of that person called Kairo too. From now on, manage the underground businesses of LA for me. Don't do anything to Justin Heron's daughter, Nikki, just yet. Leave it to me."

"Yes, Mr. Gray. I will obey your orders and get everything settled before tomorrow morning!" Damon promised.

Since the phone was on loudspeaker, Karen undoubtedly heard his voice too.

Damon Parker?

The person calling Lucas is actually Damon Parker, the head of the top family in LA?!

Karen was shocked, and she almost couldn't believe it. But she had indeed heard Damon's voice during Dylan Turner's wedding previously, which was almost exactly the same as the one coming from the phone's speaker just now!

It seemed that the person on the other end was undoubtedly Damon.

The most frightening thing was that the high and mighty head of the Parker family was like an underling in front of Lucas, bowing down and obeying his orders. This was what frightened Karen the most!

Why? Why is it like this?

Has my son-in-law already become more powerful than the Parkers from LA?

She couldn't believe it at all. But the truth was right in front of her, so she had no choice but to believe it.

Overwhelmed with massive fear, Karen shuddered and tiptoed toward the door.

She was terrified!

She was desperately trying to stay as far away from the hospital and the damned Lucas as possible.

"Where are you going?" An icy cold voice suddenly filled the air in the quiet ward.

Karen froze during her attempt to sneak out.

She chuckled twice and said extremely unnaturally, "I... I-I just want to go to the restroom!"

After saying this, she felt incredibly nervous and wretchedly walked into the restroom in the VIP ward, moving her hands and feet at almost the same time.

Staring at her flustered back, Lucas sneered silently.

Karen was petrified and wanted to flee, but he obviously wouldn't let her get what she wanted.

If he let Karen flee just like that, he would not only be letting her off easy, but he also wouldn't be able to explain it to Cheyenne.

Sitting beside Cheyenne's bed, Lucas stared at her face while she was in a deep sleep. He gently moved away the few strands of hair on her face.

She was the person he loved the most in this life.

He chose to tolerate Karen's offensive behavior only because of Cheyenne.

But Karen had now repeatedly tried to kill William, Cheyenne's father, and Lucas wouldn't allow it.

It was destined to be a chaotic night.

It was almost 11 p.m.

In the villa of the Parker family in LA...

Damon, who should have fallen asleep long ago, was now sitting in the hall and giving instructions to a few of his subordinates. "You must carry out these two tasks immediately. You must take care of them before dawn!"

"Yes, Mr. Parker!" The few men immediately acknowledged the orders and retreated.

Damon rubbed the middle of his brows, feeling extremely displeased with both the Heron family and Kairo for offending Lucas.

"Hmph, they're just a small family that can't even be considered a second-tier family. There's also a pretentious gang leader who only took over because his predecessor died. How dare they try to harm Mr. Gray's father-in-law? They really don't know any better!"

In a gold mine under LA...

Although it was already midnight, a time when most people in the city had gone to sleep, the place was still brightly lit and lively.

After scanning the place, Kairo, the owner of the place, returned to his most comfortable and luxurious private room, where he lay down comfortably on a large bed.

There were two beautiful women with incredible figures sitting beside Kairo, serving him fruit and wine. From time to time, they would let him take liberties with them.

One of the women fed him a grape with her mouth and then asked smilingly, "Mr. Kairo, your business is getting bigger and bigger. Now, the situation in LA has changed. The Brookes have long been annihilated, the Owens have just been destroyed, and the Parker family is the only tyrant left. Mr. Kairo, don't you want to take advantage of the opportunity to get a large slice of the pie?"

Kairo narrowed his eyes and said in disdain, "Tyrant of LA? Is the Parker family worthy of that?"

The other beautiful woman laughed. "Yeah, it's just a mere Parker family. Their reputation means nothing. I bet they're no match for you at all, Mr. Kairo! You've just been keeping a low profile. You're rich and resourceful, and you have so many subordinates. Just send a few, and you'd be able to kill the Parkers!"

"In my opinion, you're being too kind, Mr. Kairo. If you take action, there's nothing we wouldn't be able to do. It'd be more appropriate for you to be the most powerful man in the city!"

Kairo was overjoyed to be showered with praises, and he pulled the beautiful woman into his chest. He started groping her while saying, "Hahaha, baby, you're really good at talking! Indeed, as long as I want to, all of LA will belong to me. The Parkers mean nothing at all!"

The two of them immediately embraced each other.

Not wanting to be left out, the other beauty quickly chimed in, "You're right, Mr. Kairo. The Parkers will bow down to you and be at your disposal one day!"

Kairo laughed and held the beauties in his arms with great pleasure.

Bang!

Suddenly, the door of the luxurious private room was kicked open, and a group of people instantly swarmed in.

Startled, Kairo immediately cursed, "Where did you dogs come from? How dare you barge into my exclusive private room? Are you blind?"

"Mr. Kairo? Hah!" Among the people who barged in, the leader, a middle-aged man dressed in a dark gray suit, sneered and pulled out a gun from his waist. He pointed it at Kairo's head and said, "Soon, you'll just be a dead man!"