

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

- Chapter 681 – 711

Compensation

Chapter 681: Compensation

As the general manager of the Heavenly Pavilion, she could completely ignore what the customers said.

But these two came with Lucas after all. Moreover, Jane was worried that Brian might have received some misleading news and mistakenly thought that there would really be an auction after the exchanges. Thus, she decided to give him a kind reminder.

But when Brian heard her words, his face instantly turned gloomy.

“What did you say?” There was anger in his voice.

Jane thought that Brian was displeased to learn that there was no auction, so she explained further, “Sir, I can confirm that there are no plans for an auction after both exchanges today.

“But there are Heavenly Pavilion exhibition halls set up in the venues of both exchanges. The items there are similar to the ones in our store, except that the prices of the items in the exhibition hall are slightly more expensive than the prices in our store out of consideration for the venue fees and other reasons. If you’d like to get anything, it’s more cost-effective to buy it in our store,” Jane said, fulfilling her duty.

Brian’s face turned even uglier, and his eyes were about to burst with anger.

Both Charlotte and Lucas had been invited to the ordinary business exchange and the Elite Business Exchange respectively, so they were extremely clear that there indeed wouldn’t be an auction after the exchanges.

If there really was one, then it would have been advertised early on so that those interested would be able to prepare for it in advance.

At this moment, even Charlotte could tell that what Brian said about the Heavenly Pavilion's items being mediocre and his promise to buy Vanessa a piece of top-grade jewelry at the auction after the business exchanges were excuses.

Brian was currently incredibly furious.

He had painstakingly found the perfect excuse to get this silly woman Vanessa to stop pestering him to buy expensive jewelry from the Heavenly Pavilion. Yet Jane had actually exposed him directly to his face. How could he go on then?

"Hah, look at you sounding like you know it all. Do you know a lot about today's exchanges? Did you also receive an invitation?" Brian questioned hostilely.

Jane shook her head and said honestly, "I'm just an employee of the Heavenly Pavilion, and I'm not qualified to represent the Heavenly Pavilion to attend the exchange."

"Hmph, since you don't even have an invitation, how can you conclude that there's no auction after the exchanges? Who told you there isn't?"

Brian strained his neck and said forcefully, "You're just an employee of the Heavenly Pavilion. How dare you talk back to me? Do you know who I am?"

"Let me tell you. I'm the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation in LA. Have you heard of the Solar Corporation? It can afford ten Heavenly Pavilions! I'm here to attend the exchange on behalf of the Solar Corporation. Of course, I know the program lineup of the exchange better than you. What a joke!

"Do I need someone like you to teach me what to do? How ridiculous! Vanessa, I think this person is just trying to fool us into buying things from the Heavenly Pavilion. She keeps saying that the things here are cheaper. Psht! Am I the type to go for cheaper things?"

"Let's go, Vanessa. We won't buy anything from Heavenly Pavilion! I'm going to drive them mad!"

"Don't you just want a pair of top-grade emerald bracelets? Let's go to the auction, and I'll buy you the most expensive pair! Even if they cost dozens of millions, I'll buy them for you! When the time comes, let's see what she has to say!"

When Vanessa heard that Brian was leaving, she thought she wouldn't get any bracelets today. But when she heard the last sentence, she was overjoyed. "Okay, let's go to the auction to buy the most expensive bracelets. Honey, you're so nice to me...!"

Bang!

Before Vanessa could finish speaking, she was suddenly interrupted by the loud sound of something cracking.

She had been in a hurry to catch up with Brian and didn't watch where she was walking, so she had accidentally swung her arm and knocked the vase on one of the display cases onto the floor. It immediately shattered.

The loud sound instantly attracted the attention of many people around.

In particular, when some people saw the broken vase fragments on the floor, they inhaled sharply.

"Oh my God!"

"No way. She actually broke that vase? It seems she has to pay for it!"

"I just don't know if this woman can afford it. The vase is really expensive! My dad liked it a lot, and he hesitated for a long time, but he didn't buy it!"

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Several people around them began discussing.

When Vanessa discovered that she had accidentally broken something in the store, she panicked a little. But when she saw that she had merely broken a vase, she was a lot less flustered.

"It's just a vase. What's the big deal?"

"My boyfriend is rich, and he's even going to buy me a pair of jade bracelets worth several dozen million. What's the big deal about breaking a vase? Right, Honey?"

"You just want me to compensate for it, don't you? We'll just do it. God knows how long this lousy vase has been on display here. Maybe no one wants it at all. You'll be making a huge profit when I compensate you!"

"Honey, let them swipe your card!" Vanessa said with great confidence and arrogance.

Not only did she not apologize for accidentally breaking something in the Heavenly Pavilion, but she was even nonchalant and behaved as if the store was receiving a huge advantage from her.

"..." Brian was incredibly gloomy.

If he could, he really wanted to slap the foolish Vanessa several times on her mouth!

If she hadn't walked without watching where she was going, he wouldn't have to compensate such a large amount for nothing.

He even had the impulse to leave right away.

But when he noticed that Charlotte was still looking at him and that the guests around him seemed to be figures of status, he felt that it would be extremely embarrassing if he met them on any other occasion in the future.

He couldn't afford to be that embarrassed.

After thinking about it for a long time, Brian finally took out a bank card from his pocket with great reluctance and said through gritted teeth, "Swipe this card!"

Jane walked over and was about to take the card from his hand. But Brian suddenly glowered at her and threw the card onto the floor.

Anyone could tell that it wasn't a slip of the hand but that Brian did it on purpose!

Chapter 682: Falling Out

Jane was just a young woman who had just graduated from college. Now that she suddenly suffered such humiliation, her face instantly flushed red.

At the same time, she felt very aggrieved and bewildered.

She had just given him a kind reminder on account that he was Lucas's friend. She couldn't fathom Brian's anger toward her.

Did I really anger Mr. Gray's friend because I was too nosy?

Jane felt aggrieved. But when she thought about how it was commonplace for many wealthy people to be temperamental and enjoy trampling on the dignity of others, coupled with the fact that Brian was Lucas's friend, she had no choice but to force herself to endure the humiliation. She bent down to pick up the bank card on the floor.

"Wait. Don't pick it up," Lucas suddenly interjected coldly.

Although she didn't quite understand why Lucas suddenly stopped her from accepting the humiliation his friend was subjecting her to, Lucas was her great benefactor, who had helped her a lot yesterday. So she subconsciously obeyed and stood up again.

Brian was displeased with Lucas.

"Punk, what are you doing?" Brian chided unceremoniously.

Lucas looked at Brian and Vanessa coldly. "Since you're compensating for something, you should swipe your card properly. Such behavior is unacceptable. You've gone overboard."

The Heavenly Pavilion was the property of the Parkers from LA, and the Parkers had already submitted themselves to Lucas. Thus, it could be said that Lucas was the biggest boss behind the Heavenly Pavilion and that Jane was his employee.

How could Lucas stand by and watch Brian take his anger out on his employee after breaking something in his store?

"Damn it. Who are you to lecture me?!" Brian flew into a rage and cursed at Lucas while pointing at his face.

Vanessa chimed in angrily, "My boyfriend is a thousand times better than you. How dare you teach us what to do when you're just a penniless man? You must be joking. If it wasn't for Charlotte, a loser like you wouldn't even be qualified to speak to us. Who gave you the audacity to denounce us?"

Still not appeased after lashing out at Lucas, she turned around and vented her anger on Charlotte. "Charlotte, it's not that I have to keep criticizing you, but look how terrible your boyfriend is! My boyfriend and I were kind enough to bring him to the Heavenly Pavilion for an eye-opener so that he wouldn't be too embarrassing when he's out with you, but what about him? How dare he help an outsider criticize us and say that we're overboard?! He's too ungrateful.

"Worst still, how did he get the courage to criticize my boyfriend? My boyfriend is so young, but he's already the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation, a huge company worth billions, and his net worth is hundreds of millions. What about your boyfriend? I'm afraid all the clothes on his body add up to less than a hundred dollars. Even if you marry him, you'll have to suffer with this penniless man, and in no time, you'll become old and haggard!

"Back in high school, you were the school belle and star student. So many boys courted you every day. Why has your taste in men become so terrible?

"They all say that the gap between people will widen five years after graduation, and it really seems to be the case! When I marry my boyfriend, I'll be the wife of the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation. Furthermore, in less than two years, I might become the wife of the general manager! And you? You won't be able to get ahead in life if you marry this penniless man!

"If your man has so much time and effort to spare on reproving my boyfriend, he might as well spend it on improving himself and learning how to behave!

"If he's willing to admit his mistakes and apologize to my boyfriend, I might even ask Brian to arrange for him to become a driver or take on random jobs!"

Vanessa said a long list of words, which she had been curbing the urge to say for a long time.

Anyway, she had shown off enough to Charlotte, and she was already getting ready to leave now. So she didn't bother to pretend to be extremely close to Charlotte anymore, and her words became harsh and sarcastic.

Charlotte didn't expect Vanessa to suddenly fall out with her and even speak in such a callous manner.

At first, Charlotte was actually elated to see Vanessa, her former best friend in high school. But as she continued to chat with Vanessa, she began to find her intolerable.

Given the way Vanessa behaved, she clearly didn't have any intention to chat with her at all. Instead, she was just flaunting.

Charlotte had been tolerant toward her on account of their friendship. But now, Vanessa had not only taken the initiative to fall out with her, but she even nitpicked on Lucas and humiliated him greatly.

She was not a good-tempered person in the first place, and at this moment, she was exasperated.

"Enough! Vanessa, what are you putting on airs and flaunting in front of me for? What does my life have to do with you? Can't you live without putting me down? Do you have to be so vicious?"

"Don't think I couldn't tell why you dragged me here today. Wasn't it just to show off to me? You just wanted to show off how rich your man is and how much he loves you. But what's there to show off? Do those things belong to you? Without your man, what do you have to show off in front of me?"

"What about your own job? How about your salary and savings? Do you dare to show them off? Do you have what it takes to show off?"

"In my eyes, you are just a parasite sponging off a man. If your man leaves you one day, won't you immediately end up with nothing? I really don't know why you have the courage to show off in front of me when you're living such a life!"

"Also, do you know anything about us? Do you even know who Lucas is? You don't know anything, but you jumped to conclusions. All you do is judge others by their appearance and mock them as you please. In my opinion, you two are the greatest jokes ever!"

Charlotte was a hot-tempered person to begin with, and now that she had lost her temper, she was definitely an even match for Vanessa. Every single word of hers hit the nail on its head, and she even called Vanessa out for being a parasite who was nothing without a rich man.

Charlotte's words struck a sour note within Vanessa, and she immediately flew into a rage and hollered, "Hah, I bet you're just being sour grapes! My boyfriend is just that capable. If you have what it takes, find yourself a boyfriend who's rich and loves you! You're just saying that because you're inferior to me. You're the joke!

"Just hold on to your poor boyfriend and live the rest of your life in misery! If you ever end up being too poor to eat and become a beggar showing up at my house, I won't give you a morsel of food!"

"Haha!" Charlotte sneered. She suddenly felt that there was nothing for her to talk about to Vanessa, who wanted nothing but to rely on a man and viewed money as the most important criterion. They weren't on the same page at all, and it would be a waste of time for her to say anything more.

Seeing Charlotte stop talking, Vanessa immediately felt that she had won the argument.

But when she noticed that everyone else around them seemed to be watching a drama, she no longer wanted to stay here. She rebuked Jane, "What are you waiting for? Hurry up and pick up the card on the floor and swipe it. I don't want to stay in this lousy place for another second!"

Jane was stuck in a dilemma, unsure if she should pick up the card or not.

At this moment, Lucas stopped her again and said to Brian, "Pick up the card yourself and apologize to this young lady!"

"Damn it! You're pushing your luck. Do you believe I'll beat you to death right now?" Boiling with fury, Brian rolled up his sleeves, raised his fist, and glared at Lucas threateningly..

Chapter 683: Insufficient Balance

Afraid that Brian and Lucas would really get into a fight, Jane quickly said with composure, "Don't fight! I'll pick up the bank card now."

She bent down to pick up the bank card at Brian's feet.

In fact, Jane's thought process was simple. She thought that since Lucas was not only a valued guest of Kenneth, the owner of the Heavenly Pavilion, but also her benefactor, she couldn't let Brian really beat up Lucas no matter what.

As long as she picked up Brian's bank card as soon as possible and swiped it to complete the compensation procedure, they could leave quickly, and everything would be fine.

Lucas once again reached out to stop Jane. "I appreciate your attitude toward customers, and that's why you're now the general manager of the Heavenly Pavilion. However, that's also why all your words and actions now represent the Heavenly Pavilion and no longer just yourself personally.

"Today's incident is their fault in the first place, so they should compensate for breaking the vase in the store. If you really give in and submit to someone humiliating you and the Heavenly Pavilion, it means that the Heavenly Pavilion is stooping low to bow down to them. In that case, how can the Heavenly Pavilion's image be preserved in the hearts of the customers? Will there be more and more people coming here to cause trouble and take the opportunity to trample all over you?

"I know you're putting up with this today for the sake of settling this matter peacefully, but others may not think so. They'll only think that you and the Heavenly Pavilion are weak pushovers!

"If he accidentally dropped his bank card, it would be understandable for you to help him pick it up. But he's clearly the one who made a mistake in the first place, yet he's still acting all high and mighty. Since he doesn't treat you as human, you don't have to be nice to him! Respect between people is mutual, and we are all born equal. You work hard to make a livelihood, and you're not inferior to them at all!

"Besides, you're the general manager of Heavenly Pavilion. How could you really be afraid of him? If someone really dares to cause trouble here, the Parkers will definitely not ignore it!"

Lucas would rarely say so many words at once.

But Jane was a talent he recognized, and he didn't want to see this intelligent girl with a strong backbone getting bullied like this. He wanted to nurture and train her.

Moreover, Lucas really couldn't tolerate Brian and Vanessa.

After hearing what Lucas said, Jane looked extremely touched.

During the time she had worked as a sales assistant, she had often been bullied by others and ordered around by haughty customers. No one had cared about the dignity of the sales assistants. Lucas was the only one who had stopped her from bending down to pick up the card to protect her dignity, and not just once.

Charlotte was also looking at him with glistening eyes and admiration written all over her face.

At the same time, the people who had witnessed the entire incident around them stood on Lucas and Jane's side. They couldn't stand the arrogant and domineering behavior of Brian and Vanessa.

"Those two people are really outrageous! They spent so long browsing through the items here, but they refused to buy anything using all sorts of excuses. They knocked over the vase, but not only did they not apologize, they're acting so snobbish. They even deliberately threw the bank card to the floor. How uncultured!

"God knows where they're from. Do they think they're a big deal just because they have some money? Those who can enter the Heavenly Pavilion are all rich, but no one is as arrogant as them!"

"Hah, I think it's hard to say for sure that they're really rich! These look like they're wearing designer clothing, but they're actually high-end knockoffs! My family is the agent for a luxury menswear brand, and I can tell at a glance!"

"Wow, they're really something. They're wearing counterfeit products, yet they still have the audacity to be so arrogant. I saw them being picky and criticizing the items without buying anything. I bet they're really too poor to afford anything."

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Countless accusatory voices came from all around.

When Brian heard the first few remarks, his face turned beet-red with anger. But when he heard the next few, he felt so ashamed that he didn't even dare to lift his head.

Reason being, these people were right. The designer clothes and accessories he was wearing were actually all high-end counterfeits that cost only a few hundred dollars. The customers of the Heavenly Pavilion in front of him were genuinely wealthy, so they could definitely expose his lies.

At this thought, Brian couldn't care less about Jane. Now, all he wanted to do was immediately settle the matter and leave.

"Fine, I was wrong!" he said through gritted teeth. He picked up the bank card on the floor, handed it to Jane, and quickly said, "I'll compensate you for it. Quickly swipe my card!"

Brian began chickening out and wanted to leave as soon as possible. But Vanessa felt that he was greatly wronged, and the ones responsible were Lucas, the culprit, and Charlotte, his accomplice.

“Lucas Gray, do you think you’re really great? Do you think we’re afraid of you? Let me tell you. My boyfriend just doesn’t want to create unnecessary trouble. That’s why he apologized. It’s not because he’s afraid of you!

“After leaving the Heavenly Pavilion, my boyfriend is still the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation. He’s in charge of thousands of employees and has an annual salary of millions! He also easily earns more than ten million a year just from bank deposit interests, stock options, and investments!

“But what about you? After you leave the Heavenly Pavilion, you’re still just a bottom feeder of society. Do you even make more than minimum wage?

“Charlotte Carter, you’re really blind to have fallen for such a man! You deserve to be unlucky for the rest of your life and never make a comeback! Haha, I really find it amusing when I think about how I used to be your best friend! You and I belong to two different worlds, and I will never speak to you again!”

Facing Vanessa acting like a mad dog barking, Lucas and Charlotte didn’t bother to pay any attention.

From now on, Charlotte would no longer see Vanessa as her best friend. Besides, their situations were completely unlike what Vanessa said, so she obviously wouldn’t care about what Vanessa said.

“Sir, I’m sorry, but the balance in your bank card is insufficient to pay for the vase...” Jane suddenly walked back from the cashier with Brian’s bank card, looking rather awkward.

“What? How is it possible that the balance is insufficient? I have a million in that card! How can it be insufficient for that stupid vase?” Brian immediately shouted angrily.

Jane said with an apologetic look, “If you really only have a million in your card, it’s indeed insufficient because the vase you two just broke is a blue-and-white porcelain vase from the Ming Dynasty, which is extremely rare and precious. Its retail price is 2.8 million dollars, and the balance in your card is quite far from this.”

Brian and Vanessa widened their eyes in shock, almost wondering if there was something wrong with their ears!

Chapter 684: Severing Ties

“How much did you say it costs?!” Brian asked in disbelief, his voice about to crack.

“2.8 million dollars, Sir,” Jane repeated, deliberately slowing down her speech to quote the price carefully.

“How is that possible?! It... it’s just a vase. How can it be so expensive?!” Brian yelled hysterically, almost on the verge of breaking down.

If the vase was sold at a less prestigious place, he might have thought it was only worth a couple dozen dollars. But since it was placed in a store like the Heavenly Pavilion, where cheap goods didn’t exist, Brian had braced himself and raised his expected price to about \$150,000.

Thus, he gritted his teeth and took out his bank card with a balance of one million, thinking that it should be more than enough.

But to his surprise, the vase had a staggering price tag of \$2.8 million! The money he had was less than half of the vase’s price!

How could he afford to compensate for it?

He didn’t have that much money.

With shock written all over her face, Vanessa questioned aggressively, “Are you people trying to extort us? It’s just a stupid vase. How can it be so expensive? Are you deliberately raising the price because you saw that we agreed to compensate for it? I’m telling you. I won’t tolerate such behavior! I’m going to sue you! Don’t think that we’re pushovers!”

Facing her harsh voice and threats, Jane kept a straight face and said calmly, “Miss, the prices of the items in our store are all marked very clearly. The price of this Ming Dynasty blue-and-white porcelain vase is also clearly indicated on the display stand. You may take a look at it yourself.

“In addition, the price of an antique is not determined by its actual use but by its age, craftsmanship, and collection value. This Ming Dynasty vase has been in our store for some time, and no one has ever said that it’s not worth the price. We also have an appraisal certificate issued by the authorities, and you may also bring the broken pieces away for authentication later. This should prove that what you just broke is indeed a precious Ming Dynasty blue-and-white porcelain vase.

“The Heavenly Pavilion has always marked our prices very clearly, and we would never cheat anyone. We are definitely trustworthy, and we will absolutely never commit deliberate extortion.”

Jane was neither servile nor overbearing during her speech, and she also managed to refute Vanessa’s accusatory remarks about the Heavenly Pavilion extorting them.

Some guests gathered around them also spoke up in agreement. "Indeed, the porcelain vase has been here for about half a month. My father used to come here every day to look at it, and he really wanted to buy it. But unfortunately, it was too expensive, so my father was hesitant about it. If he hears that this vase was broken, he'll probably be so upset that he won't be able to eat..."

"It's a precious porcelain vase from the Ming Dynasty and extremely valuable, so it's reasonable for it to be priced at 2.8 million dollars. I can also vouch that the vase has always been sold at this price. The Heavenly Pavilion didn't deliberately increase the price to extort you!"

"If a vase from the Ming Dynasty were sold for only a few hundred thousand dollars, it would definitely be a crazy sale. Anyone selling it at this price, please give me a dozen of them. I'll take everything!"

People spoke up one after another.

Vanessa's face suddenly flushed red. She really didn't know the value of these antiques.

She only knew that the luxury goods such as jewelry and gemstones were expensive. She hadn't expected that an unassuming vase she didn't even take a liking to was worth so much money.

"Hmph, isn't it just a few million? My boyfriend is worth hundreds of millions. He can easily afford to pay for it." Vanessa rolled her eyes at the people around her with disdain.

She turned her head and said to Brian, "Honey, you must have taken the wrong card just now. The one million in this card should be the spending money for me, right? Give me this card and quickly take out your other card with a large balance! Hmph, it's merely a few million. It's peanuts to you!"

Then Vanessa hurriedly snatched that bank card from Jane's hand and held it tightly with sweet bliss written all over her face.

A few days ago, she had coquettishly asked Brian for some spending money after they were intimate with each other. He had agreed to give her a card with a million for her to spend as she pleased. She thought that he was trying to give her a surprise by hiding it from her even though he had already prepared it.

Vanessa indulged in her thoughts happily.

Charlotte couldn't contain her amusement any longer and burst into laughter.

She wasn't trying to be rude, but rather, Brian's current expression was just too hilarious. It was almost as if he was full of resentment as he stared at Vanessa gripping the card tightly in her hand, wishing he could snatch it from her right away.

But Vanessa was still obliviously showing off Brian's wealth. It was really funny!

Hearing Charlotte's laughter, Vanessa immediately rebuked in anger, "Charlotte Carter, why are you laughing? My boyfriend can casually give me a million as spending money. Can yours do the same? I'm afraid your penniless boyfriend won't even give you a thousand, huh?"

Charlotte had a hard time holding in her laughter before saying, "Haha, you... should ask your boyfriend if the money in this card is for your spending money or not. I'm afraid it's all the money your boyfriend has. You'd better hurry up and return it to him. Otherwise, he'll eat you up immediately. Haha!"

Vanessa was further enraged. She turned to complain to Brian, "Honey, look at her! She even said that the money in this card is everything you have. How can she insult you like that? You obviously have at least a few hundred million in your card. How can you possibly only have a million?!"

Brian gritted his teeth and ordered, "Give me the card!"

His eyes were menacing, and he wished he could kill the stupid Vanessa on the spot.

"Huh? Honey, what... what's wrong with you?" Vanessa finally discovered something amiss with Brian's expression. He was glaring at her like she was an enemy, making her frightened.

"Honey... what... what's gotten into you? I... I'm your precious sweetheart!" Vanessa said carefully.

"My sweet bullshit! Return the card to me immediately!" Brian could no longer contain his anger. He cursed at her and grabbed the card back from her by force.

Vanessa was still stunned and bewildered.

Brian said, "This woman is the one who broke the vase. If you want compensation, get her to pay for it! I have nothing to do with this woman from now on. You don't have to let me know regardless of what happens to her!"

With that, Brian glowered at Vanessa before turning around to leave.

He actually broke up with Vanessa and severed ties with her at this juncture!

Everyone was stunned.

Meanwhile, Vanessa's jaw dropped, and she was completely dumbstruck, unable to process what was going on!

Chapter 685: Exposing The Truth Himself

Just as Brian was about to walk to the elevator, the elevator doors suddenly opened, and a young man with a cold and hostile aura walked out. He hollered, "Who is it? Who dares to cause trouble on the Parkers' turf?!"

Six tall and burly bodyguards followed him out of the elevator. They were firmly blocking the elevator as a murderous tension filled the air.

Brian panicked and took several steps backward, his heart full of nervousness and panic.

As someone from LA, he naturally recognized at a glance who the nobly-dressed young man in front of him was.

"Mr... Mr. Parker!" Brian hurriedly greeted him.

The young man was none other than Kenneth, the scion of the Parkers and the owner of the Heavenly Pavilion. Brian didn't dare to offend him in the slightest.

"Brian Klein, what exactly do you mean by what you just said? Repeat yourself!" Vanessa finally processed what Brian had just said, but she was in complete disbelief of this fact. She dashed over and grabbed Brian's shirt.

She and Brian were clearly deeply in love with each other, and Brian had even promised to meet her parents to ask for her hand in marriage. So she was confused as to why he would suddenly break up with her and say that he would no longer have anything to do with her.

Vanessa refused to believe it no matter what!

"Let go!" Brian pushed Vanessa away forcefully, pushing her onto the floor.

She had a hard fall, but he didn't even bat an eyelid, and his face was covered in disgust and disdain.

"I've long had enough of you, you incorrigible, foolish, and shameless wench! What else do you do every day besides pouting, whining, acting coquettish, and pestering me to buy you clothes and jewelry or give you money?"

"If you hadn't thrown yourself at me and climbed into my bed, do you think I would have given you a second glance? People always say that the ugly ones are the greatest troublemakers, but why do you still think you're some angel? Why don't you take a look at yourself in the mirror and see if you still look decent without makeup?"

"What else do you see besides money? What does how much money I have have to do with you? Have you ever earned a single cent yourself? You're just like a bloodsucking leech who only knows to pester me to buy you this and that!"

"I was just toying with you, you hideous and shameless woman. Do you think I'd really spend so much money on you?"

"Hmph, I might as well tell you the truth. Your emerald bracelet, earrings, ring, clothes, and handbag are all high-grade counterfeits that I got someone to help me get from the black market! They cost less than a few hundred dollars in total!"

"I've had enough of your stupidity. You're such an idiot! You just had to drag me to the Heavenly Pavilion and ask me to buy you things worth millions. Do you think my money grows on trees? Even if it does, why should I spend my money on you?"

"You're the one who broke the vase yourself, so you should pay for it. What does it have to do with me? We're just friends with benefits who have slept with each other for a few months. I never had anything to do with you!"

"I'm also making it clear to you today that you're not allowed to come pester me again in the future. Otherwise, I'll beat you up whenever I see you. Do you hear me?!" Brian roared furiously, revealing the truth about everything in order to break off ties with Vanessa completely.

Vanessa never thought that the truth would be so cruel. She thought that she had finally found the perfect man and kept bragging about him, but he was just toying with her. He had even fooled her with worthless counterfeits!

After getting pushed by Brian, Vanessa fell onto the floor. But the physical pain was nothing compared to the emotional pain she was feeling!

She thought she had finally found a rich man who could give her a life of luxury. But now, she felt as if she had fallen from the sky, as if her whole world had collapsed.

A woman getting ruthlessly abandoned by a heartless man should have been something worthy of sympathy.

But except for Kenneth and his men, everyone else present had witnessed how arrogant and domineering Vanessa was. She had humiliated and mocked her former best friend and her penniless boyfriend just because she had found herself a rich boyfriend.

Now that Vanessa had been dumped by her boyfriend, whom she often bragged about in every way, everyone felt that she deserved it and had brought it upon herself. No one sympathized with her at all.

Vanessa was the only person unwilling to accept this reality.

Sitting on the floor, she began shaking her head hysterically.

“No, this is impossible! Brian, you clearly said that I’m the person you love the most and the one you want to marry and spend the rest of your life with. How could you possibly do this to me?”

“You even said that you’d visit my parents soon and ask for my hand in marriage. You also said that you’ve prepared an expensive betrothal gift for me!

“The emerald bracelet and diamond ring you gave me were clearly bought from the Heavenly Pavilion. You told me you spent millions just so I could be happy. How can they possibly be cheap counterfeits?”

“Brian, tell me that you’re just joking with me. You must be joking, right? Everything you just said to me is a lie, right?”

Tears were streaming down Vanessa’s face, but she still couldn’t help looking at Brian expectantly, hoping to hear an affirmative answer from him.

But Brian merely glanced at her tear-stained face covered in smudged makeup. With disgust in his eyes, he said coldly, “What a fool. I’ve already told you everything. What are you expecting? Are you still dreaming of being Cinderella? Yes, my family is indeed richer than yours, but why should I marry an ugly, poor, and stupid woman like you?”

“Even if I get married, I will definitely marry someone worthy and compatible with my family. Look at yourself. What about you is worthy of me?”

“In terms of looks, you’re just mediocre. You’re not pretty at all!

“In terms of family background... Hah, you kept complaining to me about how poor your family is. Your family is still expecting you to feed them, aren’t they?”

“In terms of character and talent... Hah, you have no ambitions, and you’re just a materialistic, tacky, and incompetent woman. In the last two years, has your monthly salary ever been above three thousand?”

“Hmph, tell me. Just what attribute of yours is good enough for me?”

Brian was merciless as he relentlessly criticized Vanessa to the point where she seemed worthless.

Vanessa was heartbroken and unwilling to believe the fact that she had just been dumped like this.

“I don’t believe it! I don’t believe it! You... said so many sweet nothings to me and gave me so many gifts. You clearly still love me! I don’t believe it!” she yelled hysterically.

Brian said in annoyance, “How can you be so stupid?! If you don’t believe me, then take off the ring and bracelet you’re wearing and let the staff of the Heavenly Pavilion authenticate them. I wish you’d hurry up and die so that you’ll stop pestering me!”

Hearing this, Vanessa hurriedly got up from the floor as if she had found a straw to clutch at and rushed to the service desk nearby. She frantically took off the diamond ring, emerald bracelet, and earrings she was wearing and pushed them to the jewelry appraiser in front of her.

“Sir, quickly help me authenticate them and tell me if they’re genuine or not. Tell me if they’re from the Heavenly Pavilion,” she said with great panic..

Chapter 686: On What Grounds?

The bespectacled treasure appraiser pushed his glasses up his nose bridge and picked up the emerald bracelet. He took a few glances at it and then put it down. Then he picked up the twenty-carat diamond ring and the so-called emerald earrings. He looked at them a few times before shaking his head, letting out a long sigh, and pushing them all back to Vanessa.

“How is it? You’ve finished so soon? Don’t you need to take a closer look? Are these genuine or fake?” Vanessa asked profusely.

The treasure appraiser said, “I’m sorry, Miss, but these items are not from the Heavenly Pavilion. Moreover, they’re all artificial gems. These things are very cheap, and you can probably get them for a few dozen dollars. If you wear them for a long time, they will be harmful to your health. Try not to wear them again in the future!”

Vanessa felt as if she was struck by lightning. Her eyes were wide open, and she stood rooted to the spot, completely dumbstruck.

These items... were things she cherished and wore every single day, and she’d go around showing them off. But it turned out that they were all counterfeits worth only a few dozen dollars. Worse still, they were harmful to her health!

Brian actually deceived her with such terrible counterfeit goods!

Vanessa stood in place dejectedly, completely lost and out of sorts, seemingly having suffered an immense blow.

But no one sympathized with her.

Lucas had also been standing at the side and watching everything. He felt that Vanessa had brought it upon herself.

From the time Vanessa met Charlotte by chance today, she had been showing off and flaunting her boyfriend's wealth and their success. She had also insulted Charlotte and Lucas from time to time.

Lucas could ignore all of this. But when Vanessa and Charlotte fell out just now, Vanessa had cursed at Charlotte and said lots of unpleasant and callous things to her. She had even behaved in an extremely condescending manner, making Lucas feel disgusted.

Vanessa, a materialistic gold digger who only knew to rely on men, had a twisted mind. She had put her former best friend to shame and trampled all over her, so she totally deserved to end up in such a plight today.

Seeing Vanessa finally stop pestering him, Brian hurried toward Kenneth and said nervously, "Mr. Parker, that woman is the one who broke the vase, and I have nothing to do with her now. If you want someone to compensate for it, look for her. She really isn't related to me in any way!"

Then he scurried toward the elevator door in a bid to flee.

"Stop! Did I say you could leave? If you dare to take another step, I'll make your family vanish from LA!" Kenneth roared coldly.

His words made Brian freeze in place. He stood nailed to the spot, not even daring to tremble.

A bean-sized droplet of sweat trickled down his face.

Brian didn't doubt Kenneth's threat at all.

The Parkers were now the largest and most powerful family in LA. A small family like the Kleins would definitely be annihilated as long as Kenneth issued a command!

"Mr... Mr. Parker, but that woman is really the one who broke the vase. The... the people here can vouch for me!" Brian was on the verge of tears.

"I don't care. I've just heard someone report the situation. You broke up with that woman after breaking the vase in my store, which means that you were still in a

relationship with her when the vase was broken. You two were even holding hands then.

“I don’t care what you two do after this. But now, you two must pay for the broken vase! Otherwise, I’ll have someone go to the Klein family and ask your elders how this matter should be handled!”

Kenneth couldn’t be bothered to argue with Brian. After making himself clear, he stopped paying attention to him.

Brian felt that the sky was about to collapse on him.

The vase was worth \$2.8 million!

It was absolutely not a small sum of money!

Kenneth demanded that he and Vanessa compensate for it together, but Brian knew that Vanessa was so poor that she probably didn’t even have \$30,000, which was far from enough. In the end, he would still have to pay for it.

But the Kleins were not even a second-tier family in LA, and their combined assets were probably only around 10 million dollars. Moreover, this amount was almost all in real estate and immovable properties. They probably had less than 2 million dollars in liquid funds!

In other words, if they had to pay the compensation of \$2.8 million, the Kleins would have to sell their houses or stores. If his elders found out, they would definitely beat him to death!

Brian’s face turned pale, and he felt devastated.

Meanwhile, Kenneth had already walked up to Lucas and asked cautiously with great respect, “Mr. Gray, this commotion hasn’t affected your mood, has it?”

He had just been chatting happily with some business partners in the Walton Hotel, where the Elite Business Exchange would be held, under the guidance of his grandfather. But he was suddenly informed that someone was causing trouble in the Heavenly Pavilion, and Lucas was there again. Kenneth was almost frightened to death!

Just yesterday, Lucas had visited the Parkers’ Heavenly Pavilion for the first time and had been provoked by the idiotic Kylie and general manager Frey.

Kenneth hurried over to teach them a lesson and promoted Jane, whom Lucas recommended. He also admonished all the employees of the Heavenly Pavilion.

But just one day later, there was yet another slip-up, and Lucas had encountered an unhappy incident in the Heavenly Pavilion again. Kenneth felt that he was too embarrassed to face Lucas again.

He was also particularly worried that Lucas might scold him for his poor management and incompetency.

If he were in Lucas's place and ended up encountering an unhappy experience in a store run by his subordinate twice in a row, he would definitely think that his subordinate was poor at managing.

Fortunately for him, Lucas wasn't upset with him. Instead, he smiled and said, "I'm just here to watch the drama."

Of course, Lucas wouldn't blame Kenneth for today's incident. Actually, the Heavenly Pavilion was also unlucky to have met these two scourges.

Seeing that Lucas didn't seem upset, Kenneth finally heaved a sigh of relief and stood up straight.

His respectful and conscientious behavior, as well as the subservient way he addressed Lucas, made everyone stunned!

In particular, Brian and Vanessa were so astounded that their eyes were about to fall out.

The scion of the Parkers actually behaved so deferentially toward Lucas.

How was this possible?!

On what grounds?!

Chapter 687: The Black Card Appears Again

Just as the crowd was full of astonishment, Kenneth greeted Charlotte. "Miss Carter, you're here too."

Charlotte smiled. "Hello. I didn't expect your business to have expanded to such a large scale, Mr. Parker. There are indeed many good things here in the Heavenly Pavilion. It has given me an eye-opener."

She was very polite.

After all, Charlotte already knew that the Parkers had an extraordinary relationship with Lucas. Now that she learned the huge Heavenly Pavilion actually belonged to the Parkers, it was reasonable for her to give him some compliments out of courtesy.

Kenneth laughed and said with a great sense of pride, “Miss Carter, if there’s anything you’ve taken a liking to in the Heavenly Pavilion, feel free to take it. You can have it for free!”

Cheyenne hurriedly waved her hand and thanked Kenneth for his kindness.

Each of the items on this floor of the Heavenly Pavilion was worth at least \$150,000. She had never bought such an expensive item before, so she obviously couldn’t bring herself to accept such a gift from Kenneth for free.

Charlotte would never be able to accept a gift from someone for no reason, especially a gift of such high value.

Lucas smiled, walked to the display case of emerald jewelry, and pointed at two emerald pendants inside. “Wrap these two up.”

One of the two emerald pendants was highly translucent and had an alluring red hue that was as ethereal as mist, appearing extremely beautiful and romantic. The other was a glassy purple emerald that was also translucent and gorgeous.

When Vanessa was looking at the emerald jewelry, Lucas had noticed that Charlotte had taken several glances at the pendant. She obviously liked it, but she quickly looked away after glancing at the price and didn’t say a word about it.

Reason being, the price of this pendant was 2.5 million dollars, which was far more than Charlotte could afford. So after merely taking a few glances at it, she looked away decisively.

Lucas decided to give the other pendant to Cheyenne.

Since he was already in San Francisco and had shopped in the Heavenly Pavilion twice, he naturally had to get a gift for his wife.

Due to the rare material and color of the pendant, it was even more expensive at three million dollars.

The total price of both items was 5.5 million dollars.

“I’ll pay by card!” Lucas took out a black card from his pocket. It was none other than his Black Diamond Card that had once caused an uproar and was a top status symbol that had a credit limit of five billion dollars anywhere in the world!

At this moment, many of the people in the Heavenly Pavilion were from prestigious families and had extensive knowledge. After seeing the gold pattern on the black card Lucas took out, many people exclaimed in astonishment, "It's actually a Black Diamond Card!"

"Oh my God. I've always only heard about this Black Diamond Card, but I've never heard of anyone actually owning one. I got to see it in the flesh today. It's exactly what it looks like in the photos online!"

"Who is this young man? How can he possess a terrifying Black Diamond Card?! Even the people of the top three families of San Francisco haven't been able to get a Black Diamond Card!"

...

Even those who didn't know what the black card signified found out from the exclamations just how prestigious this card was!

For a while, countless gazes of shock, envy, and intrigue were cast on Lucas.

In particular, Brian's and Vanessa's eyes were about to fall out of their sockets. They couldn't believe this at all!

Lucas was clearly just a penniless man who couldn't even afford a decent set of clothes. How could he suddenly take out a Black Diamond Card that was so impressive that it left everyone present incredibly shocked?

Vanessa was extremely uncomfortable!

Just a few minutes ago, she had bragged to Charlotte about how rich her boyfriend was and how good he was to her. But in the blink of an eye, the shameless Brian dumped her and even revealed that he had been lying to her all this while and that his gifts for her were all worthless pieces of garbage.

Now, Charlotte's boyfriend, who was supposed to be poor, turned out to be the owner of an impressive Black Diamond Card!

The great contrast, as well as the resentment and pain of being inferior to Charlotte again, was almost on par with the pain of being abandoned by Brian!

Jane was just as surprised. She didn't know Lucas's identity, and yesterday, she had even once thought Lucas was just an ordinary person with a mediocre life. Seeing Lucas actually holding a Black Diamond Card that was extremely rare in the world, she was also incredibly astonished, so much so that it took a long time for her to come back to her senses.

“Ah, okay...”

Just as Jane was about to reach out to take the Black Diamond Card in Lucas’s hand, Kenneth stopped her.

“Mr. Gray, if there’s anything you like in the Heavenly Pavilion, just take it away. How can I accept your money?”

“Given your relationship with the Parkers, you can take away everything here as you please, let alone just two pendants worth around 5.5 million dollars. If you pay for anything from the Heavenly Pavilion, my grandfather will definitely scold me when he finds out!” Kenneth said in the most sincere tone possible. He even seemed bizarrely afraid that Lucas wouldn’t take the items for free.

The people around them became even more shocked.

After hearing what Kenneth said, Vanessa became so envious that she was about to burst into tears.

The Heavenly Pavilion was massive, and the total value of the items in the store was probably at least several billion dollars.

Yet Kenneth actually said that Lucas could take whatever he wanted, even if he wanted to take everything away. This left everyone wondering just how Lucas was related to the Parkers.

If she could get her hands on these items, she’d no longer have to work for the rest of her life, and she could even spend the rest of it in luxury!

Ahhhh! Ahhhh! Vanessa was about to lose her mind from envy.

“Hah, dimwit! Now you know to be envious, huh? Weren’t you having a good time pointing at them and mocking them earlier?” Brian mocked sarcastically while looking at Vanessa.

“Just look at how respectful Mr. Parker is to him. Lucas Gray isn’t a penniless loser at all. He’s definitely an impressive figure with an absurdly powerful background!”

“Hmph! It’s all your fault, you idiot. You and Charlotte were former best friends in high school. Since she has such an impressive boyfriend, you’d definitely get lots of benefits after just saying a few pleasant words. But you didn’t take them seriously and even fell out with Charlotte!”

“Great, now he can take away multi-million-dollar items for free as he pleases, but you and I have to compensate almost three million dollars for the vase! You’re such a jinx. Anyone close to you is bound to become extremely unlucky!”

Brian was full of envy, jealousy, and regret, but he could only vent his anger on Vanessa.

Chapter 688: Envious and Twisted

Kenneth refused to accept Lucas's money. Seeing Kenneth really not wanting to accept the money, Jane helped persuade, "Mr. Gray, since Mr. Parker sincerely wants to give you these two emerald pendants, you should accept them!"

Kenneth said with a pleading look on his face, "Mr. Gray, just accept them. Or else, I won't be able to explain to my grandfather!"

Lucas shook his head, "If I wanted them for myself, I wouldn't be polite with you. But these are gifts meant for my family."

If Kenneth wanted to give something to Lucas for free, he wouldn't mind accepting it. But he thought that it was insincere to gift his family things someone else gave him.

After figuring this out, Kenneth stopped persuading him and quickly said to Jane, "Wrap the two pendants up for Mr. Gray immediately and give him a twenty percent discount!"

Lucas didn't decline the 20% discount, which meant he would only be paying the cost price.

"Yes, Mr. Parker!" Jane carefully took the Black Diamond Card from Lucas with both hands and proceeded to help him with the procedures.

Soon, she returned with two beautiful and exquisite gift boxes and handed them over to Lucas together with his Black Diamond Card.

Lucas put the Black Diamond Card, which made countless people envious, into his pocket before handing the red emerald pendant directly to Charlotte. "This is for you. The fiery red color matches your aura."

Charlotte was stunned for a moment. She frantically waved her hand and declined, "No, no, this is too precious. You'd better keep it for yourself or give it to Cheyenne! I'll pass!"

Although she really liked the red emerald pendant, the price tag of 2.5 million dollars was expensive enough to discourage her from accepting such an exorbitant gift.

Lucas shook the purple emerald pendant in his hand and said with a faint smile, "There's one for Cheyenne too. Both of you are my family members, and you sisters get one each. Just accept it."

Lucas treated Charlotte as his younger sister, so it wasn't a big deal to get his sister a gift she liked.

After hearing what Lucas said, Charlotte was slightly relieved, and she no longer felt that the expensive gift was hard to accept.

"Okay then. Thank you!" She wasn't a pretentious person, so she accepted the red emerald pendant and immediately put it on her neck joyfully.

"This beauty really has great taste and good judgment. She found herself such a nice boyfriend who gave her a gift worth more than two million dollars!"

"Yeah, her friend even shamed her for dating a penniless man just now. But look. How is he poor in any way? He's obviously super wealthy!"

"Ah, comparison really drives one mad! I'm so envious! How wonderful would it be if I had such a generous boyfriend who treats me so well?!"

"Hey, wake up. You're a man. What are you thinking about?"

...

Many people around them looked at Charlotte enviously, and they all thought that Charlotte and Lucas were a couple.

Hearing their words, Charlotte couldn't help blushing a little.

Lucas was indeed a good man who was rare and hard to come by, and she would probably fall in love with him if he wasn't her brother-in-law.

But she thought that it was nice being his sister-in-law too. The fact that he was just like her brother was enough to make her happy.

Hearing the words of envy, someone felt incredibly miserable.

Standing at the side, Vanessa looked at the bright red emerald pendant around Charlotte's neck and the way Lucas was smiling gently at her. She was clenching her fists so hard that her fingernails were almost digging into her flesh.

She was incredibly envious!

How could Charlotte be so lucky?

At this moment, Vanessa suddenly remembered something.

From the first moment she ran into Charlotte today, she had made up her mind to let Charlotte know how well she was doing now. So she had been showing off in front of Charlotte and flaunting her boyfriend's wealth, his well-paying job, and his status. She had also shown off how nice her boyfriend was to her.

But now, she had been mercilessly slapped in the face by the cruel fact that her boyfriend, whom she thought would be her lifetime support, had treated her like a plaything and a joke. He had just been toying with her and deceiving her with worthless gifts. Moreover, once something bad happened, he had immediately dumped her like she was garbage.

But Charlotte, whom she had ridiculed and mocked, was now standing in the middle of the crowd and enjoying their admiration and envy.

Furthermore, her penniless boyfriend Lucas suddenly became a powerful figure far beyond her. Even Kenneth Parker had to be respectful toward him and eagerly begged him to accept gifts worth more than five million dollars.

Lucas wasn't short of money at all, and he casually pulled out a Black Diamond Card that shocked everyone. He even casually refused Kenneth's gifts without batting an eyelid!

How did Charlotte Carter get so lucky and find herself such a rich man?

Why?!

The more she thought about it, the angrier she became. Vanessa rushed toward Charlotte and yelled at the top of her voice, "Charlotte Carter! You did this on purpose, didn't you?"

"You deliberately hid your boyfriend's identity from me and watched me show off in front of you just so you could shame me, didn't you?!"

"Well, now you've got your wish. I was dumped mercilessly by that shameless man, and all he gave me was some worthless garbage. I became a laughing stock in front of everyone. Did you enjoy the show?"

"Charlotte Carter, we've been best friends for years, yet you actually wanted to see me make a fool out of myself. You felt pleased to see me getting deceived and laughed at like a clown, didn't you? You vicious wench!"

The extreme rage, envy, and indignation made Vanessa's mind twisted and her face distorted.

"You shameless bitch!" She suddenly raised her hand to slap Charlotte on her face!

Chapter 689: Best Friends

When Lucas saw this, his face instantly darkened, and he wanted to stop her. But the next second, he suddenly stopped moving.

Charlotte was not to be trifled with either. Seeing Vanessa about to hit her, she raised her hand, grabbed Vanessa's wrist, and pushed her backward.

"That's enough! Vanessa, do you really think that I'm a pushover? When you got bullied in school, I stood up for you every single time. Hah, now you actually want to hit me. Do you really think I'll stand here and let you hit me just because we used to be best friends?"

Charlotte stood still and shouted overbearingly in fury, "Vanessa, how dare you say that we're best friends? Fine. Since you're feeling indignant, I don't mind making things clear to you!

"Since you've met me today, you haven't asked me how I'm doing now. All you did was brag to me about your boyfriend's job, the expensive gifts he got you, and how nice he was to you!

"Moreover, you not only bragged about yourselves, but you kept mocking me and shaming my boyfriend for being poor and inferior. I tried to explain to you multiple times, but you interrupted me every single time. You didn't even care about what I wanted to say, nor did you care to hear about what was going on with me. You just wanted to show off your superiority to me!

"If I didn't care about the fact that we used to be best friends, I would have turned around and left after seeing what you did. Why would I bother to listen to your nonsense for such a long time?

"Yet you actually accused me of hiding it from you on purpose and watching you become a laughing stock. Haha, you kept rattling on incessantly and interrupting me when I was trying to talk to you. Did you even give me the chance to speak?

"Besides, you're the one who chose your boyfriend yourself, and you were also the one who kept showing off to me. Now that his true colors have been revealed, you can't accept it, so you're blaming me for it?

"Hah, you're really ridiculous!"

Charlotte exuded her imposing aura as the general manager of the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch. All her words made sense, and her retort immediately made Vanessa turn pale and rendered her speechless.

Vanessa was still full of indignation, but the truth was just as Charlotte said. Charlotte had repeatedly tried to speak to her earlier, but she had eagerly wanted to show off, so she ignored her and kept interrupting her.

If she had known Charlotte's boyfriend was such a powerful person, she would have never treated them with such an attitude!

If she hadn't fallen out with Charlotte and Lucas, she wouldn't have had to compensate the Heavenly Pavilion with \$2.8 million!

Think of this, Vanessa felt remorse and despair.

No, I'm not at the most hopeless stage yet. Maybe there's a turning point!

Seemingly finding a straw to clutch at, Vanessa suddenly jumped in front of Charlotte. With her attitude greatly changed, she said with a pleading look on her face, "Charlotte, I'm wrong! I really know I'm wrong now!

"Please forgive me for being muddled this time on account that we used to be best friends! I really didn't mean to treat you like that! Please forgive me this time. We will still be best friends forever, okay?"

"Also, your boyfriend is so close to Mr. Parker that he's even willing to give your boyfriend things worth more than five million dollars for free. Help me beg Mr. Parker, okay? I broke the vase by accident. I really didn't mean to do it. Please ask him to drop the matter, okay?"

"Charlotte, you know that my family is so poor that I can't even afford ten thousand dollars, let alone over two million. Charlotte, you're the only one who can help me now! Don't leave me in the lurch!"

"I... I will never look for any trouble with you again. We'll be best friends who are closer than sisters from now on, okay?"

Vanessa's face was full of fawning and pleading, completely different from her arrogant self just now who wanted to hit others.

Many onlookers began looking at her with contempt.

Vanessa was really thick-skinned. Previously, she had cursed at Charlotte and even said that if she became a beggar and came knocking on her door to beg for food, she wouldn't give her a morsel of food. Just now, she had even tried to slap her out of envy and indignation. Yet she was now sucking up to her and asking to become best friends with her forever. She even begged Charlotte to help her get away without paying the compensation of 2.8 million dollars.

It was impressive how thick-skinned she was.

Charlotte pushed Vanessa away expressionlessly and said coldly, "It's already too late. You've just said it yourself that we're no longer friends! From now on, there will be nothing between us!"

Hearing what Charlotte said, Vanessa immediately froze on the spot.

She didn't expect that Charlotte, someone she had taken advantage of for years, would turn her down without mercy!

If Charlotte didn't help her, what... was she supposed to do?

She would never be able to afford the compensation of 2.8 million dollars!

Although Brian's family would probably be able to afford it, she was the one who had broken the vase at the end of the day. The Kleins definitely wouldn't let her off, and they would definitely make her pay them back!

When the time came, she probably wouldn't be able to pay them back even if she was sold to them as a slave and slogged her guts out for the rest of her life.

At the thought of this miserable situation, Vanessa felt cold all over. She was terrified and in utter despair.

But she only had herself to blame for this, so no one took any sympathy on her.

"Mr... Mr. Parker..." At this moment, the elevator doors opened with a ding, and a middle-aged man with waxed hair hurriedly ran out toward Kenneth.

"Mr. Parker, I... I'm this bastard Brian Klein's uncle. My name is Leon Mason. I just... just found out that my incompetent nephew caused trouble here. I'm sorry! I'm really sorry! Please forgive me!"

Leon was likely in a great hurry when he ran over because he was still panting heavily, and his face was covered in glistening drops of sweat.

Kenneth probably knew him too because he merely glanced at him and said indifferently, "In that case, you should be clear about what kind of trouble your nephew caused, right?"

Leon nodded profusely. "Yes, I know! This is all my nephew's fault!"

"Since you're aware of it, you should know how to handle it, right?" Kenneth said calmly. There was no happiness nor anger in his tone, but it was full of oppression..

Chapter 690: Impersonation

Leon quickly nodded. "Yes, Mr. Parker, I know! I... I have a total of three million dollars in this card. After deducting the compensation, the remaining money is a token of my apology to you, Mr. Parker! I hope you will accept it!"

Kenneth sneered. "Do you think I care about a couple hundred thousand dollars?"

The smile on Leon's face immediately stiffened.

But Kenneth couldn't be bothered to stoop to the level of such an insignificant small fry. He merely said indifferently, "You should compensate the full amount for the vase and not a single cent more. Jane, take him to swipe his card for payment."

Jane hurriedly obeyed and brought Leon to the service desk, where she processed the payment, deducted \$2.8 million from his card, and returned the card to Leon. Thus, the matter was considered settled.

The rest had nothing to do with Lucas, so he couldn't be bothered to stay here any longer. He said to Charlotte, "Let's go."

Charlotte readily agreed.

Kenneth hurriedly took a few steps forward. "Mr. Gray, Miss Carter, let me walk you down."

At this moment, Leon, who had just walked back from the service desk, saw Lucas. His eyes were immediately full of immense shock.

Leon sprinted toward Lucas and asked carefully, "Are you... Lucas Gray, Chairman Gray?"

"Who are you?" Lucas frowned. He didn't know the middle-aged man who claimed to be Brian's uncle.

Besides, very few people who didn't know him would call him Chairman Gray.

Seeing that Lucas didn't deny it, Leon immediately became even more agitated. He frantically said, "Mr. Gray, I'm Leon, the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation! I... Before Mr. Davis left, he specially showed all the senior executives a picture of you and told us to obey your instructions. But this is my first time meeting you in person!"

As soon as the words 'deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation' came out of his mouth, Lucas, Charlotte, Vanessa, and the rest all began to look rather strange.

In particular, after Brian heard the respectful way Leon addressed Lucas and spoke to him, his face became deathly pale.

"You said that you're the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation?" Lucas had a playful look on his face.

"Yes, it's indeed me!" Leon answered carefully while bowing slightly.

"In that case, who is he?" Lucas pointed at Brian.

When Brian and Vanessa were bragging about their status earlier, they had said more than once that he was the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation and had come over to San Francisco to attend the ordinary business exchange on the corporation's behalf.

"H-he's my nephew," Leon said with bewilderment.

He had already indicated their relationship when he came in just now. He didn't know why Lucas asked him again.

"I mean, what is Brian Klein's position in the Solar Corporation? What kind of work does he do?" Lucas asked again patiently.

"Uh? He... My nephew isn't an employee of the Solar Corporation!" Leon looked even more bewildered.

Lucas, Charlotte, and the others looked at Brian with an even more peculiar gaze.

At this moment, Leon realized that there seemed to be something he didn't know about and quickly yelled at Brian, "You bastard! What else have you done behind my back? Hurry up and tell me the truth! Or else I will immediately break your legs!"

Brian was so frightened that he finally couldn't hold on any longer. He leaped toward Lucas and dropped to his knees.

Bang!

Ignoring the pain coming from his kneecaps, he hurriedly cried and begged for forgiveness. "Mr. Gray, it's all my fault! I... I was too vain. I don't work for the Solar Corporation at all, let alone am the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation! My uncle is the deputy general manager. I used his identity to deceive Vanessa!

"I didn't mean to pretend to be the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation. Mr. Gray, I beg you to let me off this time!"

Only then did Leon realize what his nephew had done. It turned out that his nephew had assumed his position in the Solar Corporation and even shown off in front of the chairman. It was no wonder that Lucas's gaze was so bizarre when he heard him say that he was the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation!

"You... you bastard! How dare you impersonate me outside and discredit the Solar Corporation? You even offended Mr. Gray! I have to teach you a lesson for your father today. Otherwise, who knows what other crazy and stupid things you'll get up to!"

Leon lifted his foot and kicked Brian hard, then he punched and kicked him.

Leon spared no mercy when beating Brian, causing the latter to shriek in pain and misery. Soon, his face was bruised and swollen, and he started begging for mercy.

"Uncle Leon, I was wrong! Please don't hit me again... Ahhh! Argh! I was really wrong! Please let me off! Ahhh!!!"

Brian was rolling around on the floor and screaming incessantly, but he couldn't go against Leon, who was boiling with fury.

Lucas watched coldly without saying anything.

He originally thought that Brian was the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation and thus thought that there was a major flaw in the management of the Solar Corporation. He had even decided to investigate and rectify it properly after he returned.

But now, it seemed that things were not that bad. At the very least, one of his senior executives wasn't a vile dimwit like Brian.

Moreover, the fact that Leon was hitting his nephew so savagely without any mercy showed that he was at least a smart person.

With a blank expression, Vanessa stared at the man being beaten into a pulp near her and once again suspected if she had been blind before.

She had always thought that she was lucky to find a rich and prestigious man. She had even bragged to Charlotte that she was now dating the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation and that she would become his wife while he would be promoted to the general manager in a couple of years. She would then enjoy a life of luxury.

But she finally found out that this man had even lied to her about his status!

He wasn't the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation but a liar who had been using his uncle's position to deceive her!

From head to toe, from judgment to luck, she was incomparable to Charlotte in any way, shape, or form!

She had utterly lost!

Vanessa laughed in sorrow.. She wanted to see if Charlotte was staring at her mockingly. But to her surprise, Charlotte and Lucas had already left the Heavenly Pavilion!

Chapter 691: Meeting Again

After leaving the Heavenly Pavilion, Charlotte still felt amused by the scene just now. "Lucas, did you see it? Vanessa's face was so ugly. I've never seen her so upset in the years we were best friends. It's incredible!"

"Uh... You don't feel bad that your former best friend ended up in such a plight, do you?" Lucas asked hesitantly.

Charlotte gave it some serious thought before saying casually, "At the beginning, I did feel a little sad. But after everything that's happened today, I've completely seen Vanessa's true colors. Now that I think about the things that happened in high school, I realize she probably never genuinely treated me as her friend!"

"So, she's merely shown her true colors now. I was never really her best friend before, and now, we have nothing to do with each other. I didn't really lose anything. After thinking about it like this, I feel more relaxed!"

Charlotte waved her hand, seemingly throwing away the unpleasant memories of the past, and then suddenly laughed. "But speaking of which, she has a terrible character, and she'll probably be very miserable in the future! She was the one who broke the vase, but Brian's uncle paid for it. I reckon she'll have to slog her guts out to pay it back!"

"I hope she'll learn her lesson and not revolve her life around finding a rich man to marry!"

"Okay, let's not talk about her anymore! Lucas, I'm a little hungry now. Let's go eat something!" Charlotte said gleefully. She was indeed in a pleasant mood.

Lucas naturally agreed.

In the next half a day or so, the two of them had lunch, then proceeded to a few other popular attractions in San Francisco and bought some souvenirs along the way.

Before they knew it, it was already 4 p.m.

Lucas sent Charlotte to the entrance of the stadium, where they met in the morning.

The ordinary business exchange that Charlotte was attending would soon begin in about an hour.

“Your exchange starts and ends earlier than mine, so you can just head home after it ends. You don’t have to wait for me. Be careful,” Lucas said to Charlotte.

The Elite Business Exchange would begin at 8:30 p.m., and there was bound to be something big happening at this exchange, which was definitely targeting Lucas. Who knew when it would finish. So he could only get Charlotte to return to Orange County first.

“I see... Okay then!” Charlotte said with a bit of disappointment.

She had enjoyed herself strolling around with Lucas this afternoon. She had behaved like a little girl again, and she felt that the time she spent with Lucas was really pleasant.

Seeing Charlotte pulling a long face, Lucas found it hard to part ways with her. “Okay. We have time in the future. I’ll accompany you out again!”

“Really? Lucas, I’ll hold you to your word! When I look for you again during a day off, you can’t make excuses or go back on your word!” Charlotte immediately beamed with joy.

Then she waved her hand and ran off into the stadium.

She really still acts like a child! Lucas shook his head helplessly and turned around to walk toward the Walton Hotel across the street.

Although there were still nearly four hours before the Elite Business Exchange began, Lucas had to make some preparations since he knew that some people had ill intentions and were plotting against him at the exchange.

There were also a few people he had to meet in advance.

As soon as Lucas walked to the entrance of the Walton Hotel, two security guards walked over and stopped him politely. “Excuse me, Sir. Please show your invitation!”

Since the people coming to the Elite Business Exchange today were all distinguished guests with high statuses, the security check at the entrance was extremely strict.

Lucas casually took out his invitation card and handed it over.

After carefully checking and verifying the invitation card, the two security officers respectfully handed it back to Lucas with both hands. "Thank you for your cooperation, Mr. Gray. Please enter!"

Lucas nodded. As soon as he took a few steps into the Walton Hotel, a cold and solemn voice full of hostility came from the side. "Are you Lucas Gray?"

Lucas turned his head and saw a middle-aged man in his fifties with a squarish face staring at him interrogatively.

Standing beside him was a woman in her forties. Despite her age, she was quite attractive, and it was possible to tell that she must have been a great beauty during her younger days.

Lucas didn't know either of them.

But there was someone that Lucas knew standing behind the two of them. It was Lance, the helmsman of the Kingstons.

The moment he saw Lance, he instantly guessed the identities of the middle-aged man and woman.

The middle-aged man with a squarish face should be one of the Smiths' heirs and Roy's father, Vince.

The middle-aged woman should be Marc's biological mother, Wendy Smith.

Lucas had expected them to show up here.

There wasn't a single trace of surprise on his face, nor did he have any intention of exchanging pleasantries with them. He merely said indifferently, "Is there something wrong?"

Lucas's composure immediately made Vince frown slightly. An overwhelming aura emerged from his body, and his eyes had a terrifying murderous intent. "You killed my son, Roy. Why do you think I'm looking for you?"

Vince was indeed worthy of being a man who had been in a superior position in the Smith family for a long time. His aura was indeed terrifying.

If ordinary people were facing Vince, they would probably be too frightened to speak.

But the expression on Lucas's face remained unchanged, seemingly not sensing his aura at all. Vince narrowed his eyes and took this young man in front of him even more seriously.

Behind Vince was a martial arts expert with slightly bulging temples, exuding a domineering aura unique to martial art experts.

Lucas took a quick glance at him before looking away. A rare expert, indeed.

Lucas looked at Vince and said calmly, "I heard that you are the Smiths' most promising successor-to-be, so you shouldn't be a fool. You should be able to find out who killed your son.

"I don't know who told you that your son died at my hands, but that person must have ulterior motives. As for whether you're really foolish enough to have been deceived or if it's because of some other reason, that's all your own business. I don't want to entertain you."

Lucas glanced at Wendy with an ambiguous gaze and laughed with contempt before turning around to leave.

"Hold it!" Wendy shouted angrily.. The way Lucas looked at her as if he knew everything sent a chill down her spine.

Chapter 692: Exposing The Truth

Roy had actually been killed by his biological aunt Wendy. So after she heard Lucas's ambiguous words, her expression changed in astonishment.

In particular, Lucas's suggestive gaze made her feel diffident because she had done something terrible that left her with a guilty conscience. Afraid of Vince suspecting her of being the culprit, Wendy had to call out to Lucas immediately.

If she remained silent and let Lucas leave, Vince would definitely suspect her!

Lucas stopped and said teasingly, "Mrs. Smith, why did you ask me to stop? Do you want to hear the details of the information I have? I thought you weren't willing to let others know what you've done, especially this person next to you!"

The moment Wendy heard this, her fingers immediately tightened, and her face was full of shock.

Vince frowned and glanced at Wendy.

He wasn't a fool, and he understood what Lucas meant. He knew Lucas was hinting to him that Roy's death had nothing to do with him but with his cousin Wendy.

What else is Wendy hiding from me?

Wendy's scalp tingled, and she immediately rebuked in anger, "Lucas Gray, what nonsense are you spouting? You're clearly the one who killed my nephew Roy. Are you still trying to deny it now? How ridiculous of you to blame it on someone else! If you know my identity, then you should know that I'm Roy's aunt!

Seeing Wendy refusing to admit it and still trying to accuse him of being the murderer, Lucas sneered and revealed the things Wendy was hiding. "Heh, so what if you're his aunt? Is he more important to you than your biological son and ex-husband?"

"You... you..." Wendy was so furious that she was at a loss for words.

At this moment, she really couldn't describe the shock within her.

Only a few people were aware of her relationship with Moses and the fact that Marc was their son. Even the Smiths and her husband's family had no idea. She was puzzled as to how Lucas managed to get this information.

She still didn't know that her uncontrolled expression of extreme shock caused a trace of gloominess to appear in Vince's eyes as he looked at her.

Lucas smiled faintly, "I'm sure you must be wondering how I know your secrets. After all, you must want to hide such a scandal from the Smiths, and not many people in this world should know it.

"Actually, it's very simple. You should still remember Eli, the expert you sent to assassinate me in order to avenge your son and ex-husband, right?"

"At the time, Eli thought I would definitely die, so he told me everything so that I could die knowing the reason for my death!

"Although I let Eli off, you're actually accusing me of killing Roy Smith. In that case, you must have gotten rid of Eli too, huh?"

Lucas's words were like sharp daggers piercing directly into Wendy's heart, ripping open the facade she was trying so hard to maintain.

Wendy suddenly panicked and broke out into cold sweat, feeling as if she had plunged into an ice cellar.

Vince's face became extremely gloomy.

He had no idea that his cousin Wendy had had an affair with another man and even given birth to a child decades ago.

But what Lucas said was reasonable, and he knew Eli, so he reckoned that Lucas wasn't making things up.

Could it be that Wendy killed Roy and put the blame on Lucas Gray to get me to take revenge, thereby allowing her to avenge her ex-husband and son?

As soon as he thought of this possibility, his eyes were full of fury.

Seeing that things were going awry, Wendy hurriedly yelled menacingly, "What nonsense are you saying? Do you think you can sow discord between me and Vince just by making up some stories?"

"Heh, you should know best whether I'm talking nonsense or not!" Lucas said coldly. Then he stopped looking at them and turned around to leave.

"Hold it!" A burly figure suddenly blocked Lucas's path. It was an elite bodyguard following Vince.

Lucas frowned and shouted angrily, "Get lost!"

An invisible aura immediately emanated from Lucas!

The bodyguard's face stiffened, and he took a step back as if he was facing a great enemy. Then he gritted his teeth to hold on and rebuked, "Punk, Mr. Vince hasn't given you permission to leave. How dare you go?"

Lucas sneered and kicked the bodyguard in the chest without saying anything.

Bang!

Lucas's kick sent the bodyguard, who weighed nearly a hundred kilograms and was extremely muscular, flying far away. After landing on the floor of the hotel lobby a dozen meters away, he opened his mouth and spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Mr. Smith, I've helped you teach your dog a lesson. You don't mind, right?" Lucas smiled.

Vince's face darkened.

The bodyguard had gone to stop Lucas and provoke him under his instructions. He wanted to test Lucas's skills and find out if he was really as powerful as Wendy had said.

But Lucas's kick immediately sent his bodyguard flying and crippled him.

Apart from the fact that Lucas was indeed rather powerful and good at fighting, there was no other information about his combat skills.

The middle-aged expert standing behind Vince whispered. "Mr. Smith, this punk isn't simple! I'm not fully confident I can subdue him!"

Vince's face became even gloomier.

Lucas smiled and turned around to walk away.

This time, no one dared to stop him.

As Vince watched Lucas's back disappear around the corner of the hotel, the anger in his eyes grew stronger and stronger. But he tried his best to restrain it.

This was what his character was like. He had to be fully prepared before killing his enemy in one shot!

Until then, he would endure it for a while. He could still tolerate it!

Besides, aside from avenging his son, he had a more important purpose for coming to San Francisco this time. His goal was to dominate the entire California market and get the Smiths to become the true ruler of the state of California!

However...

Vince suddenly looked at Wendy next to him and said coldly, "Wendy, you'd better tell me the truth honestly."

Chapter 693: Pre-Exchange Interactions

Wendy immediately tensed up in fear and hurriedly explained, "Vince, trust me. I really didn't do it. That punk is just making things up to sow discord between us! Don't fall for his trick!"

Vince looked at her for several seconds before slowly saying, "This had better be the case. If I find out you lied to me, you should know what will happen to you! Regardless of who killed my son, I will definitely make them pay the price in blood!"

A menacing and murderous aura erupted from him.

He was a strong contender for the next head of the Smith family, and he wouldn't show any mercy to Wendy even though she was his cousin and the daughter of the current helmsman!

Vince snorted coldly and strode into the Walton Hotel. The expert behind him naturally followed closely behind.

Wendy and Lance were the only ones remaining at the hotel entrance.

Lance was almost scared to death when Lucas mentioned Wendy's ex-husband and son just now. If Vince found out that Wendy had had an affair with Moses and that Lance had also participated in killing Roy, the Kingstons would definitely be dead meat.

Wendy took a deep breath and warned Lance, "Mr. Kingston, I don't need to say much. You should know the consequences once this matter is exposed."

Lance shuddered and hurriedly said, "Yes! I know, Mrs. Smith. Please rest assured. My lips are sealed!"

This was not only about Wendy's life and death but also the Kingstons'. Now, the Kingstons and Wendy were on the same boat, and they could only insist on denying it.

The Walton Hotel was indeed worthy of being a fixed venue for holding the Elite Business Exchange. Everything was arranged well for the exchange.

Before the exchange officially started, there was a special reception room for the attendees of each of the major cities in California. Those from the same city would share a room.

After taking a quick glance, Lucas walked toward a reception room with the sign 'Orange County' on it.

"Lucas! You're finally here!"

Just as Lucas walked in, a voice of surprise came. Lena quickly walked over to him.

But perhaps because she recalled the embarrassing incident this morning, she had a dismayed expression, afraid that Lucas would dislike her.

Lucas said, "Regarding the matter this morning, I've already explained it to Charlotte. It's just a misunderstanding, so you don't need to be bothered by it anymore."

Hearing the words 'just a misunderstanding', Lena felt as if she had been stabbed in the heart, but she couldn't express it at all. She could only force an awkward smile on her face.

Lucas was puzzled. At this moment, a few more people walked over to greet Lucas.

“Lucas, you’re here!”

“Mr. Gray.”

“Mr. Gray, you’re here.”

These people were none other than Bruce and Ethan, as well as Connor and Lena’s sister, Yvette, behind them.

In the spacious reception room, there were the Sawyers and the Hales, whom Lucas was familiar with, as well as Frederick Taylor, the head of the Taylor family, and Darren Wallace, the young helmsman who had recently succeeded his position.

Behind them were the juniors of the Taylors and the Wallaces, but Lucas had no friendship with them.

In the reception room for the Orange County attendees, except for Lucas, everyone else was from the four top families of Orange County. After all, the invitations to the Elite Business Exchange were strictly for only top-tier families and forces.

After the Hales and the Sawyers greeted Lucas, he picked a random seat and sat down.

As soon as Lucas sat down, Frederick suddenly asked, “Mr. Gray, I wonder what your thoughts are about today’s Elite Business Exchange.”

Lucas smiled faintly. “Mr. Taylor, you must be joking. It’s my first time attending this exchange, so I’m just here to gain some knowledge and experience. Mr. Taylor, you should know more than me, right?”

Frederick narrowed his eyes. “Mr. Gray, let’s be frank with each other. I’ll get straight to the point! The Elite Business Exchange this time is extremely unusual! There’s definitely going to be a great difference between this exchange and the usual ones. I’m afraid it’s no longer going to be a peaceful exchange but a meeting to divide the pie and determine a new order!

“The pie that’s going to be divided belongs to the three top families of San Francisco, the Kingstons, the Coles, and the Walkers. The ones getting a share are the forces here in California!

“So, I think that if the major families of Orange County can’t stand together and unite against a common enemy, we will be powerful only in name!”

As soon as Frederick said this, everyone present was shocked.

After all, these words were too bold and unbelievable.

The Hales and Sawyers were fine. Apart from feeling surprised by Frederick's straightforward actions, they weren't too shocked about what he said. After all, they had already received a lot of useful information from Lucas, and they had long known that the Kingstons and the Smiths would be doing something during the Elite Business Exchange today.

Since the Taylors were backed by the powerful Peerless Martial Association, getting some insider information was definitely easy.

In comparison, Darren, the helmsman of the Wallaces, was completely uninvolved and the one most surprised.

"Mr. Taylor, what you said just now is too fearmongering," Darren said with disapproval.

"The top three families of San Francisco have been in power for a long time, but they've never shown such ambition in the past. It's not that they don't want to but that they're not capable enough!

"Even if these three top families are the strongest in California, the other powerful families are not pushovers either. Take LA for example. The Parkers are about to catch up to the top three families.

"The Coles, Kingstons, and Wallaces are probably not strong enough to take the entire pie for themselves!"

Actually, Darren made sense. But the problem was that with the interference of the Smiths from DC, other considerations had to be taken into account.

Frederick ignored Darren, who had insufficient information, and instead stared closely at Lucas, paying attention to his opinion.

Based on his previous dealings with Lucas, Frederick had long known that he wasn't an ordinary person.

The fact that the heads of the Hales and the Sawyers had personally stood up to greet Lucas respectfully as soon as he entered was enough to show that he must have a high status in their eyes.

Thus, he just needed to find out Lucas's attitude in order to find out the general attitudes of the Hales and the Sawyers.

As for the remaining Wallace family, they wouldn't matter.

Frederick looked at Lucas and asked cautiously, "Mr. Gray, what is your opinion?"

Chapter 694: Joining Forces

Ethan pondered for a while before saying cautiously, "I think Mr. Taylor is right. We should really consider it thoroughly!"

"The Watsons from San Jose should have hosted the Elite Business Exchange this time a month later, but they suddenly handed over the hosting right to the Kingstons without any official explanation. Something we're unaware of must have happened."

Frederick nodded. "That's right. It's precisely because I find it bizarre that I have a hunch that something will definitely happen at this Elite Business Exchange. That's why I suggest that we, the forces of Orange County, unite together in order to prevent the worst-case scenarios from happening. Only then can we tide through any unexpected ordeals."

Bruce didn't say anything and just turned to look at Lucas.

His meaning was obvious. He would go along with Lucas's opinion.

Thus, Frederick and a few others looked at Lucas and waited for his opinion.

Lucas fiddled with the teacup in his hand for a while and suddenly smiled indifferently. "Let's go with Mr. Taylor's idea then. Let us, the forces of Orange County, join forces to deal with all the unexpected situations."

In fact, even if Frederick didn't make this suggestion, the Hales and the Sawyers would all still stand on Lucas's side. Coupled with the Parkers from LA and the Coles from San Francisco, the power Lucas could gather was already large enough.

But since Frederick had a clear idea of the current situation and wanted to unite, Lucas would give him the chance to do so.

"Great. In that case, Mr. Gray and Mr. Taylor both agree with my idea. What about you, Mr. Hale?" Frederick asked with joy written all over his face.

Bruce nodded. "The Hales will follow Mr. Gray's lead. We agree."

The Wallaces were now the only ones who had yet to take a stand, but their opinion no longer mattered much now.

Seeing this, Darren hurriedly said, "The Wallaces naturally agree as well!"

What a joke. There were only four families from Orange County here. And since the other three families and Lucas had all reached a consensus, the Wallaces obviously

wouldn't be able to gain a foothold in Orange County in the future if they took an opposing stand.

"Alright, since we've all reached an agreement, this matter is settled! We will stand together and cooperate to safeguard the interests of our families! If someone betrays us, he will be the common enemy of the other forces!" Frederick said with a cold and stern expression while taking a few more glances at Darren.

Darren immediately felt an urge to curse at Frederick. Is Frederick Taylor deliberately targeting me and giving me a warning?

But in terms of strength, the Wallaces were indeed no match for the three other major families. In particular, since he hadn't been the helmsman for long, there was a group of people among the Wallaces led by his brother, Bryant, who were against him. Thus, Darren really didn't have the courage to stand against Frederick.

"Hahahaha! I didn't expect that you people from Orange County would reach a consensus here. Do you really think that with just your four families, you'll be able to cope with everything that will happen at the Elite Business Exchange today?

"You are really too naive!"

At this moment, the door of the reception room meant for the forces of Orange County was suddenly pushed open from the outside, and two people entered with a look of disapproval on their faces.

The faces of the four helmsmen instantly became displeased.

No one wanted others to overhear their conversation while they were discussing an important matter, especially when the two people who entered seemed to be their enemies with conflicting interests.

One of the two people who entered was a middle-aged man. He was Reynold Watson, the head of the Watson family.

The other middle-aged man standing beside him was Phil Harold, the helmsman of another top-tier family in San Jose.

The person who just spoke in disapproval was Reynold.

"What do you mean, Mr. Watson? Eavesdropping on other people's conversations isn't something a gentleman should do!" Frederick said coldly with a sullen expression.

Reynold smiled. "Everyone, I don't have any malicious intent. I just want to say that with merely the few of your Orange County families alone, it's basically impossible for you to

win. But if the Watsons and Harolds from San Jose join you, there might be a chance of winning.”

His words immediately surprised all the people from Orange County present.

The Watsons didn't come to go against them but instead offered to join forces with them?

It was really bizarre!

Frederick narrowed his eyes. “Mr. Watson, please don't say those words casually. If I remember correctly, the Elite Business Exchange was supposed to be hosted by the Watsons, but you suddenly transferred the hosting rights to the Kingstons.

“I'm sure you've already reached some agreement with the Kingstons or had an exchange of interests. Yet you're now saying that you want to join forces with us to go against the Kingstons. Don't you think you are contradicting yourself?”

Reynold smiled, but a trace of gloominess appeared on his face as he said indignantly, “The Elite Business Exchange is held only once every three years, and each time the organizers gain great benefits. Do you think that the Watsons would give up such a great opportunity for nothing? Who would do such a foolish thing if they had a choice?”

The people of Orange County were all surprised to hear this.

Did the Watsons hand over the hosting rights to the Elite Business Exchange unwillingly?

Reynold gritted his teeth. “That's right. The Kingstons threatened us and demanded that we hand over the hosting right of this Elite Business Exchange to them! Otherwise, they'd make our family decline and be removed from the list of top-tier families! If not for this, how could I have given up the hosting rights to the Kingstons?”

Phil chimed in from the side, “I can vouch for Mr. Watson. The day the Kingstons sent people to the Watson residence to demand the hosting right, I also happened to be present and witnessed this matter with my own eyes!”

With Phil's testimony, the credibility of this matter indeed increased.

But all the helmsmen here were not greenhorns who had little life experience, and they wouldn't believe Reynold's sincerity and accept his and Phil's offer to join forces based on his statement.

If they joined forces but got betrayed by the Watsons and Harolds, no one would be able to afford the consequences.

Reynold must have understood this because he took the initiative to offer some information. “I can give you an accurate piece of information.. When the Kingstons sent people to contact me, they mentioned one thing—the Smiths, one of the eight great giants in DC, also sent someone to San Francisco. They intend to support the Kingstons at this Elite Business Exchange and make the Kingstons the overlord of California!”

Chapter 695: Representing Orange County

As soon as the news came out, everyone except for Lucas, Bruce, and Frederick, who already knew about it, was astonished.

The eight great giants of DC were unchallengeable behemoths in the hearts of many people!

If the Smiths really decided to get involved with the situation in California, they would definitely be extremely tyrannical!

Ethan and Darren looked glum and somber.

Frederick narrowed his eyes. “Mr. Watson, since the Kingstons have even told you such a thing, then they must have promised you a lot of benefits in order to win you over, right?”

He was implying that since the Watsons had gotten a promise from the Kingstons, there was no need for them to form an alliance with them and go against the Kingstons.

It didn’t make sense.

Reynold nodded and said without hiding anything, “Indeed, the Kingstons promised to support my family fully and help us become the second strongest family as long as we keep supporting the Kingstons when they become the true overlords of California!”

“In that case, why are you...” Darren looked confused.

As soon as he said a few words, Reynold interrupted him, “However, I just learned that we’re not the only ones the Kingstons gave that promise to. They also gave it to many other families! So this verbal promise of the Kingstons means nothing at all. How can I believe them?”

Reynold cursed and sneered.

Hearing this, everyone in the reception room was shocked.

The Kingstons' action was clearly giving false hope and using it to draw in other top-tier families in California so that they would all side with the Kingstons.

They initially thought that this Elite Business Exchange was for the three giants of San Francisco to unite and divide the power of the other forces in California.

But it now seemed that the Kingstons had long colluded with the Smiths and secretly bribed many families in order to dominate all of California and become the Smiths' official agent here.

In that case, wouldn't the other families have to submit to the Kingstons and follow the orders of the Kingstons and the Smiths?

Reynold looked at everyone's expression and slowly said, "I, Reynold Watson, am not willing to watch my family, which I've singlehandedly developed, be reduced to a subordinate taking orders from others. I don't want to see the Kingstons becoming the overlord. I think all of you should think similarly to me, right?"

"We are all local families of California. If we join forces, the Kingstons might not be able to succeed just with the support of the Smiths! There's a saying about how you can't beat the local tyrant on his turf no matter how strong you are!"

"Now, what do you plan to do?"

After Reynold finished speaking, the entire reception room immediately fell silent.

Everyone looked at each other for a few moments before turning to look at Lucas.

Tap-tap. Lucas tapped his finger on the table before saying, "In that case, let's join hands."

His sudden words instantly attracted everyone's attention.

Reynold looked at Lucas but suddenly frowned and rebuked, "Who are you? We helmsmen are discussing something important. What right does a junior like you have to speak?"

He hadn't met Lucas before. Seeing how young he was, he thought he was an ill-mannered junior from one of the four major families of Orange County.

Lucas sat still without saying a word and merely looked at Reynold with a mirthless smile.

Bruce immediately stood up and chided with a stern look on his face, "Reynold, don't be rude to Mr. Gray! He isn't a junior of one of our families, but an honored guest officially

invited to the Elite Business Exchange. Moreover, Mr. Gray can make decisions on behalf of the Hales!”

Reynold was surprised. He was from San Jose, so he only knew that Orange County was dominated by the four major families for a long time. He didn't know when there had ever been a powerful Mr. Gray.

What Bruce said almost made Reynold laugh.

“How can the Hales follow the orders of a young man who's an outsider? Mr. Hale, you're not really muddled, are you?” Reynold said with contempt.

Ethan suddenly stood up and said austerely, “Mr. Gray can also make decisions on behalf of the Sawyers! Mr. Watson, are you trying to say that I'm old and muddled too?”

Previously, when Lucas went to the Kingston residence to get Karen back and confronted them, Ethan had chosen to stand by and give up the opportunity to follow Lucas because he was afraid of the pressure from the Kingstons and the Huttons.

When he later learned that the Hales, the Parkers, and even Joe from Little Atlantis City had followed Lucas to San Francisco to stand on the side of Lucas, who gained the upper hand in the conflict, Ethan was full of regret.

At the same time, Ethan also felt some fear and nervousness.

He was the first person to offer an olive branch to Lucas. But because of this incident, Lucas probably already disapproved of him. He reckoned that the status of the Hales and Parkers had surpassed the Sawyers' in Lucas's heart.

So this time, he wouldn't miss the opportunity again, and he had to stand on Lucas's side firmly. Otherwise, he would never have the opportunity to approach Lucas again!

“Mr. Sawyer, what are you saying?”

Even Ethan had made his position clear and also openly said that Lucas could make decisions for the Sawyers too, shocking Reynold even more.

Frederick also slowly said, “That's right. Mr. Gray has a special status. He can make decisions on behalf of the forces of Orange County.”

Both the Hales and the Sawyers would obey Lucas's instructions, and Lucas's own strength was not to be underestimated. So if he wanted to unite the forces of Orange County, Lucas was undoubtedly the most important person with the most decision-making power.

Darren hesitated for a moment before saying wisely, “Me too.”

Although his words were somewhat ambiguous, at least they proved that he and the other major families of Orange County were indeed on the same side.

Seeing that the helmsmen of the four great families of Orange County all valued and respected a young man so greatly and even said that he could make decisions on behalf of all of Orange County, Reynold was shocked beyond belief. He even began to wonder what was wrong with the world.

“You... Isn’t this too absurd? I’m afraid this young man isn’t even thirty. Do you expect a greenhorn like him to represent all of Orange County? Hah, I have to say that you people from Orange County have lost the last of your backbones!” Reynold felt that this matter was too ridiculous, and he didn’t take Lucas seriously, so he sneered and mocked them.

“Reynold Watson, I’ve already warned you not to insult Mr. Gray again!” Bruce yelled furiously while glowering at Reynold.

Ethan stood up and said coldly, “Reynold Watson, if this is the attitude you have, you’re not only insulting Mr. Gray but all of us from Orange County. There’s no need for us to join forces with you. Hurry up and get lost!”

“You!” Reynold was enraged, and tension immediately arose in the room.

Chapter 696: Exchange Venus

“Alright, stop arguing.” Frederick stood up to smooth things over.

“Mr. Watson, Mr. Gray is indeed part of our Orange County alliance. Please show him due respect as well. If you have really decided to work together with us, let’s officially settle on it and unite together at tonight’s exchange. Anyone who dares to betray the agreement or an ally will be our enemy!”

Reynold bit his lower lip before finally saying, “Okay, the Watsons have decided to join forces with you!”

Phil raised his eyebrows. “The Harolds as well.”

The four great families of Orange County and Lucas agreed to let the Watsons and the Harolds join the alliance.

Thus, the small alliance was officially established.

But when Reynold and Phil looked at Lucas, they had disdain in their eyes.

Because Lucas was too young and had suddenly appeared out of nowhere, they simply didn't believe that he was capable in any way.

Regarding this, Lucas naturally didn't bother to say much to them.

At the same time, in the Kingstons' reception room...

Because the Kingstons were one of the top three wealthy families of San Francisco, they didn't have to share a reception room with other families, unlike the families of other cities. Instead, they had a spacious and luxurious reception room all to themselves.

At this moment, Vince and Wendy Smith were also in the reception room.

Vince took a sip of top-quality tea and asked slowly, "How are the preparations going?"

Lance hurriedly replied, "Mr. Smith, rest assured! I've already united most of the families in California. If anyone dares to disobey and cause trouble, my people are prepared to deal with them. There won't be any problems at the exchange tonight!"

Vince acknowledged without saying anything.

But in his heart, there was always a hidden worry that he couldn't erase.

Vince knew very well what was causing his worry.

It was the young man Lucas Gray.

For some reason, the thought of Lucas's domineering appearance at the entrance of the Walton Hotel just now made Vince extremely worried.

Lucas was a man he couldn't figure out.

But today's Elite Business Exchange was extremely important for Vince, and he couldn't afford any failure at all!

As long as he could successfully take the profitable pie that was California, he would definitely become the successor of the Smiths with this merit and no longer just a candidate!

At the same time, if he failed, he would definitely face the retaliation of many powerful families in California. At that time, he would probably also be attacked by the other members of the Smith family. He might even lose the position of helmsman from then on.

After all, because of the fierce and cruel competition going on in the Smith family, there were many eligible people for the position of family head, and they would never let go of such a good opportunity.

Moreover, he wasn't the only one who had come out. He came to California with the intention to dominate the market here, but other Smiths also went to other states to do something similar.

Once Vince failed, or succeeded later than someone else, he would be at great risk!

Thus, his plan at the Elite Business Exchange tonight had to succeed!

Time passed quickly, and soon, it was 8 p.m.

Since the Elite Business Exchange would officially begin at 8:30 p.m., the venue, which was on the top floor of the Walton Hotel, was open for admission.

This time, a total of 69 top-tier families and forces from numerous cities in California were invited to the Elite Business Exchange. It could be said that all the top giants of California were present.

Some cities had more forces representing it, such as Orange County, which had five invitees representing it in total.

In some cities, there were very few invitees due to various reasons. For example, the Parkers were the only family from LA because the Brookes and Owens had been annihilated.

Of course, the helmsman of each family was allowed to bring a few family members and bodyguards with them. Thus, there were hundreds of people, and it was extremely lively.

Of course, the venue of the Elite Business Exchange was extremely spacious so that all the guests could enjoy the best treatment.

But even then, the venue became extraordinarily noisy and lively as people from various forces arrived one after another when the Elite Business Exchange was about to begin. It was extremely boisterous.

“Quick, look. That’s Damon Parker, the helmsman of the Parkers from LA!”

All of a sudden, a commotion sparked in the crowd. It turned out that Damon and his grandson Kenneth had arrived at the exchange venue.

Since the Parkers had taken over many of the Owens' businesses with Lucas's permission, they had become much stronger than before. Not only had they become the great hegemon of LA, but they had also become almost on par with the Coles, the Kingstons, and the Walkers of LA.

Thus, the Parkers' appearance at the exchange immediately attracted the attention of countless people.

"Look over there. Edmund Cole, the helmsman of the Cole family, is here too!"

"And there, it's Herman Walker, the helmsman of the Walkers!"

"Look! Lance Kingston, the helmsman of the Kingstons!"

When the helmsmen of the three top families of San Francisco showed up almost at the same time, the atmosphere in the venue reached its peak.

But many sharp-eyed people immediately noticed something different.

"Hey, look at the middle-aged man standing in front of the Kingstons' helmsman! He seems to have a domineering aura, but he's a new face. I've never seen him before!"

"He isn't only standing in front of the Kingstons' helmsman. Do you notice that Lance Kingston seems to be extremely respectful to this person, and he's even bending over slightly!"

"Oh my god! Even Lance Kingston has to be so polite and respectful toward him. Just who is he?"

"Even Lance Kingston has to be so deferential. I'm guessing that the middle-aged man might be from one of the big families in DC!"

Suddenly, the already boisterous venue was full of countless speculative voices.

Lucas sat down on his seat and saw Vince, who was standing in front of Lance.

And at the same time, Vince seemed to sense Lucas's gaze and turned around.

Their gazes collided in their air.

The stare-down lasted less than a second because Lucas had already turned his head away composedly, as if he had only taken a random glance at an insignificant person.

On the other hand, Vince narrowed his eyes and stared at Lucas as a murderous intent gradually appeared in his eyes.

Chapter 697: The Exchange Begins

Vince glared at Lucas for a long time before looking away. Then he took the initiative to sit on the master seat at the front of the Elite Business Exchange venue.

Lance, the organizer of the exchange, sat at a position below Vince.

The seating order shocked many.

Apart from those families who had secretly joined the Kingstons and knew that the Smiths were attending the Elite Business Exchange, many other attendees were shocked. Not only were they guessing who this mysterious middle-aged man was, but they were also constantly speculating about his intentions.

It was almost 8:30 p.m. At this time, the bigwigs from the dozens of families in California had already taken their seats one after another.

In order to avoid confusion, the seats were arranged according to the city each family belonged to, and families from the same city generally sat together.

The people at the Orange County section were Lucas, the Sawyers, the Hales, the Taylors, and the Wallaces.

As for LA, there were even fewer representatives, with only Damon—the helmsman of the Parkers—his grandson Kenneth, and two other juniors from the Parkers.

Ding...

The moment the clock struck 8:30 p.m., the majestic sound of a bell filled the air in the venue. Everyone immediately stopped whispering and sat upright to look in front.

The Elite Business Exchange officially began!

As the organizer, Lance stood up and said loudly, "Hello, everyone. I am Lance Kingston. Thank you all for coming to this Elite Business Exchange!

"I'm sure everyone still has some doubts. After all, according to the previous process, the Exchange should be held in a month, and the organizer should have been the Watsons from San Jose. However, Mr. Watson thought that it would be better for the Kingstons to host it and thus gave me the rights to host the Elite Business Exchange."

Lance sounded extremely domineering, and his words clarified the doubts about this Elite Business Exchange.

But only a very small number of people accepted this reason. Most people didn't believe it.

After all, the Elite Business Exchange was held only once every three years, and the opportunity to host it was extremely rare. Moreover, the organizer would usually enjoy great glory and benefits every single time. The Watsons had gone through great pains to finally obtain the hosting rights this time. How could they suddenly feel that the Kingstons were more suitable for hosting it and take the initiative to hand over the hosting rights?

Countless eyes shifted to Reynold, and there was a commotion in the venue.

"I didn't expect the Watsons to take the initiative to hand over the hosting rights to the Kingstons. That's such a shame! Since when did they have such a good relationship with the Kingstons?"

"Hah, I don't believe the reason the Kingstons gave! Anyone in their right mind wouldn't voluntarily give the hosting rights to someone else!"

"That's right! From the way I see it, the Kingstons must have wanted the hosting rights. And since the Watsons couldn't go against the Kingstons, they had no choice but to suck it up!"

"If I were Reynold Watson, I would vomit to death!"

...

Reynold, the center of discussion, was sitting quietly at the San Jose section while gritting his teeth. It was unclear what he was thinking.

Lance didn't bother to care about what people were thinking. He just had to give an official reason.

"Next, I would like to introduce you to two distinguished guests from DC!" Lance moved his palm to Vince, who was sitting at the master seat. He respectfully introduced, "This is Mr. Vince Smith, the future heir to the Smith family, one of the eight great families of DC. His father is the brother of the current family head!"

Then he pointed to Wendy, who was sitting next to Vince. "She is also a distinguished guest from the Smiths, Mrs. Wendy Smith. Her father is now the head of the Smith family!"

"Let's welcome these two distinguished guests with the warmest applause!"

After speaking extremely enthusiastically, Lance took the lead in applauding.

The other people in the venue looked extremely shocked, but they subconsciously applauded too.

Many people had guessed that the mysterious middle-aged man had an extraordinary identity and was likely from one of the big families in DC. But they didn't expect that he was actually a Smith!

Their identities were extremely esteemed!

The eight whales of DC were powerful figures to any wealthy family in California. Seeing a minor figure from these families was already considered a glorious matter, let alone two members from the Smiths' direct family line.

Wendy was a woman and should have married, so even though she was the daughter of the Smiths' family head, the shock she caused was still limited.

But Vince's identity was even more impressive. As a promising candidate for the next family head of the Smiths, his sudden appearance at the Elite Business Exchange definitely had a greater meaning.

"Seems like the Elite Business Exchange isn't going to be peaceful this time. I have a hunch that something big will definitely happen at today's exchange!"

"Since the helmsman of the Kingstons and the two bigshots from the Smiths are on such good terms with each other, the trinity of the three whales of San Francisco might be completely broken after this exchange! The Walkers and the Coles are probably going to become sacrificial victims!"

"It's hard to say. We'd better wait and observe!"

...

While the crowd was talking and speculating, many people carefully looked at the expressions of the Coles and the Walkers in hopes of finding some clues.

"However, before the exchange officially begins, I have a personal matter to handle. Please pardon me," Lance suddenly said and then looked at someone from Orange County.

Many followed Lance's line of sight and looked over, but they couldn't tell who he was targeting.

"Bruce Hale, not long ago, you brought a large group of people to the Kingston residence to cause trouble. It seems that you haven't given the Kingstons an explanation for this matter yet.." Lance narrowed his eyes and stared at Bruce Hale.

Chapter 698: Tyrannical Conditions

Many people were shocked.

Back then, the matter ended with the Kingstons succumbing. Lance felt that it was extremely embarrassing, so he had immediately ordered everyone to keep their lips sealed about what had happened that day or face death.

Thus, apart from a very small number of local families in San Francisco, who had secretly found some clues after snooping around, the others weren't aware of this matter at all.

It was the first time that the big shots of the other cities heard about this matter.

In their opinion, the Kingstons were a top family in San Francisco, and they were definitely among the top three in California in terms of comprehensive strength. Besides, the Hales were just a top-tier family in Orange County and far inferior to the Kingstons.

Is Bruce Hale out of his mind? How dare he bring people with him to create trouble at the Kingstons'?

Despite being called out in public all of a sudden, Bruce remained sitting composedly with a straight face.

"Mr. Kingston, your words are too biased. Your family kidnapped someone from Orange County, and all I did was go to your place to ask you to hand her over. Why are you twisting facts and making it sound as if we're the ones who started the trouble?"

"Are you trying to bully us just because you're powerful?"

"I only have one thing to say. The Hales have never been afraid of anyone or been at the mercy of anyone!"

Bruce spoke in a righteous manner, without any fear of the powerful oppressiveness that Lance was exuding.

Lance narrowed his eyes and snorted coldly with a threatening look on his face. "Mr. Hale, you're really eloquent. But it's an irrefutable fact that you brought people to my place and even injured many of my family's bodyguards! The Hales must give the Kingstons an explanation!"

"I can give you two choices. One, immediately surrender and submit yourselves to the Kingstons. From now on, everything belonging to the Hales will belong to the Kingstons!"

Two, immediately break your arm and compensate my family with half of your family's assets!"

As soon as Lance stated his conditions, it instantly sparked an uproar.

These two choices were actually both very tyrannical and unreasonable.

If he chose the first, it would be equivalent to giving the Hales' empire away to the Kingstons. The Kingstons would be considered kind enough if they allowed the Hales to continue managing these businesses. But the Kingstons would more likely than not take away the Hales' businesses and then make them leave with nothing, which was very toxic.

The second condition was not much different. The Hales would suffer immense damage if they gave half of their assets to the Kingstons. Not only would they lose their status as one of the four major families in Orange County, but their remaining assets might be divided up by other forces before they could even make a comeback.

The condition of asking Bruce to break his arm was just as bad. Bruce was in his seventies, and the heavy blow would leave him suffering for the rest of his life.

The Kingstons' demands were indeed rather overboard.

Many people thought so, but due to the Kingstons' power and status, no one questioned their sinister intentions.

Bruce sneered. "Hah, the Kingstons are obviously out to encroach on my family's assets. You're really shameless."

Lance was extremely adamant about it. "You should have thought about the consequences before taking people to my home, shouldn't you? I said it before. This is the price you have to pay for offending my family! Mr. Hale, have you thought about which option to choose?"

Bruce gritted his teeth and thought about it for a while before finally saying, "I choose..."

Everyone stared at Bruce with bated breath, wondering which choice he would make.

"To hell with that!" Bruce suddenly hollered. "Do you really think you're the king and you can do whatever you want? If you have what it takes, come at us. We will never give you our empire for nothing!"

Bruce seldom lost his temper easily, but he actually just cursed at the overbearing Lance, and he was even more aggressive than the Kingstons!

Since the Kingstons were coveting the Hales' assets, he might as well fall out with them!

Bruce's vigor and spirit made many of the attendees extremely surprised.

Someone even felt some admiration and respect for Bruce.

But there were even more people who felt that Bruce was shooting himself in the foot by challenging someone way above his league.

After all, the Hales' strength was worlds apart from the Kingstons'!

Lance's face turned sullen. He didn't expect Bruce to have the guts to confront him aggressively.

"Okay, since you don't know any better and have a death wish, I'll fulfill your wish!" Lance said coldly and then ordered the people behind him, "Bring Bruce Hale and his family out of here!"

With his command, around thirty tall bodyguards swarmed out from all around the venue and charged toward the Hales to surround them.

Many bursts of exclamations erupted in the venue.

No one had expected that the Kingstons would suddenly attack the Hales and send so many people to exact violence on the Hales.

Although they claimed that it was to ensure people's safety, most families could only bring a few bodyguards with them to the venue. How could they possibly defeat thirty people?

Vince and Wendy, who had been sitting in the master seat at the front, were nonchalant about it. They seemed to be leaving it entirely to the Kingstons to deal with while supporting them from behind.

Many people who felt that the Kingstons were being too arrogant and tyrannical or those who had friendly ties with the Hales suppressed their urge to stand up for the Hales and remained seated when they saw Vince and Wendy.

They would be in deep trouble if they offended the Kingstons and the Smiths.

But just as the Hales were about to be dragged away, a majestic and stern voice suddenly sounded. "Mr. Kingston, aren't you going overboard with this?"

The person who stood forth was Damon, the helmsman of the Parkers.

Lance frowned. "Damon Parker, do you plan to get involved in this mess?"

“This mess?” Damon sneered. “Since you remember that the Hales went to your place to cause a stir, I’m sure you haven’t forgotten that the Parkers were present that day too, right, Mr. Kingston? I’m definitely getting involved in this mess!”

“I doubt you’d let the Parkers off after dealing with the Hales! Am I right, Mr. Kingston?”

He stared at Lance blatantly with his glistening eyes.

Tension suddenly arose in the venue!

Chapter 699: Killing Three Birds With One Stone

Everyone in the venue was astonished.

Through the information Damon just revealed, everyone figured out that the Parkers and Hales had gone to confront the Kingstons together.

What was the reason then?

Bruce said it was because the Kingstons had abducted someone from Orange County, so they confronted the Kingstons to get them to hand over this person. But they had questions about who the person was and why the Parkers and the Hales had gone to the Kingstons’ together.

There were too many strange points about this matter, and many people who didn’t know the truth began to ask around to find out what had happened at the time.

But just as Damon said, the Kingstons would definitely not let the Parkers, who had offended them too, off the hook since they were now holding the Hales responsible for what had happened.

Unlike the Hales, the Parkers were now powerful enough to be almost on par with a top-tier family like the Kingstons. If two such powerful families went against each other, the consequences would be extremely different!

In that case, there would be a good show to watch.

Lance narrowed his eyes angrily and threatened, “Mr. Parker, I don’t seem to have said that I wanted to make things hard for your family. Are you planning to help this old fogey Bruce Hale and go against the Kingstons?”

Damon smirked indifferently. “If that’s what you think, sure. Anyway, it’s not the first time the Parkers have gone against the Kingstons, is it?”

“I’d also like to tell you something, Mr. Kingston. The Hales are friends with the Parkers, so if you want to harm the Hales, it’ll be equivalent to making an enemy of the Parkers!”

“The Parkers’ strength may indeed be slightly inferior to the Kingstons’, but we’re not afraid of you either!”

His words were tantamount to a direct war declaration.

Most of the other families in the venue looked at each other in shock and dismay. Aren’t things escalating... a little too quickly?

In merely a few sentences, things had escalated to the point where they were going toe-to-toe against each other and neither refused to give in!

Generally speaking, the more comparable the strength of the families, the more cautious they would be about being hostile to each other. Yet the Kingstons and the Parkers were almost about to get into a brawl at the slightest disagreement.

After all, they were at the Elite Business Exchange, and they couldn’t issue threats and then pretend that nothing had happened, especially since there were so many wealthy families.

But once these two massively powerful families went to war, it might have a significant impact on the situation in all of California!

“Hah, this is the Elite Business Exchange held by the Kingstons. If anyone dares to create trouble here, don’t blame me for being merciless!

“Immediately kick the Hales out of the venue! If anyone resists, kill them without mercy!” Lance ordered coldly.

The bloodthirstiness in his voice made everyone else present shudder.

Kill without mercy... This means a complete fall out, right?

“Yes, Mr. Parker!” responded the tall and burly bodyguards of the Kingstons in unison. Then dozens of them immediately surrounded the Parkers.

Since the Kingstons were the host of the Elite Business Exchange today, they were responsible for all the security measures and personnel.

But the Kingstons actually wanted to kick both the Parkers and the Hales out because of a personal feud. The Kingstons definitely had an absolute advantage in numbers and were a combat force that no other family could resist.

Suddenly, many other families began to worry.

Why did this Elite Business Exchange seem like a facade for a treacherous plot?

The Kingstons had the hosting rights and a strong force of subordinates. If anyone got into a conflict of interests with them, wouldn't they be bullied and driven out without any dignity like the Hales and Parkers? Moreover, there would be nothing they could do.

"Lance Kingston, you're really getting more and more brazen! All the Kingstons are doing is helping to host the exchange this year. Do you really think you're the king and hold the power to control the life and death of others?" At this moment, another person came forward and scolded furiously with a frosty expression on his face.

"That's Edmund Cole, the head of the Coles of San Francisco! He actually stepped out too!"

"Wow! Are the Coles planning to go against the Kingstons as well?"

"Oh my god. These big shots are coming forward one after another. What kind of situation will this turn into? Three of the four most powerful families of California have already come forward, and the Parkers and Coles are standing against Lance Kingston. The Walkers are the only ones left who have yet to take a stand!"

"I said before that something major would definitely happen at today's exchange, and it really seems so! It's only been ten minutes since the exchange started, but there's already such a scene! Instead of an exchange, it's more like a battlefield!"

Edmund's appearance caused another commotion among the astounded crowd.

"Edmund Cole, this doesn't seem to be any of your business, right? Why are you standing up for them?" Lance glowered at Edmund.

But he actually felt extremely smug when he saw Edmund coming forward.

Indeed, Lance had deliberately lashed out at the Hales in order to show how arrogant and overbearing he was!

His goal was to force all the families related to Lucas to step forth and then drag Lucas out before getting rid of them in one fell swoop!

Now, with the Smiths as his backer, Lance became much more bold.

In his opinion, no matter how arrogant and good at fighting Lucas was, he was just a small fry who wouldn't survive for long in front of the formidable Vince, the future successor of the Smiths, as well as the experts around him.

Thus, Lance would not only be able to avenge his son and grandson, but he would also take revenge for Wendy and Vince and get rid of the forces against them. It was simply killing three birds with one stone!

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At the thought of the Kingstons becoming the hegemon of California, Lance stared at Lucas with a fiery gaze.

But Lucas's reaction made Lance somewhat bewildered.

Seeing that his allies, the Hales, the Parkers, and the Coles, had all come forward one after another and were facing a dangerous situation where they were almost going to war, Lucas remained calm and composed, as if what was happening in front of him had nothing to do with him at all.

Lucas was indeed a person who couldn't be seen through easily!

But it doesn't matter.. When I clip your wings and get rid of your helpers, let's see if you can still remain so calm! Lance thought with a cold and sinister look in his eyes.

Chapter 700: Treacherous and Unpredictable

"Hah, Edmund Cole, do you also want to get involved? I'm now the host of this exchange, and I have the right to chase the Hales and the Parkers out for causing trouble! Do you have a problem with that?" Lance looked at Edmund with a look of arrogance.

Edmund said disdainfully, "Lance Kingston, aren't you embarrassed to say that?! You know best just how you managed to obtain the hosting rights. Who would believe your bullshit?"

"Why did the Hales and the Parkers cause trouble at the exchange? Isn't it because you provoked them first because of a personal feud?"

"I just can't stand seeing such things! If you have the guts, target the Coles too and chase us out together!"

After all, Edmund had been in the army for many years. And when it came to being domineering and acting rouge, there were very few people who could match him. He angered Lance as soon as he spoke.

Lance really wanted to fall out with the Coles right now. He had long abhorred Edmund. The other day at the Kingstons', Edmund had helped the Hales and the Parkers declare

war on the Kingstons, eventually forcing him to give in. He decided that he would sooner or later get even with Edmund!

But the exchange just began, and he had yet to even declare the main purpose of the exchange today. So it was indeed not suitable to start a conflict with the Coles now.

When Lance thought of this, a smile suddenly appeared on his originally gloomy face. "Mr. Cole, you're already so old. There isn't a need to get so upset, is there?"

"I know you're friends with Bruce Hale and Damon Parker, so you'd naturally want to speak up for them. But no matter what, the Kingstons are indeed hosting today's exchange. Yet the Hales and the Parkers openly provoked the authority of the Kingstons. Why can't I teach them a lesson and kick them out of the venue?"

"Edmund Cole, you'd better not be too nosy. If your family hosts an event in the future and my family keeps ordering you around and telling you what to do, would you be happy?" Lance said with a threatening tone of voice.

"Hah, you can try it!" Edmund didn't take it to heart in the slightest, and he said decisively, "I just said that if anyone dares to lay a finger on the Hales and the Parkers, they'd better not blame me for being unceremonious!"

Then he took out his phone and made a call. "Split up into two groups. One group will go to the Walton Hotel, and the other will go to the Kingstons' manor and surround it. Don't let anyone enter or leave!"

Lance's expression changed drastically!

In order to gain firm control of the venue, the Kingstons had already deployed most of their personnel. In addition to the fifty elite experts in the venue, there were others spread around the vicinity of the Walton Hotel to prevent any unexpected situations.

But at the same time, the guards in the Kingstons' main residence were unprecedentedly empty because Lance simply didn't think that anyone would have the courage to attack the Kingstons' home at this juncture!

But Edmund didn't act according to Lance's expectations!

As someone who had dealt closely with Edmund for most of his life, Lance was very clear about Edmund's personality and knew that he had never been afraid to kill because of the numerous years he had spent on the battlefield a long time ago. He was definitely able to do what he said he would!

If he really wanted to do something to the rest of the Kingstons, there was no way he could stop it!

Just as Lance's expression changed drastically, another voice sounded. "You can start moving. Make sure to surround the Kingston residence within ten minutes and then act on my orders!"

This time, it was Damon who ordered the person on the other end of his phone.

He actually ordered his subordinates to surround the Kingston residence again!

Everyone was astounded!

Edmund could order his people to surround the Kingston residence because the Coles were a large family in San Francisco and could quickly gather manpower.

But Damon's family was a family from LA, yet he could also get people to surround the Kingston residence within ten minutes?

LA was quite a long drive from San Francisco.

Damon definitely couldn't have made this decision on the spur of the moment. This could only mean one thing—Damon had long anticipated that the Kingstons would deliberately target the Parkers at today's exchange. Thus, he made arrangements in advance so that all the Parkers' manpower had arrived in San Francisco and were ready to act at any time!

His ability to predict in advance left many in awe.

"Relay my orders. Everyone, get to the entrance of Walton Hotel within ten minutes and wait for my instructions!" Another domineering voice sounded.

This time, it was Bruce!

In an instant, the three big shots had issued orders one after another and openly went against Lance, thus sparking an uproar.

It was no longer a declaration of war but a preparation to start the war at any moment!

Lance's face was extremely gloomy.

He really wanted to blow things up by suppressing the Hales, the Parkers, and the rest before getting rid of them as well as Lucas.

But he had never expected that these families had already prepared and secretly arranged their people to head to San Francisco!

If the Kingston residence and the Walton Hotel were surrounded by the people of these three families, the Kingstons' previous arrangements would have no chance of winning.

Besides, the Kingstons in the main residence would probably become hostages to be used against him!

For a moment, Lance felt that the current situation was beyond his control, so he had no choice but to look to Vince for help. He wanted to use the power of the Smiths to help him deal with the current situation.

But Vince remained sitting calmly in his seat, without even glancing at Lance, as if the matter had nothing to do with him.

“Mr. Smith, you...” Lance panicked and bent over to Vince’s side to beg him again.

At this moment, an extremely loud and majestic voice filled the air in the venue. “Do you people not take the Walkers seriously anymore?”

Herman, the head of the Walkers, stood up with a cold and arrogant look on his face.

Everyone was shocked!

Chapter 701: Triggered By a Touch

From the moment Herman Walker stood up to speak, the battlefield of the four most powerful families in California became even more dangerous and tense.

In the beginning, everyone thought that this was a battle between the Coles, the Parkers, and the Hales against the Kingstons.

In contrast, the Walkers, who had always been uninvolved, might choose to sit this one out and reap the spoils when the others fought to the death later. They were sure that the Walkers would definitely become the final winner.

No one expected that the Walkers would take the initiative to jump out and join the battle at this time.

But no one could guess whose side the Walkers would take.

Lance narrowed his eyes and suddenly realized that Herman seemed to be behaving differently from usual today. He wasn’t behaving like the usual low-key old man.

If he had to describe Herman as a sword, the old Herman would be like an ordinary sword sheathed in a scabbard, which didn’t look harmful in any way. But the current Herman standing in front of the crowd now seemed to have left his scabbard, revealing cold rays of light emanating in all directions.

For some reason, Lance suddenly had an ominous premonition.

Similarly, Edmund frowned slightly. He also discovered that Herman was different from usual.

But he was more curious about Herman's purpose for standing up at this time.

Edmund thought that if Herman was after the ultimate benefits, the safest solution would be for the Walkers to wait until the end, sit the battle out, and then reap the benefits.

... Unless Herman's purpose wasn't that simple.

At this moment, many people were discussing Herman after he suddenly stood up.

But there was one person whose muscles tensed up the moment he saw Herman coming forward.

"The Walkers!" Reynold Watson gritted his teeth while wishing that the Walkers would die right in front of him immediately!

The Walkers were the targets he really wanted to deal with tonight!

Reason being, the bastard Nate had killed his only precious son, Dallas, so he had to take revenge against the Walkers!

"Mr. Walker, what do you mean by that?" Lance questioned, but his tone was very amicable when speaking to Herman.

After all, Lance wasn't willing to become enemies with another powerful person before clarifying Herman's stand and purpose.

Edmund asked, "Mr. Walker, what do you mean?"

Herman looked at the two big shots from San Francisco on par with him and smiled slightly. "I don't have a deep meaning. I just think that since today's Elite Business Exchange is a grand event held once every three years in California and the Kingstons are the host, there seems to be nothing wrong for Mr. Kingston to chase out a few families that are in the way and causing trouble, right?"

As soon as he said this, everyone immediately understood the meaning of his words. They were surprised that he was supportive of the Kingstons.

Lance was also a bit surprised because he didn't expect Herman to speak up for his family.

Logically speaking, Herman shouldn't be helping the Kingstons, so everyone wondered if there was some other hidden reason.

Is Herman Walker choosing to help me because he disapproves of Edmund Cole?

But regardless of the reason, Herman was on the Kingstons' side now, which was good news for him!

On the other hand, Edmund's face darkened slightly. "Mr. Walker, does that mean you've decided to stand on the Kingstons' side?"

Herman didn't admit or deny it. He merely smiled and said, "Mr. Cole, the Walkers, the Coles, and the Kingstons have been the three giants of San Francisco for more than a decade, right?"

"I actually don't want to see the balance broken because once a conflict breaks out between our three powerful families, the other forces in California will definitely be implicated too.

"So, I suggest that we leave it to the Kingstons and the Hales to resolve their feud on their own. Mr. Cole, it's better not to get involved!

"Of course, if you insist on your decision and help these families fight against the Kingstons, I can't just sit back and watch. When the time comes, the Coles probably won't be our match even if you join hands with those few small families!

"Mr. Cole, since you're already advanced in years. You shouldn't meddle with these affairs. Isn't it better to live well?"

Herman looked extremely helpless, as if he was just a peacemaker who had no choice but to do so.

But Edmund could hear the threats in his words.

Only now did the other people in the venue finally understand that the Walkers were really here for the Coles.

"It seems that the Coles are in trouble this time! The Kingstons and the Walkers are both top families on par with the Coles. The Coles won't be a match for them if they join forces!"

"I can't believe that Mr. Walker chose to stand on the Kingstons' side. When did the two of them start getting along so well?"

"For the peace of all of California? Why does it sound so fake? But speaking of which, what exactly are the Walkers' intentions? I have a feeling that it's not that simple!"

“Who knows? Anyway, now that the situation is becoming more complicated, I wonder what choice Mr. Cole will make!”

...

Everyone was talking about the current situation and couldn't help looking at Edmund to see what choice he would make.

Edmund stood upright in the field and asked loudly, “Herman Walker, do you really want to get involved in the feud between our families?”

Herman said with a confident smile, “It's not that I have to interfere. I'm just being fair. If you don't get involved in it, I naturally won't interfere either!”

“Haha!” Edmund sneered and said with a hostile look on his face, “In that case, do as you wish! Anyway, I have made my stand clear. The Hales and the Parkers are friends of the Coles, and I won't be kind to anyone who wants to harm them! If you want to go to war, then let's do it! The Coles aren't afraid!”

As soon as he said this, several bodyguards behind Edmund immediately got their guards up and put their hands into the inside of their suits, ready to make a move.

At the same time, Bruce, Connor, Damon, and Kenneth also stood up while the bodyguards behind them became vigilant.

All of a sudden, the exchange venue was full of the terrifying aura of an impending war.

The war seemed about to begin!

Chapter 702: The Watsons Retaliate

Amid the tense atmosphere, Lucas remained sitting in his seat and even sipped tea very leisurely, as if everything in front of him had nothing to do with him.

But there was a trace of mockery in his lowered eyes.

The Kingstons thought that they were chosen by the Smiths to be their representatives, so they had been taking the lead everywhere.

But the Walkers suddenly appeared at this juncture. Lucas didn't believe that the Smiths hadn't instructed them to do so.

Everything Lance hoped and expected would probably end in vain, and he would have paved the way for others.

Herman looked at the Coles, the Parkers, and the Hales with a contemptuous smile on his face. "Mr. Cole, I'm asking you one last time. Are you really going to go to war with us for the sake of the Hales and the Parkers?"

Edmund said impatiently, "I've said it several times now. Do you take my words as nonsense? If you want to fight, just do it. Cut the crap!"

"Haha, Edmund Cole, you're really conceited!" Herman laughed loudly and then suddenly raised his voice to say to the people in the conference hall, "Everyone, Mr. Cole is stubborn and insists on going to war to break the peace in California. Do you want to see this situation?"

"No! The Morrisons object!"

"The Crawfords oppose too!"

"The Dawns are against it as well!"

...

As soon as Herman finished speaking, more than ten helmsmen of various families immediately stood up and responded to Herman in unison.

When Lance saw this scene, his face darkened.

Now, he finally realized what was amiss and the reason for his vague ominous feeling earlier!

The helmsmen who stood up to respond to Herman were exactly the ones who had been solicited by Lance and agreed to support the Kingstons at the exchange!

But they didn't even look at him now and were all on Herman's side!

Lance knew better than anyone else what this meant.

His heart sank to rock bottom!

At the same time, Wendy, sitting beside Vince, had a trace of shock on her face.

She originally thought that her cousin Vince had also chosen the Kingstons as the Smiths' future representative in California. But only at this moment did she realize that the Walkers were the ones Vince had chosen!

Vince didn't ask her for her opinion before deciding on this matter or even informed her about it!

Does this mean that Vince no longer trusts me? Wendy thought anxiously.

At this moment, Edmund's face also turned slightly pale.

He didn't expect that the Walkers had already won over so many families either.

Besides, the Walkers' appearance was beyond his expectations in the first place.

Edmund originally thought that the Kingstons would be the ones causing trouble at the exchange since they were Smiths' lackeys. But it had only been a short while since the exchange started, yet they had surprisingly been replaced by another family.

"See, Mr. Cole? This is everyone's unanimous consensus. Do you really want to become enemies of all the other families in California?" Herman smiled confidently, assured he would win.

Edmund clenched his fists tightly, and the veins at the corners of his forehead twitched.

From his standpoint, he indeed wouldn't be afraid of going to war with the Kingstons and the Walkers. Even if it caused the Coles to suffer major losses, everyone would only end up in a lose-lose situation.

But now that nearly half of the families and forces were on Herman's side, the situation was absolutely not in their favor.

The combined strength of nearly thirty first-class families wasn't something that one or two top families could rival!

Even though Edmund was usually fearless, he clenched his fists and fell into deep thought.

Suddenly, an incomparably angry voice sounded. "Herman Walker, do you like poking your nose into other people's business that much? Why don't you settle the score with the Watsons first?!"

The person who spoke was none other than Reynold, the head of the Watsons!

Another uproar immediately broke out.

No one expected that the Watsons would suddenly jump out at this time and target the Walkers, one of the top three families!

The people present were all the heads of the first-tier families. Many of them knew that the Watsons of San Jose had actually relied on the Walkers' support to develop so quickly to a first-class family today in just a few years.

It could be said that the Watsons had always been as obedient as dogs in front of the Walkers, always doing whatever they were told.

Even Reynold's precious son, Dallas, was known to be the most loyal lackey of the Walkers' scion, Nate Walker, among the upper-class circle of California.

Reynold Watson actually has the guts to settle scores with the Walkers?

Wh-what exactly is going on here?

Herman, who had a calm smile on his face just now, became a little gloomy.

He didn't know that Dallas had died yesterday and his corpse had been in Nate's car.

In Herman's opinion, the Watsons had always been obedient, yet they were now trying to beat the hand that fed them, making him extremely displeased.

Herman narrowed his eyes slightly and said slowly with an aura of oppression, "Reynold, why don't I know what there is to settle between our families?"

"Hah, you'll have to ask your grandson what he's done!" Reynold stared at Nate, who was standing behind Herman. His gaze was like that of a venomous snake.

Nate subconsciously shuddered.

From the moment Reynold suddenly came forward to speak, Nate had had an ominous premonition. His heart was pounding, making him feel as if there was an unknown force overwhelming him.

Just last night, Dallas's corpse had suddenly appeared in the trunk of Nate's car. Out of fear of causing a misunderstanding with the Watsons, he had arranged for his assistant to destroy Dallas's corpse. But the assistant had vanished without a trace and hadn't been found yet.

Nate was extremely tense to begin with, afraid that Reynold would suddenly mention Dallas.

But things didn't go according to plan. The more he dreaded it, the more likely it would happen.

After coming into contact with Reynold's bloodthirsty gaze, Nate screamed in his heart, Everything I dread has happened. How can I explain it clearly now?

Herman glanced at Nate with a frown and then turned to look at Reynold. He said with annoyance, "What exactly do you want to say? Just say it!"

His eyes were already full of a murderous aura.

The Watsons were just his dogs in the beginning. But now that they were biting the hand that fed them and disrespecting him in front of everyone, Herman was furious.

Reynold had to avenge his son. So facing Herman's threatening gaze, he gritted his teeth and said word by word, "Okay, then I'll make it clear what happened! Yesterday, my son, Dallas, was mercilessly killed by your grandson, Nate Walker!"

Chapter 703: Sufficient Evidence

Reynold's voice was full of anger and resentment. At the thought that he almost lost the chance to see his son's body yesterday, he wished he could skin Nate alive!

If not for the fact that the Watsons' power was inferior to the Walkers', he would have long gone to Nate to demand that he pay for it with his life. There would have been no point in enduring until now.

He initially planned to use the power of the several major families in Orange County to deal with the Walkers slowly.

But when Reynold saw Herman's actions, he knew that he couldn't afford to wait any longer.

If he had continued waiting, the Walkers would probably become the greatest hegemon of California. In that case, he would never be able to complete his plan for revenge.

In that case, no matter what, he had to expose the Walkers' evil deeds so that the families who wanted to rely on the Walkers, faithfully follow them, and slog their guts out for them would see what would happen at the very end!

Lucas looked up at Reynold with a glimmer of interest in his eyes.

It seems that Dallas, his only son, really held a significant position in his heart, making him not hesitate to fall out with the Walkers to take revenge for his son.

Unfortunately, Reynold had some ability, but his son was just that kind of person. If Dallas hadn't repeatedly provoked Lucas, Lucas wouldn't have killed him.

Indeed, as soon as Reynold finished speaking, it immediately caused an uproar in the venue.

"What did he say? Reynold Watson's son actually got killed by Nate Walker yesterday?"

“Oh my God. He only had one son, and he cherished him like a gem. Yet he was killed. If it were me, I wouldn’t be able to stand it!”

“What’s the matter? I remember that Dallas and Nate are very close. Why was he suddenly killed by Nate?”

“Since Reynold Watson said so, it’s likely true! Even if there was a conflict between the two, he shouldn’t have killed him! It’s too much!”

The crowd was discussing the matter with an unbearable look on their faces. Even for those who didn’t know about the relationship between the two families, there were some enthusiastic people beside them who introduced the situation to them.

At this moment, Herman and Nate had the ugliest looks.

Herman asked with a frown, “Reynold Watson, you need proof to make such claims. How can you conclude that your son died in my grandson’s hands?”

Nate hurriedly said, “Grandpa, I didn’t kill him! Reynold Watson is spouting nonsense! Dallas is my best friend. How could I have killed him?”

Reynold was trembling with anger as he pointed at Nate. “How dare you say that my son is your best friend? He’s done so much for you, but what about you?”

“You brutally killed him and even wanted to drag his corpse to the wilderness to destroy it! If I hadn’t arrived in time, I’m afraid I wouldn’t have even gotten to see my son’s corpse!”

“How dare you say that I’m spouting nonsense, you coward who doesn’t even dare to admit what you’ve done?!” Reynold hollered with reddened eyes.

Being rebuked like this in front of so many people, Nate’s face reddened, and he replied in shame and anger, “W-who are you calling a coward?”

“Shut up!” Herman shouted, immediately making Nate tremble and keep quiet.

But Nate was extremely indignant.

He didn’t kill Dallas, but his corpse had somehow suddenly appeared in his car’s trunk. He couldn’t explain it at all.

In particular, he did make his subordinate destroy the corpse. Based on what Reynold said, it was no wonder that his subordinate had gone missing for an entire day and night. He reckoned that his assistant was more likely than not dead.

When Nate thought of this, his mood worsened.

Herman knew that if he didn't handle the Watsons' matter properly, the families whom he had roped in might have other ideas, and the scene might escalate beyond control.

He thought for a while, took a deep breath, and said as pleasantly as he could, "Mr. Watson, I understand your feelings very well. But given the close relationship between our families, my grandson definitely wouldn't have killed your son for no reason. Is there some misunderstanding in this?"

Upon hearing this, Edmund sneered. "Hmph, how hypocritical."

Herman narrowed his eyes slightly but ignored Edmund. He continued to look at Reynold with a look of sincerity.

Reynold smiled mirthlessly. "I also hope there's some misunderstanding. Unfortunately, it can't be any truer! However, if I don't show some evidence, the Walkers will probably keep denying it, right? In that case, I'll show you the evidence!"

He directly instructed the two people behind him, "Go, show them everything!"

These two people immediately stood out. One held a laptop while the other carried a projector as they walked to the open space in front of them.

Soon, a short video started playing on the projector screen.

In the middle of the screen was a bright red Maserati.

There were two figures standing at the rear of the car where the trunk was, one of whom was Nate.

Immediately afterward, their talking voices came.

"Immediately drive to the woods in the southeast of San Francisco and burn Dallas's corpse! Remember to do it without anyone noticing and leaving any traces behind. Do you hear me?"

"As for this car, I never want to see it again. Destroy it somewhere. Push it off a cliff or drive it into the river, just get rid of it for me. Got it?"

"Yes, Mr. Walker. I won't spout any nonsense about this. I will definitely complete the task!"

"Go. Remember, the faster you settle it, the better. Make sure not to leave any traces!" Nate instructed again.

...

The acoustics in the venue were excellent, so everyone could hear clearly that one of the people speaking was indeed Nate!

Moreover, the trunk of the Maserati was open, and they could see the body inside.

The evidence was conclusive!

Chapter 704: Refusing To Admit

Some people who had seen Dallas immediately exclaimed, "That's indeed Dallas Watson's corpse!"

"I didn't expect that Dallas is really dead!"

"The red Maserati indeed belongs to Nate. It's his license plate. Based on the background, it should be in the Walkers' villa!"

"Oh my God. They all say that Dallas is Nate's top lackey and extremely obedient to him. I can't believe that Nate really killed him."

"Hey, I heard that the Watsons have always been respectful to the Walkers, but I never thought that such a thing would happen. He actually killed Reynold Watson's only son and even denied it. He's gone overboard!"

"I think we have to be careful in our cooperation with the Walkers! If we encounter this kind of thing one day, we'll end up really miserable!"

"Yeah, who do the Walkers think they are? Do they take us cooperative partners as slaves they can easily bully?"

...

At first, many people were shocked that Dallas had really died in Nate's hands. But soon, the topic of the conversation turned to the Walkers' cruelty and viciousness toward their partner, whom they had kicked to the curb after they'd outlived their usefulness.

Lucas smiled faintly. No one knew that a few key people taking the lead to influence the others were arranged to do so by him.

Reynold said with anger and misery, "Has everyone seen clearly? My son was killed by Nate Walker, and he even ordered his corpse to be destroyed! The Walkers must give me an explanation for this!"

Although he was now worth hundreds of millions, his only son was dead. Regardless of how high his status was and how wealthy he was, it no longer mattered!

Thus, he could go all out and resolutely seek justice from the Walkers without any fear.

Edmund sneered and said sarcastically, “Herman Walker, what’s the problem with your family?! I remember that the Watsons have always had a very good relationship with the Walkers, and your families have always been allies. But it doesn’t seem right for you to condone your grandson killing the son of an ally, does it?”

Damon said mockingly, “Maybe the Walkers have a new target and no longer need the Watsons’ help. That’s why they disregarded the life of someone else’s son!”

“Perhaps that’s what the Walkers’ tradition is like. It’s really scary. Fortunately, we’ve never had many ties with the Walkers in the past. Otherwise, I’m afraid my children and grandchildren might have died without knowing why, and even their corpses would be missing!” Bruce chimed in sarcastically.

They were gloating at Herman, who had been incredibly arrogant in front of them just now.

Nate’s face turned pale, and he panicked before frantically saying, “No, I really didn’t do it! I... I really didn’t kill Dallas!”

Seeing everyone around him looking at him as though they were saying, ‘Do you think we would believe you? The evidence in the video is clear and unmistakable, yet you’re still trying to defend yourself’, Nate immediately felt hopeless.

He didn’t know how the video was shot and even sent to Reynold.

He and his assistant should have been the only ones present!

But now, he couldn’t figure out what had gone wrong. He only knew that someone had plotted against him in this matter right from the start!

Nate knelt down in front of Herman and complained sobbingly, “Grandpa! I really didn’t do it! I only learned that Dallas had been killed when the servants in my villa came to report to me that his corpse was in the trunk of my car! I was shocked as well!

“I can swear to God that I really didn’t kill Dallas! Grandpa, you must believe me! Although I’m usually quite a bastard, I wouldn’t kill someone!”

Nate was really terrified.

He also knew that things had blown out of proportion and that it would greatly affect the image and reputation of the Walkers!

The fastest way to placate Reynold and let the matter blow over was either for Nate to produce concrete proof that he didn't do it or for him to be handed over directly to Reynold.

But if he could produce convincing proof, he wouldn't have to beg like this!

But before Herman could speak, Reynold had already lost his temper and roared, "Nate Walker, do you really think that all of us are fools that you can deceive?"

"If my son wasn't killed by you, but by someone else, why didn't you tell the rest of your family or me after you found his corpse in your car?"

"I remember yesterday afternoon that I specifically called you to ask you where my son was, and I asked you to inform me as soon as you had news! But what did you do?"

"After you saw my son's corpse suddenly appear in your car, you didn't say anything or tell anyone about it. Instead, you secretly got your subordinate to take his corpse to the wilderness to dispose of without leaving a trace! Who would believe that you didn't do it because of a guilty conscience?"

"Besides, that car is your favorite car, and your driver and servants are watching it at all times. Who would be able to get past your family guards and place such a large corpse into your car's trunk?"

"Come on. Didn't you say you were innocent? Didn't you say that you didn't murder my son? Give me an explanation then!"

Reynold's body was trembling violently as two streams of warm tears flowed down his face.

A tough man like him was so overwhelmed with grief and misery that he had been reduced to such a state. Many people present were parents themselves, and they were full of empathy for Reynold. Influenced by his sorrow and anger, they looked at Nate with some hostility.

If their child was killed so brutally by someone who claimed to be their best buddy and even denied having killed them, they would also be just as grief-stricken and would also seek justice for their child even if it meant completely offending the Walkers.

Herman's face was extremely terrifying.

He looked around at the crowd while countless thoughts raced through his mind.

From a rational point of view, the best thing to do now was probably to hand over his grandson Nate to Reynold and leave him at the latter's disposal. Then he would

apologize and try to gain these families' understanding to save the Walkers' image and dispel their suspicions.

However, such an approach would bruise his ego!

He was about to become the hegemon of all of California and dominate all the families in California. He saw no reason for himself to bow down to them and hand his grandson over.

Moreover, he would never forgive Reynold for daring to betray the Walkers at this juncture, let alone placate him!

"Reynold Walker, what can this short video explain? Do you have the video of my grandson murdering him? No. If this video alone is enough proof to convict my grandson, it'd be really absurd!" Herman said arrogantly with his hands behind his back.

Reynold didn't expect that Herman would still deny it even though things had already come to this.. He was so furious that he was almost rendered speechless.

Chapter 705: The Real Murderer

Herman's arrogance and refusal to admit it was intolerable to many people.

Edmund sneered. "Walker, I know you've always been thick-skinned. But now that there's video evidence in front of you, you're still feigning ignorance. I really take my hat off to you for being so shameless!"

Damon chimed in with a contemptuous smirk, "Mr. Walker, you've gone to great lengths to protect your grandson, and you've really done a good job at lying through your teeth! We're really inferior to you. I admit defeat!"

Bruce touched his goatee and shook his head while sighing. "Otherwise, how could the Walkers have become one of the three most powerful families in San Francisco? None of us can catch up to you in terms of your ability to twist facts!"

Ethan had misery all over his face as he said slowly, "Mr. Walker, you may be my elder, but I have to say, the video evidence is already in front of you. You can't just undermine it with a single sentence. In my opinion, you should give the Watsons an explanation, shouldn't you?"

"That's right. Mr. Watson's son can't just die in vain, right? No matter what, the Watsons must be given an explanation today!"

“Yes, this matter can’t be swept under the carpet. We’re all parents, and we can understand how Mr. Watson feels!”

...

After the few of them spoke, several helmsmen of powerful families came forward and denounced Herman for his inappropriate behavior.

The statuses of these few families weren’t simple.

Although some helmsmen didn’t say anything, there was a clear look of disapproval and displeasure on their faces.

Herman’s face slowly became increasingly gloomy.

This meant that many people present didn’t approve of his behavior.

Seeing that the situation wasn’t in his favor, Nate hurriedly pleaded with Herman, “Grandpa, please save me quickly! I really didn’t do it!”

“Shut up!” Herman hollered at him in annoyance. “If you spout nonsense again, I’ll ignore you immediately!”

Nate instantly kept quiet. Based on Herman’s words, he knew that his grandfather wasn’t going to give him up!

Bruce narrowed his eyes. “Herman Walker, are you going to sweep the matter of your grandson killing Mr. Watson’s son under the carpet?”

“Who are you? This is a matter between the Walkers and the Watsons. Who are you to intervene?” Herman said with disdain.

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“Mr. Walker, if you keep doing evil, you will court your own death one day! I don’t think your family has reached the point of being invincible, has it? Aren’t you going overboard?” Damon said coldly.

Herman glared at Damon and threatened, “The Parkers have just begun to climb up the ladder, yet you’re already so eager to challenge my family? Are you not afraid that the Parkers will vanish from LA in a few days?”

“You!”

Damon was furious. Just as he was about to say something, a cold voice interrupted him from the side.

“Forget it. Don’t bother talking nonsense with him.”

The person who spoke was none other than Lucas, who had been sitting quietly and calmly in his seat.

For a while, all eyes were on him.

At this critical moment when these top bigwigs were targeting each other, a young man actually interjected in such a nonchalant tone that even sounded somewhat commanding. It made many people bewildered.

They began to wonder who this young man they had never seen before was.

Herman glanced at Lucas, enraged by his condescending tone so much so that he burst into laughter. “Punk, who do you think you are? Do you have the right to interrupt us talking?”

Damon’s face immediately darkened, and he shouted at Herman, “Herman Walker, who are you to be disrespectful to Mr. Gray!”

Ethan also stood up and said austerely, “Mr. Walker, Mr. Gray isn’t someone you can shout at as you please!”

Bruce’s face turned cold as he warned, “Whoever dares to be rude to Mr. Gray like this again, the Hales won’t spare you!”

In an instant, the helmsmen of these three top-tier families all came forward to defend Lucas and even retorted against Herman. This scene left everyone present in disbelief.

“Who... who exactly is this young man? How come the helmsmen of these three great families are all defending him and even respectfully call him Mr. Gray?”

“It’s really strange. These people don’t even take Herman Walker and Lance Kingston seriously. Why are they being so polite and protective of this young man?”

“Does anyone know who this young man is?”

“I don’t know. I haven’t seen him before. Could he also be a big shot from one of the top families in DC?”

...

In just a moment, many people in the venue started speculating about Lucas’s identity.

However, Herman snorted coldly with a disdainful smile. “What Mr. Gray? This is hilarious!”

If Vince hadn't told him Lucas's details beforehand, he would have probably been surprised by the scene in front of him and really thought that Lucas was a big shot from some big family in DC!

However, Vince had already told him before that Lucas was just a good-for-nothing who had been expelled from the family by the Huttons many years ago. Thus, there was no need to care about him. He only felt that the helmsmen in front of him were fools for thinking that Lucas was some great big shot and putting him on a pedestal.

"Haha, isn't he just a good-for-nothing kicked out of his family years ago? You people are pitifully shallow. Trust you to be the helmsmen of top families!

"In terms of family power, Mr. Vince Smith has a much higher status than this punk. He's the future successor of the Smiths, one of the eight top families in DC. Why aren't you showing him the same amount of respect? A bunch of idiots!"

Herman didn't take Lucas seriously at all, and he even praised and sucked up to Vince.

Vince sat on the master seat and leisurely took a sip of tea, looking relaxed and comfortable.

It seemed that it wouldn't be long before it was his turn to appear.

At this moment, Nate looked at Lucas, whom the helmsmen of several powerful families were defending, and felt extremely shocked and jealous.

But a bright light suddenly flashed in his mind, and he suddenly thought of something that he had ignored for a long time.

"I know! I know who killed Dallas Watson!" He shouted, looking extremely shocked.

"Who?" Herman immediately asked.

"It's him! The murderer of Dallas is Lucas Gray!" He pointed straight at Lucas!

Chapter 706: What Is The Truth?

Everyone looked in the direction Nate was pointing, and they couldn't help being surprised.

The video evidence was still being played on the projection screen. Everyone thought that Nate was nonsensically shirking responsibility and putting the blame on Lucas.

If Nate had known who the murderer was, why did he only speak up after a long time of being unable to produce any evidence to prove his innocence?

Reynold said angrily, "Nate Walker, enough! The evidence in the video is solid proof of your crime. You've already sent your subordinate to drag my son's corpse out to be destroyed. Surely you don't think you can push the blame to someone else, do you?"

Nate panicked and hurriedly said, "No, Mr. Walker, what I said is true. Lucas Gray is definitely the person who killed your son!"

"I'm sure everyone knows that Dallas and Lucas Gray had a conflict during Miss Alexis Cole's birthday party last night. This is no secret at all, and many people present saw it with their own eyes, right?"

Nate and Dallas were eventually kicked out of her birthday party by Alexis, which was certainly very humiliating. But Nate couldn't be bothered at this point because he wanted to clear himself of the suspicion of murdering Dallas, so he decided to mention it again.

There were indeed many people present who had attended Alexis's birthday party yesterday, and the memory of the conflict was still fresh in their minds. However, they could objectively say that it wasn't exactly a conflict between Lucas and Dallas, but rather, Dallas's repeated provocation toward Lucas.

"Ahem. Anyway, after we left the party, Dallas told me that he couldn't take it lying down and wanted to teach Lucas Gray a lesson. Then he left.

"But I didn't expect Dallas to turn into a corpse and appear in my car's trunk when I saw him again!"

"I was anxious and terrified at the time, and I was worried that it would cause Mr. Watson to get the wrong idea about me. That's why I sent my subordinate to suppress this matter for the time being. But I can swear that I definitely didn't kill Dallas!"

"During this time, Dallas went to look for Lucas Gray, so he must have been killed by this punk!"

Nate spoke earnestly. For fear that others wouldn't believe him, he told them everything he knew at once.

Herman raised his eyebrows. "Mr. Walker, you've heard it. Nate indeed made a mistake in suppressing the matter in a moment of panic, which he shouldn't have. But it was because he didn't want you to get the wrong idea. It was indeed inappropriate of him not to tell you the truth and instead get his man to destroy the corpse. I admit that he shouldn't have done that, and I can apologize to you for it.

“However, he explained everything very clearly. Lucas Gray definitely has a greater motive for killing him!

“Furthermore, there are some obvious questionable points in this matter. For example, how could it be so coincidental for there to be a video of Nate ordering subordinates to destroy the corpse and then sent to you afterward?

“Mr. Watson, aren’t you curious about who the mastermind is?

“I reckon that you, who loves your son so much, definitely don’t want to be used by the real murderer, do you?”

After speaking, Herman deliberately glanced at Lucas, seemingly hinting at something.

After hearing these words, Reynold hesitated.

Indeed, the unknown number that had sent him the video had been a thorn in his heart.

Unfortunately, try as he might, he couldn’t find the slightest clue about the anonymous number, and he didn’t know how this person had managed to take the video and send it to him. This person even accurately told him the exact location of where the corpse would have been destroyed.

Could the real murderer be Lucas Gray, and his motive is to use me to deal with the Walkers? He looked at Lucas, filled with suspicions.

“What? Mr. Watson, are you going to be influenced by those provocative words and suspect that I’m the murderer instead?” Lucas looked extremely composed and even seemed to be mocking him a little. He didn’t show the slightest bit of panic after being exposed, leaving Reynold doubting his own thoughts again.

He really couldn’t see through this young man in front of him.

If he was really his son’s murderer, Lucas’s thoughts and intelligence were way too terrifying.

But Lucas was only a young man in his twenties, so he doubted that Lucas would really be able to do it.

“Lucas Gray, stop arguing! Dallas was clearly killed by you, and you hid his body in my car to frame me! At this point, you still dare to say that you didn’t do it?” Nate hollered.

He actually didn’t have any evidence to prove that Lucas was Dallas’s murderer. But as long as he could put the blame on Lucas, he would be innocent. So he shouted extremely loudly, afraid that everyone present wouldn’t hear him.

Lucas looked up at Nate, who suddenly stood up, let out a long sigh. "You're so anxious to convict me, but you don't have any actual evidence. How ridiculous! It seems that the Walkers aren't willing to own up to it and give the Watsons an explanation, huh? In that case, let me give the Watsons some help!"

Then Lucas moved his long legs and walked toward Nate.

Nate's heart trembled, and he immediately felt as though he was facing a terrifying enemy.

But immediately afterward, he saw Walker's bodyguards around him and his grandfather and felt relieved.

He didn't believe that Lucas would dare to harm him in public when there were so many bodyguards around him!

"Lucas Gray, don't be too arrogant! Dallas was killed by you, and now you're pretending to be merciful in front of us? The greatest way you can account to the Watsons is to kill yourself right now!" Nate shouted maniacally.

Now, he was just trying to provoke Lucas on purpose, to make him so angry that he would lose his rationality and attack him. In that case, many of the Walkers' elite bodyguards could take him down immediately!

As long as Lucas landed in their hands, he couldn't deny the crime of murdering Dallas!

Nate had a menacing and ruthless look on his face.

At the same time, Herman was also looking at Lucas with a playful and contemptuous expression.

In his opinion, Lucas was just shooting himself in the foot by choosing to confront them alone. Is he courting death?

"You don't know any better!"

Just as Lucas was about to reach within five steps of where the Walkers were, an elite bodyguard clad in black suddenly roared furiously, raised his fists, and charged at Lucas!

Chapter 707: A Shocking Strike

With the appearance of this person, many people exclaimed in shock.

“Ah, that person is Freddie, the most powerful elite expert of the Walkers!”

“Oh god! Freddie isn’t an ordinary expert. He’s the best in California! He has even defeated the top experts of the Coles and the Kingstons!”

“Freddie was the first to make a move, so the Walkers are clearly determined to defeat Lucas Gray!”

“I think this young man will certainly be killed by Freddie!”

Freddie was an experienced expert of the Walkers, whom the helmsmen of many prestigious families knew.

At this moment, many people were surprised to see Freddie attack Lucas. Moreover, almost everyone thought that he would defeat Lucas without any suspense.

Freddie was indeed worthy of being the top expert of the Walkers, as he was as quick as lightning and appeared in front of Lucas almost instantaneously. Then he swung a crushing fist at Lucas’s face!

With this punch, an explosive sound suddenly filled the air.

“The Eight Extreme Fists! The strike Freddie launched is the Eight Extreme Fists!”

A few people with some knowledge and understanding of martial arts exclaimed.

It was said that this martial art was extremely tough and incredible, so much so that someone who mastered it would be able to use it to shatter rocks or pierce through steel plates. Those struck by it were usually almost killed or badly wounded!

Furthermore, Freddie’s punch was extremely quick, and almost no one would be able to dodge it. All of a sudden, everyone could almost imagine the miserable scene of Lucas having his skull split open by the blow.

“Ah!” Lena, sitting among the crowd, exclaimed in horror and immediately stood up with her hands clutching her chest tightly while she stared nervously.

The other people present also stared without blinking. Only very few of them couldn’t bring themselves to witness such a tragic scene and closed their eyes tightly.

Bang!

With the sounds of flesh being hit, the bloody image of Lucas’s head being split open didn’t happen, unlike what everyone had expected.

Freddie's fist, which was almost capable of cracking rocks, was being held firmly in Lucas's palm!

An invisible energy swept wildly in all directions from their hands, as if there was a gale in the venue!

"Ah!"

Some families closer to them could even feel the sharp and cold murderous aura from the sudden gale. They were immediately frightened and began screaming as they retreated far away to make space for them.

Those farther away also looked extremely shocked.

They had all witnessed the power of Freddie's fist, but Lucas actually managed to block his swift punch effortlessly with one hand. He looked extremely relaxed, as if it was just a casual act.

If not for the wind that emanated from the two of them, it would have probably been extremely difficult to imagine the level of the confrontation between them.

"Damn! The wind caused by their fists is really terrifying! I've only seen such scenes on TV!"

"I never thought that Lucas would be able to catch Freddie's punch! The two of them seem to be evenly matched? That's incredible!"

"Freddie is a top powerhouse in California! But Lucas caught his punch with barely any effort. Is he an absolute expert too?"

"Impossible! Freddie is almost fifty years old, and he has been practicing martial arts for most of his life. But Lucas is still so young, so how could he possibly compare to Freddie? That move just now must be a coincidence! Lucas will likely lose soon!"

...

The people in the venue were discussing, and there were many different opinions.

Herman's confident face instantly changed, and he was much more serious than he was just now.

As the strongest expert of the Walkers, Freddie had been working for them for at least two decades, and he had even taken on their last name. It could be said that Herman was the person who knew his abilities the best, so he knew very well how powerful Freddie's punch was.

But Lucas actually managed to effortlessly block the strike powerful enough to break rocks. This was beyond Herman's expectations.

He didn't expect that Lucas, an abandoned child of the Huttons, would be good at martial arts. This was something that Vince hadn't told him before.

At the thought of this, Herman couldn't help turning his gaze to Vince, but he was shocked when he saw Vince's face.

In fact, even Vince was appalled by the strength that Lucas displayed.

Although Wendy had already told him before that Eli, her elite expert, had been defeated and killed by Lucas, Vince didn't quite believe it.

So when he entered the Walton Hotel, he had deliberately asked one of his bodyguards to test Lucas's abilities. But Lucas actually managed to send the bodyguard flying with a clean and swift kick. Apart from realizing how strong Lucas was, he didn't find out anything else about him.

But Lucas had now effortlessly caught the full-swing punch by the esteemed Freddie, giving Vince a visual comparison of Lucas's combat strength and Freddie's.

Lucas was truly strong and capable, and he shouldn't be underestimated!

He has such great strength at such a young age. I'm afraid very few people are his match in the entire capital!

Lena let out a long sigh of relief, as if a boulder had been lifted off of her chest.

In contrast, the Hales and the Parkers, who had witnessed Lucas's strength many times and were fully confident in him, were full of joy, acting as if it was only a matter of course that Lucas could block Freddie's attack.

In their minds, it would be an unimaginable thing if Lucas was hit by Freddie!

At this moment, the person under the most pressure in the venue was undoubtedly Freddie, who was fighting toe-to-toe against Lucas.

He had felt that his punch was enough to blow Lucas's head apart. But his punch was stopped midway by Lucas's palm, preventing him from moving forward!

He could even feel an immense force from Lucas's palm, which almost crushed the bones of his hand!

"Punk, let go!" Freddie gritted his teeth and shouted angrily while holding a knife in his left hand and slashing at Lucas with it!

Chapter 708: Dodging

With a faint smile, Lucas retracted his hand and lightly took a step back to avoid the slap from Freddie.

Freddie's blow missed again, and he became enraged. But he was no longer a young man full of vigor and zeal. Lucas, the young man he was facing, was clearly not someone he could deal with easily. He became serious and used all his skills.

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

Freddie's 'Eight Extreme Fists' strikes were extremely fierce, and each punch and kick of his seemed to stir up one strong gust of wind after another in the venue.

Unfortunately, no matter how fast he was and how hard his punches and kicks were, they all missed, and not a single one touched the corner of Lucas's shirt.

Although Lucas was right in front of him, and it seemed that he was extremely close to hitting him, he was unable to reach the crucial point.

The more he fought, the more frightened he became. But no matter how hard he tried to speed up and change the angle of his attacks, Lucas was still like a visible phantom that wandered outside his attack range with ease. He even looked as though he was taking a walk in the park and mocking him silently.

"Ah!" Freddie roared angrily as he exerted his strength to the fullest. But all his attacks still hit the air, and he still couldn't hit Lucas at all.

Herman's face gradually darkened.

Although Lucas had caught Freddie's punch with his palm just now, many people thought that it was a matter of sheer luck. But after noticing how indignant and furious Freddie was about failing to hit Lucas, who was dodging effortlessly and incredibly relaxed at the moment, even those who knew nothing about martial arts could realize something.

"Herman Walker, is this really the style of the Walkers' strongest expert? He seems average to me. He didn't even manage to touch the corner of Mr. Gray's clothes!"

"Exactly. Surely you're not going to say that the Walkers' expert is deliberately not Mr. Gray hitting, are you? After all, the Walkers are the best at being brazen, right?"

“Mr. Walker, your expert doesn’t seem that impressive! Did he come out just to show us these tricks?”

Damon, Bruce, and others sneered.

Herman looked at them mockingly and said coldly, “Hah, the Lucas Gray you’re talking about is just a wastrel who can only hide. He’s no match for our expert at all!

“Just pray that he can dodge a little longer. Or else, as long as he’s a little late in dodging and Freddie hits him, you can just wait to collect his corpse!”

Unwilling to show any weakness, Bruce and Damon retorted, “Just wait and see then. See if the Walkers’ expert can touch a single hair of Mr. Gray!”

The two of them could be considered the ones who understood Lucas’s strength the best. After all, Lucas had inadvertently displayed his outstanding skills in front of them before. Thus, they had absolute confidence in Lucas. Even though Lucas’s opponent was the most powerful expert of the Walkers, they didn’t think Lucas would be defeated by him.

Ethan and Lena stood next to the two of them.

Lena had her hands clasped in front of her chest and nervousness on her face. But an amazing brilliance was shining in her eyes as she stared at Lucas’s dashing figure dodging attacks. She couldn’t hide the admiration and joy in her eyes at all.

She couldn’t take her eyes off Lucas for a single second.

Suddenly, Ethan grabbed Lena’s arm, lowered his head, and whispered into her ear with some suppressed excitement, “Lena, you have to do your best. Whether or not we can become closer to Mr. Gray will depend on you!”

There was clearly a hidden meaning to his words that immediately made Lena blush.

But this was indeed what Ethan had in mind at this moment.

When Lucas encountered a crisis previously, Ethan had given up on Lucas once because he was afraid of angering the powerful Huttons and didn’t follow him in the end.

He was now full of regret, especially after seeing that Lucas had more and more connections and was displaying increasingly terrifying power.

If his daughter’s relationship with Lucas could develop further beyond friendship, the relationship between Lucas and the Sawyers would become unbreakable, and the Sawyers would rise even higher in the future!

“This...!” Edmund, watching the battle, began to find that things were increasingly amiss. He had a flash of inspiration and immediately recalled something. He looked at Lucas with his eyes full of astonishment!

From the moment Lucas began dodging Freddie’s strikes, he had vaguely felt an incomparably eerie familiarity.

But only now did Edmund finally have an epiphany and realize the reason he found Lucas’s dodging familiar was that his footwork was unique to the Falcon Regiment!

Back then, when Edmund was still a soldier in Calico, he had once had the honor of learning this advanced dodging footwork. He had to admit that it was an extremely efficient and useful movement technique.

But the dodging footwork that Lucas was currently displaying was even more refined and elegant than what Edmund had witnessed before, which was why he couldn’t recognize it at first.

Lucas is definitely a powerhouse from the Falcon Regiment!

Moreover, given his strength, he was definitely an expert whose abilities were not to be underestimated even in the Falcon Regiment. He was certain that Lucas definitely had a significant position in the regiment!

When Edmund thought of this, his blood seemed to boil. He couldn’t wait to ask Lucas about his identity in Calico.

At this moment, Freddie couldn’t lay his finger on Lucas no matter how hard he tried. So he began to panic and was about to explode.

“Punk, are you a grasshopper? Is all you can do is hide?”

“If you’re still a man, fight me!”

“Or do you simply not dare to take a blow from me?”

Freddie mocked Lucas in a bid to provoke him.

Although he couldn’t hit Lucas, he had thrown every single punch and kick with all his might. At this rate, he would be exhausted before he could hit Lucas, which would be an absolute disgrace for a famous powerhouse like him!

In Freddie’s opinion, Lucas was only relying on his footwork to be faster, and he was confident that Lucas wouldn’t be able to take a single strike from him.

Lucas smirked and raised his brows relaxedly. "Fine. Since you want to die sooner, come over, and I'll fulfill your wish!"

Then Lucas suddenly stopped and stood still while curling his index figure at Freddie, beckoning him to come over.

Freddie was so livid that he was about to explode!

Chapter 709: Killing To Assert Dominance

Thinking that he was a powerhouse who had dominated San Francisco for years, whom few dared to provoke, the arrogant Freddie was furious that a young man less than 30 years old actually dared to belittle him. How could he tolerate it?

"Brat, you are too arrogant! Okay, I'm going to take your life! Go to hell and regret it!" Freddie roared furiously. He raised his fists while pouncing at Lucas.

But at this moment, Freddie was shocked to find that Lucas, not far in front of him, suddenly emitted an incomparably terrifying aura.

It was as if the person in front of him had... suddenly turned from a non-threatening unknown animal to a menacing prehistoric beast opening its mouth and revealing its terrifying fangs!

Even an elite master like Freddie immediately felt an indescribable horror as his body began trembling uncontrollably.

The other people in the conference hall all felt a strange and freezing air although they didn't understand what exactly was happening. The cold air was like a sharp dagger viciously scraping their bodies, causing them all to shiver violently.

"What... what's going on?"

This was the suspicion everyone had.

Suddenly, in the center of the venue, Lucas moved!

His body created an afterimage in the air, and the next moment, he appeared in front of Freddie.

"!" Freddie's pupils suddenly constricted. But before he could even react, his body was propelled away like a cannonball with a boom.

In this instant, he seemed to feel an immense impact on his waist. But before his senses could register the pain, his vision blacked out, and he lost the ability to feel pain forever.

The moment Lucas's fist smashed into his waist, Freddie died!

Bang!

His body crashed in front of the Walkers, and the hard wooden floor immediately buckled as a deep crater formed in it.

Freddie's body was twisted all over, and his bones appeared broken everywhere. His eyes were wide open, and he was no longer breathing!

"Ah!" Several Walkers instantly turned pale and took several steps back in shock, not daring to look at Freddie's corpse on the floor after his tragic death.

Herman, the head of the Walkers, turned ashen, and his face and fingers started trembling incessantly.

Freddie was the most powerful expert of the Walkers, and he had made countless achievements for them. Yet he was killed by Lucas with one punch and died right on the spot.

Herman couldn't believe it at all!

If it wasn't because Freddie's corpse was close at hand and his blood was slowly flowing out, Herman would have thought what he saw just now was an illusion.

The entire venue was dead silent.

Everyone looked at the scene in front of them, utterly dumbfounded. The legendary Freddie, the extremely powerful master of the Walkers who had the ability to dominate California, was killed by a punch from Lucas!

If they hadn't witnessed it with their own eyes, they would have found it unbelievable!

Gulp.

Finally, someone gulped, making a strange and abrupt noise in the dead silent hall.

Lucas's strength... was way too terrifying.

Suddenly, Lucas, the focus of everyone's attention, moved and walked toward the Walkers.

"I already said it just now. If the Walkers aren't willing to give an explanation to the Watsons, I'll give you a hand." Lucas looked indifferently at Nate.

After Lucas glanced at Nate, Nate was so frightened that he almost wet his pants!

Even Freddie, the Walker's most powerful master, was killed by Lucas. What could he do now?

Lucas was clearly going to take it out on him!

There were several other bodyguards of the Walkers, but their martial arts skills were far inferior to Freddie's. How could they possibly stop Lucas?

What should I do? Nate wanted to run away immediately.

But unfortunately, under Lucas's terrifying aura, his legs went limp, and he was so weak that he could barely stay standing.

When Nate saw Lucas getting closer and closer, terror filled his heart, and immense regret also surged.

Outside the Coles' manor yesterday, when he saw Lucas parking his ordinary Jaguar and wearing ordinary clothing, he had subconsciously ordered Lucas to move his car away, thus starting a feud with him.

Later, he had also targeted Lucas and made things difficult for him at every turn during the birthday party. In particular, after Alexis rejected his marriage proposal and publically announced that Lucas was the person she liked, Nate's resentment toward Lucas reached the peak.

Therefore, after he and Dallas were thrown out of Alexis's birthday party, Dallas, who also had a conflict with Lucas, wanted to please Nate, so he took the initiative to propose that he would deal with Luca and kill him. Nate didn't stop him and was even happy to see it happen. He even called Dallas to tell him to leave Lucas at his last breath so that he could kill Lucas himself.

But later, Lucas didn't die, and the person who ended up dying was Dallas, after which his body was stuffed into the trunk of Nate's car. There was even a video of it, causing the Watsons to turn against them on the spot.

He initially thought that Lucas didn't have the ability to do such a thing, so he didn't think that Lucas had killed Dallas. Even when he accused Lucas of being Dallas's murderer, he didn't have concrete evidence. He just wanted to shirk the responsibility as soon as possible.

But after witnessing Lucas kill Freddie, the Walkers' top expert, with such ease, Nate was certain that Lucas had indeed killed Dallas. He was definitely someone he couldn't afford to provoke!

Unfortunately, his realization happened too late!

When Nate saw Lucas about to walk in front of him, his legs went limp, and he collapsed onto the floor with fear and horror written all over his face, unable to utter a single word at all.

Herman's fingers were also trembling violently. But as the helmsman of the Walkers, he couldn't possibly retreat and be timid at this juncture no matter what!

"Lucas, you've already killed someone from my family. Don't go overboard!" He narrowed his eyes and stood in front of Lucas to stop him with a menacing look on his face.

Although Nate was his grandson, the Walkers had many descendants, and it wouldn't be a big deal even if one of them died.

But while Nate's death was a small matter, the Walkers' pride was at stake!

Since they were at the Elite Business Exchange, the people present were all the leaders of top families and forces in California.. If the Walkers couldn't even protect a direct descendent in front of so many people, they would definitely be greatly humiliated!

Chapter 710: Sharpshooter Gaia

Hearing Herman's threat to Lucas, Damon and the others couldn't help bursting into laughter.

"Herman Walker, even your most powerful expert is no match for Mr. Gray. On what grounds are you stopping Mr. Gray?" Damon said smilingly.

Bruce mocked with a smile, "Mr. Walker, someone from your family has murdered someone, but you refuse to admit it. Mr. Gray was just helping the Watsons seek justice from you. Your man was the one who took the initiative to attack just now. But he ended up being defeated by Mr. Gray because his skills are inferior. Even though he's dead, Mr. Gray has shown him due mercy. How can you say that Mr. Gray has gone overboard? In terms of being overboard, you Walkers are clearly the ones who have gone too far with your words and deeds!

"Yes, if you had admitted the truth just now and made a fair decision instead of putting the blame on others, Mr. Gray wouldn't have taken the initiative to target you. Mr. Walker, don't you agree?" Ethan said leisurely.

Many people present nodded slightly in agreement.

At least, from their perspective of the truth, the Walkers were indeed at fault.

Even though Lucas had killed Freddie in front of everyone, not a single person dared to say that he had done wrong.

As Herman listened to these voices, his face became even gloomier.

He suddenly looked at Lucas and burst out laughing. "Haha, don't think that just because you know martial arts and you've defeated my subordinate Freddie, you can be condescending and ignore everything else! Even if you're good, can you dodge bullets?"

Then he quickly signaled a skinny and petite man behind him.

The petite man immediately stepped forward and raised the black and shiny pistol in his hand, aiming straight at Lucas's head.

His finger was firmly on the trigger, and as soon as Herman issued the order, he could immediately pull the trigger and take Lucas's life!

"I know him! He's the 'Sharpshooter', Gaia!" a young man suddenly exclaimed in astonishment while looking at the skinny and petite man with surprise all over his face.

Hearing this, several people in the crowd exclaimed.

"So it's him? Gaia used to represent California in the national marksmanship competition and even earned himself the title of Sharpshooter. He has never missed a shot, and he's indeed an impeccable marksman!"

"Oh my God. It's Sharpshooter Gaia! I can't believe that he's now working for the Walkers! In that case, Lucas Gray is definitely dead meat. No matter how fast he is, he won't be able to dodge bullets!"

The appearance of Sharpshooter Gaia sparked an uproar in the venue.

Reason being, they all knew that Sharpshooter Gaia had participated in many notable tournaments before and that he was a true elite!

Someone had once said that when Gaia held a gun in hand, he was the god who dominated everything. No living being within the range of his pistol could dodge his bullets!

Gaia was obviously enjoying the commotion caused by his appearance.

Holding his gun steadily in hand, he narrowed his eyes at Lucas and said smugly, "Punk, I advise you to get on your knees, surrender, and admit your mistakes to Mr. Walker now. If you do so, you'll perhaps still have a chance of survival. Otherwise, when I make a move, you will die without a doubt!"

After seeing the pistol in Gaia's hand, Damon, Bruce, and Edmund, who were looking relaxed just now, all immediately tensed up.

"Herman Walker, you'd better not lay a finger on Lucas, or else, you will definitely regret it!" Edmund said furiously.

After witnessing the dodging footwork unique to the Falcon Regiment, he had already roughly guessed Lucas's identity in Calico.

If Herman really ordered someone to shoot Lucas, it would definitely bring disaster to the Walkers, and even the dynamics of the forces in California would drastically change!

But Herman was naturally oblivious to this.

He glanced at the tensed and exasperated Edmund and only felt some relief for all the pent up frustration within him.

"Hmph, since this punk killed my subordinate and even has the audacity to try and harm my grandson, how can I let him off so easily?"

"I just want to tell everyone here, if you dare to provoke the Walkers, your only fate will be death!" Herman said confidently.

With Gaia standing beside him, Herman felt that Lucas was already a man who could die at any moment.

He definitely didn't think that Lucas could dodge the bullets at such close range!

Sharpshooter Gaia was one of the secret trump cards that Herman had prepared.

Everyone only knew that he had the elite expert Freddie. But they didn't know that his greatest reliance was Gaia, who rarely appeared in front of others because once Gaia struck, he would definitely shoot his target accurately. No one had ever been able to escape his bullets!

Vince, sitting in the master seat, seemed to have already expected this.

He flicked his finger without moving.

Some of the things that had happened earlier were indeed beyond his expectations, such as the Walkers being related to Dallas's death, as well as the incredible power Lucas just displayed.

But all in all, the exchange today was still within his control.

Lucas was indeed very powerful and capable. But Vince didn't think that Lucas would be able to dodge the bullets fired by a sharpshooter who had won several professional competitions.

Lance couldn't adapt well, so Vince had long given him up and chose to replace him with Herman.

In the current situation, Herman was extremely ruthless, and he had even prepared a backup. He was indeed a better candidate than Lance!

If he could easily deal with the current situation and complete the tasks, Vince wouldn't mind giving the Walkers a hand and helping them become the hegemon of California.

Of course, if Herman ended up failing too, Vince wouldn't mind it either. He would at most just select another obedient family.

Anyway, with the power of the Smiths, they were definitely considered invincible compared to these families in California, so it didn't matter which one they supported.

After Vince looked at all of them condescendingly, Lance, sitting at the side, had intense resentment in his eyes.

After Herman's sudden appearance and the sounds of acknowledgment that followed, Lance understood that Vince had completely abandoned the Kingstons. They were not the ones whom the Smiths wanted to support!

When he realized this, Lance was infuriated. The Kingstons had been busy for such a long time and had always treated the Smiths as their most respected guests. They had even painstakingly snatched the hosting rights to the Elite Business Exchange just to pave the way for the Smiths to take control of California. Yet it was all to the advantage of Herman!

Lance was enraged, and he wished he could fall out with him immediately, but he didn't dare to.

First, the Smiths were too powerful, so he didn't dare to offend them, and second, he couldn't do anything else apart from obeying Vince's instructions!

But deep down, Lance really wanted to see Lucas and the Walkers immediately fight to the death so that both parties would suffer defeat! The Kingstons would then have the chance of being used by Vince again!

Now, almost all the people present turned to look at Lucas to see what decision he would make.

Lucas stood still with his head held high. Despite facing the black muzzle, there wasn't a single trace of panic or horror on his face. Instead, he said to Gaia calmly, "I'll give you a chance too. If you kill Nate Walker now, I can let you off.. Otherwise, you'll die."

Chapter 711: Traces Vanish

After Gaia and Herman heard what Lucas said, they both threw their heads back and guffawed loudly, as if they had heard the greatest joke ever.

"Hahaha, punk, I have to say, you're really brazen! You can actually still crack such a joke in front of me while being held at gunpoint by Gaia. Hah, your courage is really rare! It's a pity that you seem to be lacking a brain!

"Don't forget. Your life is in my hands now. And if I want you to die, you'll drop dead in front of me right away! Where do you get the guts to negotiate or threaten us?"

After mocking him coldly, Herman paused for a while before continuing, "I know your martial arts are good. But in the face of the power of bullets, your mere body made of flesh can never dodge them!

"However, it would really be a pity if I killed you. How about this? I'll give you another chance. If you surrender to me and pledge your allegiance to me, I won't kill you and instead offer you some benefits! Think about it!" Herman said arrogantly, as if he was being benevolent and offering Lucas some kindness.

He had indeed wanted to kill Lucas directly, which was also the task Vince had given him.

However, now that the elite expert often by his side had been killed by Lucas, whose physical strength was even stronger than Freddie's, he reckoned that his family would become even more powerful if he could recruit Lucas.

Herman believed that if Lucas wasn't a fool, he should know what the better choice between death and allegiance was.

Hearing this, Vince immediately frowned.

He had clearly given Herman the task to kill Lucas, but he didn't expect that Herman would actually dare to defy him and take Lucas under his wing.

Even though Herman was smart, Vince was displeased with him for behaving presumptuously.

Besides, Herman knew very well that his action would definitely irk Vince to a certain extent, but he couldn't care less at the moment.

Herman wasn't a fool, and he had long been able to tell that the Smiths just wanted to choose an obedient family in California to help them control the entire state. The reason Vince chose him was due to the Walkers' status. But in fact, Vince could also abandon him at any time, just like he had abandoned Lance, whom he had used as a pawn.

In that case, why should he obey all of Vince's instructions?

If he could rely on his own abilities to make the Walkers become the true hegemon of California, he would have what it took to deal with the Smiths even if they were against him.

After all, the Walkers dominated California, while the Smiths' roots were far away in DC.

As the saying went, one could never beat the local tyrant. Once his family dominated California, the Smiths wouldn't be able to do anything to him even though the Smiths were one of the eight giants of DC!

Lucas's expression became bizarre after he heard Herman's request for him to pledge allegiance to him.

The Walkers were really brazen!

There was probably no one who could make Lucas, the respectable captain of the Falcon Regiment, who was also known as the God of War, pledge allegiance to them!

Lucas shook his head. "I'm afraid you're not qualified to make me pledge allegiance to you."

Herman narrowed his eyes threateningly. "So, are you rejecting me? In that case, just die! Do it!"

Hearing the sudden command, Gaia, holding his pistol aimed at Lucas's head, immediately pulled the trigger without any hesitation.

Bang!

The loud gunshots immediately caused many people in the hall to scream.

They were all familiar with guns. But if Gaia accidentally misfired, it would be easy to accidentally injure the people here.

But after a short commotion among the panicked crowd, everyone was even more shocked to find that Lucas, whom they all thought would be shot dead, actually didn't die!

He not only dodged the bullet fired by Gaia that was almost impossible to avoid, but he even appeared behind Gaia, several meters away, as if he had teleported!

No one could see how Lucas had actually moved!

At this moment, the most shocked person was none other than Gaia himself!

The important reason that Gaia could earn himself the title of 'Sharpshooter' was his amazing dynamic vision.

For example, the vision chart that people looked at during vision tests was a typical static vision chart. Almost everyone had static vision, but the strength of dynamic vision varied between individuals.

Dynamic vision was an extremely important component of human vision, and it referred to the human eye's ability to capture moving images and observe the details of moving targets. This ability was accompanied by processing the information of the captured images in the brain within a short period of time and the organism's corresponding reaction.

This was why Gaia could quickly capture the trajectory of moving objects in front of him and shoot accurately in time. It was also the reason for his outstanding performance in many professional tournaments and his title of Sharpshooter!

But under Gaia's dynamic vision, which he had always been proud of, he discovered Lucas had vanished out of sight almost at the instant he fired!

Yes, it was as if he had disappeared abruptly!

Gaia had imagined the scene of the bullet from the pistol in his hand rotating at high speed while flying toward Lucas. Its trajectory was very clear, but the target had vanished without a trace!

It was almost Gaia's first time encountering such a situation. Excluding supernatural powers and so on, the only plausible reason was that Lucas was faster than the bullet, so much so that even his sharp eyes couldn't capture his traces!

But was it really possible for humans to be so terrifying?

Gaia was astonished!

But the next moment, a breath that gave him the creeps had already appeared on his neck, giving him goosebumps!

Lucas's indifferent and cold voice sounded as if the reaper had descended.. "The thing you're holding is useless to me!"

Chapter 712: Complete Embarrassment

Gaia was astounded, and he immediately wanted to turn around and aim his pistol at Lucas again.

But as soon as he moved, his hand was suddenly empty, and the pistol he was holding was gone!

Lucas tilted his head slightly and fiddled with the pistol, his battle spoil, with a trace of playfulness in his eyes.

Gaia was astonished!

Lucas had snatched the pistol away from him, but he hadn't been able to see Lucas's movements once again!

At this moment, the people in the venue finally realized what had happened, and everyone's faces showed shocked expressions!

Lucas had actually dodged the bullet with his reflexes!

Besides, he had not only dodged the bullet, but he had even appeared behind Gaia in a flash and snatched the pistol away from him!

I-Is this the speed that humans can have?

Vince, who had been sitting composedly in the master seat, finally had a drastic change in expression.

People who could dodge bullets at a close range of ten meters did exist, but none of them were as young as Lucas!

Even in the whole of DC, there wasn't an expert like him!

For a moment, Vince couldn't help having great scruples for Lucas.

If he couldn't find a way to get rid of Lucas as soon as possible, it would definitely become an enormous problem for him in the future!

At the same time, Lance, sitting beside Vince, couldn't help clenching his fists with panic within him.

The Kingstons had long formed a deep feud with Lucas, and he had even deliberately targeted Lucas today. They could be considered archenemies now.

The more powerful Lucas appeared, the more threatening he was, which wasn't something that Lance hoped to see.

Meanwhile, Herman's face was extremely gloomy.

He totally didn't expect that Lucas could actually dodge the bullet fired by Sharpshooter Gaia and even disarm him.

After losing the Walkers' strongest martial artist, Freddie, Gaia became Herman's last and greatest trump card, who had given Herman the confidence to kill Lucas.

But Lucas's actions were like a hard slap on Herman's face, making his assertion of dominance and attempt to recruit Lucas seem ridiculous.

"Who... who are you?" Gaia's hand, which had always been quite steady, was already trembling slightly.

Having lost his pistol, he no longer posed a threat to Lucas. Instead, he was now at Lucas's mercy because Lucas could shoot him dead at any time.

Seeing Lucas aiming the black muzzle at him, he immediately got on his knees with a loud thud and begged frantically, "Please don't kill me! I-I was just following orders. As long as you spare my life, I'll never provoke you again!"

At this moment, Gaia could no longer care about his dignity as a man and sharpshooter, as well as his reputation. In the face of death, Gaia just wanted to survive. There was nothing else he cared about at this point!

Gaia's kneeling was like another heavy slap on Herman's face.

Gaia was a powerful subordinate of the Walkers, and he had spinelessly gotten on his knees in front of Lucas and begged for mercy. Herman was terribly embarrassed and disgraced, especially since this was happening right in front of so many other top-tier families!

Lucas fiddled with the pistol in his hand and glanced down at Gaia kneeling in front of him. He said without any fluctuations in his emotions, "If you want me to let you off, you have to give me a reason to do so."

Gaia began racking his brains before saying flusteredly, "Mr. Gray, I'm a very sharp marksman. If you're willing to spare my life, I'll be your personal bodyguard, or your assassin, or whatever you want me to be!"

With a faint smile, Lucas said, "Bodyguard? Do you think I need a bodyguard like you? Also, you're now a subordinate of the Walkers, yet you're pledging allegiance to me. Do you think I can trust you?"

A sharpshooter paid a hefty salary by the Walkers actually turned his back on them and surrendered to another person. Who would trust him and believe that he was loyal?

At least, Lucas would never employ him.

Gaia panicked and hurriedly said, "I-I mean it! No matter what you want me to do, I will do exactly as you say, Mr. Gray! All I ask is that you spare my life!"

"Is that so?" Lucas said noncommittally and suddenly turned to look at Nate next to him.

Nate's body trembled, and his heart was full of horror and panic. He wished he could vanish immediately!

"How about you kill him first?" Lucas pointed at Nate with his chin indifferently.

Gaia was stunned for a moment, but he immediately realized that this was the task Lucas gave him. Once he killed Nate, Lucas would let him off!

At the thought of it, Gaia said loudly with joy written all over his face, "Yes, Mr. Gray!"

He stood up from the floor, already holding another compact pistol that he had just pulled out from his boot.

Lucas had long noticed Gaia's move, but he merely smiled without saying anything.

Gaia raised his arm and aimed the gun at the petrified Nate. "Nate Walker, although you are a Walker, since you've offended Mr. Gray, you deserve to die!"

He pressed his finger against the trigger with a cold, murderous intent on his face.

"Gaia, how dare you?!" Seeing that Gaia had defected from the Walkers and followed Lucas's instructions to hold Nate at gunpoint, Herman lost his temper.

Gaia gritted his teeth. "Mr. Walker, don't blame me for turning on you. Since things have come to this, do you still want to protect this incompetent grandson of yours?"

Herman glared at Gaia angrily and rebuked, "Even if he's incompetent, he's still my grandson! Don't you forget who supported you for so many years and gave you a generous salary to live a comfortable life!"

Gaia sneered. "You're wrong to say that, Mr. Walker. I didn't take your money for nothing, and I didn't sell myself to you either! Now, I'm loyal to Mr. Gray, and you no longer have the right to order me around!"

With that, he stopped answering and simply aimed his gun at Nate's head. He was just waiting for Lucas's order.

Upon seeing the terrifying muzzle that looked like a black hole, Nate was so frightened that he wet his pants. His legs went limp, and he fell to the floor, unable to stand up at all.

“Lu—Mr. Gray! Please let me off! I know I was wrong before, and I shouldn’t have smashed your car at the Cole residence, much less provoked you all the time and even instigated Dallas to kill you!

“I can give you all my assets, and I definitely won’t dare to oppose you again. Please let me off this time!

“From now on, I’ll be loyal to you and do your bidding. I will never disobey you!”

Nate was crying so badly that snot and tears were all over his face. He looked extremely disheveled and wretched. For the sake of convincing Lucas to let him off, he had swallowed his pride to say so many subservient things. He was no longer a prideful scion.

At the side, Herman was exasperated.

He was still trying to think of a way to save his incompetent grandson, yet Nate had embarrassed himself and stooped low spinelessly. It was a huge disgrace to the Walkers!

Herman felt his face burning up, as if he had been slapped several times on the face.

This made him feel even worse than he did when Gaia kneeled and begged just now!