

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

- Chapter 585 – 616

The Herons Are Doomed

Chapter 585: The Herons Are Doomed

The moment they saw the pistol, the two beautiful women in Kairo's arms immediately screamed and rolled toward the corner of the room.

Kairo was also so frightened that his heart started beating wildly. But he tried his best to suppress his fear and pretend to be calm. "Who exactly are you people? The rules are that you should report your name to me first!"

His heart was filled with maniacal rage. This was his territory, and the people outside should be his subordinates. Why did they let this man barge into his room and point a gun at his head?

Once I survive this, I'll skin all of those idiots!

"You don't need to know who we are. You just need to know that this is the outcome you deserve for offending Mr. Gray!" the middle-aged man said coldly, then he moved his fingers and pressed the trigger.

Bang! With a single gunshot, a bloody hole appeared between Kairo's eyebrow, and crimson blood instantly gushed out of it.

"You—!" Kairo didn't even have time to say his last words before he fell backward and onto the ground.

In the last moment of his life, his eyes were full of bewilderment and shock, as he simply couldn't understand when he had ever offended someone and invited such life-ending trouble.

At the same time, a commotion caused by a bunch of panicking people came in from outside the room.

A short while later, all of Kairo's men were arrested by the Parkers.

Those who had committed lots of evil and killed numerous people had all been gotten rid of. The rest of the subordinates and underground businesses under Kairo's control had been taken over by the Parkers.

The entire process probably took only around three hours.

The arrogant and obnoxious Kairo still couldn't figure out the difference between the Parkers and him.

In the Heron residence in LA...

Although it was almost midnight, Nikki had yet to fall asleep.

Reason being, Justin had already agreed with Kairo's subordinates to take action tonight and murder William. So Nikki was now waiting in her room and anxiously waiting for the news.

Whoosh!

At this moment, her window was suddenly pulled open from the outside, and a tall figure dashed in like a phantom and leaped at Nikki.

"Ah!" Nikki was frightened and screamed tersely. Before she could dodge, the person covered her mouth, rendering her unable to speak.

"Ooo...!" Her eyes widened in horror, and she struggled with all her might. But soon, she was smacked on the neck by a hand. Nikki's eyes rolled backward, and she passed out immediately.

When Justin heard the commotion, he realized that something was wrong and charged into Nikki's room, only to discover that Nikki was nowhere in sight. The room was empty, and the only movement came from the curtains fluttering next to the open window.

"Nikki! Nikki! Where are you?!" Justin rushed to the window and yelled loudly. But Nikki had long been taken away, so how could she answer him?

Justin's heart immediately sank.

Although his relationship with Gretchen was extremely strained, he cared a lot for Nikki, his only daughter.

Now, after he heard his daughter's shriek and discovered that she had completely vanished, the nervous panic in his heart was imaginable.

Gretchen had also heard the commotion and immediately ran up from downstairs. She asked anxiously, "What's wrong? What happened? Did something happen to Nikki?"

She also ran into Nikki's room. When she saw that the room was empty, she immediately realized that something had happened and yelled at Justin like a madman. "Where's Nikki? Where is she now? What exactly happened? Tell me quickly!"

Justin impatiently pushed her away and scolded, "Shut up! Shut up!"

He was more worried about his daughter than anyone else, but what was the point of kicking up a fuss like a shrew?

He glowered at Gretchen and took out his phone to call Robert.

"Dad, Nikki has just been abducted from home. Send someone to find out immediately who the person who did it was!" he said anxiously.

At this critical moment, only Robert's resources and wide network of connections could allow him to find Nikki.

When Robert heard the call, he flew into a rage and hollered in exasperation, "What did you say? Nikki has been abducted when she was at home? This is outrageous! Did you guys offend some big shot outside that you can't afford to mess with?"

Justin hurriedly denied, "Dad, we really didn't offend anyone! Dad, please find someone to help me think of a solution! Nikki is my only daughter and your only granddaughter! If we don't find her soon, things will only get worse!"

Robert was furious, but he couldn't leave his only granddaughter unattended. After hanging up, he immediately gathered all his subordinates and planned to find some friends with good resources to help him find Nikki.

But at this moment, his phone suddenly rang again.

The abrupt ringing of the phone was especially ear-piercing in the middle of the night.

For some reason, Robert's right eyelid suddenly twitched twice, as if he had an extremely bad premonition.

Sure enough, when he answered the call, panicked yelling immediately came from the other end. "Mr. Heron, it's not good! Something has happened to the Heron Corp!"

Robert's heart tensed up, and he shouted anxiously, "What the hell happened?! Hurry up and give me the key points!"

“Yes! The bank just called and said that our company’s debt risk rating is too high, so they want to immediately withdraw all the previous loans. They also demanded that we pay them back by tomorrow! It’s a total of more than forty million dollars in loans. How can we possibly get this much cash at the moment?”

“Also, the company’s business department managers suddenly received several emergency calls from our former partners claiming that there are problems with the quality of our products. They even asked us to compensate according to the contract amount!”

“In addition, the deputy director of our finance department suddenly turned himself in and claimed that we forced him to fabricate accounts to evade taxes! Now, people from the IRS have barged into the Heron Corp’s finance department to seize all our accounts!”

The general manager of the Heron Corp. immediately reported all these things to Robert.

Any one of these pieces of terrible news was enough to shake the company greatly or even cause it to go bankrupt.

But now, such devastating news actually hit them one after another!

Robert felt his head buzzing, and he plunged straight to the ground.

“Chairman!”

“Mr. Heron!”

All of a sudden, everyone shouted, and the Herons fell into chaos.

Chapter 586: Heartwarming Moment

The long night ended just like that.

The light of dawn slowly illuminated the world and awakened the city sleeping in tranquility.

In the hospital, Lucas’s phone suddenly rang.

Karen was pretending to sleep on the bed. But in fact, due to her immense tension and fear, she couldn’t even sleep for a single minute. Her body immediately tensed up as soon as she heard the phone ring.

He casually pressed the answer button and turned the speaker on again.

"Mr. Gray, I have carried out all your instructions! Kairo is already dead, and the Herons have suffered a tremendous blow. They'll definitely go bankrupt today. Robert Heron is so furious that he's already been hospitalized, and the rest of the Herons are all just like headless flies overwhelmed with panic. Nikki Heron has already been brought to the Parkers' and imprisoned. Do you need me to send someone to Orange County?" Damon's voice was full of excitement.

Apart from the last time, when he was at the Kingston manor in San Francisco, this was probably considered the first task that Lucas had given him, which he had now already completed perfectly.

Lucas praised him calmly, "You've done a good job. Keep that woman behind for now. You can't let her be at ease."

Damon was overjoyed to receive Lucas's affirmation, and even his voice became even more excited. "Yes! Mr. Gray, do you have any other orders now?"

Lucas said, "No, I'll call you again if it's necessary. Go get some rest."

Then he hung up and glanced at Karen, who was pretending to sleep.

At this moment, Karen was cowering under the sheets and shivering.

Lucas's call just now was played out loud on the loudspeaker, so she could hear it clearly.

After hearing the news that Kairo had died and the Herons had ended up in such a miserable state, Karen was so frightened that she broke out in cold sweat.

Her greatest fear now was being betrayed and implicated by Nikki!

Moreover, if this matter was exposed, she would probably end up in a horrible state since the Herons were already in dire straits.

Now, she would no longer be naive enough to think that Lucas would continue to let her off.

What should I do? What should I do? What should I do?! Karen was screaming frantically in her head, but she couldn't come up with a solution at all.

She was just a housewife who didn't have any knowledge and whose family was a family of farmers. She didn't know any powerful people, and they had long been disowned by the Carters. Moreover, the Carters were already in decline now, and there was no way they could help.

The only person with decent connections that Karen was acquainted with was her sister Gretchen's in-laws, the Herons.

But the Herons were now on the verge of bankruptcy, and Robert had already been hospitalized. Nikki had also been abducted, so she couldn't count on her at all. She might even end up getting affected.

Who could save her now?

While Karen was feeling the fear of being on the verge of death, Lucas looked at her and sneered without saying anything.

Indeed, he had deliberately turned on the loudspeaker so that Karen could hear the conversation.

He reckoned that she must be horrified after hearing about the Herons' tragic situation.

The psychological pressure of having a sharp blade hanging over her head but not knowing when it would drop was even more torturous than the physical trauma.

This was the punishment she deserved for attempting to kill others as she pleased!

When the sun rose high in the sky at daybreak, Cheyenne finally woke up leisurely at nine in the morning.

She rubbed her eyes, looked at the time on her phone, and immediately shrieked as she sat up in shock. "Oh my god, it's actually already so late?!"

She had always followed a regular schedule, where she would go to bed at about 11 p.m. every night and wake up at 6 a.m. every morning, so she was naturally extremely startled.

In particular, she remembered that she had gone to bed before 10 p.m., which was very early.

In other words, she had slept for nearly 12 hours!

Lucas walked over with a cup of warm milk and a sandwich. He placed them on the bedside table next to her bed and smiled slightly. "Did you get enough sleep?"

Cheyenne glared at him. "Why didn't you wake me up earlier?"

Lucas smiled. "You've been really tired lately. How could I bear to wake you up?"

Cheyenne suddenly felt a little embarrassed. She secretly glanced at Karen, who was on the bed on the other side, and whispered, "What are you talking about? Aren't you afraid of others hearing you?"

But her deep slumber was due to the effect of taking strong sleeping pills after all, so even though she had slept for more than ten hours, she still felt a little dizzy and exhausted.

Lucas said with some heartache, "Does your head hurt? Let me rub it for you."

He sat behind Cheyenne and pressed his hands on her head.

Cheyenne was amazed. "You... actually know how to give a massage?"

"Yes, I learned a little bit before. Maddy taught me. But I've rarely tried it." Lucas smiled and began to rub and press the acupuncture points on Cheyenne's scalp regularly.

She could clearly feel herself getting more rejuvenated after the massage. The heavy feeling just now had already vanished, and the dizziness and fatigue were almost gone.

"Hubby, you're amazing! I really feel much better!" Cheyenne exclaimed in surprise, all smiles.

Lucas smiled warmly.

While the couple was interacting, Karen couldn't stay any longer.

She secretly got out of bed and scurried away like a little girl when she noticed that Lucas was ignoring her.

Karen finally heaved a sigh of relief when she ran to an unoccupied lawn under the hospital inpatient wing.

All of last night was a huge torment for her!

She took out her phone and immediately called Nikki.

Karen was desperate to find out if Nikki had really been taken away, as Lucas had claimed.

Until now, she still had a glimmer of hope that the phone call Lucas answered had been deliberately made to deceive her.

If this was the case, she probably still had a chance.

But even after she called several times in a row, no one answered.

Karen's heart immediately sank.

Chapter 587: Too Late To Regret

Nikki didn't answer the phone for a long time, but Karen refused to give up and called Gretchen.

As soon as the call connected, a voice said urgently before Karen could speak, "Karen! I was going to call you. Something terrible has happened at home! Nikki was taken away last night! We haven't found her yet! Karen, you must help us! Nikki is your niece!"

Karen turned pale immediately.

Nikki had really been abducted!

This meant that the phone call Lucas received was indeed from Damon, the head of the Parkers!

On the other end, Gretchen continued, "Karen, are you going to help me or not? Say something!"

Karen's heart was in turmoil at this moment, and she stammered, "I... I'm just a... a weak woman who has no power or influence. I really want to help you, but I can't!"

"No, Karen, you can! Isn't your son-in-law very powerful? He knows a lot of people, including the head of the Coles from San Francisco! If you ask him to help contact those bigwigs and ask them to look for Nikki, we'll definitely find her soon!"

Gretchen immediately promised, "You're my biological sister, so you must help me! If Nikki is found, I will definitely go to Orange County to thank you properly!"

When Karen heard Gretchen say she wanted her to go to Lucas to ask for help, her face turned even paler.

She really wanted to tell Gretchen that the daughter she was trying to find was taken away by Lucas's subordinate, and it would be just a dream to find him to get his help.

But out of fear for Lucas, Karen didn't dare to say this to Gretchen at all.

She could only continue to make perfunctory excuses. "Gretchen, it's not that I don't want to help you. But... you also know that my relationship with Lucas is terribly strained, and we usually don't speak to each other at all. Even if I go beg him, do you think he will help me?"

"You're his mother-in-law. Do you think he will really dare to disobey you if you ask him to do it? I bet you just don't want to help me, right?" Gretchen said furiously.

Karen was extremely irritated too. If Lucas didn't dare to disobey her, she would have become the queen calling the shots in the family by now. Why would she still be staying here with trepidation and fear, afraid that he wouldn't forgive her after learning the truth?

She thought about it and asked, "Gretchen, aren't the Herons very powerful too? The Heron Corp. has a lot of connections in LA too. Didn't you guys activate your connections?"

At the mention of this, Gretchen began to get even more worked up. She cried and exclaimed, "The Herons... the Herons have fallen! We're going to go bankrupt today, and my father-in-law has collapsed and been sent to the hospital. Who would be willing to help us when we're down?"

"How... how did this... happen?" Karen murmured.

But she recalled Lucas's conversation on the phone with Damon just now.

"The Herons have suffered a tremendous blow. They'll definitely go bankrupt today. Robert Heron is so furious that he's already been hospitalized, and the rest of the Herons are all just like headless flies overwhelmed with panic..."

She felt all her strength drain away, and even the phone she was holding in her hand was as heavy as a thousand pounds, so much so that she could barely lift it.

It was all done by Lucas...

The Herons, the family whom her sister had married into and left her green with envy, was destroyed overnight...

What kind of terrifying strength is this?!

The more Karen thought about it, the more petrified she was. She wished she could hang up right now and escape from the hospital, the farther, the better.

On the other end, Gretchen continued crying, "Karen, there's no one else I can go to for help now. You must help me! Nikki is my only daughter! Please help me beg Lucas. As long as he agrees to help, he will be able to get Nikki back soon! When the time comes, your family will be our great benefactors!"

Karen was obviously not going to be convinced. She could barely protect herself now, so how could she possibly help Gretchen?

"Hello? Hello? Gretchen, can you still hear me? Why is the signal so bad? Hello? I can't hear anything. What's going on?" Karen deliberately pretended to act a bit before hanging up.

In case Gretchen called again, she decided to turn off her phone.

After hanging up, Karen stood alone on the lawn as numerous thoughts ran through his mind.

At this moment, she really regretted it.

If she hadn't hired someone to hit William with a car, she wouldn't be in this situation now.

If she hadn't kicked up a fuss with Lucas and her daughters at the villa, she wouldn't have been dragged outside by William.

In fact, if she could have been nicer to Lucas before, she would still be his mother-in-law now and live a luxurious villa gloriously.

Why did I become like this?

Karen thought about all the things that had happened in the past six months and finally came to the conclusion that it was all Lucas's fault!

Yes, it's all your fault! If you hadn't deliberately pretended to be poor and incompetent in front of me in the first place, how could I have treated you that way?

You're obviously really wealthy and powerful, but you refused to say anything. If you had said something, I definitely wouldn't have been so harsh and mean toward you. I wouldn't have looked down on you, and things wouldn't have gotten to the point they are today!

So all of this is your fault! Lucas Gray!!!

Karen gritted her teeth, her expression distorting with resentment.

If she got the opportunity, she would definitely make Lucas die a horrible death!

In a hospital in San Francisco...

In a superior-class ward on the top floor of the inpatient wing, Marc was lying in bed with a dull gaze, not saying a word.

The crushed parts of his calves had been gradually showing signs of deterioration.

Ever since Moses confidently went to the airport two days ago to invite Maddy but ended up failing, Marc had been lying motionless in bed, not even wanting a bite of food. He seemed to have lost his drive for life.

But if someone came close to him and wanted to talk, he would immediately turn into a depressive maniac and roar curses like a madman.

Therefore, in the past few days, the doctors and nurses didn't dare to approach him unless it was necessary for medicine or injections.

"Marc, don't be like this. You'd better eat something. You haven't eaten for two days. How can your body stand it?"

"I'll definitely find a better doctor to treat you. I'm sure I can cure your legs! But if you don't eat or drink like this, it'll cause too much damage to your body. Even if we find a good doctor, it'll be pointless because your body can't take it. Don't you agree?"

"Come, I'll help you up. Have some chicken soup. This was your favorite when you were a child."

Moses carried a bowl of chicken soup over, placed it on his bed, and tried to help him up.

"Get lost! Just get lost! I don't need you to care about me!" Marc flew into a rage and slapped Moses's hand away.

Chapter 588: Mandatory Amputation

Marc's eyes were so dark and deep that they seemed bottomless. He said sorrowfully, "You keep telling me that you will definitely find a better doctor to cure my legs, but where's the doctor? Have you found one yet? Don't talk nonsense in front of me if you haven't!"

"You know what? The more you say that, the more miserable I feel!"

"All you do is say some nice things to me, but that's completely useless! Two days ago, you told me that you would definitely bring that medical expert Dr. Stone back to treat me, but you couldn't even get this little thing done properly. You're a good-for-nothing!"

"I don't have a good-for-nothing father like you! Get out of here immediately! I don't want to see you at all! Get lost now! Scram!!!"

Marc cursed hysterically, and his movements were so vigorous that he strained the injuries in his calves, causing him to feel an excruciating pain that made him even more frustrated and livid. In a fit of anger, he flipped over all the things on the bedside table, including the piping hot bowl of soup, scattering them all over the floor.

A trace of bitterness and pain appeared in Moses' eyes. But when he saw his son being in pain, he couldn't bring himself to lash out at him. All he could do was remain silent.

Yes, he's right. I'm indeed too incompetent to hire a good doctor. That's why his legs can't be treated.

I'm really... such a failure!

Hearing the loud commotion coming from the ward, the few nurses outside didn't have the slightest trace of surprise in their eyes because they had already become accustomed to it over the past few days.

At this moment, a doctor in a white coat walked over, knocked on the open door, and said to Moses, "Mr. Kingston, I have something to discuss with you. Please come out."

Moses walked out the door and closed it. "What's the matter?"

The doctor let out a long sigh and said with a grave expression, "I have to inform you that the injuries on Marc's legs are extremely serious, and the best option for him now is amputation. But... In short, there's a severe infection in his legs, and his wounds have already become red, swollen, and inflamed. There are also signs of ulceration, and there has been necrosis in many tissues. No amount of antibiotics will help now.

"Hence, we can't continue to delay any longer. We have to carry out the amputation of his legs immediately in order to save his life. Otherwise, once all kinds of infections and complications occur, even God can't save him!"

The doctor's words were like a heavy hammer that immediately made Moses dizzy.

It took several seconds for him to register what the doctor said and react to it. "What... what did you say? You said that my son has to undergo amputation immediately, or else his life will be in danger?"

He couldn't believe it at all. He grabbed the doctor's collar and shouted in anger, "You quack! Didn't you tell me two days ago that you could save my son's legs once we got a good doctor here?"

The doctor was strangled to the point of being unable to breathe. He hurriedly protected his neck with his hands and said softly, "I-I did say that, but things are different now. Mr. Kingston's legs were just injured a couple of days ago, so if Dr. Stone had come over immediately, there was indeed a possibility that he could have been cured!

"However, the... situation has already changed because we've already missed the best treatment time for Mr. Kingston. The injuries in his legs are getting more and more serious, and there are already signs of serious infection. At this juncture, even the best doctor can't do anything to help!"

Moses was dumbfounded, and all that was running through his mind was 'we've already missed the best treatment time'.

He let go weakly, feeling as if all the energy within him had been drained. He took two steps back until he reached the wall. Only then did he barely keep his body straight.

"Doctor, is there really no other solution?" he asked with reddened eyes, as if he was making a final prayer.

The attending doctor sighed and said regretfully, "I'm very sorry, Mr. Kingston. If there were another solution, I would have definitely told you about it. Alright, please make a choice as soon as possible!"

Then he straightened his crooked collar and sighed as he left.

Moses leaned against the wall in silence, his heart filled with self-reproach and remorse.

If he had been mellower to Maddy at the airport the other day and spoke to her nicely instead of attempting to take her away by force, she would probably have rushed over to help with the treatment.

After all, she could head over from Orange County quickly.

At worst, they could have arranged for people to send Marc to the hospital in Orange County, where he could have been treated by Maddy.

That day, he had met Maddy first, and if he could have negotiated with her beforehand, Maddy probably wouldn't go back on her word once he begged her nicely, even if Lucas was displeased.

That way, he wouldn't have offended Maddy or provoked Lucas.

His son's legs might have also been saved then.

Moses was full of remorse.

If he could turn back time, he wouldn't have used such a silly method as to try and leverage on the Kingstons' power and money to compel Maddy.

However, it was too late to say anything now!

Now, he only had two options, or rather, he was left only with one option.

His son's legs had to be amputated!

Moses was in so much misery that he felt as if his heart was about to bleed.

He knew that Marc had always been extremely proud and arrogant. Once his legs were amputated and he became disabled, it would definitely be a massive blow to him!

The thought of his son's appearance after the amputation made Moses's heart clench.

But since things had come to this, it was his only option.

He took a deep breath and thought about how to talk to his son about this matter as he turned around with a solemn expression and pushed the door of the ward open.

But what he saw in the ward made his pupils abruptly constrict and his heart almost stop beating. He shouted in shock, "Marc, what... what are you doing?!"

In the ward, Marc, who had been lying on the hospital bed, was now sitting on the sill of the open window, and the wind was blowing in from outside, causing his hair and hospital gown to flutter.

Seeing this scene, Moses got even more frightened. His son could be blown downstairs by the wind at any time.

"Son, you... quickly come here. If you want to enjoy the scenery, I'll accompany you to go outside and watch the scenery every day once you recover, okay?" While speaking in a mellow tone, Moses slowly approached Marc.

Moses sneered. "Once I recover? Now that things have come to this, you're still lying to me! I heard everything the doctor just said you! The doctor said that my only option is to get an amputation immediately, or I'll die, right? Now, you're thinking about how to tell me about the amputation, right? You're a liar! What else can you do other than lie to me?!"

The more he spoke, the more agitated he got, and toward the end, he was hollering.

Chapter 589: Jumping To His Death

Moses's heart twitched. When he saw his son being in pain and agony, there was nothing else he could do except to comfort and deceive him.

"Son, you must have misheard just now. The doctor told me that there's still hope for you! Don't worry. No matter what, I will bring in the best doctors to heal your legs! When the time comes, you'll still be my proudest son and the Kingstons' most outstanding descendant!

"After I take over the family, I will definitely pass the position of helmsman to you in the future as well!

“Even if your legs have to be amputated now, you’ll forever be my favorite son! In the future, you can also have prosthetic limbs installed. Besides, we have money, and the Kingstons hold so much power too. You can continue to live without worrying about food and clothing!

“In short, you must not do anything stupid!”

Moses persuaded him earnestly while gradually moving closer and closer to Marc.

No matter what, he had to calm Marc down before pulling him down from the dangerous window.

However, Marc obviously discovered what Moses was thinking.

“Stand still! Stand there and don’t move! If you take another step forward, I will jump down immediately!” Marc suddenly yelled.

“Fine, fine, I won’t move!” Moses immediately stopped and looked at Marc with a pleading expression. “Son, calm down and quickly get down! You’re still so young, and you have plenty of time in your life.

“Just take it that I’m begging you to come down quickly! You’re my only son. If you die, what will I do in the future? Can you bear to leave me? If you’re gone, who will I pass my position to even if I take over the Kingstons in the future?”

Marc’s expression changed, and he seemed to be somewhat touched by Moses.

As soon as a trace of joy appeared in Moses’s eyes, Marc suddenly said, “Dad, I don’t believe a single thing you say at all! I have plenty of time in the future? Nah, I’ll be a crippled good-for-nothing from now on. What life is there left for me to enjoy?

“As for the Kingstons, I’ve been expelled from the family a long time ago. How can I still go back to the Kingstons? Besides, Grandpa has more than one grandson apart from me. You’re not his only son either. What makes you think that you can become the head of the Kingstons?

“Look, I’ve been lying in the hospital for a few days now, and not a single member of the family has come to see me. Not a single one! They no longer see any value in me because I’ve already been kicked out of the family, and I’m now just a wastrel with crippled legs!

“In the past, they all treated me with respect and were polite to me. But what about now? Hah! You’re just deliberately trying to say some nice things to cajole me!”

Marc’s words were like needles stabbing into Moses’s heart.

Indeed, in the past, even if Marc had just caught a cold, the Kingstons would panic and show him endless concern. They would ask him if he needed medicine and treat him like a precious gem.

But now that he had been hospitalized for a few days with severe injuries in his legs, not a single one of the Kingstons had come to see him. The drastic difference in attitude had caused Marc, who had always been proud and arrogant, to suffer a huge blow.

“Son, don’t be too anxious. If they refuse to come, it’s because they’re blind and lack a conscience! One day, I’ll become the head of the family, and when the time comes, you’ll still be the scion of the Kingstons who no one will look down on!” Moses said with great sincerity.

Marc looked at him and suddenly grinned widely. “Dad, thank you.”

But he soon looked at his gauze-covered legs with his eyes full of resentment. “But I’d rather die now than remain crippled for the rest of my life!

“Dad, I’ll repay you for raising me in my next life!”

With that, Marc abruptly leaned back and plunged down the building like a kite with a broken string.

“No! Son!” Moses dashed toward the window and reached his hand out to grab Marc. But his hand only touched a thin corner of his clothes and failed to grab anything. He could only watch as Marc fell from the 28th floor!

Almost in the blink of an eye, it was as if time had stretched into countless years.

Finally, Marc’s body landed on the cement ground at the bottom of the 28th floor and formed a pool of blood.

“My son!” Moses screamed as tears rolled down his cheeks.

Soon, the news of Marc’s death immediately spread throughout San Francisco.

The celebrities and upper class circle were definitely no stranger to Marc’s name.

After all, he had been a direct descendant of the Kingstons, a top family in San Francisco, and also the most valued scion. Almost everyone knew that he had had a high possibility of being directly appointed as the next helmsman of the family. Within San Francisco, he had been the top scion whom no one had dared to provoke at all.

Yet such a famous big shot had died just like that!

“What’s going on? I heard that Marc Kingston committed suicide by jumping off a building in the hospital. What happened?”

“We don’t even know why he was in the hospital, so how could we possibly know how he died?”

“Hey, speaking of which, I do know a little bit of inside information! I heard that just two days ago, the Coles and several large families from LA and Orange County suddenly all went to the Kingstons’ place together. I heard that there seemed to have been some kind of conflict. After those people left, Marc was immediately conveyed to the hospital!”

“Seriously? Does that mean Marc was at home when he got beaten up and sustained injuries? Someone dared to beat up a direct heir of the Kingstons on their turf? That’s crazy. If that’s really the case, how come I haven’t heard any of the experts mentioning it?”

“You’re silly. Since the Kingstons have been hiding this news, they’ve very likely been defeated! Otherwise, with the Kingstons’ style, they would have long killed people to warn others!”

“In that case, Marc really jumped off the building after getting beaten into a pulp? That’s really strange! I bet the Kingstons will definitely not let go of those families from Orange County and LA now that Marc is dead!”

Numerous powerful families in San Francisco were discussing this matter.

Of course, some people had gotten close that day and heard some of the inside story.

But in order to avoid getting into trouble, they were smart enough to keep their mouths shut and didn’t say anything.

At this moment, Moses, who was full of grief and anger, brought Marc’s corpse directly back to the Kingston manor and barged into Lance’s room.

“Dad, Marc is dead! Someone must pay the price for this and sacrifice his blood to Marc!”

Moses’ eyes were brimming with hatred.

Chapter 590: Flames of Revenge

Lance frowned and blatantly refused without almost any hesitation, “No, I know you want Lucas Gray dead, but you can’t touch him!”

He glared at Moses coldly, “You should also know that he isn’t an ordinary person. Putting aside his relationship with the Huttons from DC, he came to the Kingstons’ a few

days ago to kick up a huge ruckus, killed our people, and put the Kingstons to shame. Why do you think I let him off in the end?

“Let’s not talk about his connections and relationship to the Coles, as well as the other wealthy or powerful families in Orange County and LA. His combat abilities alone are overpowering. What do you think we can do to him? I reckon you haven’t forgotten how Scarface, our top expert, got killed by him without even getting the chance to put up a fight!”

Moses said indignantly, “No matter how good his reflexes and combat skills are, he’s still just one person! We can hire a top expert, or maybe we don’t even have to fight with him openly. We can assassinate him, poison him, or take hostages…”

“Enough!”

Before he could finish, Moses shouted to interrupt him.

“What you said may indeed work, but there’s also a high probability of failing outright! Once you provoke him but end up failing to kill him, all the Kingstons will be exterminated! Our current feud is not fundamentally irreconcilable. Do you want all of us to die together with Marc?”

Moses stared at his father for several seconds before suddenly saying with a mirthless smile, “I get it. You just think it isn’t worth going against Lucas Gray for Marc’s sake!”

With a sarcastic smirk, he turned around to leave without saying anything else.

Since you won’t help him take revenge, I’ll do it personally as his father!

Moses strode away with maniacal hatred burning in his eyes.

In the hospital in Orange County...

After giving William an acupuncture session as usual, Maddy put away all the gold needles.

Cheyenne looked at her father’s still tightly shut eyes and couldn’t help asking worriedly, “It’s already the third day of treatment. When will my dad wake up?”

Maddy knew that Cheyenne was worried about William and not questioning her medical skills because Cheyenne would subconsciously ask her this question almost every single time after every treatment session.

She said with a confident smile, "Don't worry. According to his pulse and the data from various instruments, the level of activity in Uncle William's body and neural circuits have improved significantly. He'll probably wake up in the next two days."

"Uh, we still have to wait another two days?" Cheyenne felt slightly dejected, but she soon realized that her words seemed wrong.

She smiled. "Look at me. I had a slip of the tongue once I got anxious! Actually, I'm really happy. If not for your incredible medical skills, Maddy, my dad's condition would be much worse than it is now. He might have never woken up again in this lifetime. We just have to wait for two days, and yet I'm saying that it's too slow. It seems I'm too greedy!"

Lucas smiled faintly. "You're just too worried about William's condition. People often say that a day feels like a year when you're waiting. If you consider it like this, you still have to wait for almost two years, so of course you'd be a little impatient!"

"Haha, that's true." Cheyenne spit out her tongue embarrassedly.

Maddy laughed along and winked at Lucas.

It was rare to see Lucas coaxing his wife!

The three of them seemed rather relaxed, but Karen could only laugh awkwardly, almost unable to hide her fear and horror.

Two days. I only have two days left!

And within those two days, William might wake up anytime. This is the most terrifying thing!

Now, she was spending every single hour looking for an opportunity to get rid of William, this ticking time bomb. Unfortunately, she couldn't find any opportunity to do so.

Yesterday, she had easily created an opportunity for herself by making Cheyenne slip into a deep slumber with sleeping pills. But that accident suddenly happened just as she was about to take action.

Fortunately for her, the hitman Justin hired had hindered her plan and even got caught by Lucas. Otherwise, she would have been the one caught!

Karen spent the entire day brainstorming about what other solutions she could use, but she hadn't been able to find any. She was so vexed that she almost pulled all her hair out.

At this moment, Maddy suddenly asked Lucas, “Oh, right, didn’t you say previously that your friend’s mother is also staying in this hospital due to kidney failure and that you’d like for me to take a look at her condition?”

She was referring to Grace’s mother, whom Lucas had mentioned to her in the last two days.

Lucas nodded. “That’s right. Her mother just had a kidney transplant a short while ago, but she’s feeling very feeble now, and her recovery isn’t going too well. So I’d like for you to help take a look and see if you can think of a way to help her get better.”

“Oh, she just had a kidney transplant? The likely reason for her unideal recovery is tissue rejection or other inflammatory reactions. Okay, I’d better go take a look at the patient’s condition before considering anything else!” Maddy said readily.

Lucas looked at Maddy gratefully. “Thank you very much, Maddy! I’ll take you to her ward right now.”

Then Lucas explained to Cheyenne what he was going to do with Maddy, and then he brought Maddy to Grace’s mother’s ward.

All of a sudden, Cheyenne and Karen were the only ones left in the ward.

Opportunity!

This was the only word running through Karen’s mind as she quickly thought about how she should take action.

Of course, the first step was to get Cheyenne out of the ward.

If she directly instructed Cheyenne to leave to do something, Cheyenne would probably be immediately alarmed, so she could only think of another solution.

After thinking about it, she suddenly walked toward Cheyenne and placed peeled pistachios in front of her.

“I remember you used to like eating these things. I didn’t have anything to do just now, so I de-shelled them for you. Eat up!” she said with a look of love.

Cheyenne glanced at her with a subtle gaze in her eyes. After a while, she said, “Mom, you and Charlotte are the ones who like eating nuts. I’ve never liked them.”

“Uh... Oh, is that so? I might have remembered wrongly then. I’m sorry, Cheyenne!” Karen said awkwardly.

She rarely paid attention to what Cheyenne actually liked or disliked. Besides, Cheyenne would always happily accept all the things she gave her, so Karen didn't know that she didn't like it at all.

In fact, Karen didn't actually de-shell the pistachios for Cheyenne.

She was so nervous just now that she had subconsciously deshelled them mechanically non-stop without remembering to eat them.

She had wanted to use this to please Cheyenne but to no avail. It was a huge mistake!

Chapter 591: Taking Action Again

Karen's eyes moved about, and tears immediately streamed down her cheeks.

"Cheyenne, I just realized today that I'm really not a good mother. I haven't been showing you enough concern, and I don't even remember what you like and what you dislike. I've really failed as a mother!"

Her tone was extremely miserable.

Cheyenne's expression changed, but she stayed by William's side without making a single sound.

Karen continued, "In fact, I now feel that humans are really complicated. Sometimes, you might not be able to achieve what you wish. You're my firstborn. And from the moment I gave birth to you, I thought that since I've finally become a mother, I must be good to my daughter in the future and let her become the happiest little princess in the world!

"But later on, I somehow slowly began to become more mercenary, perhaps because our family's financial situation wasn't ideal. I just wanted to get as much money as possible. As time passed, I slowly began to become more calculative and mean. But I completely forgot that the reason that I wanted to get more money was so that I could provide you with a better life.

"Now that I think about it, it's really ironic! I clearly wanted to be a good mother and treat you well, but I ended up forgetting what I wanted in the first place and instead ended up becoming such an uncaring mother who failed in her duties.

"Cheyenne, even if you hate me now, it doesn't matter at all because this is all my doing. It's all my fault!"

At this point, warm tears began streaming down Karen's cheeks, and she was sobbing to the point of almost being unable to speak.

Cheyenne was really shocked.

She had always seen Karen crying and arguing with others like a shrew in front of her, but it was the first time she saw Karen being so emotional.

There were no fancy words in her speech, but it was these ordinary words that suddenly made Cheyenne feel even more touched.

She had never known that Karen, who had always been vulgar and malicious, would have such pure thoughts when she first became a mother.

In an instant, Cheyenne burst into tears and eventually reached her arm out to wrap it around Karen's shoulder.

"Mom, I don't hate you. But... I can't relax because of Dad. That's why I..." All of a sudden, she was at a loss for words.

The fact that Karen had once tried to harm William had already become a thorn in her heart.

So when she thought of the panic on Karen's face that she couldn't hide that day, Cheyenne couldn't treat Karen the same anymore.

Karen wept and said, "Cheyenne, I know you still bear a grudge against me, but I can swear that I've never wanted to harm your father! The only time that happened, I was really forced into it! At the time, I already thought about it. Once your father... passed away, I would die together with him. It'd be fine as long as you and Cheyenne are alright.

"But I really regret it now. Had I known that you and Lucas could resolve my trouble with the Taylors, I wouldn't have let them threaten me!

"I'm indeed innocent. If you don't believe me, you can ask your father when he wakes up!"

Karen was crying pitifully with tears and mucus all over her face.

Cheyenne finally gave in and wiped her face clean with a piece of tissue. While sobbing, she said, "Yes, I get it. But Mom, I may believe you now, but let me make things clear beforehand. If I one day find out that you've lied to me and betrayed my trust, I won't show you any sympathy."

Cheyenne was no longer the silly Cheyenne who would listen to everything Karen said.

She could now make her own judgments and had her own beliefs. It was impossible even if Karen wanted to try to guilt-trip her with their mother-daughter relationship.

After Karen heard what Cheyenne said, a trace of anger appeared in her eyes, but her face was affectionate. "Don't worry, Cheyenne! Anyway, your father will wake up in the next two days. When the time comes, everything will be revealed, and I will be able to clear my suspicions!"

Looking at her mother, Cheyenne felt a trace of guilt. *Was I... a little too cold and harsh to Mom? No matter what, she's my mother who gave birth to me and raised me!*

At this moment, Karen wiped her tears and said to Cheyenne, "It's getting late. I'll go out to get some food and buy you some tonic and supplements too. You've become so thin after staying by your father's side every single day."

She got up to walk out.

But for some reason, just as she took two steps, she suddenly fell to the side. "Ah!"

Cheyenne hurriedly reached out to help her and asked with concern, "Mom, what's wrong? Are you okay?"

With a look of agony, Karen clutched her neck and inhaled sharply. "I-I seem to have sprained my ankle. It hurts!"

Cheyenne was startled and hurriedly said, "Mom, sit still and don't move. Fortunately, we're still in the hospital. I'll ask a doctor to come over to take a look at your ankle or at least bring some medicine to reduce the bruising and swelling."

After helping Karen onto the bed at the side, she ran out of the ward with a worried expression.

Cheyenne didn't know that a smug and ruthless look appeared on Karen's face as soon as she dashed out of the ward worriedly.

Finally, she was left alone in the ward again!

Her efforts to pull the sympathy card and even pretend to sprain her ankle in front of Cheyenne just now didn't go in vain.

Karen stood up and walked to William.

They were in the inpatient department, and Cheyenne was running about to look for a doctor to treat Karen's injury. But she would have to go to the outpatient department to find a doctor and then bring the doctor over. The entire process would take at least ten minutes.

This was more than enough for killing William!

But to do it without leaving traces and arousing suspicion was very difficult.

Should I try to suffocate him to death with a pillow like last time?

Or hit him on the head with some blunt object? Or maybe with something sharp...

No, no, no, none of these seem feasible. Besides, we're now in the hospital. If the cause of his death is too obvious, it'll definitely be investigated and found out quickly.

What... exactly should I do?

Karen's mind was in a whirlwind, and the more critical the juncture, the harder it was for her to come up with a good solution.

Creak!

Suddenly, the door of the ward opened from outside.

Cheyenne walked in gleefully, followed by a doctor in a white coat.

"Why are you back so soon?!" Karen immediately shrieked.

Chapter 592: There's A Voice Recording

Karen had expected Cheyenne to take at least 20 minutes to bring a doctor over from the outpatient wing.

But Cheyenne actually took only less than two minutes to return!

At this moment, Karen was astonished. She was also extremely thankful that she hadn't committed to her action just now. Otherwise, Cheyenne would have caught her, and she would be dead meat then!

"Mom, why are you standing there? I told you not to move around just now!" Cheyenne immediately walked over and helped Karen sit down by the bed.

She explained smilingly, "I was lucky enough to run into Dr. Stevens, so I asked him to come here. If you need any medicine later, I'll go get it."

"Ha, so that's what happened! Indeed, we're very lucky." Karen chuckled wryly.

Dr. Stevens entered and checked Karen's ankle.

Although Karen said that it hurt, there was neither redness nor swelling, much less any misalignment. It was just an ordinary ankle twist, and there weren't any major issues.

"There are no major issues with your mother's ankle. She just has to rest here for a while," Dr. Stevens said calmly.

"It's not serious? Doesn't she have to apply some medicine or something?" Cheyenne asked worriedly.

Dr. Stevens looked at Karen. "That's not necessary. Maybe your mother has a low pain tolerance, but there's actually no major issue at all."

Karen's expression was a little unnatural as she hurriedly said, "There really doesn't seem to be any major issue with me! I think that I might have suddenly sprained my ankle, so I received a great shock! Haha, Cheyenne is just really filial, so she immediately looked for a doctor when she saw that I had twisted my ankle. Sorry to have embarrassed myself in front of you, Dr. Stevens!

Dr. Stevens smiled. "It's okay as long as there is no major problem with you. I'll get going now then."

Then he left the ward straight away.

Cheyenne saw the doctor out and thanked him several times before returning to the ward and asking, "Mom, does your ankle still hurt now?"

"Uh... it seems much better than before. It basically doesn't hurt anymore." Karen pretended to move her ankle a few times and then took a few steps.

Cheyenne sighed in relief. "I'm relieved then!"

But she didn't notice that Karen was even more relieved than her.

I was so close!

I was so close to being discovered!

Fortunately, she had managed to give herself an out, thanks to her wits!

When Karen turned around, she raised her hand to wipe the cold sweat on her forehead from fright.

But at the same time, she also made up her mind. She probably wouldn't be able to kill William!

Every time she wanted to make a move against him, various incidents would crop up, be it intentional or not.

Including the three failed attempts before this, William had experienced five assassinations in total.

The first assassination was the violent car accident, which strangely didn't kill William but only turned him into a vegetable. Moreover, it was very likely that he might wake up within two days.

The second time, she had tried to remove William's oxygen tube but was interrupted by Cheyenne, who hadn't fallen asleep.

During the third and fourth times, Karen had been hindered by the hitman disguised as a doctor, who had been sent by the Herons. In the end, the hitman had failed and had been tortured by Lucas.

Today, it was already the fifth time. She had tried to look for an opportunity to kill him. But before she could take action, her plans had been foiled by the doctor who had come early.

Even though Karen wasn't a superstitious person, she couldn't help wondering if William was being protected by some entity.

Why is he always so lucky? Karen was indignant, but she was really terrified too.

Today, she had already found the best opportunity. But she reckoned that even until William woke up, she wouldn't be able to find another chance to take action.

So she decided to run away immediately before William woke up and escape as far as possible!

She wouldn't mind escaping to another state either!

In short, she didn't want to see the fiend Lucas ever again!

After resting patiently for a while, Karen said, "My ankle is fine now, Cheyenne. I'll go out to get something."

Seeing that Karen could walk properly, Cheyenne said, "Alright, go ahead. Be careful on your way, and watch out for cars on the road."

"Yes, yes, I got it!" Karen agreed perfunctorily before picking up her purse and scurrying out of the hospital.

First of all, she would return to the lousy apartment William rented and hide all the jewelry, bank cards, and other valuables in her suitcase. She would then think of a way to return to the lake villa to get more things...

While Karen was letting her imagination run, someone stood in front of her to hinder her from leaving.

Caught off guard, she almost collided into this person. She stopped and immediately glared at him. "Who are you? Don't you have any eyes? Can't you see that there's someone in front of you?"

The person who stopped in front of Karen was a middle-aged man in his fifties.

He didn't mind Karen's vicious words and instead asked directly, "You must be Ms. Karen Turner, right? I have a wonderful plan I want to work on with you. I think you will definitely be interested."

The visitor seemed very sure of himself.

Karen's first reaction was that she had met a conman, and she immediately yelled, "I don't have any money, and I don't want to invest in anything. You'd better find someone else! I'm busy now! Don't get in my way!"

With that, she wanted to walk around the strange middle-aged man.

"Ms. Turner, if you leave just like that, I bet you will definitely regret your decision in the future because what I have in my hands will land you in prison and keep you behind bars for the rest of your life!" The gloomy voice of the middle-aged man sounded.

Karen stopped in her tracks and was instantly terrified.

"You... What nonsense are you babbling about? I... I don't know what you're talking about!" Karen naturally denied it.

The middle-aged man took out his phone and waved it in front of Karen. "Don't worry. I think you will definitely change your mind after listening to this recording I have."

He clicked on the audio of a recording on his phone.

"Craig, you should know very well that you don't have long to live and that your daughter has also been diagnosed with cancer and requires a lot of money for treatment! Anyway, I've already told you that I have fifty grand here. Although it's not much, I'm afraid you won't be able to earn that much money even before you die!

"I will give you this money now to cure your daughter. You just need to use your life to do this one matter for me. I think you're smart enough to know what to choose!

"Surely you don't want your daughter to die at a young age, do you? Besides, it's not like I need you to do this. If you don't agree, I will go to someone else..."

“Okay! I agree! But you have to promise to give me the fifty grand in cash!”

“Okay, it’s a deal then!”

The recording only had the voices of a man and a woman, but Karen’s face was already terribly pale.

She never thought that the conversation between her and the driver she had hired to assassinate William would end up in the hands of a complete stranger!

Chapter 593: Agreeing to Cooperate

“Wh-who exactly are you? How did you get this?” Karen’s body was trembling, and her face was as pale as a sheet.

The middle-aged man looked at her, and the corners of his mouth curled into a sinister smile. “Of course, Craig recorded this to protect his interests. Everyone thought that his cell phone was damaged in the car accident, but it actually wasn’t. Even though it’s an old phone, it can be sold for a small sum of money.

“So before Craig used his life to work for you, he sold the phone to a junk dealer at the entrance of the alley for thirty bucks. I just happened to buy the phone from this junk dealer and naturally got hold of the recording in it.”

Karen felt as if her world was spinning.

She hadn’t expected Craig, whom she thought had died without evidence, would leave behind such deadly evidence, and it would actually fall into someone else’s hands.

In this way, the evidence of Karen hiring a murderer landed in the hands of the middle-aged man in front of her. No matter how she defended herself, it would be useless!

Karen was so furious and scared that she was about to faint.

“Don’t panic yet. I didn’t say I would send you to jail now. I said that I’m here to cooperate with you,” the middle-aged man said at the right time.

“Wh-what cooperation?” Karen asked apprehensively after hearing the keyword.

“I want you to work with me to kill Lucas Gray!” the middle-aged man suddenly said with a menacing expression, his eyes filled with anger and killing intent.

“What?!” Hearing this, Karen was astonished!

She had originally thought that this middle-aged man who suddenly appeared wanted to use the recording, which was evidence of her crime, to threaten her to do something untoward or to extort money from her.

However, she never expected this man would have the same agenda as her!

“Why? Did he offend you too?” Karen blurted.

The middle-aged man’s face was covered in gloomy killing intent. “Yes, my only son was killed by him, so I must kill him to avenge my son!”

Euphoria surged in Karen’s heart! Wonderful! Indeed, there’s always a way out!

She had long hated Lucas to the core, and the reason she had conspired with Nikki to kill William was to ultimately kill Lucas.

But William kept getting saved, and she hadn’t been able to kill him at all. Instead, she had even made Lucas suspect her, leaving her with no choice but to flee far away.

If this middle-aged man is willing to help, then...!

But Karen didn’t become overwhelmed by the surprise. If Lucas could be killed so easily, she wouldn’t have gotten herself into such a situation now.

Besides, she didn’t even know the identity of the middle-aged man. How could she rashly agree to cooperate with him?

In case it failed again, she really wouldn’t have the chance to flee at all.

After thinking about it, Karen immediately rejected with righteous indignation, “Since you know me and Lucas, you must know that he’s my son-in-law. What makes you think I would cooperate with you to kill my own son-in-law?”

The middle-aged man sneered. “Karen, since I was able to find you, it means that I know everything about you. You should know that I’m well aware if you and Lucas Gray get along harmoniously or if you two are at odds, so drop the act in front of me!

“I’ve known for a long time that you hate him so much that you even wish you could kill him with your own hands, but you haven’t been able to find a way to do so, right?”

“I have to remind you once more that when I say I want to cooperate with you, I’m not giving you a choice but instead just informing you. If you’re not willing to listen, then this recording in my hand will immediately be sent to Lucas Gray! You should know very well what will happen to you then!”

Then he took out his phone and waved it in front of Karen’s face to threaten her.

Karen's eyes were fixed on the phone, and her heart tensed up.

As the middle-aged man said, he had evidence against Karen, so there was no way she could negotiate with him!

"Okay, I'm willing to cooperate with you! But afterward, you must destroy the recording and not save any backups!" Karen gritted her teeth and revealed her only condition.

The man agreed without even thinking, "Of course. Don't worry. I'm not interested in you at all. I just want to kill Lucas Gray and avenge my dead son!"

"..." Karen remained silent. Fine, him not being interested in me is better than him targeting me for no reason.

The middle-aged man was none other than Moses Kingston!

Ever since his son Marc committed suicide by jumping off a building this morning, he was about to break down.

He had gone to Lance to seek justice for his son, but Lance had refused without hesitation.

Moses was completely disappointed. Now, he couldn't be bothered to care about the family interests. His only purpose was to make Lucas die alongside his son!

If not for Lucas crushing Marc's calves, how could Marc have faced amputation and jumped to his death as a result?

The culprit was Lucas!

So after identifying his target, he immediately began to investigate the situation around Lucas.

He then looked at two people around Lucas.

Karen was an important tool.

This was why he had deliberately come here to cooperate with her.

Although Karen agreed to this middle-aged man's request, she wouldn't feel carefree just because of it.

"We do share a common goal to kill Lucas, but I think you should know that if Lucas could be killed that easily, I would have gotten him killed long ago!"

“So, what’s your plan? If you’re trying to get me to help you kill Lucas, then you’d better change your mind as soon as possible,” Karen hurriedly said.

She was now really worried that the middle-aged man would force her to kill Lucas by using methods such as poisoning him when he didn’t have his guard up.

If so, she could never do it.

Lucas was extremely vigilant, and he would never fall for her trick.

Moses shook his head slowly. “No, I want you to do something else. Leave it to me to kill Lucas Gray! I want to kill him with my own hands and use his blood as a sacrifice for my son!”

Hearing that he didn’t intend for her to kill someone but to help with something else, she immediately heaved a sigh of relief and asked with some doubt, “Then... what exactly do you want me to help you do?”

With his eyes full of hatred, Moses slowly said, “I want you to hand Lucas Gray’s daughter to me, and then I’ll use her as bait to kill him!”

2

Chapter 594: Make A Choice

“What? You... you want me to bring Amelia here and hand her over to you?!” Karen was astonished.

She would have never thought that Moses wanted her to do this!

Although... Cheyenne was not her biological daughter, and she even hated her at times because of some reasons, Amelia...

No matter what, she had watched Amelia grow up since she was a baby and had even been Amelia’s grandmother for years!

Besides, Amelia was still young, obedient, and adorable...

Karen was not entirely an unfeeling and ruthless woman.

Although she had always wanted to kill Lucas and William and would occasionally bully Cheyenne, she had never wanted to kill Cheyenne and Amelia.

If she really brought Amelia out to Moses, the small and pretty little girl would definitely die.

She... she really couldn't bring herself to do such a thing!

"No! It's okay if you want me to do something else, but... but Amelia is my granddaughter after all. Even if I hate Lucas Gray and desperately want to kill him, I can't harm a five-year-old child!" Karen refused in a flustered manner.

Moses was a little surprised to see this.

He didn't expect this foolish woman, who was crazy enough to want to kill her husband and son-in-law, would actually be softhearted for a moment and unable to bring herself to do such a thing.

"You seem to be misunderstanding something. I just want you to use her as bait to lure Lucas Gray out. I only want to kill him to make him pay for my son's life. Of course, I won't kill a five-year-old child. Once Lucas Gray is dead, I'll let her go immediately! How does that sound?"

He pretended to be nice and even promised not to harm Amelia's life, immediately causing Karen's originally firm heart to waver.

But she didn't see the ruthless killing intent flickering at the bottom of his eyes.

Hah, Lucas Gray killed my son and caused me to end up with no heir. How could I possibly let his daughter off?

So what if she's young? If she has to blame anyone, she should blame her damn father!

Using Lucas's daughter to threaten him was the best solution that Moses came up with after considering countless options.

After all, Lucas's combat skills were extremely terrifying, and he had witnessed them a few days ago at the Kingston manor.

So if he wanted to kill him, he could only think of another solution.

After thinking about it, Moses looked at Lucas's little daughter.

He had initially arranged for some people to take Lucas's daughter, Amelia, away from the kindergarten. But after they got there, they discovered that the security at the kindergarten was rather tight, and they couldn't find any loopholes at all. Moreover, it was in the downtown area, so even if they took her by force, it would be difficult for them to flee successfully.

So Moses immediately thought of the second person who he could use—Karen, Lucas's mother-in-law, who bore extreme hatred toward him.

Moreover, with her identity as Amelia's grandmother, she could easily bring Amelia away from the kindergarten.

Karen lowered her head without saying anything, clearly contemplating whether she could trust Moses's words or not. After all, even until now, Moses didn't reveal his identity.

Seeing how Karen was behaving, Moses snorted coldly and said in displeasure, "Don't forget. I'm not asking for your opinion. I'm demanding you do what I say! Otherwise, you can just wait for this recording to spread like wildfire!

"Remember, if you don't hand over Lucas Gray's daughter to me by six o'clock tomorrow night, I will make this recording go public. If you want to spend the rest of your life in prison, do as you please!"

With that, he threw a card with only a phone number on it to Karen. "That's my phone number. Call me once you've thought it over and made up your mind!"

Then Moses turned around to leave.

The thin card fluttered in the air before floating down and landing on the ground.

Karen thought about it but nevertheless gritted her teeth, bent over to pick up the card, and squeezed it in her hand.

At this moment, she felt extremely conflicted.

If she really took Amelia out of the kindergarten and handed her to him, she really didn't dare to guarantee that the man would let Amelia go in the end.

Reason being, he bore a grudge against Lucas for killing his son, and after seeing the hatred in his bloodshot eyes, Karen didn't think that he would be one to let his enemy's children off.

Thus, the result was obvious. If she really handed Amelia over to him, there was a 100% chance that she would die!

But if she didn't do as he said, Moses would expose the recording, which would put Karen behind bars for the rest of her life!

She was torn between her granddaughter's life and her own well-being for the rest of her life.

Karen was full of regret and stuck in a dilemma.

Had she known that she would be in such a dilemma, she should have...

However, no amount of regret was going to help now.

She had to choose between the two options!

...

Half an hour later, Karen returned to the hospital ward.

But she was empty-handed and didn't buy any food. She even looked rather disoriented.

"Mom, did something happen? Didn't you say you were going to buy some food? Why..." Cheyenne asked with concern.

"Huh? Oh, oh right!" Karen came back to her senses and remembered the excuse she had casually given to leave the hospital.

But at the time, she had wanted to take the opportunity to leave the hospital and just stay away from Lucas.

However, she now had no choice but to come back here again.

When she thought of the decision she had just made, she suddenly didn't dare to look Cheyenne in the eye.

She coughed twice to cover up and said, "Ah, maybe it's because I'm getting old, so I've become forgetful! I actually forgot about getting food after I went out for a walk!"

Looking chagrined, she patted her forehead.

Cheyenne quickly pulled her to sit down and smile. "Mom, you're not even fifty years old yet. You're not old at all. But I've noticed that you seem to be very tired and out of sorts lately. Lie down to have some rest!"

Cheyenne looked at the tiny crow's feet in the corners of Karen's eyes and suddenly realized that her mother, who had always been good at maintaining a youthful appearance, seemed to have suddenly aged a lot in just a few days.

She couldn't help feeling guilty.

Her father, William, had suddenly gotten into a serious accident, and Karen had also subsequently suffered several mishaps. She had even gotten abused by the Taylors.

But as Karen's daughter, she had been distrusting of her mother and had even kept her guard up against her, making an effort to keep a distance from her.

Cheyenne tried to empathize with Karen and thought that she had to be feeling miserable now!

After Cheyenne thought about it, her attitude toward Karen became less hostile, and she even talked to her about the interesting events that happened when she was a child.

But Cheyenne probably would have never thought that Karen had long decided to harm her daughter, Amelia!

Chapter 595: Abducting Amelia

Under Karen's intentional pleasing, she and Cheyenne spent a seemingly harmonious afternoon together.

Seeing that it was already past four o'clock and that Amelia was about to be dismissed soon, Karen began to get more and more flustered and nervous.

But once she thought of Moses's threat earlier, she didn't dare to hesitate any longer.

"Cheyenne, you have to keep your father company in the hospital every day now, and Charlotte is busy with work too. In that case, I'll pick up Amelia from kindergarten today!

"I haven't seen Amelia for a few days, so I'll bring her to see your father today. Maybe he'll wake up after Amelia speaks to him," Karen suddenly said with a smile.

Cheyenne was rather surprised.

Since Karen didn't know how to drive, she basically wouldn't take the initiative to pick Amelia up from kindergarten in the past.

"Mom, you can't drive. It won't be convenient for you to pick her up, will it? Grace has been helping us pick Amelia up in the last few days..."

At this moment, an extremely bizarre feeling arose in her heart, but she couldn't figure out the reason, so she could only say this.

When Karen heard Cheyenne's refusal, she panicked and hurriedly said, "It's fine. I can take a cab! I haven't seen her for a few days, and I really miss her. Besides, Amelia is a member of our family, so it isn't appropriate for us to bother an outsider all the time, right?"

When Karen saw that Cheyenne was still hesitant, her eyes rolled, and she immediately lowered her head, wiped her eyes, and said tearfully, "Cheyenne, don't you believe me? After speaking so much with you today, I realized that I haven't been showing you guys enough concern, so I'm trying to make it up to you as much as possible.

"I'm Amelia's grandmother, and since I rarely picked her up from kindergarten in the past, I want to perform my duty as her grandmother today!"

Toward the end, tears flowed out of her eyes and streamed down her cheeks.

When Cheyenne saw her eyes, she couldn't help being shocked and extremely guilty. *Mom has really repented. That's why she wants to treat us better. Yet I still view her in the same light as before. I really shouldn't have.*

"Mom, that's not what I mean. I just think that... this might be too tiring for you. But since you're going to pick Amelia up, of course I'll trust you."

Cheyenne took her hand and smiled gently. "I'll have to trouble you to pick up Amelia for me today then! Speaking of which, I haven't seen Amelia for a few days. I miss her too."

Karen was overjoyed. "No, it's not troublesome at all! I'm going to pick Amelia up now!"

Then she hurriedly ran out of the ward, fearing that Cheyenne would regret her decision and go back on her word. On her way out, she even tripped and almost fell because she was too nervous.

Seeing how excited Karen was to pick Amelia up from school, Cheyenne felt touched.

If Karen had changed and wanted to be a good mother and grandmother again, Cheyenne would be willing to treat her nicely again as long as she didn't go overboard.

Outside the hospital, Karen immediately took out the card in her pocket and then dialed the number on the card.

"Mr. Kingston, it's me. I'm leaving now to pick up my granddaughter from the kindergarten, so hurry up and send someone to the entrance of the kindergarten. I'll hand her over to you as soon as I get her." Karen looked around and lowered her voice, acting like a thief.

"Okay, I'm on my way!"

Only after hanging up the phone did Moses curl his lips and reveal a hideous smile.

"Lucas Gray, just you wait! Once your daughter dies too, you will understand my pain! I'll pay you back double for what you've done to me!"

Karen arrived at the entrance of Rainbow Kindergarten.

When she arrived at Rainbow Kindergarten, it happened to be about dismissal time.

There were many parents who had come to pick up their children at the entrance, and they lined up in an orderly manner. They were chatting with each other while looking at the entrance of the kindergarten.

When the bell rang, the kindergarten gates opened, and the children came out in a line, after which their parents flocked to them.

For a while, the entrance of the kindergarten was bustling with cars coming and going.

Karen squeezed into the crowd on her tiptoes and saw her granddaughter standing out among the group of little children. She hurriedly called out to her, "Amelia! Grandma is here to pick you up!"

When Amelia heard Karen's voice, a trace of surprise appeared on her little face. "Grandma! Are you here to pick me up today? I haven't seen you for a few days. I missed you so much!"

Although the kindergarten teacher hadn't seen Karen before, she decided to hand Amelia to her after witnessing their intimate interaction.

After the teacher completed the registration, Amelia immediately jumped to Karen's side, hugged her leg, tilted her little head, and exclaimed in delight, "Grandma, I'm really glad to see you today!"

Seeing her well-behaved and tender granddaughter hugging her leg, Karen felt a trace of pain flash through her heart. In fact, for a very brief moment, she couldn't bring herself to hand such a sensible and lovely child to Moses.

But once she thought of what would happen if she broke the agreement, her reluctance immediately vanished.

Even if Amelia was adorable and innocent, she was far less important to Karen than her own life.

She could only blame it on the fact that she had Lucas for her father!

Karen decided to be ruthless and held onto Amelia's hand. She said to her with a gentle expression, "Amelia, Grandma is also very happy to see you! Your mom and dad have been busy lately, so Grandma will take you to the theme park today, okay?"

Amelia's eyes lit up, and she immediately clapped her hands. "Yes! Last time Mommy promised to take me, but she was too busy!"

She pouted, seemingly complaining.

Karen smiled. "Since your mom didn't keep her word, let's go there and play first. When we get home, I'll scold your mother for you. How could she break her promise?"

Amelia smiled sweetly. "You're the best, Grandma! But Mommy treats me really good too. She's just been busy lately. Don't scold her, Grandma!"

"Okay, you call the shots." Karen was just trying to coax her, so she responded perfunctorily.

While talking to Amelia, she looked around and began to get restless and uneasy.

She had been waiting here for several minutes, and she was puzzled as to why Moses hadn't shown up yet.

Perhaps because she had a guilty conscience, she was now feeling incredibly uncomfortable, as if there were eyes on her back.

Since Moses hadn't appeared yet, she gradually began to feel uncertain, and she even had a vague, ominous hunch.

Amelia stood in place for a long time. Seeing that Karen wasn't moving, she was confused and raised her head to ask, "Grandma, why aren't we leaving yet?"

"What are you rushing me for?! Can't you see I'm waiting for a car?" Karen suddenly snapped angrily.

Amelia's body immediately stiffened, startled by the sudden rebuke, and tears instantly appeared in her large eyes. She wanted to cry, but she didn't dare to.

Chapter 596: Won't Let Off

Karen wasn't in the mood to pay attention to Amelia. And after waiting for nearly ten more minutes, she couldn't help taking out her phone to call Moses again. "What's the situation on your side? I've been waiting for you at the entrance of the kindergarten for ten minutes!"

On the other end, Moses's tone was extremely hostile. "I ran into some trouble along the way and got blocked! Just continue waiting for a while!"

Then he hung up.

Karen was so furious that she hurled vulgarities, but she had no choice but to obey Moses because he was the boss now. How could she possibly dare to retaliate against him or urge him?

“Who are you waiting for?” An extremely familiar male voice suddenly sounded in Karen’s ear.

Hearing this voice, Karen was so frightened that she suddenly sprang up and turned her head around as if she had seen a ghost in broad daylight. Her eyes widened in disbelief.

“Lu-Lucas?!”

God! How could this damn scourge suddenly appear here?

Karen didn’t expect to encounter Lucas at this time, and her heart almost popped out of her chest in fear.

As soon as Amelia heard this voice, her eyes immediately shone brightly, and she leaped toward Lucas. “Daddy!”

Her voice was brimming with surprise and a hint of aggrievedness.

Lucas squatted down, pulled her in his arms, and hugged her. “Amelia, I haven’t seen you for two days. Did you miss me these last two days?”

Amelia nodded heavily. “Yes, yes! Yes, I missed you so much, Daddy! I also miss Mommy and Aunt Charlotte! And Grandma and Grandpa! Daddy, when can we go home?”

She had been with Grace these past few nights, and although Grace was very nice, two days felt like months to Amelia when she was away from her parents and family.

Lucas kissed her little cheeks dotingly. “We can go home soon. When your grandfather recovers, we can go home as a family!”

At this moment, Lucas acutely noticed the undried tears staining Amelia’s eyes.

His face immediately darkened as he looked at Karen.

Karen was so spooked by his stare that she spluttered, “W-why are you here? I’ve already agreed with Cheyenne that I would pick Amelia up today.”

Lucas narrowed his eyes. “Is that so? But the kindergarten has been closed for more than twenty minutes, and you’re still standing here. Are you waiting for someone?”

Karen’s heart dropped, and she immediately denied, “No! Not at all! I’m just waiting for a cab. It’s really weird. I’ve clearly already called a cab. Why hasn’t it arrived yet?”

At this moment, Amelia suddenly said, "Just now, Grandma said she would take me to the amusement park! Daddy, are we still going?"

"The amusement park..." Lucas repeated word for word while staring at Karen.

Karen suddenly felt some weakness in her legs and almost went limp on the spot.

She had just said it to coax Amelia, and she knew that Lucas was definitely going to suspect her!

Her eyeballs turned, and she hurriedly denied, "Amelia, you heard wrong. I did say that I would bring you to the amusement park, but I meant later, not now! Now that your father is here, we definitely have to obey his arrangements!"

She had to deny it right now. Given how shrewd and smart Lucas was, she knew that he would definitely suspect something if she took Amelia out for fun without discussing it with Cheyenne and him!

Amelia immediately frowned and pouted. "Grandma, you clearly said that you'd take me there right now! I heard you very clearly, and you said that when we get home, you would teach Mommy a lesson for failing to keep her promise. But now, you're not keeping your promise at all! I'm going to ignore you for the rest of the day, Grandma. Hmph!"

Lucas glanced at Karen's panic-stricken face and shifty gaze. He sneered.

Karen was getting bolder and bolder!

He ignored Karen and said softly to Amelia, "Amelia, Mommy and Daddy are very busy lately, and we can barely make any time. Just forgive us this once. When Grandpa gets better in the next two days, we will immediately take you to the amusement park. We'll also take you to the zoo to see the elephants. How about that?"

Amelia thought about it and nodded obediently. "Yes! Daddy, you have to keep your promise!"

"Of course! Let's go to the hospital now to visit Grandpa, and you can talk to him. Maybe he'll immediately recover because he's happy!"

While speaking to Amelia, whom he was holding in his arms, he walked toward his Jaguar.

Karen gritted her teeth, but she could only bite the bullet and chase after them. She got into the backseat.

Since Lucas had already come, it was impossible for her to continue to bring Amelia to Moses.

Her plan today was foiled.

Although she was extremely unwilling to stay in the same car as Lucas, she couldn't find an excuse to leave at this moment and take a cab on her own because it would be inconsistent with the good mother and good grandma persona she had been trying to maintain.

Halfway through the journey, Karen's phone rang.

As soon as she saw the caller ID, she immediately shivered and declined the call without thinking.

Moses actually called at such a juncture. No matter how bold Karen was, she wouldn't dare to answer at this moment!

After ten seconds or so, Moses called again.

Karen still chose to decline the call. At the same time, her heart was beating wildly.

She cursed Moses in her heart.

When she was holding onto Amelia's hand and urging him just now, he didn't rush over and treated her with an extremely hostile attitude. Now that the situation had changed drastically, Moses actually called. *Is he trying to get me killed?!*

After declining his calls twice in a row, she reckoned that he must have realized something and didn't call again.

Lucas was well aware, so he sneered and deliberately asked, "Who called? Karen, why didn't you pick up?"

Karen lowered her head, not daring to look at him at all. She said guiltily, "Oh, it's nothing. It's just harassment calls! I keep getting telemarketing calls from real estate agents and promoters. It's really annoying!"

"Oh, really? That's really quite annoying."

Lucas stopped talking to her and instead began to ask Amelia how she had been doing in the kindergarten and Grace's place.

Both of them were chatting non-stop while Karen was on tenterhooks, filled with anxiety as she sat in the backseat.

Her plan to abduct Amelia today had failed, and who knew how mad Moses would be at her. She wondered if he would expose the voice recording in a moment of anger.

A little over ten minutes later, Lucas drove the Jaguar to the underground parking lot of the hospital.

Karen pushed the car door open impatiently. “I-I remembered that there are still some things I have to buy. You guys head upstairs first. I’ll join you later!”

Then she scurried away in a panic as if there were dogs chasing her from behind.

Lucas looked at her panicked back and slowly narrowed his eyes with an icy cold gaze. *Karen Turner, how dare you target Amelia. This time, I won’t let you off!*

Chapter 597: Senile Dementia

Lucas took Amelia to William’s ward.

Overjoyed to see Amelia, Cheyenne hugged her fragrant, soft, and adorable daughter and kissed her incessantly.

Amelia still didn’t know what William’s condition was, and she merely thought that he was sleeping because he was sick. So she even said a lot of childish things to him under Cheyenne’s teaching.

The family of three had a wonderful time in the hospital ward.

Meanwhile, Karen immediately called Moses after she was far away from Lucas’s sight.

“What’s going on? Why didn’t you answer my calls just now?” Moses questioned.

Karen thought in displeasure, *If you hadn’t taken your sweet time going to the kindergarten, would things have turned out this way?*

She told him how Lucas had suddenly appeared when she was waiting with Amelia at the entrance of the kindergarten and brought Amelia to the hospital, which resulted in the failure.

Moses flew into a rage and yelled unceremoniously, “Are you stupid? You can’t even handle such a simple matter! Since I couldn’t arrive in time, couldn’t you have found a place yourself and taken the kid away first?”

Karen was enraged to be yelled at, and she retorted, "I called you beforehand. If you hadn't been late, I would have handed Amelia to you. What's the point of yelling at me now? How could I have known that Lucas would suddenly appear?!"

"Shut up! I won't allow you to talk back to me!" Moses was infuriated too.

He had indeed gone over at the agreed time. But his car had suddenly broken down on the way, so he had to move to another car. But halfway through the journey, he had encountered a roadblock due to a traffic accident, leaving him with no choice but to take a detour and end up late.

It wasn't like he wanted to be late.

Karen was clearly the incompetent one who didn't even have the common sense to take Amelia away. He felt that she was a complete fool!

"Do whatever you must, but you have to hand Lucas's daughter over to me before two tomorrow afternoon! Otherwise, you know what the consequences will be!"

"What? Do you know that my granddaughter has already returned to her parents' side now? How am I supposed to bring her out?" Karen immediately screamed.

Even when she went to pick up Amelia from kindergarten today, she had to act like a good mother in front of Cheyenne for a long time before she could finally get the opportunity to carry out her plan.

But it was the weekend tomorrow, and since Amelia wasn't going to school, it would be impossible for Karen to try and pick her up again!

"Hmph, that's what you have to think about! Anyway, I must see her before two tomorrow afternoon!" Moses ordered in a commanding tone and hung up before Karen could even say anything.

Karen looked at her phone's screen, which showed that the call had ended, and was furious.

Moses could actually speak to her in such a commanding tone, yet she had no room to retort because he had evidence against her.

She sulked and thought about it for a long time before finally coming up with a solution. She then walked toward William's ward.

Upon returning to the ward, Karen immediately heard the sound of warm laughter.

Lucas, Cheyenne, and Amelia were all sitting by William's side and chatting. They were laughing non-stop and smiling happily.

But their laughter and smiles were an eyesore to Karen.

She was now living in fear every single day, yet these people opposite her were all smiling happily. It was an utter eyesore to her!

Lucas glanced at Karen and suddenly asked, "Didn't you just say you were going to buy something? What did you buy?"

"...!"

Only then did Karen remember that she had hurried away to call Moses just now under the pretext that she was going to buy something. In the end, she was so preoccupied with worrying about how to abduct Amelia before noon tomorrow that she forgot to buy anything again!

"Uh... I..." Karen quickly tried to come up with an excuse.

At this moment, Cheyenne frowned slightly and said worriedly, "Mom, did you forget to buy something again? You've said twice today that you wanted to buy something, but you ended up coming back empty-handed. Are you... really exhausted lately? Why don't you go for a full-body checkup?"

Cheyenne was really worried.

In the afternoon, Karen had said that her memory was failing her because she was getting old. She had even comforted Karen then. But forgetting the same thing twice within a day was not a good sign.

If she was forgetful because she was exhausted, it wouldn't be too bad. But if it was because of a disease like senile dementia... it would be terrible!

Thus, Cheyenne felt that it was better to arrange a full body checkup for Karen right away, in case there was really something wrong with her. Since the medical expert Maddy was still around, she could help look at Karen's condition as well.

Karen chuckled wryly and quickly refused, "Nah, I'm fine! I'm just... too worried about your father's condition, and it's all that's been on my mind lately, so I keep forgetting what I have to do. I'm perfectly fine. Don't worry!"

Cheyenne persuaded her a few more times, but Karen firmly said that there was nothing wrong with her health. Only then did Cheyenne give up for the time being.

The few of them gathered around Amelia to chat for a while more when Cheyenne suddenly smacked her forehead and said to Lucas with some chagrin, "Look at me. I almost forgot that it's the weekend tomorrow! What should we do about Amelia? Surely we can't make her stay with us in the hospital all day, right?"

Although there was a TV in William's ward, it was usually off because they didn't want it to be too noisy. Besides, there was no other entertainment equipment here. Amelia was only a five-year-old child, and she'd definitely be bored out of her mind if she stayed in the hospital for an entire day.

Lucas said, "Why don't you take Amelia home tomorrow to rest for a day and keep her company? With me watching William in the hospital, you don't have to worry about anything."

Before Cheyenne could say anything, Amelia tugged Lucas's sleeve and pulled Cheyenne's finger with her other hand. She said aggrievedly, "No, I want to stay with Mommy and Daddy! It's been so long since we spent time together! I've missed you guys so much!"

Seeing Amelia's eyes, both Lucas and Cheyenne couldn't reject her.

They had been so busy lately that they didn't have any time for their daughter at all. They could only leave her in Grace's care, which had been making them riddled with guilt. How could they possibly reject her tiny request?

Karen was elated, and she hurriedly said, "You guys have to stay by your father's side all day. How about I take Amelia out tomorrow? She told me today that she wanted to go to the amusement park. But I didn't agree because I thought it was too late to go there today. In the end, she got upset and said she wanted to ignore me."

She shamelessly put the blame on the five-year-old Amelia just because she was a child. She even revealed the plan that she had just thought of when she was downstairs.

Indeed, her plan was to take advantage of the weekend and take Amelia out again!

Chapter 598: Another Venomous Plan

Because of what had happened at the kindergarten earlier, Amelia was still extremely upset with Karen for yelling at her and breaking her promise. So she didn't want to go out to play with Karen at all.

Besides, she had already decided to stay by her parents' side.

She immediately rejected in a puerile voice, "I'm not going out to play. I'm staying here with Mommy, Daddy, and Grandpa!"

Amelia pulled Lucas's and Cheyenne's fingers, refusing to let go as if she would be taken away as soon as she let go.

Cheyenne smiled and agreed with her. "Okay, as long as you don't mind staying here and being bored, you can stay! I'll ask someone to buy two storybooks for you to read later!"

Amelia immediately agreed with glistening eyes. "Great! That's great!"

Seeing this, Karen was so enraged that she gritted her teeth, but there was nothing she could do about it.

Amelia also slept in the hospital tonight.

Although the hospital bed was only 1.2 meters wide, Cheyenne was rather petite, and Amelia was a young child, so the two of them could share the same bed.

Karen was occupying the other bed.

As usual, Lucas slept on the long sofa by the window of the ward.

Tonight, Amelia and Cheyenne were sleeping soundly. Lucas had always been alert and a light sleeper who would wake up as soon as there was any movement.

Karen was the only one who was full of anxiety, and she kept thinking about how to bring Amelia out smoothly, but she couldn't think of any good solutions. She was simply distraught.

After a long and painful night, Karen got up in the morning with dark circles under her eyes.

She had almost zero sleep last night.

The thought of the lack of time and the consequences that would occur if she failed to bring Amelia to Moses on time made her feel so flustered that she couldn't sleep at all.

"Huh? Mom, did you not sleep well last night?" Cheyenne asked in startlement when she saw the haggardness of Karen's face after she helped Amelia wash up.

"Ah, uh, it's probably because there was a mosquito buzzing in my ear all night, so I was a little bit disturbed. It's nothing!" Karen hurriedly said.

She was a little worried that Cheyenne would try getting her to undergo a full body checkup again if she said that she hadn't slept well.

Now that she was pressed for time and hadn't figured out a good solution to deal with Amelia, she obviously didn't have any time for a medical checkup.

So no matter what, she had to force herself to perk up and look energized.

Lucas glanced at her, and the corners of his lips curled up slightly, but he didn't say anything.

After breakfast, Maddy came to William's ward on time at 9:30 am to begin the daily acupuncture treatment for him.

As soon as she came today, she saw Amelia, who looked as pretty and cute as a doll, and her heart melted.

"Wow, Lucas, is she your daughter? She's really beautiful! She looks just like a doll. How adorable!" Maddy squatted in front of Amelia with glistening eyes, appearing like a strange woman.

Women her age seemed to find adorable children irresistible. Even though it was the first time they met, she was especially doting on Amelia, seemingly suddenly developing a 'motherly love' for Amelia.

Amelia received a great shock when she saw the gaze in Maddy's eyes, and she couldn't help hiding behind Lucas. She merely popped half her head out to look at Maddy, the beautiful strange woman she was meeting for the first time.

Of course, her action immediately melted Maddy's heart even more.

Lucas burst into laughter as he stroked Amelia's head and introduced her. "Amelia, this is Daddy's close friend. You can call her Aunt Maddy."

"Hello, Aunt Maddy, my name is Amelia. Nice to meet you!"

When Amelia learned that the beautiful lady was her father's good friend, she immediately felt that she definitely wasn't a strange woman and extended her hand toward her politely to shake her hands like a little adult.

Maddy was overjoyed and immediately shook Amelia's tender fingers as her large sassy eyes narrowed and her smile broadened.

But several doctors soon entered William's ward one after another. Maddy remembered that her job was to continue with William's treatment, so she coughed twice and stood up as her expression returned to normal.

She was an extremely professional doctor. Once it came to medical professionalism, she would instantly forget all unnecessary thoughts and become extremely serious.

The doctors who came in were naturally those who worked at the hospital, and they came to observe and learn from Maddy.

Since Maddy had promised to let them observe the acupuncture treatment the first time she had performed it on William, the doctors had already formed the habit of spontaneously gathering here whenever it was time for Maddy to give William treatment.

Of course, when Maddy was performing the acupuncture and massage, all of them would stay silent and observe quietly from the side. Only when she finished the treatment would they gather around her and ask her questions.

After all, Maddy was an internationally acclaimed medical expert, and there were not many opportunities to get her personal guidance.

Karen frowned.

She hated Maddy and the doctors who came in with her.

Every time she saw them, Karen felt that William would probably open his eyes at any moment under their treatment and reveal all the things she had done.

She wanted William to die immediately, so she absolutely hated them. But she couldn't find a way to chase them away or disturb them.

Disturb?

All of a sudden, a thought appeared in Karen's mind, causing her eyes to light up and euphoria to appear on her face.

Got it!

She thought of a good solution!

Karen looked at the group of people surrounding William, preparing to start the treatment for the day. She then quietly sneaked out of the ward.

She found an obscure corner with no one around and immediately called Moses. "I've thought of a way to take Amelia away, but I'll need your help!"

She told Moses her plan, and he stayed silent for a moment before agreeing.

"Okay, I will send some people to help you, and I'll rush over to meet you immediately. Just bring the kid to the hospital entrance. But this time, there is no room for error, you hear me?" Moses's austere voice came from the other end.

Although Karen pursed her lips disdainfully, she nevertheless agreed, "Okay, I promise there will be no problem this time! Just wait for my good news!"

Chapter 599: Creating Chaos

When Karen returned to William's ward, Maddy was still treating him, but she was almost done. The speed of Maddy's movements significantly decreased, and she still had time to give some pointers to the doctors beside her.

"Dr. Stone, I've observed that the patient's brain activity seems to be getting higher and higher since last night. He should be showing an obvious response to the outside world, but why hasn't he regained consciousness yet? Theoretically, he should have almost recovered at this point," an elderly doctor nearly 60 years old asked in puzzlement.

Maddy said with a light smile, "That's normal. After all, the patient was in a serious car accident, and his bodily functions haven't recovered to the same level as before. Even though he hasn't regained consciousness, he likely just needs some minor stimulation, and he'll come to sooner or later."

There was some other meaning in her words, but the doctor in front of her naturally didn't understand it.

Maddy's usual acupuncture treatment took only about half an hour to complete. Seeing that she was about to finish her treatment, but there was still no one at the hospital entrance, Karen started panicking and subconsciously looked at the door.

Fortunately, Maddy didn't know what was going on today. After the acupuncture treatment, she continued communicating and laughing with the doctors, making Karen feel a little less anxious.

Suddenly, a noisy commotion came from outside the usually quiet ward. There seemed to be countless people running outside, and even the floor began to tremble slightly.

The director frowned in displeasure. "This is a hospital, not a market. Who's running outside and disturbing the patients' recuperation?"

A young doctor immediately said, "Director, I'll go outside and see what's going on."

He walked toward the door of the ward.

But before he could get close to the door, the plain door was violently pushed open from outside with a loud bang. Immediately afterward, a large group of people rushed in.

The young doctor was shocked and immediately asked, "What are you doing?"

The people who rushed in all seemed agitated and full of zeal, making the young doctor misunderstand that there was an emergency in the hospital.

"Is Dr. Maddy Stone here?"

“We’re here to see Dr. Maddy Stone. We heard she’s here!”

“Dr. Stone, please help! My son has had cerebral palsy for many years, and no one has been able to cure him. I heard that you are highly skilled in medicine. You must save my son!”

“My father suffers from paraplegia and hasn’t been able to get out of bed for years. Dr. Stone, please save him!”

“And my wife, she became a vegetable because of a traffic accident. I heard that you’re treating a patient suffering from the same condition now, so please help my wife too! She’s only in her thirties, and our kids are only a few years old. They have no mother to take care of them now!”

...

All at once, around ten people began clamoring loudly one after another before surging toward Maddy, who was standing by the hospital bed. Their hands were all reaching out to grab her.

“Get out of the way!” The director yelled but to no avail because the people rushing forward seemed to have lost their minds, and they were only staring at Maddy. Even the nearly 70-year-old hospital director was pushed to the side unceremoniously.

He almost fell. But fortunately, a pair of hands pulled him in time, avoiding the possibility of a bad fall, which would have been detrimental to him at his age.

After holding the old director, who almost fell because of the push, Lucas stood beside William’s bed and blocked all the hands reaching over.

Although William’s ward was a senior VIP ward, the area was only about twenty square feet after all. Moreover, there were a few beds and escort beds and other furniture and furnishings, so there was barely any empty space.

With the sudden influx of twenty-odd people, almost all the empty space was full, and more were desperately squeezing into the ward, which was extraordinarily shocking.

Lucas stopped these uninvited guests in front of him expressionlessly while glancing at Karen as a cold smile appeared on his lips.

He knew that Karen would definitely take advantage of the opportunity to cause trouble.

Because all these people suddenly barging in completely caught Cheyenne off guard, she could only protect Amelia with one hand out of motherly instincts and bring her to the corner of the ward, where she shielded her with her body.

Karen kept an eye on Amelia's movements at all times. She had planned to pull Amelia away as soon as the crowd rushed in. But unfortunately, Cheyenne was a step faster than her, so she had no choice but to squeeze through the crowd and stand beside the two of them.

She said anxiously, "Cheyenne, so many people have suddenly barged in. I'm afraid something terrible might happen! Although Lucas is now in front of your father's bed, there'll be serious trouble if he can't stop them and a fight breaks out!"

Cheyenne naturally also realized that the people who had barged in were harboring ill intentions because there was something suspicious about the way they were asking Maddy to save their family members. They were practically coercing her and even threatening her, as if they wished they could drag her out immediately.

Moreover, the news that Maddy was here to treat William wasn't spread around and kept known only to the hospital director and a few trusted doctors. Yet these people were flocking over like madmen. Where exactly did they get the news?

But it wasn't the time to consider these things now because the most important thing now was to protect their safety.

With Lucas's protection, there shouldn't be any major problems on William and Maddy's side for the time being, so Cheyenne's main concern was Amelia, who was still a tender young child. There would be serious consequences even if she was only bumped into lightly.

"Cheyenne, I'll take Amelia out right now and find a safe place to hide, lest these people hurt her. Then I'll get hospital security to help you!" Karen immediately said.

Seeing the chaos in the ward, Cheyenne also felt that Karen's idea was the optimal solution for now.

After all, Amelia's safety was the most important thing at the moment.

"Okay, Mom, take Amelia out right now and find an empty ward to stay in for the time being. Lucas will handle the situation on his side alone, so I have to go help protect Dad. I'll leave Amelia to you!" Cheyenne took Amelia's hand, handed her over to Karen, and gently instructed, "It's too chaotic here, Amelia. Go outside with Grandma now, and we'll come see you later, okay?"

Amelia nodded obediently and took Karen's hand. "Okay, I'll wait for you and Daddy outside with Grandma!"

Overjoyed, Karen took Amelia's hand and walked toward the door without even saying a word.

It was rather strange that the people crowding in the ward actually made way for Karen when they saw her walking over while holding Amelia's hand.

Soon, Karen took Amelia out of the chaotic ward.

Chapter 600: Taking Amelia Away

Karen didn't stop at all as she brought Amelia straight to the elevator, walking as fast as she could to pull Amelia out of the hospital.

Amelia was only five years old, and her legs were short, so she couldn't walk fast. There were several times where she almost fell to the floor because of Karen's pulling.

"Grandma, where... where are we going?" Amelia asked while panting and trying to keep up with Karen's pace.

Karen said casually and perfunctorily, "Didn't you see it? There were suddenly so many people in the ward, and it was really dangerous. Of course I'm bringing you somewhere safe!"

At this moment, she was holding Amelia's delicate wrist tightly and anxiously, as if she was holding her destiny.

When she saw a person stepping out of a Passat parked near the hospital entrance and walking toward her, her eyes lit up, and she hurriedly pulled Amelia along and made her way over.

"Karen Turner, huh? We are the people Mr. Kingston sent to pick you up," the tall middle-aged man in a gray suit said indifferently.

"Yes, it's us!" Karen immediately nodded and followed the man to the Passat, only to find that there was no one inside.

"Strange, didn't Mr. Kingston say he would come in person?" Karen murmured.

The middle-aged man looked at her. "Mr. Kingston has a high status. Why would he come personally? Just leave with us. We'll bring you to meet up with Mr. Kingston."

Karen thought about it and felt that he made sense. *Mr. Kingston is a big shot. Why would he lower his status and come to the hospital in person? If anyone sees him, it'll be difficult for him to explain himself.*

Karen pulled Amelia into the car without further hesitation.

When Amelia saw the car and two strangers in front of her, she couldn't help feeling a little nervous, and she whispered timidly, "Grandma, who are they? Where are we going now?"

Karen's mind was now full of thoughts about how to get the voice recording from Moses after handing Amelia over to him. It would be best if she could get him to find a way to kill William.

Since she was thinking about how to save her life, she obviously didn't have the time to pay attention to Amelia or listen to her.

Seeing Karen ignoring her, Amelia became even more nervous. She shook Karen's hand and cuddled up in her arms. "Grandma, did you hear me..."

Karen snapped out of her train of thoughts and immediately flew into a rage. She pushed Amelia away before Amelia could even finish speaking. "What are you making a fuss for? Can't you see I'm thinking about something? How annoying!"

After being pushed, Amelia's tiny body became unsteady and fell onto the backseat. It wasn't very painful, but she was extremely nervous now. Karen's impatience and rudeness made Amelia feel aggrieved and devastated.

Tears instantly welled up in her eyes, but she pursed her lips and bit them hard, trying her best not to make a sound as she cried.

The middle-aged man driving in front had a cold, murderous intent in his eyes as he watched them through the rearview mirror.

Even though he was just an outsider, he couldn't stand it anymore.

"She's just a child, and she's been treating you as her grandmother all these years. Must you do that to her?" the middle-aged man said coldly.

Karen thought that he was just one of Moses' subordinates, so she was puzzled as to why he dared to say this to her.

She harrumphed coldly and rolled her eyes. "I'm talking to my granddaughter. It's none of your business! Just focus on driving. You meddle too much for a servant!"

The middle-aged man glanced at Karen and stopped paying attention to her, but he said to Amelia, "Amelia, I'm not a bad guy. Don't be scared. Do you like playing with jigsaw puzzles?"

The teary-eyed Amelia glanced at the middle-aged man in front of her and felt slightly relieved when she realized that she didn't have any aversion toward him. She nodded obediently. "Yes."

The middle-aged man took out a few children's jigsaw puzzles from the glove compartment and handed them to Amelia.

Amelia had been learning to fix jigsaw puzzles in kindergarten lately, so she immediately concentrated on fixing them.

Watching the middle-aged man coax Amelia, Karen secretly pursed her lips without saying anything.

But she didn't notice that the middle-aged man could call out Amelia's name easily.

The Passat continued to drive on the road, and Karen wasn't too concerned about where their destination was.

She was finally relieved now.

As long as she waited for a while and handed Amelia over to Moses, not only would she be able to get back the voice recording of her crime, but she would also soon be able to look forward to Lucas's death!

This was undoubtedly great news for her!

As soon as Lucas died, she wouldn't have to be afraid of the good-for-nothing William anymore.

She was no longer the same person she was before, who didn't dare to deal with William and could only get Nikki to cooperate with her to hire a hitman to kill William.

Karen had already made several attempts to kill William personally. If not for the fact that she had been stopped because of a freak combination of factors, William would have died in her hands.

As long as Lucas died, William would definitely die too!

When the time came, she would be able to return rightfully to Lucas's extremely luxurious villa in the middle of Pearl Lake and enjoy the life of a rich woman that she had dreamed of for most of her life. No one would be able to stop her anymore!

Karen became really excited at the thought of being able to take over everything in the luxurious villa, including the fairy-tale dream-like palace villa itself, which boasted of gorgeous furnishing and decor that included a huge swimming pool, garden, dock, and cruise ship outside. She was also tempted by the company and the massive amount of money Lucas had.

Soon, all of this would belong to her!

This was the wonderful life she should be enjoying!

Karen quickly thought about the life she would lead in the future, and a bizarre smile subconsciously appeared on her face.

She was so engrossed in her fantasy that she didn't even notice that the two middle-aged men driving in front of her were looking at her with contempt.

After about twenty minutes or so, the car finally stopped at the entrance of a quiet villa.

The middle-aged man took out his phone and sent out a series of messages before saying coldly to Karen, "We're here. Get out."

Karen opened the door and got out of the car. After looking around, she asked, "Is Mr. Kingston waiting for me inside?"

"No, Mr. Kingston is a bit busy and hasn't arrived yet. Just wait inside," the middle-aged man said with a straight face.

Karen was extremely displeased.

She had already sent her granddaughter to Moses as he wished, yet he was still putting on airs in front of her and asking her to wait for him. He was going overboard!

But the other party's power was definitely greater than hers. Besides, Moses was in control of the voice recording, so Karen had no choice but to enter the villa and wait for him even though she was indignant.

As she took a stroll around the villa, she discovered that the decorations were far less luxurious than that of the lake villa.

What are you pretending to put on airs for? This place is worse than the villa I used to live in!

Only then did Karen suddenly remember that she seemed to have forgotten something. "Where's Amelia?"

Chapter 601: In Whose Hands?

The middle-aged man glanced at Karen and said mockingly, "Amelia has already been picked up by someone. You don't have to care anymore."

Karen immediately frowned. "Why didn't you tell me you've already taken her away? She's my granddaughter!"

“No, she’s only your former granddaughter. She no longer had anything to do with you when you brought her here.” The middle-aged man sneered.

“No, you can’t do that! Even if I have to hand her over, I must hand her over to Mr. Kingston personally! Who are you to take her away from me? I... I still have something to say to Mr. Kingston!” Karen immediately became anxious.

Initially, it was a deal between her and Moses.

Only when she handed Amelia over to Moses would he give her the recording or destroy it all in front of her. The two of them would then discuss how to deal with Lucas.

In the end, Amelia was taken away while she was distracted, leaving her with no chance to negotiate at all!

Karen anxiously wanted to go outside.

But the middle-aged man pulled out the dagger at his waist and brandished it in front of her. “You’d better behave yourself and stay here! Don’t make any more noise or ask any more questions! Mr. Kingston will be coming over in a while. Why are you in such a hurry?”

“If you continue to make trouble, I don’t mind letting you die here now!”

Seeing the cold and shiny dagger, Karen shook violently and immediately kept quiet.

Indeed, Moses was much more powerful than her. Even if he really went back on his word and snatched Amelia away, she would have nowhere to air her grievances and would have no choice but to suffer the loss.

Fortunately for her, since the middle-aged man said Mr. Kingston was coming, this meant that she still had a chance!

Despite her reluctance, Karen could only stay in the villa and continue waiting.

But she was in an unfamiliar environment and was still unaware of what exactly Moses was thinking. She didn’t know if he would keep his word and complete the deal with her or burn the bridge after crossing it.

Being alone in the hall, she couldn’t stop her imagination from running wild. The more she thought about it, the more horrified she was.

With her short understanding of Moses and the fact that he could even use the five-year-old Amelia to avenge his son, she doubted that he would really let her off instead of choosing to silence her now that she knew so much.

Right, he will kill me to silence me! The thought of this possibility made Karen's hair stand on end.

She suddenly sprung up from the couch, no longer able to sit still.

Karen looked at the shiny dagger in the middle-aged man's hand and asked carefully, "When... when is Mr. Kingston coming?"

"How would I know? Just stay here and wait obediently. He'll naturally come when the time comes!" the middle-aged man said hostilely.

Karen panicked and hurriedly said, "I... I suddenly remember that I have something important to do. Since I've already brought Amelia here and completed my mission, I'd better get going! When Mr. Kingston is free, I'll come and see him again!"

Karen was about to walk toward the door.

But the middle-aged man guarding the door obviously wouldn't let her leave so easily.

"Stand still! If you dare to step out of the door, I will immediately kill you. This is an order from Mr. Kingston. If you don't want to die, then sit still obediently!"

The middle-aged man fiddled with the weapon in his hand and stared at Karen's eyes.

He wasn't joking or threatening her, but rather, he really dared to kill her!

Karen's legs trembled, and she no longer dared to take half a step outside!

At this moment, she really wanted to cry. She was both terrified and chagrined.

Had she known this would happen earlier, she wouldn't have chosen to cooperate with Moses because it was simply courting death!

But if she could turn back time, she would probably still be willing to sell Amelia and work with Moses.

She was an extremely selfish woman.

While Karen was feeling anxious, the middle-aged man suddenly answered a phone call and respectfully said "Yes!" to the phone several times. This made Karen, who was trying to eavesdrop from the side, unable to get any useful information.

All of a sudden, the middle-aged man turned to look at Karen. "Mr. Kingston will arrive in three minutes. I'm going outside to receive him. Stay here and don't move. Otherwise, you know what the consequences are!"

With that, he stopped looking at Karen and opened the villa door to leave.

Karen peeked out sneakily. For a moment, she also thought of sneaking away.

But she immediately dismissed the thought.

She wasn't familiar with the terrain in this area, and she didn't have a car. Where could she run to with her legs?

Besides, she reckoned that since Moses was already coming, he probably wouldn't kill her to silence her and that it was very likely that she had read too much into things.

This is really infuriating. They all think they're big shots, huh? Hmph! When I live in the big villa and get my hands on the money, I'll definitely hire a bunch of bodyguards to escort me around. Let's see which one of you will still dare to be arrogant in front of me! Karen thought resentfully.

While she was waiting anxiously, the sounds of footsteps came from the door, soon followed by the sounds of a car. Clearly, Moses had arrived!

Karen suddenly got nervous and stood still helplessly.

In a few seconds, footsteps sounded at the door, and the villa door opened.

With a hostile aura of displeasure, Moses strode in from outside.

"Mr. Kingston, you're finally here!" Karen immediately smiled and greeted him.

Moses glanced at her coldly and looked behind her before frowning. "Where is she?"

"What? Who are you talking about?" Karen had been prepared for many things, but she was still caught off guard by Moses's words.

Moses immediately flew into a rage. "Who do you think I'm talking about? Of course it's the person I want! Where is Lucas Gray's daughter? Didn't you say that you already brought her out and were going to hand her over to me? Are you playing dumb in front of me now?"

This time, it was Karen's turn to be utterly dumbfounded.

She looked at the door and stammered, "Amelia, she... Wasn't she already taken away by your men? It was the middle-aged man you sent to pick me up who took her away!"

Moses immediately felt his anger surge within him. "Karen Turner, do you take me for a fool? When did I send people to pick you up? You were the one who texted me to say

that it was inconvenient at the hospital entrance, so you sent me this address and told me to rush here and take the kid from you. Yet you're spouting nonsense to me now!

"If I had already taken the kid away, would I still be standing here and wasting my breath on you?"

"Tell me honestly. Where is the kid now? Or did you not get your hands on her, so you deliberately made up this nonsense to fool me? Do you have a death wish?!"

The sudden angry scolding immediately made Karen freeze in shock.

Amelia... wasn't taken away by Moses's subordinates?

Then... where exactly is she now?

Chapter 602: Five Thunderbolts

Karen was so shocked that her face turned pale. She immediately argued, "You... don't accuse me! If your people didn't pick me up, how could I have ended up here? Moreover, I already brought Amelia here and handed her over to your subordinate! He told me that he took Amelia away!"

"It's the middle-aged man who just went out to receive you. He looks really hostile and austere, as if everyone owes him money! If you don't believe me, you can call him over right now and ask him where he took Amelia!"

But after hearing what she said, Moses sneered. "My subordinate? I've already said that I didn't send anyone over, and no one came out to receive me. Who do you want me to clarify with, huh?"

But after saying this, Moses also discovered that something was amiss.

Karen sounded reasonable, and she didn't seem to be lying either. Otherwise, the fact that she had the guts to ask him to meet her at such a faraway place when Amelia wasn't with her was enough for him to teach her a hard lesson.

Given how scared she was of death and how she liked to bully the weak while fearing the strong, he thought that she probably wouldn't dare to deceive him.

In that case...

Could people have really impersonated my subordinates just now and brought Karen and her granddaughter here before quietly taking the kid away?

The text message he received to change the location of the handover had probably not been sent by Karen.

Besides, after receiving the text message, he had called Karen several times, but he had never managed to reach her. He reckoned that someone had probably gotten up to some nonsense in between!

Who exactly...

A great sense of uneasiness suddenly surged in Moses's heart, as if his actions had been exposed to a pair of invisible eyes, leaving him with nowhere to hide.

A sudden chill rose in his heart, and he couldn't help shuddering.

Bang! The door of the villa suddenly opened violently from outside.

Moses was startled as he watched several tall and burly men streaming in from outside.

Karen jumped up in shock too, but she soon pointed at a middle-aged man among the crowd and said excitedly to Moses, "Look over there! It's the man on the far right! He's the one you sent to pick us up, and he's the one who took Lucas's daughter away!"

But at this moment, Moses didn't even look at the middle-aged man Karen identified.

All his attention was on the elegant young man in his thirties in the middle of the crowd.

"You're... Joe Daniels!" Moses recognized Joe because he had supported Lucas at the Kingston manor when Lucas broke into it just a few days ago.

Reason being, his looks were unlike that of a big boss, but it happened that he was the person in charge of Little Atlantis City and was responsible for all the underground businesses in Orange County. Thus, Moses recognized him.

He's on Lucas's side, so he probably...

While Moses was thinking about it, figures suddenly walked in from outside, almost all of whom were people Moses was familiar with!

Bruce Hale, head of the Hales!

Damon Parker, head of the Parkers!

And... Lucas Gray!

In fact, when Moses saw Joe appear alone, he still fantasized a little. After all, Joe was in charge of the underground businesses in Orange County, and his underlings were all over Orange County. If he had noticed his behavior, it wouldn't be that strange.

But when he saw Damon and Bruce, his heart immediately sank to rock bottom.

When he saw Lucas, his face was already incredibly ugly.

As soon as he saw the great enemy who had killed his son, a wave of resentment and killing intent kept gushing out from his body beyond his control.

But he wasn't a fool and knew that he couldn't act rashly at this moment. He also knew that the current situation was extremely bad for him.

Lucas and the several forces that had once supported him at the Kingston manor appearing here at the same time was definitely not a coincidence.

Recalling what Karen had said to him earlier about Lucas's daughter being taken away by people who pretended to be his subordinates, Moses naturally could guess easily who the mastermind was!

In fact, they had probably long seen all his actions!

Standing at the side, Karen didn't know Joe and Bruce, but she nevertheless widened her mouth in horror when she saw Damon and Lucas behind them!

She had abducted Amelia and intended to hand her over to Moses. So now that she saw Lucas, she felt extremely guilty and once again felt as though she was about to face a huge disaster.

It's over. Lucas must have already found out!

But what shocked her even more was still to come.

After Lucas appeared, Cheyenne and Charlotte actually appeared too, and the more outrageous thing was that they were pushing a wheelchair.

The person sitting in the wheelchair was someone Karen thought could never be here!

"William... William Carter?!" She was so shocked that she couldn't control her voice for a moment, and she even screamed at the top of her lungs. She felt as if she was being blasted by five thunderbolts, and there was a massive explosion in her head.

The man whom she had been treating as a vegetable and someone half-dead was now sitting alive and well in a wheelchair, glaring at her furiously.

Karen subconsciously shuddered and wanted to find a place to hide.

Fury was written all over William's face as he stared at Karen as if he was looking at a snake. "Karen, although we've lived together for almost three decades, it's only now that I've realized what your true colors are! I didn't expect you to be such a vicious woman! Amelia is so young, yet you actually brought her to a stranger. Are you even human?"

Beside him, Cheyenne and Charlotte looked at Karen with disbelief.

In particular, amid Cheyenne's sorrow, there were also a few traces of hatred and mockery.

"At this point, I can no longer bring myself to call you 'Mom' because your actions are not something that a mother could possibly do! I trusted you so much that I asked you to bring Amelia away to a safe place, but what did you do? You brought Amelia straight to Lucas's enemy! Have you ever thought about what Amelia would have faced?"

"She's only five years old! You watched her grow up, and she calls you Grandma so affectionately every single day. How could you bear to do such a thing? You... you're simply..."

Chapter 603: All Sorts Of Excuses

Cheyenne's heart was aching, and she couldn't bring herself to say the rest.

She had already been on guard against Karen. Despite knowing that she had done something unforgivable, Karen's crocodile tears and elaborate lies, coupled with their familial ties, had made Cheyenne believe that she had really repented and wanted to be a good mother again.

Thus, Cheyenne had trusted Karen so much that she had handed Amelia to her without hesitation. She had never thought that her mother would actually harm her daughter!

If Lucas hadn't been aware of this and hadn't prepared people to be on standby to rescue Amelia, Cheyenne wouldn't have dared to imagine what plight Amelia would be in now.

The thought of her tender and soft daughter getting hurt, abused, or even killed because of this made Cheyenne's heart ache so much that she couldn't breathe.

Charlotte looked at Karen with disappointment on her face, utterly disappointed by her cruel and heartless actions.

"When you treated me that way previously, I knew you didn't care about us as your daughters at all. The only person you've ever loved is yourself! But I never thought that you would be able to do something so heartless! You don't deserve to be our mother! You don't even deserve to be a human being!" Charlotte shouted, her eyes full of anger and sorrow.

If possible, who would want to say this about their own mother, the person who had given them life and raised them?

But Karen's behavior had trampled on the bottom line of their tolerance as her daughters again and again.

Amelia was still so young. How on earth could Karen bear to make such a decision? Was she really that heartless?!

Compared to the grief and anger felt by Cheyenne, Charlotte, and William, Lucas seemed much calmer.

Reason being, Lucas had long seen through Karen and her true colors.

But even so, he couldn't suppress the massive killing intent that arose in his heart when he saw that Karen had decided to trade his most cherished daughter to Moses in exchange for her own benefit.

Joe, Bruce, Damon, and others were also clear about what had happened, and they all looked at Karen as if they were looking at trash.

They all said that even a monster wouldn't hurt its own children. This woman in front of them had not only tried to kill her husband several times, but she had even handed her young granddaughter to an enemy. She was simply inhumane.

Looking at the resentful and condemning eyes in front of her, Karen couldn't stand it even though she was really thick-skinned.

There was a single thought that kept running through her mind—since the matter of her abducting Amelia had been exposed, her repeated attempts to kill William would soon be exposed too.

It was over for her!

Karen was so flustered and terrified that she couldn't think of any way out. She simply ran to William's wheelchair and knelt. The next instant, two lines of tears rolled down from her eyes.

"Honey, I-I was forced to do it! I didn't have a choice either! You were in a coma before, so you didn't know. The Taylors threatened me with Cheyenne's and Charlotte's lives and forced me to kill you. I really had no choice!

"Moses Kingston also forced me to abduct Amelia. If I hadn't listened to him and brought Amelia here, our entire family would have suffered! I was really forced to do it. Honey, Cheyenne, please forgive me!"

Crying and pretending to be miserable was the only way Karen could think of to deal with the situation in front of her.

But she had already used these tricks too many times before, and her character had also been completely exposed, so no one believed her at all.

William lowered his head and looked at Karen, who was crying in front of him and unable to get a grip on her emotion. He said indifferently with some contempt, "Karen, do you still treat us as fools now?"

"Don't you forget. Although I was a vegetable previously because of my severe injuries, I was just immobile. It didn't mean that I couldn't hear what you said and feel those things you did!"

"The first two days I was hospitalized, you deliberately acted like a virtuous wife and mother when there were people around. But after they left, you abused me, insulted me, and even thought of ways to kill me!"

"And you also told me that you planned the car accident that left me seriously injured and comatose. You even admitted that you hired someone to murder me! You also told me yourself that you had wanted to get rid of me for a long time because not only could I not give you the luxurious life you wanted, but I had also obstructed you in every possible way and became a stumbling block for you. That is why you've been trying to get rid of me!"

"Now, you're still trying to make up excuses in front of me and claiming that you were forced into it. Hah. Do you think I'd believe you?"

Toward the end, William's face was also covered in misery.

After all, she was his wife, with whom he had been living for nearly three decades. They also shared a pair of beautiful daughters.

Although he had always been dissatisfied with her, he hadn't divorced her. And although he didn't let Karen live in the lap of luxury, he had at least let her live without worrying about food and clothing.

Therefore, he had never expected that the woman he had been sleeping next to for years would have such terrible thoughts about him and do such terrifying things for the sake of a ridiculous reason.

He was truly disappointed!

When Karen heard William exposing all her misdeeds in public, her expression changed drastically, but she gritted her teeth and hurriedly argued, "No, I didn't do such things. It must be because you're muddled up, so you're remembering things wrongly. Maybe you dreamed it! Yes, this must be it!"

“You weren’t even conscious at the time, so how could you have heard what I said and did? Honey, could it be that you’ve always seen me as such a vicious woman?”

She was crying so miserably that her face was covered in tears, as if William had really misunderstood her and had also broken her heart.

Karen definitely couldn’t admit to the truth, so she could only make a big deal out of William’s coma.

But William would no longer believe her words.

“You should know best if I was dreaming or not! The wounds you pinched and pierced on my body are still there! Are you going to argue that these wounds were all done by me, a comatose vegetable?”

He sneered and lifted the clothes around his waist, revealing a piece of skin covered with crescent-shaped nail pinch marks with blood. They didn’t fade even after two to three days, so it was clear how ruthless the pinches were at the time.

Karen’s face turned pale, and she didn’t dare to observe her ‘masterpiece’. However, her eyes rolled, and she immediately exclaimed, “Honey, it definitely wasn’t me. You have to trust me! It was Lucas! He told you those things to try and make you suspect me. William, can’t you see that Lucas just wants to harm us and take our assets!”

Karen suddenly raised her hand and pointed her finger at Lucas, putting the blame on him.

Chapter 604: Feeling Hopeless

Seemingly having found someone to put the blame on, Karen immediately lashed out at Lucas and tried to make things hard for him. “Do you guys think Lucas is that good? Psht, he’s just an evil crook! All of you were called over by him today, right? He deliberately set this up to frame me and make all of you get the wrong idea about me!

“Also, he usually tries to sow discord between me and my daughters, Charlotte and Cheyenne. Before he returned, they were very close to me, and our family got along harmoniously!

“But since he returned, he’s been deliberately badmouthing me in front of you guys just because I don’t like him. That’s why my daughters have turned against me, and my husband treats me as his enemy! All of this is caused by this bastard who has been setting me up!”

With a look of misery on her face, she pointed at Lucas and cried loudly, “I was just a little too harsh with what I said to you when you first returned. Why must you be so

vindictive and vengeful? Why can't you stand seeing us getting along? Will you be happy only when you see my family crumble and fall out with one another?

"You evil person, you're just coveting our family's assets. Had I known earlier, I wouldn't have let you marry Cheyenne as a live-in husband!"

This time, she framed Lucas for several things.

But all the Carters were speechless.

Even Bruce, standing at the side, couldn't listen anymore. "That's enough! Stop making false accusations!"

Bruce shot her a look of disgust. "You claim that Mr. Gray is coveting your family's assets? In that case, how much do you have that's worth Mr. Gray coveting? Do you have millions? Or hundreds of millions? Or billions?"

"I'll be honest with you today. The Hales are one of the four major families in Orange County, and we have billions of dollars in assets. But today, the entire Hale family belongs to Mr. Gray! Now all our businesses belong to Mr. Gray!"

"So, do you think Mr. Gray still needs to covet that tiny bit of your family's assets?"

Karen exclaimed in shock, "You... what are you saying? All of the Hale family's assets now belong to Lucas? How is that possible?!"

She screamed in complete disbelief at this news.

At the side, Damon looked at Bruce, who had been a step ahead, pursed his lips, and stepped forward. He declared, "Hmph, it's just the Hale family. Even all the businesses of the Parker family now belong to Mr. Gray!"

Karen was once again astonished! "What? Even the Parkers of LA are..."

Joe stood out and said with a faint smile, "That's not all. Everything in Little Atlantis City also belongs to Mr. Gray!"

Seeing the three giants in front of her saying that all the huge businesses under them actually all belonged to Lucas, Karen felt that reality was really unbelievable. It was as if she was hearing a far-fetched tale!

"Impossible! All of you must be lying to me! Lucas was just a penniless man. Even if he's lucky enough to have gotten the opportunity to become the person in charge of the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch now... but... but they are the esteemed Hales of Orange County and the Parkers of LA!"

“How could their things belong to Lucas? Impossible! Absolutely impossible!”

Karen frantically shook her head in complete disbelief, as if she could deny everything Lucas owned and her own stupidity.

Staring at Karen, William shook his head. “You’re indeed just a tacky woman who’s ignorant and lacks good judgment. All you know is that Lucas was a penniless man in the past, yet you have no idea how powerful he is now. Besides, you’re still as obstinate as before, and you view him with such contempt. You’re such a snob too!

“You just said that you don’t like him, and that’s undoubtedly because you despise the fact that he isn’t the scion of a wealthy family! If Lucas were a rich heir, you’d probably have rushed over to curry favor with him, just like what you did with Seth Miller, whom you set your sights on in the past!

“You probably don’t know that the Solar Corporation I’m working at now belongs to Lucas, huh?!”

Cheyenne took a step forward. “The Brilliance Corporation I’m working at as the general manager now also belongs to Lucas! He deliberately took it back from the Carters for me!”

“The Stardust Corporation I’m working at also belongs to Lucas. I’m not talking only about the Orange County branch but the entire corporation. It belongs to Lucas entirely!” Charlotte stepped forward.

Hearing what they said, Karen was on the verge of losing her mind. “How is that possible? How is that possible?!”

Her eyes were so wide open that her eyeballs were about to fall out of their sockets. Seemingly hysterical, she yelled, “Even if you want to lie to me, you should find something more realistic!

“Do you know that the properties you’ve mentioned, such as the assets of the Hales and the Parkers, Little Atlantis City, the Solar Corporation, and the Brilliance Corporation, add up to a massive amount?

“How could you say that they belong to Lucas? How can he possibly be so rich? How do you expect me to believe that?!”

“I don’t believe it at all! You must be deliberately deceiving me! If he was so rich, I definitely wouldn’t have looked down on him!”

Karen was screaming her head off, but everyone present merely sneered.

Moses, who had been standing still and staring at Karen, the Carters, and William coldly while trying to find a chance to escape, couldn't help being shocked too.

Although he previously felt that Lucas wasn't simple and that he definitely had something to fall back on, he never thought that Lucas's bottom card would actually be so terrifying.

And...

"Hahaha!" Moses suddenly laughed out loud and said with a look of contempt, "No wonder the Parkers, the Hales, and Joe Daniels all chose to stand on Lucas Gray's side even at the expense of becoming enemies of the Kingstons. It turns out that all of you have already become his subordinates! Haha, this is such an irony!

"You're actually hiding so many cards. I bet no one else would have known about this unless they mentioned it themselves today. No, maybe you still have more trump cards in hand, but you just haven't exposed them yet!

"Lucas Gray, you're really a terrifying opponent who hides your true abilities. My son has already been killed by you. He's not considered incompetent... Haha! Marc, you're really pitiful!"

Moses was still smiling widely, but he seemed to be on the verge of tears.

The power Lucas had revealed today was already enough to surpass the Kingstons. What could Marc have used to compete with Lucas?

Losing to him had been inevitable!

Moses, who was initially still intending to take revenge for his son, was now totally hopeless after seeing the power Lucas had.

In terms of combat power, Lucas could easily crush him. Moreover, his plan to abduct Lucas's daughter to threaten him had already been foiled. After seeing Lucas's massive power, he really felt hopeless.

Moses laughed out loud sadly before suddenly whipping out a gun from his pocket!

Chapter 605: Death By Suicide

As soon as the black shiny gun was revealed, Joe immediately stood in front of Lucas and hollered, "What are you trying to do?!"

Bruce and Damon were both a step slower because they were already on in their years. But they were close behind. Without hesitation, they stood in front of Lucas, Cheyenne, and Charlotte.

At this moment, these helmsmen who controlled the lifelines of great families seemed to have forgotten their superior identities as they stood in front of Lucas without hesitation.

Even Cheyenne and Charlotte, the two women, didn't flinch in the slightest and merely panicked for a moment when they saw the pistol. But they were standing beside Lucas without retreating at all.

Moses had planned to use his pistol as a last resort to kill Lucas and take revenge for his son.

But after seeing this scene in front of him, he suddenly felt a sense of dejection.

His son had actually lost to such a person...

How pitiful!

He couldn't kill Lucas.

The only thing he could do for his son now was probably to end his own life and join him in the afterlife.

While thinking about it, Moses had a miserable smile on his face. Then he pressed the muzzle of the pistol against his temple.

Everyone watched in shock as Moses slowly pulled the trigger.

Bang! A small hole appeared in Moses' temple, and blood immediately gushed out as his body slowly fell to the ground.

"..." Everyone fell silent.

They had originally thought that Moses was just trying to make a last-ditch effort to kill Lucas.

But no one had expected Moses to shoot himself instead of them.

Everyone's expressions were complicated.

Cheyenne and Charlotte gradually stopped feeling so tense and nervous after seeing Moses die.

Lucas looked at Moses's corpse, but he didn't feel any emotion.

Indeed, Moses had wanted to take revenge on Lucas and had even wanted to kidnap his five-year-old daughter. He had really resorted to all means. But as a father himself, Lucas could understand Moses's feelings and desire to avenge his son.

Seeing that Moses had killed himself, Lucas sighed and instructed Bruce, "In a while, have someone send his body back to the Kingstons' to be buried!"

This was Lucas's last form of respect to Moses, who was also a father.

When Karen saw the large pool of blood flowing from Moses's corpse, she trembled in fear and crawled backward with all her might to get farther away from the corpse.

At the same time, her heart was full of even more fear.

Even Moses, who had seemed really powerful, had killed himself in front of Lucas.

What would happen to her then?

She still wanted to beg for mercy or think of other ways to save herself. But Lucas had already walked up to her and said coldly, "It's time you get punished for your sins!"

As he said this, the two young men dressed in military uniforms walked in.

They bowed to Lucas and walked straight toward Karen with handcuffs.

Karen instantly realized that they were here to arrest her!

She immediately tried to retreat. But as soon as she stood up, the two men grabbed her shoulders, rendering her immobile.

"Let go of me! Quickly let go of me!"

"Lucas, if you dare to let them take me away, Cheyenne will never forgive you for the rest of her life!"

"I'm her biological mother! You can't do this to me!"

Karen screamed hysterically.

Cheyenne took a deep breath and tried her best to remain calm. "No, Mom, you're wrong. I won't blame Lucas. You've brought this upon yourself, and it's your fault that you ended up in such a plight. It has nothing to do with him! I told you before that I could believe what you said, but if I found out that you were just lying to me, I would definitely send you to prison myself!"

"Not only have you tried to kill Dad time and time again, but you're still so unrepentant, and you even tried to ruin Amelia! She's only five, and she's usually so well-behaved and cute. Yet you could actually bring yourself to do that! You've done so many terrible things, so how do you still expect me to forgive you?"

“I’ve given you so many chances, but unfortunately, you didn’t know how to cherish them. You’ve trampled on my kindness and sincerity time and time again, and you even took advantage of me. You went from bad to worse! If I continue to foolishly forgive you, Dad, Charlotte, and Amelia will continue getting harmed and made use of by you.

“So, I can no longer forgive you! Just go to the place where you should go and reflect on the mistakes you’ve made!”

Cheyenne spoke hysterically, and tears were already rolling down her cheeks uncontrollably.

Karen was her mother and her dearest family member but also an enemy who wanted to harm her father and daughter.

Cheyenne was full of love for her, but at the same time, she also began to develop hatred for her.

The excruciating misery made Cheyenne feel extremely painful.

Karen panicked when she saw Cheyenne’s resolute attitude.

But now that things had come to this, she no longer had a better solution and could only defend herself vehemently.

“Cheyenne, you... you can’t do this to me! I’ve already told you that I didn’t want to do those things at all. I was forced to do them! If I knew that Lucas was so powerful at the time, I definitely wouldn’t have been coerced by the Taylors. At the end of the day, it’s all Lucas’s fault, and yours too! It’s your fault for not telling me!

“Also, isn’t William still alive and well? Amelia is also safe and sound. Why have you guys come to arrest me? Besides, you don’t have any concrete evidence. On what grounds are you condemning me? I’m not going to concede!”

Lucas sneered. “You want evidence, right? I can give you evidence anytime you need so that you can completely give up!”

He nodded at Damon beside him and instructed, “Bring her in!”

Damon immediately agreed, then turned around and left the villa.

He soon entered with a panicking woman behind him.

When Karen saw this woman’s face, her expression changed, and she shrieked in shock, “Nik... Nikki Heron!”

The woman Damon brought in was none other than Nikki, who had been taken away from the Herons previously!

Probably because she had been imprisoned in the Parker residence for two days, Nikki was now no longer as arrogant as before. Instead, she seemed to be panicking.

Clearly, she had been taught a lesson in the last two days.

“Nikki Heron, I’m sure you know that as long as you can give a full account of what you’ve done and provide evidence, you will get credit where it is due and have your sentence lightened. You should know what to do now, right?” an officer in military uniform said indifferently.

Chapter 606: Exposing Her True Colors

Nikki had long hated Karen to the core. If this woman hadn’t coerced her, how would she have gotten involved in this matter?

The more detestable thing was that this woman actually dared to threaten her into helping her with a voice recording!

As a result, she had now landed in such a terrible plight. During the two days she had spent in the Parker residence, she had suffered greatly. It could be said that the torment she had been put through was all caused by the shameless Karen!

Now, since she could expose Karen’s crimes and reduce her time in jail, Nikki wouldn’t hesitate at all!

She pointed at Karen and said furiously, “All of this was planned by Karen Turner! She was the one who looked for me and said that she wanted to deal with Lucas Gray. But before doing so, she had to kill William Carter, who was getting in her way. Once she did, she would be able to find a chance to return to the lake villa where Lucas Gray lives!

“In order to kill William Carter, she asked me for a hundred and fifty thousand dollars to hire a murderer named Craig. Later on, William Carter got into an accident!

“Also, because William Carter didn’t die but became a vegetable, she was afraid that he would expose her misdeeds after he became conscious, so she resorted to various means to try to kill him again! Later, she even forced me to help her kill him, threatening to expose our plans if I refused. She wanted me to suffer and die with her!

“In short, Karen Turner is the mastermind! If it wasn’t for her, I wouldn’t have gotten involved in this matter at all, and I wouldn’t have ended up in this situation now!”

In one breath, Nikki revealed all the things she and Karen had done with each other.

Karen naturally refused to admit it, and she was still resisting and vehemently denying, “No! You’re lying! You’ve made this all up! You’re trying to frame me! When did I ever ask you for a hundred and fifty grand to hire a murderer? When did I ever threaten you to kill someone for me? These are all false accusations! I didn’t do such things!”

In response to her rebuttal, Nikki merely sneered. “Don’t forget about the recording you sent me when you threatened me. It’s still on my phone! And the full version of the recording has every single thing we discussed that day at your place. I’m sure you have the full recording!

“I also have the evidence of you threatening me. Even if you try to deny it, you can’t! There’s also the record of my \$150,000 transfer to you. Do you think you’ll be fine just because you’ve denied it? What a fool!”

She hated Karen so much that she wanted her to die right on the spot. Needless to say, she would take the initiative to bring out any evidence she had.

Karen’s face paled.

At this moment, Lucas said, “Nikki, you said you gave Karen \$150,000, but she only gave \$50,000 to the man named Craig and kept the remaining \$100,000. Hah, she really never misses the chance to get money!”

Hearing this, Nikki became even more enraged. “Karen Turner, you bitch, how dare you pocket the money and still have the cheek to ask me for so much money? Have you gone insane from being too poor? It’s no wonder you can’t get anything done! You deserve it! You deserve to end up in this plight. You brought this all upon yourself!”

There were still some things that she couldn’t say in front of Lucas and William. The \$150,000 she gave Karen was enough to hire a decent hitman who could definitely kill William!

Yet this dimwit Karen could only bear to spend \$50,000, which definitely wasn’t enough to hire an elite hitman. It was no wonder that the man she had hired couldn’t get the job done.

It could be said that things went awry all because of Karen’s greed for money!

If possible, she really wanted to run over and give Karen a few hard slaps!

Karen looked at the furious Nikki and then at the Parkers, who were utterly disappointed and resentful toward her. Deep down, she also understood that there was no way she could defend herself any further.

Moreover, Charlotte, Cheyenne, William, and Lucas would never let her off again!

Her body was icy cold, and she directly collapsed on the ground.

Just when everyone thought that she had nothing more to say and would be arrested, Karen suddenly raised her head again with an extremely bizarre smile on her face.

“Cheyenne Carter, do you know why I’m doing this? Now, I’ll be straightforward and honest with you. I’ve always hated you! I’ve always wished for you to be dead!”

She suddenly laughed out loud at Cheyenne.

Cheyenne widened her eyes in astonishment. “You... what did you say? Why?”

Suddenly hearing such hostile words from her mother, Cheyenne was shocked.

”Karen Turner, shut up immediately! Shut up!” William’s expression changed drastically, and he immediately shouted sternly, trying to stop Karen from continuing.

But at this moment, Karen had already decided to go all out. “Haha, anyway, none of you want to let me off, and all of you are trying to put me in jail. Why should I continue to spare a thought for you and cover up the truth? I’m going to spill the beans!”

Karen was yelling hysterically with a hostile and malicious expression on her face. She continued to yell at Cheyenne, “Because I’m not your biological mother at all! You’re just a substitute for my deceased biological daughter! Even your name belongs to my deceased daughter. It’s not meant for you at all!

“Every time I see you, I think of my unfortunate daughter. If you hadn’t jinxed her to death, she would still be by my side now! I worked so hard to raise you to such an age, and now you’re treating me like this. You’re such an ingrate!

“Had I known you’d treat me like this, I wouldn’t have adopted you and raised you to adulthood as my daughter!

“I’m not your biological mother or Amelia’s grandmother. That’s why I don’t care about your lives at all! Don’t you want to arrest me and send me to jail? I’m telling you right now. I won’t let you get away with it! You owe me for the rest of your life! You’ll never be able to pay me back, and I’ll never let you live well in this life!”

“Let me tell you. I’m not the only one who hates you. Do you think William Carter likes you that much? He actually hates you too because you’re not his biological daughter! You’re just an abandoned baby of unknown origin who was discarded like garbage by your biological parents!”

Karen’s words were like daggers stabbing into the softest part of Cheyenne’s heart.

Cheyenne's body stiffened, and she stood still in place, feeling as if her head was about to explode.

Chapter 607: Events of the Past

When Lucas saw Cheyenne turn as pale as a sheet and start swaying unsteadily, his heart ached, and he quickly went forward to hold her. "Cheyenne!"

Cheyenne had now lost all her strength. If Lucas wasn't holding her, she would have probably already collapsed straight to the ground.

William was livid and hollered at Karen in fury, "Bitch, shut up! Only a vicious and vile woman like you would blame everything on a child who knew nothing about the matter! Regardless of whether she's biologically related to me or not, Cheyenne is still my daughter! I'm not like you! Don't project your narrow-mindedness and malice on me and casually make wild speculations to denigrate the relationship between Cheyenne and me!"

Although Cheyenne was indeed not his biological daughter, he had long regarded her as his own after having adopted her for over two decades. Yet the abominable Karen actually accused him of abhorring Cheyenne and deliberately tried to hurt her while sowing discord between their father-daughter relationship. William absolutely resented her!

Seeing how miserable Cheyenne was and how exasperated William was, Karen felt a twisted sense of accomplishment.

She continued to say smugly, "Haha! You're not even biologically related to each other, yet you say that you treat her as your own. How ridiculous!"

"Cheyenne Carter, no one wanted you ever since you were born, and even your biological parents didn't want you. Clearly, you're a huge failure!"

"Do you think your husband Lucas Gray really loves you? No, he's only attracted to your beauty. If you were ugly or old, he'd definitely leave you immediately!"

"Also, do you think William Carter loves you? No, he just treats you as a cash cow because you're rich now, thanks to Lucas Gray! Think about it. Did William ever treat you nicely when you were just a pathetic nobody that everyone in the Carter family bullied every single day?"

"And..."

"Shut up!" Lucas suddenly roared, interrupting Karen from continuing to hurl vicious and hurtful comments at Cheyenne. He said to the two men in military uniforms next to him, "Take her away immediately! After all the evidence has been collected, you will be judged severely!"

The two men acknowledged and immediately grabbed Karen's arms, each holding onto one. Ignoring her struggles, they dragged her away.

At the same time, Nikki was also taken away.

After the two of them were taken away, everyone looked at Cheyenne worriedly.

Her eyes were glassed over and completely lifeless, seemingly no longer able to react to anything in the outside world.

Feeling extremely pained to see her like this, Lucas held her in his embrace and spoke into Cheyenne's ear several times before she reluctantly came back to her senses.

But the moment she came to her senses, she recalled the words Karen just said, and it felt like sharp daggers were stabbing her heart. Tears immediately poured out of her eyes and pattered down one by one onto the back of Lucas's hand. The warmth of her tears made him feel heartbroken.

When Damon and Bruce saw this, they knew that everything that would happen next was Lucas's family matters and that it would be inconvenient for them to remain. So being self-aware, they immediately bade farewell and left.

Charlotte's face was stained with tears as she asked William tearfully, "Dad, was... what she said just now true? Is Cheyenne really not your biological daughter? What about me? Was I also adopted by you two, just like Cheyenne?"

Looking at his daughters crying incessantly, William felt miserable and sorrowful.

Sitting in his wheelchair, William let out a long sigh before making up his mind and saying, "In fact, there are some secrets that I wanted to hide from you guys and take with me to my coffin so that you will never find out about them in your lifetime. But since things have already come to this, I have no choice but to tell you the truth."

He raised his head and saw that only his family remained in the villa. Then he said slowly, "Although Karen ran her mouth and said lots of absurd things just now, there was one thing she wasn't lying about, and that is you're indeed not our biological daughter, Cheyenne."

Cheyenne shivered and closed her eyes in despair as her tears trickled down her face even faster.

Before William spoke, she still had the last trace of extravagant hope in her heart, hoping that Karen was just telling an absurd lie to take revenge on her. But after hearing William's confirmation, her very last glimmer of hope was dashed.

Charlotte's heart sank, but she soon continued to ask nervously, "What about me? Am I not your biological daughter either?"

"No." William shook his head and then looked at Charlotte with a complicated gaze. "You're different from Cheyenne. You're our biological daughter."

After hearing this answer, Charlotte didn't know whether she should feel relieved, lost, or sad.

She was indeed William's daughter, which made her feel somewhat relieved. After all, it also meant that she wasn't an abandoned child whose parents' whereabouts were unknown.

But this also meant that she and Cheyenne were no longer biological sisters. For the past twenty-plus years of her life, Charlotte had always treated Cheyenne as her sister and the closest person she relied on. But their relationship was now ruthlessly damaged.

She was at a loss for what to do, and she even felt a wave of extreme panic, which made her immediately hold Cheyenne's hand, for fear that her sister would leave her.

"Sis, regardless of whether we're blood-related or not, you are still my sister, and it'll never change in this life, Cheyenne!" She hugged Cheyenne, and they immediately burst into tears while holding each other.

Lucas stood silently by the side, looking at Cheyenne with a gentle gaze of concern in her eyes.

Even if Cheyenne wasn't a Carter and didn't know who her parents were, she had always been the most important person in Lucas's life.

After crying, Charlotte and Cheyenne calmed down slightly. Charlotte wiped her tears clean and asked, "Dad, wh-what exactly happened?"

William looked at Cheyenne and Charlotte with a heartened gaze in his eyes.

A look of reminiscence appeared in his eyes, and he felt emotional at the thought of the past 28 years.

"We'll have to start from twenty-nine years ago. At that time, Karen and I had just gotten married, and we were in a loving relationship at the beginning. She got pregnant soon after we got married.

"After learning the news of her pregnancy, she was overjoyed and looking forward to the birth of our baby every single day. She was excited, and she kept thinking about what she should name the child.

“She thought about it every day for several months, and she finally chose a name. She decided that if it was a boy, she would name him Chester, and if it was a girl, she would name her Cheyenne.”

At this point, Cheyenne’s fingers trembled slightly.

Indeed, her name was meant for Karen’s daughter!

Chapter 608: Great Day

Charlotte held Cheyenne’s hand worriedly while Lucas stood behind her, supporting her tacitly with his strong and muscular arms.

After feeling the silent support of the closest people around her, Cheyenne had a warm feeling in her heart, and she could better withstand the incident.

“What about afterward?” Cheyenne stood still and took the initiative to ask.

“Afterward...” With a trace of agony in his eyes, William continued, “Later on, two days before Karen’s due date, she had a sudden fall and started bleeding heavily on the spot. I rushed her to the hospital, and it took painstaking efforts to rescue her, but the baby passed away two days after she was born...”

His eyes were red too. After all, it was his firstborn child, and although it had been many years, William still felt devastated when he recalled how he felt when he lost his child.

Cheyenne and Charlotte were both silent.

Cheyenne was especially empathetic because she had also gone through lots of danger when she was pregnant with Amelia. She had even almost experienced a difficult labor, so she could understand very well how agonizing it would be to lose a child.

“Karen suffered such a huge blow that she wept and cursed every single day, demanding that the doctor return the baby to her. She even became more and more irrational. At the time, we couldn’t even have a proper conversation with her, and she started to kick up a ruckus as soon as she heard our voices. Only later did the doctor tell me that she was diagnosed with severe depression and anxiety. She was miserable because of the loss of our child, so I could understand how she felt. Even though her personality changed a little afterward, I couldn’t say much to her.

“She was in tears and agony every day then, and she even attempted suicide. But on the day we left the hospital to go home, we saw a baby beside a garbage can near the hospital. The baby was you.”

William looked at Cheyenne, and the scene of Cheyenne as an infant laying by the roadside vaguely surfaced in his head.

Cheyenne's body tensed up as she continued listening to William speak.

"When Karen saw you, she immediately ran over and picked you up, and she kept saying that you were the daughter the doctor had made her lose. At the time, she was in a dangerous psychological condition, so we brought you home and raised you as our own.

"Three years later, Karen became pregnant again with Charlotte.

"In the past few years, a lot of things happened, and I didn't fulfill my duties as a father. I've neglected you two greatly, and Karen... has also become increasingly boorish and mercenary. All she cares about is money. Kinship and our marriage probably gradually dissipated in her eyes.

"But I didn't notice it, and I failed to show you and Charlotte more love and concern. It's all my fault too!"

William spoke seriously and looked at Cheyenne with an apologetic gaze.

"Cheyenne, I can assure you that I have always treated you as my daughter. And in my heart, both you and Charlotte are equal. I love you two equally, and I definitely won't abhor you or resent you!

"Karen... has already been bewitched. Besides, she's extremely indignant about her current plight. That's why she said those things to agitate you. Don't take to heart what she said! No matter what, you are still my daughter!"

Charlotte grabbed Cheyenne's hand tightly and said with an equally serious face, "Me too, Cheyenne! No matter what, you are still my sister! We will always be a family!"

Cheyenne felt extremely touched, and tears welled up in her eyes.

In fact, she should have been an orphan who had been abandoned.

William was the one who gave her a home, and he had always been nice to her since she was a child. At the very least, everything he gave Charlotte, he gave her too. William had never shown any favoritism toward Charlotte or loathed her.

Cheyenne and Charlotte were about the same age, and due to Karen's negligence toward the two of them since they were young, they had always only had each other to rely on. Thus, they supported each other throughout their growing years and were extremely close to each other.

With these two family members who loved her wholeheartedly, she felt that it didn't matter that she wasn't biologically related to them.

When she thought of this, her panic and anxiety vanished like a puff of smoke.

There were still tears on her face, but her lips were now curled up into a warm smile of relief. “Yes, we’ll forever be a family like we always have and always will be!”

Lucas smiled. “Yes, we will always be a family!”

Cheyenne, Charlotte, and William were all smiling warmly, looking relieved.

Moreover, after today’s incident, they had become much closer to each other than before.

Although it had been an eventful day, William had finally regained consciousness, and Karen had finally faced her retribution and was put behind bars. Amelia was still safe and sound, and even the Carters’ secrets and differences had been resolved.

Needless to say, it was indeed a day worth celebrating.

If not for the fact that William’s injuries hadn’t healed yet and he still had to recuperate in the hospital for a while, they would have gone to a restaurant to celebrate.

After dinner, Cheyenne followed Lucas back to the lake villa because William had already awoken and didn’t need them to stay by his side all the time.

After washing up, Cheyenne blushed shyly, but she nevertheless snuggled up into Lucas’s embrace without hesitation and hugged him tightly.

“Honey, thank you for doing all of this for me! And... I love you!” Cheyenne wrapped her arms around Lucas’s neck and kissed him coyly.

Lucas looked at the woman in his arms with a tender and fiery gaze and gradually tightened his embrace around her. He could barely stop himself.

...

It was a passionate night!

The following morning, Lucas looked at the dainty woman who was still sleeping soundly while nestling in his arms. The corners of his mouth curled into a gleeful smile.

They had finally become the most intimate couple!

Chapter 609: Getting Engaged Immediately

Because they had finally taken the last step to consummate their marriage, their feelings and relationship became more intimate. A mere moment of eye contact could make them feel immense love for each other.

During breakfast, Charlotte naturally noticed it at a glance and couldn't help teasing them, "Cheyenne, I've discovered that you're extraordinarily beautiful today. Indeed, a woman who has been nourished by love is different!"

Cheyenne was extremely shy and embarrassed. She glared at her and said angrily, "You're already a general manager, yet you're still so rude. How dare you tease your sister!"

"Haha!" Charlotte didn't care at all. She made a face and fled with a piece of bread she hadn't finished eating yet. "You two take your time. I won't play gooseberry!"

She scurried away while giggling.

"You're so serious when you're in the office. Why are you acting like a child at home?" Cheyenne muttered, but she was beaming with joy.

Charlotte was still teasing her, just like usual. This meant that nothing had changed, and they were indeed a real family.

So despite being teased by Charlotte, Cheyenne was still overjoyed.

But she soon thought of something.

"Did Maddy call you last night and say that she would be leaving soon?" Cheyenne asked.

Lucas nodded. "Yes, she came to Orange County to treat William and help improve Grace's mother's condition. Now, William has regained consciousness, and he can be discharged after recuperating for a while, so she'll be leaving tomorrow."

"So soon?" Cheyenne was a little surprised. She thought about it and said, "Actually, I'm truly grateful to Maddy. If not for her excellent medical skills, I'm afraid Dad would probably still be a vegetable at this point. While Maddy was helping, we were keeping watch in the hospital and didn't get to thank her properly. But she's leaving so soon."

"How about we invite Maddy to dinner tonight to thank her? Shall we go to the Lion Restaurant?"

Lucas nodded in agreement "Okay, I'll tell her about it. Let's set the time for six-thirty. We'll head to the Lion Restaurant after you get off work this evening."

Soon, both of them and Amelia finished breakfast. As usual, Lucas first dropped Amelia off at the kindergarten and then drove Cheyenne to the Brilliance Corporation.

After William regained consciousness, Cheyenne, the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation, naturally canceled her annual leave and returned to work at the office.

Lucas returned to the Stardust Corporation to check on the company's development.

During the days he was in the hospital, Charlotte had been mainly in charge of all the company's affairs. Fortunately, she did a good job, and after the training during this period of time, she had become more and more familiar with being a good general manager.

While at the office, Lucas called Maddy and asked her out for dinner at half past six at the Lion Restaurant. Maddy naturally agreed with pleasure.

Although she didn't know where the Lion Restaurant was, Jordan had been by her side these few days, so he would be tagging along with her to dinner. She didn't have to worry about it at all.

By nearly 6 p.m., Lucas had already driven to the entrance of the Brilliance Corporation to pick up Cheyenne. The two of them then headed to the Lion Restaurant together.

They parked the car in the parking lot nearby. When they reached the entrance of the Lion Restaurant, they saw Maddy and Jordan.

Cheyenne was about to say hello to them when she suddenly realized that something seemed wrong.

Maddy's and Jordan's faces weren't so good, especially Maddy, who was frowning and sulking.

There was a man dressed like a wealthy scion in front of them, all decked out in designer wear.

Jordan stood in front of Maddy to shield her and shouted at the wealthy young man, "Who are you?"

The wealthy scion also looked at Jordan with animosity. "I'm Roy Smith from DC and Maddy's fiancé. Where did you come from? What are you trying to do by being so close to my fiancée?"

Lucas's eyes moved slightly. He was slightly surprised.

Although there was still a distance of dozens of meters between him and Maddy, his sense of hearing was far superior to others, so he naturally heard their entire conversation.

He claimed to be a Smith from DC and said that Maddy was his fiancée. In that case, he had to be the person Maddy's family had arranged for her to marry, as she had mentioned earlier.

He hadn't expected Roy to come to Orange County and even run into Maddy and Jordan.

The Smiths were not a simple family, and they were actually one of the eight most powerful families of DC. Their strength could be said to be on par with the Huttons'.

Roy wasn't alone. Behind him were two tall and strong bodyguards, whose size and aura were not inferior to Jordan's. These two should be his personal bodyguards.

Seeing Roy and Jordan getting into a conflict, the two bodyguards immediately emitted a powerful aura. They were vaguely targeting Jordan, and once Roy issued an order, they would attack Jordan at once.

Even Cheyenne could tell that their aura was hostile.

She took Lucas's hand and said worriedly, "Lucas, it seems that Maddy and Jordan have run into someone creating trouble for them. We'd better hurry over and take a look!"

Lucas nodded and walked over with Cheyenne's hand in his.

Maddy's face became even more sullen after she heard Roy's self-introduction. Without hiding her displeasure, she said coldly, "Roy Smith, since when are we engaged?"

Roy looked at Maddy's cold and peeved expression and felt that it was very interesting.

Despite looking displeased, Maddy was indeed a ravishing beauty who was much more attractive than the countless tacky-looking girls.

With a smile that he thought was very elegant and charming, Roy said to Maddy, "Miss Maddy Stone, this is a joint agreement between our families. Hasn't your family told you that we will soon be engaged?"

Maddy's eyebrows suddenly furrowed even deeper.

Engaged?

He must be joking.

Maddy didn't know Roy at all, and it was her first time meeting him today. She didn't know anything about his temperament, interests, hobbies, manners, personality, and so on. What kind of an engagement was this?

Besides, what made her even more depressed was that her family didn't discuss such a major matter with her! *Are they planning to hide the news from me and then suddenly announce it to me only when I return to DC, then force me to put a square peg into a round hole?*

At this moment, Lucas and Cheyenne walked up to them.

Lucas smiled at Jordan and Maddy, as if he hadn't seen Roy at all. "Hey Jordan and your missus, Cheyenne and I are a little late. Sorry to have kept you waiting."

He had deliberately said 'missus' to Maddy.

Chapter 610: Questioning on the Streets

After hearing what Lucas said, both Jordan and Maddy were surprised.

But the two soon understood what he meant and didn't refute. Instead, they inched closer to each other and seemed to be a compatible couple.

Roy immediately narrowed his eyes and looked at Lucas with a threatening expression. "Punk, what did you just say? Whose missus did you say she is? Who's a couple?"

Lucas pretended to look at him in shock, "I'm talking to my buddy and his girlfriend. What does it have to do with you? Who are you?"

Roy flew into a rage, reached out to point at Lucas, and cursed, "Punk, what are you babbling about? This woman is my fiancée! My property!"

Maddy couldn't bring herself to listen any longer and sneered. "When did I become your property?! As I said earlier, I don't know you at all, and I haven't heard of any engagement. Go elsewhere if you want to look for a fiancée! Don't drag me into this!"

"Maddy, do you know what you're saying? My marriage to you was decided by our families! From the moment our marriage was arranged and settled, you were already my fiancée!

"But now, you're admitting that you're this punk's girlfriend, and you're getting all touchy with him here. You're provoking my dignity as a man and the pride of the Smiths! If this gets back to DC, I'll see how you can explain it to our families!"

"What's there to explain? I've never agreed to be engaged to you at all, and the idea of an unmarried couple is even more ridiculous. So why should I give you an explanation?"

“There is no relationship between you and me. Who I’m willing to be with has nothing to do with you either!”

Maddy was so enraged that she simply held onto Jordan’s arm and looked at Roy provocatively.

When Roy saw Maddy’s actions, he was boiling with rage, and he felt a strong urge to go forward and chop off the arm she had wrapped around Jordan’s arm.

Maddy’s words made him feel humiliated and that his dignity had been trampled on.

He had clearly told her that she was his property, but she actually had the audacity to disobey him and openly behaved physically intimately with another man in front of him. It was a blatant insult to him!

“Very well! Maddy Stone, aren’t you afraid that what you’re doing now will bring your family a great deal of trouble? As long as I tell my parents about what happened today, they won’t be willing to suffer the loss. When the time comes, your family will be doomed! Let’s see how you’ll make it up to me and admit your mistakes in front of me then!”

He mentioned his family, one of the eight great families in DC, to threaten Maddy. He seemed full of certainty, clearly because he was sure that Maddy’s family would definitely be pressured by the Smiths into forcing her to apologize and admit to her mistakes.

Maddy was so livid that her face turned pale.

Just before she was about to speak, Lucas suddenly said, “So, you’re relying on your family’s power and forcing her to marry you, huh? What else do you know apart from using your family to compel others?”

Lucas’s words were full of contempt.

He really did despise these arrogant and incompetent scions.

If Roy had taken a fancy to Maddy and truly pursued her in his own manner, Lucas might not have said much.

Although he hoped that Jordan could get what he wanted and be with Maddy, he also respected Maddy’s choice.

But Roy was acting in a way that made Lucas feel disgusted.

He looked at Maddy with a revolting possessiveness in his eyes, and as soon as he spoke, he said that Maddy was already his fiancée and even openly treated her as his

own property. He compelled her by saying that she couldn't resist because their families had already agreed to it.

Lucas absolutely hated people who treated others as objects of trade without any respect at all and only knew to threaten others by leveraging on their family's power.

Maddy was a unique and wonderful woman with outstanding medical skills. If she really fell into the hands of a vulgar and incompetent person like Roy, she would be completely ruined!

Lucas would never allow such a situation to happen!

Immediately after hearing what Lucas said, Roy flew into a rage as if he had been poked in the lung.

"You bastard! Do you know who I am? I am a Smith, a member of one of the eight most powerful families in DC. We can easily crush you to death with just the lift of a finger. Yet you're so arrogant in front of me. It seems that if I don't teach you a lesson today, you won't know how incompetent you are!" Roy roared furiously and then ordered the two bodyguards behind him. "Go catch him and beat him up! It's best to knock out all of his teeth. Let's see what he can say in a bit!"

As soon as he finished speaking, the bodyguards behind him immediately obeyed the order and walked directly toward Lucas.

But as soon as they started to move, Lucas's body suddenly swayed and disappeared in front of them!

The next second, he appeared directly in front of Roy and grabbed his neck.

"Mr. Smith!" The two bodyguards were instantly astonished and horrified!

Lucas was so fast that even these two bodyguards, who prided themselves on being top experts, didn't see his movements at all. They only felt a strong gust of wind passing by them, and the next second, he appeared in front of Roy.

These two were the bodyguards that the Smiths had specially assigned to Roy. If something happened to him, they definitely wouldn't end up well either!

The faces of Roy's bodyguards turned pale, and one of them shouted at Lucas, "Quickly let go of Mr. Smith!"

"Hmph!" Lucas sneered and tightened his grip on Roy's neck, causing Roy's eyes to roll backward. "If you don't want him to die, get lost now!"

In an instant, his voice seemed to blast into the minds of these two bodyguards like a thunderous roar, causing them instantly to turn ashen and take several steps backward while breaking out in cold sweat.

Only then did they realize that the young man in front of them was far more powerful than them!

Lucas choked Roy in one move, causing him to have trouble breathing. He had long peed in his pants out of fear.

Lucas stared at him coldly and suddenly sneered.

“You actually want to marry Maddy by force? On what grounds?”

“Your family is one of the eight big giants in DC and can crush me to death with just the lift of a finger, huh? I wonder who’s the one being strangled now.

“I just said that the people who leverage only on their family’s power are garbage. People like you are worse than trash!”

“You want to marry Maddy and teach me a lesson? Are you worthy?”

Lucas’s questioning was like thunderbolts striking Roy’s heart.

Chapter 611: Don’t Kill Anyone

The hand of death Lucas was strangling his neck tightly with made Roy frightened out of his wits.

The suffocating pain and the fear of dying made him experience an unprecedented sense of terror.

“You... let go! Otherwise, the Smiths... Mmph!” Roy was struggling and still trying to threaten Lucas with the power of the Smiths.

But Lucas immediately forcefully strangled his neck, making it impossible for him to utter another word.

Seeing this, Maddy hurriedly persuaded, “Lucas, don’t be impulsive!”

She knew that Lucas wasn’t afraid of the Smiths, but they were one of the eight most powerful families in DC and possessed massive power that shouldn’t be underestimated. If Lucas killed Roy here, it would definitely bring him great trouble.

After all, Maddy was the indirect cause of this matter, so she’d definitely feel extremely sorry and be riddled with guilt.

Besides, her family would definitely be implicated and would end up being targeted or even destroyed once they fell out with the Smiths.

As a member of the Stone family, she couldn't bring about a disaster to her family even if she didn't feel a sense of belonging.

Cheyenne hurriedly pulled Lucas's arm and also persuaded, "Hubby, calm down! Don't do anything foolish because of someone like him! It's not worth it!"

She was also afraid that Lucas would accidentally strangle Roy to death.

Naturally, Lucas wouldn't really kill Roy.

Although he was angry, he didn't lose his rationality because of it.

After seeing the look of concern in Cheyenne's and Maddy's eyes, he exhaled softly and warned Roy, "I'll let you off today on Maddy's account. But if you dare to appear in front of her and harass her again, I won't let you off! Get lost!"

Then Lucas flung Roy away.

Roy landed on the ground. Although he had a wretched fall, his breathing became smooth again because his neck was free from Lucas's iron-like grip. He was gasping for breath, and his heart was brimming with the ecstasy of surviving this ordeal.

His bodyguards immediately ran to his side and held him up. "Mr. Stone, are you alright?"

Roy touched the spot on his neck that was vaguely throbbing with pain. It was already bruised from being strangled by Lucas.

Although he hated Lucas so much that he wanted to kill him on the spot, the fear he had of him had already become deeply rooted in his heart after the near-death experience just now.

Thus, Roy didn't dare to say a single word about taking revenge until after Lucas took Maddy and Jordan inside the Lion Restaurant.

"Mr. Smith... What should we..." a bodyguard cautiously asked.

Smack! Before he could finish his sentence, Roy smacked his face hard.

"Good-for-nothings! My dad sent you guys to protect me, but neither of you managed to even touch a corner of that punk's clothes. You even allowed him to almost strangle me to death! Why should I keep garbage like you around?!" Roy hollered furiously and vented all his pent up anger on the bodyguards.

“We were incompetent. Please punish us, Mr. Smith!” The bodyguards didn’t argue and instead got on their knees to ask for Roy’s punishment.

These bodyguards had been working for the Smiths for a long time. If Roy went home and complained about them to his family, they wouldn’t just get sacked. Their lives would be in danger!

They had no choice because they were facing a terrifying scion of the Smith family.

After venting his anger, Roy gradually calmed down. Although his bodyguards were so incompetent that they couldn’t even defeat a young man in his late twenties and even caused him to be on the brink of death, he had only brought two bodyguards with him to Orange County this time. If he got rid of them now, his safety wouldn’t be guaranteed.

The thought of it made Roy feel extremely irritated.

He waved his hand impatiently. “Get up. If you dare to be so useless again next time, I won’t spare you! Now, go find out the identity of that pretty boy with Maddy!”

He gritted his teeth furiously at the entrance of the Lion Restaurant, which was already empty.

Roy was a scion of one of the eight major families of DC. Even in DC, he was an existence praised by others all the time and enjoyed the pleasure of ordering others around.

As a scion of a powerful family, he should enjoy the treatment that royals received once he declared the name of his family!

Yet in Orange County, he actually got humiliated by a young man and almost died at his hands. He had been so frightened that he didn’t even dare to say anything harsh to him. It was absolutely a humiliation!

He swore that he would never let off the pretty boy who had the audacity to snatch his fiancée, as well as Maddy, whom he thought didn’t know any better!

...

Meanwhile, Lucas, Maddy, Jordan, and Cheyenne had already arrived at the private room of the Lion Restaurant that they had booked in advance.

It should have been a joyous gathering, but due to the episode just now, Maddy was in low spirits now and even seemed to be forcing herself to look happy.

Seeing this, Jordan felt anxious.

Lucas also roughly understood what Maddy was worried about.

Maddy had been single for a long time, so he reckoned that the Stones must have become impatient. Besides, they were definitely tempted by the possible benefits they would enjoy from the marriage alliance with the Smiths. So despite Maddy's objection, they took the liberty to set up a verbal engagement with the Smiths.

This was why Roy dared to declare directly that Maddy was already his fiancée and his property.

But given Maddy's character, it was naturally upsetting for her because her family had completely ignored her feelings. This in itself was already a very sad thing.

For a moment, Jordan was at a loss for how to comfort her, and he could only comfort her softly, "Maddy, don't be sad. No matter what, you still have us! As long as you don't want to, the Smiths can't touch you!"

Cheyenne also took Maddy's hand and said sympathetically, "Yes, marriage is a matter between two people. If there are no feelings between you two at all, a forced marriage built based on your families' interests will only cause you misery. Maddy, we have your back. As long as Jordan and Lucas are around, the Smiths won't be able to hurt you!"

Lucas chimed in, "Yes, Maddy. As long as it's something you don't want to do, no one can force you against your wishes. We will all stand on your side!"

Maddy looked at the three people in front of her, her heart filled with a warm feeling.

"Thank you!" she said from the bottom of her heart.

Lucas and Jordan were both her comrades she had met at the Falcon Regiment, so she naturally trusted them and had faith in their abilities. She also trusted that they would definitely keep their word.

Even Cheyenne, whom she had only known for a few days, was standing on her side and supporting her. It made Maddy feel extremely touched.

But Maddy felt even more unwilling to let them be hurt precisely because they treated her so well.

"I'm going to go back to DC tomorrow," she suddenly said.

Chapter 612: Shocking News

Lucas and Jordan were both a little surprised.

Although Maddy had said that she would be leaving Orange County tomorrow, the destination she had in mind at the time wasn't DC.

The sudden change was probably an impromptu decision.

“Maddy, if you go back now, will... you encounter some trouble?” Jordan asked concernedly.

He was naturally referring to Maddy’s and Roy’s families.

If Roy added fuel to the fire and exaggerated the matter when he complained to his family, Maddy would probably face the wrath of two families at the same time.

“It’s okay. I have to give my family a clear explanation for this matter. After all, they’re my parents and my family. I can’t keep being too willful.” Although Maddy had a faint smile, there was obvious bitterness in it.

Jordan’s heart suddenly sank.

He already knew that if Maddy could reach an amicable outcome after negotiating with her family, she would probably be able to regain her freedom for a while again.

But the more likely outcome would be her family putting her under enormous pressure and coercing her by telling her that it was all for her own good and for the sake of her family. They might even callously say that she would be unfilial if she objected to the marriage. Maddy probably wouldn’t be able to stand it.

The thought of it made Jordan’s face gloomy, but he remained silent and chugged a large mouthful of beer.

Lucas was in low spirits too.

He admired Maddy greatly for her composure, wisdom, intelligence, and impeccable medical skills. But her sex as a woman and the fact that she was born to a notable family left her with no choice but to be bound by the stereotypes and ridiculous standards of prestigious families.

In the eyes of her family and relatives, all of her achievements were insignificant. Not only would they not be proud of her because of her achievements, but they would even criticize her for not behaving like the noble lady she was because she was always receiving attention from the public.

Besides, she was still unmarried at 30. In the eyes of many people, she was considered an anomaly who would soon be left on the shelves.

No one cared about her capabilities, value, and dreams.

Lucas honestly hoped that Maddy and Jordan could be together. As long as they were willing, he was confident that he could help them deal with the pressure imposed by the Stones and the Smiths and help them enjoy a blissful life of freedom.

Unfortunately, Jordan and Maddy had spent too little time alone together.

In the past few days, Maddy had developed a liking for Jordan, but it was probably more of comradeship and sisterly affection. She saw Jordan as a younger brother, and their relationship was far from romantic, much less an unwavering love that they would be willing to stand together against the world.

This was precisely why Jordan could only remain silent in response to Maddy's decision to return to DC. There was no way he could say, "I'm willing to go with you and face this together with you."

The supposedly joyous gathering ended up becoming gloomy and somber.

At the same time, an uninvited guest showed up in the Kingston manor in San Francisco.

A middle-aged noblewoman in her forties to fifties dressed in expensive clothes was sitting in the master seat of the hall. On the other hand, Lance, the helmsman of the Kingstons, was sitting anxiously next to her.

"Mrs. Smith, I didn't expect that you would suddenly visit San Francisco. It's our honor to have you here!" Lance said fawningly and then instructed the servants to serve the best tea the family had.

Lance was really annoyed when he first learned that a woman had come to visit him today.

But when he learned that she was from the Smiths, one of the eight major families of DC, his attitude immediately changed drastically.

She was from a prestigious family from DC!

Although the Kingstons had contact with the Huttons, another of the eight great families of DC, they were subservient to the Huttons, and Lance had almost never personally received anyone from the Huttons.

The eight major families of DC were simply legendary existences. The Kingstons were insignificant compared to these behemoths.

If he was a bit careless and ended up offending those from truly powerful families, the Kingstons would probably be destroyed.

On the contrary, if he responded amicably and left a good impression on these noble people, he would probably be able to find a powerful backer for the Kingstons that would help them advance to a higher level!

But the noble lady known as Mrs. Smith was staring sharply at Lance's face. She pursed her lips tightly and furrowed her brows. Clearly, she was in a terrible mood.

She stared at Lance with a hostile gaze and suddenly said, "Lance Kingston, let me ask you. How did my son, Marc, and my ex-husband, Moses, die?"

Boom!

Hearing this, Lance suddenly sprung up from his seat with shock all over his face.

If it wasn't because his heart was strong enough, he would have probably had a heart attack and died of sudden cardiac arrest!

What did he just hear?

This noble lady just said that his son Moses was her ex-husband and his grandson Marc, whom everyone once had high hopes for, was her son!

Lance was extremely astonished and at a loss for words. He didn't know what facial expression he should have either.

After opening his mouth for a long time, he finally said with some puzzlement and disbelief, "Wh-what did you just say? You... you're my son's ex-wife? And my grandson's mother? His biological mother?"

The lady's eyes suddenly darkened, and she said in displeasure, "I think I've already made it very clear! Or do you want me to repeat it again?"

"No, no, no. I... I was just too shocked. After all, my son Moses never mentioned it to me!" Lance hurriedly explained.

At the same time, he was also very bewildered by Moses's behavior. When did my son marry a woman from such a powerful family? He never mentioned it to me before!

She was from one of the eight most powerful families in DC!

If he had known this earlier, the Kingstons would have long formed connections with the Smiths from DC. He might have already expanded the family's power to DC!

Seemingly having seen through Lance's thoughts, Mrs. Smith sneered and said with some contempt, "I know what you're thinking. But even Moses doesn't know my true identity, so of course you wouldn't!"

Hearing this, Lance became more surprised and curious. Could Moses have married a woman without knowing her true identity?

At this point, Lance finally began to recall the past events from 29 years ago.

Chapter 613: Events of the Past

Because it had happened a long time ago, Lance could no longer remember the details clearly.

He only remembered that 29 years ago, a young Moses suddenly returned home with a child in his arms less than two years after graduating from college and said that the child was his son, Marc.

At the time, Lance was naturally shocked, and the Kingstons already owned a business empire. In order to prevent having illegitimate children in the family, he immediately found someone to do a paternity test for Moses and Marc. After determining that Marc was indeed Moses's biological son, Lance finally accepted him.

But when Lance asked Moses who the child's mother was, Moses remained silent and didn't say anything. Only when he was compelled to a corner did he say, "My child's mother has long died."

Thus, Moses married another woman, who then became Marc's stepmother.

This woman was someone whom Lance had long wanted Moses to marry.

But a few years after they got married, the woman died during labor, along with the unborn child.

Moses dropped the idea of getting married again, and he had always only acknowledged Marc as his only son.

But Marc had just jumped to his death two days ago, and Moses had just shot himself dead after a failed attempt to take revenge on Lucas. The corpse had yet to be buried, as it had only been delivered back to the Kingstons yesterday. Later on, someone from the Smiths in DC suddenly arrived and said that she was the ex-wife of his poor son and the mother of his grandson. No matter how he looked at it, it still seemed unbelievable!

Most importantly, as soon as she came, she asked Lance how his son and grandson had died, putting him in a difficult spot.

"I... Could I ask what happened between you and Moses?" Lance asked, full of puzzlement about this matter.

Mrs. Smith's name was Wendy. She moved her eyes and said indifferently, "There isn't much. Simply put, we met and fell in love in college, but I didn't tell him my true identity. Later on, I got pregnant, but he said that his family forbade him from getting married, so I handed our son to him after giving birth. I also severed all ties with him and cut off contact with him. Are you pleased with that answer?"

Wendy flew into a sudden rage, making Lance shudder.

Only then did he suddenly remember that there did seem to be such an incident many years ago.

At the time, his son Moses had just graduated from college, and one day, he called home to say that he wanted to marry a college schoolmate who came from a humble family.

Of course, Lance objected to it because he had already picked a suitable marriage partner for Moses—the daughter of a notable family in San Francisco. Her family was very compatible with the Kingstons, so Lance strongly opposed his son's decision regardless of his insistence. In the end, he even threatened to sever ties with Moses to force him to break up with the woman from a humble family.

But now...

Large drops of sweat immediately emerged on Lance's forehead. He had never thought that the woman his son loved would be a daughter of the eight major families of DC.

The reason she didn't reveal her identity and family background to his son was probably that she wanted to seek love that wasn't built on materialistic interests. It was likely because of a childish mindset!

The thought of it made Lance feel agonized.

He regretted his past actions and was afraid that Wendy would cause trouble for him because of them.

Fortunately, Wendy was not the same girl as back then.

After staring at Lance for a while, she moved away and said coldly, "At this point, I'm not here to pursue the matter and hold you responsible for what happened. I just want to know how my ex-husband and my son died. Tell me everything honestly!"

Only then did Lance relax a little, but he didn't dare to delay at all. He hurriedly said, "Mrs. Smith, Moses and Marc were both killed by a young man named Lucas Gray! If it

weren't for him, my son and grandson would still be alive and well! Maybe you would have been able to reunite with them someday!"

He told her everything that had happened in the Kingston manor a few days ago, including the feud between Marc, Moses, and Lucas.

Of course, he didn't tell her about how he was compelled into kicking Marc out of the family and then disowning him. He also hid the fact that he had rejected Moses without hesitation when the latter said that he wanted to avenge Marc after Marc committed suicide.

Furthermore, he had even exaggerated Lucas's might and domineering nature, as well as the grief and misery he felt after finding out about the death of his son and grandson.

But Wendy had come prepared. She sneered. "In that case, do you also feel sad for my son and ex-husband? But I heard that you were the one who kicked my son out of the family and disowned him!

"Moreover, when my ex-husband asked for your help to avenge my son, you also turned him down without hesitation. After his corpse was returned to the Kingstons, you didn't show any signs of taking revenge for him. Even his funeral was held perfunctorily, huh?"

Lance's heart dropped.

This was the part that he had hidden from Wendy just now, but she seemed to know everything. As expected of someone from one of the eight major families in DC, she was really terrifyingly capable!

He was now filled with regret. Had he known Wendy's identity long ago, how could he have thrown Marc out of the family? He would have agreed to Moses's request instead of letting him die out there and be carried back home as a corpse.

But what was done couldn't be undone. It was too late for regrets!

Moses was anxious and uneasy, but he could only say miserably, "I... I didn't want that to happen either! Mrs. Smith, I don't know how much you know about the Kingstons, but I can swear to you that I never treated Moses and Marc badly! I was grooming him to become the next successor of the family even before that incident. He was the grandson I favored the most. If it wasn't because of the circumstances, how could I have driven the grandson I had the most hopes for out of the family?"

Chapter 614: Looking for a Helper

Wendy believed that Lance used to value Marc greatly.

She might have long since severed her ties with Moses and married someone else, but Marc was still her own flesh and blood after all. She would send people to keep an eye on the Kingstons from time to time and report the situation about Marc to her.

According to the information she had received, Wendy could indeed believe that the Kingstons had treated Marc well in the past twenty years, especially when he slowly grew up and revealed his intelligence and resourcefulness. Among all the Kingston descendants, her son was indeed treated the best.

Lance indeed didn't lie about it.

Lance had been secretly paying attention to Wendy's face, and when he saw that she seemed rather calm and didn't have any other large emotional fluctuations, he continued, "The person who caused all this is that punk named Lucas Gray!

"He suddenly barged into our home with a large group of people, and that punk is so good at martial arts that even all of our top bodyguards and elite experts were completely no match for him! He killed the Kingstons' most powerful expert with just one move, so I had no choice but to give up Marc and Moses because of his power. I felt terrible too!

"That young man is really powerful. If I had insisted on seeking revenge on him, not only would I have not been able to avenge Moses and Marc, but it would have caused us to suffer even heavier losses! So I've been seeking opportunities and external aid for the past couple of days. I'd definitely be more than happy if there's someone who can help me kill Lucas Gray!"

After speaking, Lance looked at Wendy intently with his eyes full of hope, seemingly trying to invite her to join him in carrying out his plan.

On the one hand, it was because Lance wanted to show Wendy his determination to avenge his son and grandson. On the other hand, he really hoped that he could use the power of the Smiths to help him get rid of Lucas.

Lucas had not only trampled on the pride of the Kingstons by killing lots of their members, but he had even colluded with the Coles from San Francisco and the heads of several other families from Orange County and LA. Since he could threaten the Kingstons' status, Lance had to get rid of him immediately!

As one of the eight greatest families in the country, the Smiths definitely had that kind of power!

Looking at Lance's fawning gaze, Wendy pondered for a while before asking, "Is what you said the truth? A young man about the same age as Marc actually had the ability to kill the top expert of the Kingstons?"

“Yes, many of us witnessed it with our own eyes and can testify to it! Lucas’s martial arts skills are terrifying,” Lance hurriedly said, afraid that Wendy would blame him for being cold-blooded and ruthless for not saving Marc from death.

It wasn’t that he didn’t want to help his grandson and son, but rather, there was nothing he could do because his opponent was too powerful.

Wendy wasn’t foolish.

With her understanding of the Kingstons, they were one of the strongest three giants in California after all, so their expert had definitely been extraordinary.

But even so, the fact that Lucas could kill this expert in one move without resorting to any scheming or dirty trick was enough to show that Lucas’s martial arts skills should be far above that of the Kingstons’ expert!

Is there really such a powerful person in Orange County?

Even in a place like DC, where elite martial artists were everywhere, anyone with such a terrifying level of power would make countless people vie with each other to hire them.

“Master Eli, what do you think of this?” Wendy stayed silent for a long time before asking the middle-aged man standing silently behind her with his aura suppressed to the point of being almost unnoticeable.

Eli was Wendy’s personal bodyguard and an extremely powerful expert of the Smiths. He possessed a considerable amount of strength and power.

Wendy didn’t know much about martial arts, but she reckoned that Eli definitely knew something based on his rich experience.

Eli nodded and suddenly asked Lance, “Mr. Kingston, how strong is your best expert? He’s already dead now, so find me the second best and let me see the difference in strength.”

Lance was stunned for a moment before quickly saying, “Okay, the Kingstons’ previous top expert was named Scarface, who died that day. Our strongest expert now is indeed inferior to Scarface. Shall I ask him to come here now?”

Eli assented while Lance gave instructions for his servant to bring the most powerful expert they had now to the door of the villa.

“Master Eli, Zack is our strongest expert now.” Lance pointed at the young man with a pair of knives in his hands who had an extremely soft physique that seemed rather effeminate.

Ever since Lucas killed Scarface, Lance had quickly recruited this powerful man.

Eli, who now suddenly had an imposing aura despite his very low presence just now, walked toward Zack.

Zack was a little unimpressed at first, but he was instantly shocked by his domineering aura and immediately used his own to resist.

But despite exerting all his aura, Zack still seemed to pale in comparison and was helpless against Eli. His aura was so fragile that it seemed that a slight carelessness would cause him to be devoured.

“Ah!” Under the overwhelming pressure, Zack roared at the top of his lungs. He moved his hands, and the two sharp blades resembling butterfly wings slashed at Eli’s neck and abdomen.

Zack moved very swiftly, and especially since the angles of the two knives were extremely tricky, it required a lot of skill to block the attack.

Facing the sudden and sharp attack, Eli actually remained still in place. In fact, he didn’t even get into the most basic defensive stance.

Only when Zack’s blades were about to reach Eli, and the people around them panicked, did Eli finally and suddenly move!

His hands immediately cut through the air, one upward and one downward.

Ding!

Crack!

The two different sounds filled the air at the same time. Everyone looked over, only to see that Zack’s knives had been blocked by Eli in an instant.

Eli managed to clasp the blade aimed at his neck firmly with his index and middle fingers. He held it so tightly that the blade could no longer move a single millimeter.

Below, Eli smacked away the knife aimed at his abdomen and broke it into pieces with his knife-like palm even though it was made of steel.

The surroundings immediately fell dead silent!

Chapter 615: Great Difference

Being able to hold a blade firmly between two fingers despite the incredible force of Zack's slash was enough to show how skilled Eli was.

Moreover, the fact that he could break the other blade into two with just one palm was even more shocking.

His martial arts skills were simply extraordinary!

Lance's eyes widened, and he almost couldn't believe what was before his eyes.

The expert named Zack in front of him was drenched in cold sweat.

He could obviously feel that all his strength resembled an ant trying to shake a tree in front of Eli. He had no chance of victory at all!

Even one of the hard and sharp steel knives he usually used was actually broken into two by Eli's hand. This was way beyond the strength of ordinary humans.

The more frightening thing was that Eli was completely composed, and he seemed to have launched his move effortlessly without exerting his full strength.

Eli pushed back the hand holding the blade in front of his face, causing Zack to retreat several steps.

"Very weak indeed." Then he stopped looking at Zack and simply stood behind Wendy, once again becoming an inconspicuous person with almost no presence.

Only then did Lance let out a long sigh of relief and come back to his senses from the incredible shock just now. Completely astounded, he said to Wendy agitatedly, "Amazing! This is really amazing! Master Eli's combat skills are incredible! Not only are they much stronger than Zack's, but they're much more powerful than those of my former number one expert, Scarface!

"In my opinion, even if Lucas Gray came, he wouldn't be able to last two rounds against Eli!"

Eli stood with his hands by his side, as if he hadn't heard these compliments at all.

In reality, Eli had been showered with so much praise and compliments over the years that he had long gotten sick of them. Besides, he didn't think that a young man in his twenties would be a big threat to him.

He thought that Lance was afraid of him only because the Kingstons were too weak.

For example, Zack was the strongest expert that the Kingstons could afford to send out, but he had been so fragile in front of him. Thus, Eli didn't think that Lucas, who could beat up all the Kingstons, was that impressive.

Wendy had a look of satisfaction on her face.

Eli was her personal bodyguard and extremely powerful, so she didn't think that it would be hard for him to deal with Lucas at all.

But Wendy didn't intend to let Eli go and capture Lucas so rashly.

Possessing such powerful combat skills and being gutsy enough to barge into the Kingston residence alone and force them to submit temporarily was definitely not a feat that an ordinary late twenties young man could achieve.

"Who exactly is Lucas Gray?" Wendy asked.

She had always done things prudently, so she decided that she had to get more information about her enemy, Lucas, who had killed her son and ex-husband, before killing him in one blow.

Only then did Lance remember that he still had a very important thing to tell Wendy.

"Mrs. Smith, actually, Lucas Gray is indeed not an ordinary person either. He's actually from the Hutton family. But he and his mother were kicked out of the family two decades ago, and he was even forbidden from using his last name.

"However, just half a year ago, he suddenly returned to Orange County, and the Stardust Group that he's now in charge of is said to have been handed over to him by the head of the Huttons. But that's also the reason the Huttons dislike him. The feud between the Kingstons and Lucas Gray arose because of this.

"Moreover, to be honest, the Huttons are one of the eight top families of DC after all. We're far inferior to them. There's a saying that the commoners tend to be the ones to suffer when powerful people fight. The Kingstons have been implicated, and even Marc and Moses have died because of Lucas Gray..."

Lance wiped his eyes with misery.

Wendy raised her brows and muttered to herself, "It turns out Lucas Gray is actually a descendant of the Huttons. This reminds me of some of the past events from ages ago. But no matter which family he belongs to, I have to make him pay the price for killing my son and ex-husband!"

If Lucas was still a member of the colossal Hutton family, Wendy might still have some scruples toward him. After all, both the Smith and the Hutton families were top giants in

DC and on par with each other. There was no way her family would go to war with the Huttons for the sake of her ex-husband and son, whom she had never revealed to the public.

But Lucas was now just an abandoned descendant of the Huttons, who had long been kicked out of the family. Even the Huttons themselves wished that he could vanish from this world immediately. She believed that even if she resorted to cruel means to take revenge, the Huttons probably wouldn't have any objections. They might even clap and rejoice.

"Master Eli, please..."

Wendy was about to instruct Eli to get rid of Lucas when a young man suddenly barged in from outside angrily.

"Aunt Wendy, you have to get justice for me!" he immediately exclaimed to Wendy, who was sitting at the head seat, as soon as he entered the hall.

Lance was about to reprimand this young man who suddenly barged in, but he immediately kept his mouth shut when he heard the word 'aunt'.

Since he could address Wendy in such a manner, he was definitely also a Smith!

Wendy immediately frowned slightly. But the next second, she looked at the young man's wretched appearance and the frightening bruises on his neck.

Wendy immediately stood up and asked furiously, "What's the matter with you, Roy? How did you get those injuries on your neck?"

The Smiths were absolutely powerful enough to be dominant in this state, so Wendy was furious that someone dared to hit Roy.

Roy touched the marks on his neck, which he had sustained from being strangled and were still faintly hurting. He gritted his teeth and complained, "It's a punk from Orange County! He's really arrogant and obnoxious. I already told him the status of our family, but it didn't stop him from beating me up and almost strangling me to death! Aunt, you have to seek justice for me!"

"What? A punk from Orange County actually had the guts to hit you? He really doesn't take the Smiths seriously at all!" Wendy slammed her hand against the table in exasperation.

If it was an arrogant scion from San Francisco who didn't take the Smiths seriously because of some other backers, it wouldn't be too bad. But she felt that that arrogant punk who had hit Roy must have a death wish!

Wendy was furious, and she looked straight at Lance. "Lance Kingston, your family is at least one of the most powerful families in California. You should be able to deal with a mere punk from Orange County, right?"

A nobody from Orange County doesn't warrant us to take action at all!

Lance hurriedly said, "Of course! Even if he's the heir of a prominent family in Orange County, I'll definitely bring him back and hand him over to you to be at your disposal!"

Chapter 616: Disrupting The Romance

Lance, who now needed help from the Smiths and also wanted to get closer to them, immediately agreed to do so without hesitation. "But Mr. Smith, do you know the name of that punk who had the audacity to hit you?"

Since he wanted to help Roy take revenge, he had to at least find out which impudent person it was who had dared to harm Roy.

Feeling extremely aggrieved, Roy said, "I don't know what that punk's full name is, but the people around him called him Lucas. He's about the same age as me, around twenty-seven or twenty-eight, and 1.85 meters tall. He has quick hands! And he has a very pretty woman by his side, who seems to be his wife."

He told Lance all the basic information about Lucas that he had obtained from meeting Lucas just now.

Although he had instructed his bodyguard to stay in Orange County and find out Lucas's identity, Roy had yet to receive a call from his bodyguard, so he could only describe him in such a general manner.

After Lance heard what Roy said, his expression slowly became grave and gloomy.

Lucas...

... twenty-seven or twenty-eight...

... 1.85 meters tall and fast at fighting...

... has a very pretty wife...

After piecing all this information together, a figure that he was reluctant to see immediately surfaced in his mind. *No way...*

While he was thinking about it, his expression became rather subtle. He seemed shocked, angry, and on the verge of tears as the corners of his mouth twitched vigorously.

Wendy acutely sensed his reactions, and she narrowed her eyes before asking with a frown, "Lance Kingston, you look like you know who that person is."

Roy quickly looked at Lance and asked eagerly, "Do you know who that bastard is? Great. Who is he?"

Lance smiled bitterly. "If I'm guessing correctly, the person who got physical with Mr. Smith should be Lucas Gray!"

"What? It's him too?" Wendy was shocked, but a look of vicious resentment and hatred soon appeared on her face. "Hmph, it seems that Lucas Gray is indeed very arrogant. He killed my..."

She looked at her nephew Roy, who was still dumbfounded and clueless. She stopped herself from saying the words 'son and ex-husband' she almost just blurted and rephrased it.

"... After killing my friend, he bullied my nephew. He must have a death wish!"

With a cold expression on her face, Wendy clenched her fists tightly and meticulously tended to her broken fingernail, which was painted with red nail varnish.

"Since that person is Lucas Gray, Mrs. Smith, I think we'll have to ask Master Eli to deal with him..." Lance said cautiously.

He had just pitted the Kingstons' strongest combat expert against Eli, but Eli had easily defeated him. Even if Lance sent him to deal with Lucas, it would probably be futile.

Wendy naturally knew this as well. She said directly to Eli, who was behind her, "In that case, Master Eli, I'll have to trouble you to go to Orange County and bring Lucas Gray back to me!

"Also, Mr. Kingston, send me a copy of the information regarding Lucas Gray. You should have his photos, address, and other information, right? I don't want Master Eli to go all the way to Orange County, only to end up wasting his time on something useless."

Eli and Lance both immediately agreed.

Soon, Eli headed to Orange County with the simple information about Lucas that the Kingstons provided.

At this moment, Lucas and the others in Orange County were naturally unaware of this matter.

They had just finished their meal in the Lion Restaurant and left.

Because Maddy would be leaving for DC soon, and her family was forcing her to accept an arranged marriage, the few of them were in low spirits.

In particular, Jordan seemed worried and reluctant to part with her.

Lucas glanced at him and suddenly said, "Jordan, Maddy will be leaving tomorrow. But before she leaves, you still have to protect her, okay?"

After being stunned for a while, Jordan immediately stood up straight and promised loudly, "Yes!"

He understood that Lucas was deliberately giving him this task so that he could continue to stay by Maddy's side under the pretext of protecting her.

Even if he only had one day left, he could make his last effort to change the way Maddy felt about him...

Maddy smiled faintly without saying anything.

In fact, it wasn't that she couldn't sense Jordan's feelings for her. But due to their age gap and the resistance from her family that she would inevitably face, Maddy had only ever been able to treat Jordan as her younger brother and comrade. She didn't dare to think about anything else at all.

Soon, the two bade goodbye and left.

Lucas and Cheyenne were the only ones left by the roadside.

Cheyenne naturally held Lucas's arm, and they were behaving just like any other loving couple.

As a bystander, Cheyenne couldn't help feeling anxious and sympathy for Jordan and Maddy, who couldn't tell each other their feelings and had to part ways because of various reasons.

At the same time, she also felt happy and thankful.

She looked at Lucas beside her.

More than six years ago, she and Lucas had gotten married out of a helpless compromise and not because of a sweet romance or love.

The two had been distant from the beginning, and later on, numerous events had occurred. When Lucas vanished for six years, Cheyenne had been full of resentment toward him.

So during the period of time after Lucas suddenly returned to Orange County, Cheyenne had been extremely cold toward him.

But even so, Lucas had never given up and had instead been silently protecting her and loving her through his own means, which allowed their relationship to develop to this stage.

The thought of the intimacy they had just shared made Cheyenne blush and her heart race.

It turned out that the feeling of being in love was really the most blissful thing in the world.

It was so fortunate that she could meet Lucas!

Cheyenne looked at Lucas affectionately, and he gazed at her adoringly.

They shared a tacit understanding through their warm eye contact, filling their hearts with sweetness.

It was still early, and it had been long since they got to enjoy some time alone. So they weren't in a rush to go home.

Hand in hand, Lucas and Cheyenne slowly walked through the streets and alleys amid the early autumn breeze.

But their peaceful time together was short-lived because Lucas suddenly stopped in his tracks not long after they walked a bit. He turned his head to look in a certain direction with his eyes full of anger.

His rare quality time with Cheyenne was going to be disturbed by some ignorant people.

"Wh-what's the matter?" Cheyenne was walking when she suddenly sensed something amiss with Lucas.