

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

- Chapter 712 – 742

Complete Embarrassment

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!

Chapter 713: Guessing His Identity

It was the venue of the Elite Business Exchange in California, and all the people present were the heads and juniors of the top-tier families of the major cities in California. So Nate's actions turned himself into a laughing stock, causing everyone to perceive the Walkers differently from before.

Lucas's face was calm as he suddenly said coldly, "Kill him!"

Gaia didn't hesitate and pulled the trigger with his index finger.

Bang!

With the loud gunshot, a round bullet hole appeared in the middle of Nate's forehead, and blood instantly gushed out from it.

Nate still looked horrified, but his eyes gradually lost their luster as his body slowly turned limp and fell backward.

There was dead silence in the hall, which had hundreds of people!

No one had expected that Lucas would actually make Gaia, the former top gunman of the Walkers, shoot Nate, the direct descendant of the Walkers, right on the spot!

Herman's face was ashen, and the veins on his forehead were throbbing incessantly. But he still retained the last trace of sanity, which stopped him from going forward to fight Lucas.

But Lucas's action was the biggest provocation and humiliation to the Walkers!

"Mr. Gray, I have already killed Nate as you instructed. Can you trust my sincerity now? If you're still not satisfied, tell me who else you'd like me to kill, and I'll immediately follow your instructions!" Gaia said to Lucas with a fawning look on his face, for fear that Lucas wouldn't be satisfied with what he just did.

But Lucas ignored him and instead turned around to look at Reynold, who was standing in the middle of the crowd. He said indifferently, "Mr. Watson, as I said, I'd seek justice for you if the Walkers weren't willing to give you an explanation. Now, the person who killed your son is dead, so I'll leave the rest to you!"

With that, Lucas walked straight back to his seat and picked up the teapot in front of him to pour himself a cup of drink as if everything that just happened had nothing to do with him anymore.

"..." Reynold looked at Nate's corpse that was still gushing blood and then looked at Lucas with an extremely complicated expression.

Lucas was just a young man only about the same age as his own son. But he actually had the ability to kill Freddie, the top expert of the Walkers, with just one punch, and even instruct Gaia, the top gunman of the Walkers, to shoot Nate right on the spot in front of everyone.

His actions were domineering and formidable, making it extremely difficult to believe that he was just a young man who was less than thirty years old and didn't have the support of a powerful family.

In addition to Reynold, the other people present were also extremely astonished. But they were still guessing if Lucas's domineering and fearless behavior was because he had some top family behind him.

The angriest person present was Herman.

He clenched his fists tightly, and the veins on his forehead throbbed as he stared at Lucas for a long time, wishing he could pierce countless holes through his body.

He now wanted Lucas dead more than anyone else. But of the Walkers' two most powerful experts, one had been punched to death by Lucas, and the other had defected to him. It made Herman incredibly enraged, but there was nothing he could do about it.

Wanting him dead was and having the ability to kill him were two utterly different things.

Lance was extremely riled up.

When Lucas confronted the Kingstons long ago and even killed Scarface, the Kingstons' most powerful expert, before stepping on Marc's legs to crush them in front of the rest of the Kingstons, he already knew that Lucas was extremely powerful and difficult to deal with.

But seeing that the Walkers had been defeated by Lucas, Lance felt a great sense of relief. But at the same time, he also felt panic.

Even the Walkers, who had two great experts, couldn't do anything about Lucas. He wondered if he could only watch Lucas continue being arrogant and unstoppable.

As someone who had a feud with Lucas, Lance definitely didn't want to see this.

But things might not be as bad as he thought. He reckoned that there had to be someone here who could deal with Lucas!

Lance quietly turned to look at Vince sitting near him, as well as the elite expert dressed in black standing behind him.

He was certain that if a top expert of the Smiths made a move, he would definitely be able to defeat Lucas!

“Lucas Gray, huh? You’re so young, yet you actually have the audacity to kill someone in front of so many people. You’re indeed very arrogant!” Vince finally spoke as he stared at Lucas with menace in his eyes.

Lucas had already created a huge commotion that completely disrupted his original rhythm. If he left Lucas be, the exchange would be completely pointless for the Smiths.

Lucas looked at him and said indifferently, “This is a matter between us. You’re from another state, so you’d better shut up. Here, you’re in no place to say anything!”

Everyone was astounded!

Vince was a core descendant of the Smith family, one of the eight giants of DC, and the most promising successor of the family. Yet Lucas told him to shut up and said that he was in no place to speak here. How audacious of him!

The helmsmen of top-tier California families were all on tenterhooks when facing Vince, fearing accidentally offending him. Yet Lucas actually dared to rebuke Vince!

Should they say that he was an ignorant greenhorn who didn’t know the danger he was facing? Or was he just a fool who didn’t know any better?’

Only Damon, Bruce, and their group, who had always stood firmly on Lucas’s side, felt excited by Lucas’s incomparably domineering words. They felt that having chosen to pledge allegiance to Lucas, who was completely unafraid of any family’s threat, was the right thing to do!

Edmund had a trace of shock on his face. But at the same time, he appreciated Lucas even more.

Since Lucas saved him, Edmund had been constantly surprised by him time and time again.

It was only when Lucas and Freddie were exchanging blows earlier did Edmund realize that Lucas’s dodging footwork was unique to the Falcon Regiment in Calico.

Seeing how calm and domineering Lucas was, Edmund suddenly thought of something.

A year or two ago, one of his former comrades had come to visit him in San Francisco, and they had talked about the events on the battlefield in Calico. His comrade had said with shock and emotion, “Edmund, you probably still don’t know that the captain of Falcon Regiment is now a young man only in his twenties. Although he’s young, his strength is terrifying! It’s the world of young people now. We’re old!”

At the time, Edmund was slightly surprised. But after chatting with his old comrade, he put this matter to the back of his mind. After all, he had left the battlefield of Calico a long time ago.

But after seeing Lucas's unparalleled martial arts skills and domineering aura, as well as his dodging footwork unique to the Falcon Regiment, a thought suddenly emerged in Edmund's mind. Could the young captain of the Falcon Regiment be Lucas?

Chapter 714: Great Acting Chops

Although this idea sounded a bit absurd at first, the more Edmund thought about it, the more he felt that it was likely. The way he looked at Lucas became fiery as he felt the blood in his body surging.

After being rebuked by Lucas, Vince was in a terrible mood.

Even in DC, where numerous wealthy and powerful families gathered, no one had ever belittled Vince, much less in California. Yet a junior like Lucas actually had the guts to tell him to his face that he wasn't qualified to interrupt.

It was really rare!

Vince narrowed his eyes and said sneeringly, "Hah, you're just an abandoned child kicked out by the Huttons. But you're really arrogant! Even your father doesn't dare to speak to me like that!"

What he said immediately caused an uproar in the venue.

"What? What did Mr. Smith just say? He said that Lucas Gray is actually a Hutton? The Huttons who are one of the top eight families in DC?"

"I didn't expect Lucas Gray to be a Hutton! No wonder he's so confident and dares to fight against the Walkers and even kill one of them! No wonder he's so overbearing even when facing the Smiths!"

"Yes! No wonder Damon Parker, Bruce Hale, and that group are standing firm on his side and would rather be at odds against the Kingstons and the Walkers than give him up! They must have known a long time ago that Lucas Gray is a Hutton. With the Huttons' help, the Kingstons and the Walkers indeed don't pose any threat to him!"

"But Vince Smith said that Lucas Gray is an abandoned child kicked out by the Huttons. What does that mean?!"

Everyone began discussing Lucas's identity as a Hutton. It was big news!

But Lucas turned a deaf ear to all these discussions.

Although he had always refused to admit his identity as a descendant of the Huttons and had never leveraged their power, these were private matters between him and the Huttons. He didn't want to explain it to so many people.

He merely looked at Vince and said indifferently, "It's my business how I wish to speak. You just need to know that as long as I'm here, you're destined to fail!"

Vince wanted to make all of California his turf and let the Smiths do whatever they wanted. But Lucas would definitely not allow it!

"Haha!" Vince sneered. "Okay then, I won't mention anything else to you now. Let's talk about how my son Roy actually died! Lucas Gray, don't you think you owe me an explanation for this?"

His words were once again like a heavy bomb thrown into the water, causing the guests in the venue, who had just calmed down, to get into an uproar again.

Does Vince Smith mean that his son's sudden death has something to do with Lucas Gray?

In other words, did his son also die at the hands of Lucas?

How daring is he?

When Vince said this, Wendy, who had been sitting quietly at his side, suddenly had her pupils constrict while a trace of panic appeared on her face. She quickly restored her composure and even made herself seem angry and sad.

Lucas sneered.

If Wendy were an actress, she'd probably win an award or two. She was pretending as if there was really such a thing.

Those unaware of the situation would think that she was devastated about her nephew's death!

"A smart person like you should know how exactly your son died, Mr. Smith," Lucas said with raised brows and then shifted his gaze onto the person beside Vince. "Mrs. Smith, what do you think?"

Wendy's heart skipped a beat, but she still said with extreme sadness, "Lucas Gray, you're so young but so ruthless! How exactly did my nephew offend you? Why did you have to be so ruthless to him?"

“My nephew was still so young. He was only twenty-seven years old this year. Even if he did something wrong, it was just a conflict between young people. You can’t just kill him!”

As soon as she finished speaking, many people who were still speculating immediately confirmed it.

“Oh my God, it turns out that Vince Smith’s son was really killed by Lucas Gray!”

“That’s incredible! Is Lucas Gray out of his mind? Even if he’s a descendant of the Huttons, the Smiths are also one of the eight giants of DC. Isn’t he afraid of causing a conflict between the Smiths and the Huttons?”

“Didn’t Vince just say that Lucas has already been kicked out by the Huttons? They probably don’t acknowledge him as a member of the family. In that case, he’s no longer a Hutton. Yet he dared to kill Vince’s son. He’s really daring! Tsk tsk!”

“Impressive. How impressive! I just came to the Elite Business Exchange today to watch the fun, but I didn’t expect to hear such shocking news. It seems I didn’t make a wasted trip!”

...

Perhaps because it was human nature to gossip and enjoy drama, especially when the drama had nothing to do with them, everyone could relax and watch the fun without any fear.

The Elite Business Exchange, which was originally only an exchange between top families, had already become a competition between Lucas and Vince.

The others, including the three top families of San Francisco, were not qualified to intervene.

Lucas looked at Wendy, who was very engaged in her act, and suddenly said to Vince, “This woman’s acting skills are really great. Don’t you think so?”

Vince said indifferently, “She is my family member. Am I supposed to believe you over her? You’re too inexperienced to be playing the trick of sowing discord in front of me!”

Lucas laughed. “It seems that you’re pretty good at deceiving yourself and others.”

“I don’t understand what you mean by that.” Vince narrowed his eyes.

“Forget it if you can’t understand. But I don’t have the patience to accompany you two in your drama here.”

Lucas stopped smiling and said indifferently, "If you must blame me for your son's death, suit yourself. If you want to use the opportunity to deal with me, it's up to you. But if you expect me to be afraid of you, then you're mistaken.. Don't be a smart aleck and end up suffering the consequences of your actions because your plan backfired!"

Chapter 715: Join The Alliance

Vince's cheek muscles trembled, and he immediately felt like he couldn't hold back any longer.

As a direct descendant of the Smiths, who had been raised to be the successor since he was a child, Vince had held power for many years and was naturally not a foolish person whom others could manipulate.

When he entered the Walton Hotel and met Lucas earlier, the few words Lucas had said and the evasive look in Wendy's eyes had been enough for Vince to figure out who had actually killed his son.

He could basically conclude without any additional evidence that his son's death definitely had something to do with his cousin Wendy!

But so what?

His most important task today was to help the Smiths take over California.

Once he completed this task, Vince would gain the greatest merit and would undoubtedly become the only candidate for the family's next successor.

He definitely wanted to avenge his son, but Roy wasn't his only son. Besides, the Smiths had always placed little emphasis on kinship. Even though Roy was his own flesh and blood, he didn't actually have much affection for him.

The most crucial thing he had to do now was to deal with Lucas, who had suddenly popped up and gotten in his way. As for the real murderer of his son, it wouldn't be too late for him to settle scores with her later!

At the thought of this, Vince stopped arguing with Lucas and instead said coldly, "I shall see who will have the last laugh! You think you're great, huh? But you're nothing compared to the Smiths!"

Then Vince stood up, looked around the room, and announced loudly, "Since we're all here for the California Elite Business Exchange, I, Vince Smith, hereby announce that the Smiths are going to establish a Smith Business Alliance. Everyone here has the right to join!"

“Once you choose to join the Smith Business Alliance, you will be able to enjoy the support of the Smiths’ resources, and we’ll also help you to expand into the DC market, as well as the areas where the Smiths hold power.

“Every family that joins the alliance will become my family’s ally, and the outstanding descendants of your family can also be sent to my family to learn and be nurtured. They may even have the chance to take on positions in the Smiths’ major enterprises!

“Additionally, all the families who join the Smith Business Alliance will receive the help of the alliance regardless of whether you are attacked by other families or face a sudden crisis. This is truly an alliance where there is mutual aid!

“Everyone here is the leader of your respective families, so I’m sure you all naturally know how much the business alliance will benefit you! Now, you can all choose for yourselves whether to join the Smith Business Alliance or not!”

Vince dropped a bomb out of the blue.

No one expected that the Smiths would set up the Smith Business Alliance and rope in the various families of California!

Did this mean that the Smith Business Alliance would be the greatest organization in California in the future?

In other words, from now on, all the families in California would be under the control of this business alliance!

Lance and Herman were both astonished. They weren’t aware of Vince’s plan prior to this.

They had initially thought that the Smiths would choose either the Kingstons or the Walkers to represent the Smiths in California and take charge of the entire state for them.

But since the Smiths were launching this alliance plan, it meant that they didn’t intend to choose any family to be their agent and instead wanted the Smiths to take control of the entire alliance!

Thus, the Smiths’ control over California would be much firmer than in the previous plan.

If the alliance could be established, California would be under the Smiths’ control.

“ ... ”

After a short period of silence, the helmsman of several families stood up.

“The Ansons wish to join the alliance!”

“The Browns as well!”

“The Jasons want to join the Smith Business Alliance!”

...

After these people started, more and more helmsmen of various families spoke up and expressed their desire to join the Smith Business Alliance.

There were 69 first-tier families and forces participating in the Elite Business Exchange. And in just a minute, the 20 helmsmen spoke up one after another and agreed to join the alliance.

Lance’s and Herman’s faces became even more sullen.

The scene in front of them was very much like the situation earlier where several families responded to Herman’s call in front of Lance, who had known nothing about it.

Anyone with brains would know that they shouldn’t decide whether or not to join the alliance within such a short time. The only reasonable explanation was that Vince must have roped them all in beforehand.

This also meant that right from the start, Vince had never wanted to give California to the Kingstons nor the Walkers for them to take control on his behalf. All along, he had been using them!

Their faces were incredibly gloomy. But since Vince was a Smith, there was nothing they could do regardless of how furious they were.

They didn’t even dare to show a tinge of their opposition to the Smiths.

When the candidates who joined the Smith Business Alliance were confirmed later, the Kingstons and the Walkers could only pretend to smile and join the alliance as the core!

Looking conceitedly at the increasing number of families standing in front of him, Vince smiled smugly at Lucas. “Punk, do you see this? In such a short time, more than half of the families here are already willing to join my alliance. It’s only a matter of time before the rest agree! This is what holding crushing power is! You’re all alone. What right do you have to go against me?”

He expected to see shock and frustration on Lucas’s face. But unfortunately, Lucas kept a straight face throughout.

“Is that so? Things haven’t been set in stone yet, but you already think you’ve won. Aren’t you rejoicing too soon?!” Lucas sneered with contempt.

If what he expected happened, the Smiths’ brazen act of encroaching on all of California would definitely cause another major force to be displeased.

He just didn’t know when this force would come.

“Hah, by doing this, the Smiths don’t take us seriously at all!” A voice as loud as thunder suddenly came from the door of the venue.

The door opened, and a majestic figure in a black trenchcoat entered with a domineering gait, surrounded by a large group of imposing, tall, and burly men.

Chapter 716: The Peerless Martial Association Intervenes

The people who came in were all dressed in black, and there was the word ‘Peerless’ embroidered in gold on the chest area of their clothes. Thus, their identities were recognizable at a glance.

“Th-these people are from the Peerless Martial Association!” someone exclaimed.

The people present were all from the top families and forces of California, so they were naturally no stranger to the Peerless Martial Association, a massive behemoth in California.

However, although the Peerless Martial Association was extremely powerful, they basically wouldn’t intervene in the disputes between the powerful families in California. They wouldn’t send their representatives even to the Elite Business Exchange, which was held only once every three years. Thus, their appearance immediately surprised everyone.

The majestic old man at the front was probably in his early sixties. He had his white hair tied neatly behind his head, but he didn’t seem old at all. Instead, his hair made him seem even more imposing and authoritative.

“My goodness. The person standing in front is Axel Fox, the head of the Peerless Martial Association’s California branch! He actually came here in person today!”

“I heard that the Peerless Martial Association has a branch in each state, and the power of each branch head is extremely terrifying. Furthermore, they’re chosen by the headquarters, and no one has ever seen the true strength and power of Mr. Fox!”

“Now that he’s suddenly here, and he even denounced the Smiths’ approach, is the Peerless Martial Association going to get involved in this messy situation?”

...

The sudden appearance of the head of the Peerless Martial Association’s California branch sparked an uproar among the people in the hall because he rarely appeared. They all began to speculate on the purpose of his visit.

The vote to join the Smith Business Alliance was only halfway through before it was suspended because of the sudden appearance of this person.

A sharp glint of displeasure flashed in Vince’s eyes.

It should have been an exchange led by the Smiths, but such unexpected situations kept cropping up.

Moreover, the venue should have people from the Kingstons guarding outside, yet no one informed him that the group from the Peerless Martial Association had suddenly arrived. It showed that their arrival wasn’t impromptu but premeditated.

The Peerless Martial Association was indeed very powerful. In fact, in terms of overall strength, it was even more powerful than the eight giants of DC.

But this was relative to the entire Peerless Martial Association.

The Smiths wouldn’t be afraid of the Peerless Martial Association’s California branch alone.

Vince, the most likely successor of the Smiths, wouldn’t be afraid of an old branch head at all.

“Mr. Fox, doesn’t the Peerless Martial Association claim to never interfere in the affairs between the major families? Now that you’ve suddenly appeared, isn’t that out of line with the rules of the Peerless Martial Association?” Vince said in displeasure.

Axel chuckled. “Yes, it’s true that the Peerless Martial Association never interferes in such trivial matters among families. But since you are giving orders here today even though you’re not California, the Peerless Martial Association won’t sit by and let you disrupt the long-standing peace here!

“It doesn’t make sense that an outsider like you can show off your power while the Peerless Martial Association, which originally belongs to California, can’t even join in. Don’t you think so, Vince Smith?”

Axel didn't give Vince any respect as he denounced him for overstepping his boundaries.

Besides, he was a martial arts practitioner to begin with, so his voice was full of vigor, and it was almost deafening, causing the ears of the people present to ring.

The face of the expert behind Vince didn't look good at this moment.

He had already found it difficult to deal with Lucas. Yet there was now an old man who seemed to be extremely highly skilled in martial arts, and he had brought countless experts of the Peerless Martial Association with him, making him feel even more stressed.

Before coming to San Francisco, he felt that it would definitely be easy since he just had to help deter and get rid of some juniors. But he no longer dared to be so arrogant now.

Lucas was overjoyed to see the tense situation between the Smiths and Axel of the Peerless Martial Association. He picked up his teacup and leisurely took a sip.

Slightly gloomy, Vince said half-threateningly, "Mr. Fox, I suggest you stay out of this. Or else, I'm afraid you won't be able to answer to the headquarters. After all, the Smiths have rather strong ties with the headquarters of the Peerless Martial Association!"

The Peerless Martial Association was a powerful organization, while the Smiths were one of the eight giants of DC, so they naturally had a lot of dealings with each other. The Smiths had entrusted the Peerless Martial Association to carry out some private tasks on their behalf, which were otherwise inconvenient for them to do themselves. It could be said that they were often in contact.

"Hah! Don't throw your weight around with the Smiths' name. Do you think I'm afraid of you?" Axel spat hostilely. "The Smiths are from another city, so they're not qualified to meddle with the affairs of California! Even if you go home and complain to your father, I will still say the same thing!"

His voice was extremely loud, and he didn't show any respect at all. Vince was so furious that his face paled.

The others in the venue didn't dare to breathe at all. They all lowered their heads, pretending not to hear these words.

Be it Vince or Axel of the Peerless Martial Association, these helmsmen couldn't afford to offend either of them.

In a situation where two hegemony were at odds, their best bet was to stay as far away as possible.

If they accidentally got these two big shots to think that they were mocking them, they would be really unlucky!

In the large venue with hundreds of people sitting, they were all staying silent with bated breath, not daring to utter a single word.

At this moment, Vince was furious.

He had come to San Francisco this time with the assumption that things would definitely go well for him, so he had only brought a top powerhouse with him, the middle-aged man standing behind him.

Usually, this expert would be enough for him to deal with any enemy he might face in California.

But Vince didn't expect to be confronted by people from the Peerless Martial Association's California branch.

He was suddenly a little uncertain because he knew that the Peerless Martial Association would not keep any good-for-nothings around. Since Axel could be appointed as the head of the California branch, it showed that his martial arts were definitely far superior to ordinary experts.

If Axel was determined to make an enemy of the Smiths, Vince would have no choice but to give up on his plan because he really couldn't come up with a better solution at the moment.

"Mr. Fox, why do you have to be so overbearing? Even if the Smiths take control of California, it shouldn't have anything to do with the Peerless Martial Association, right? Besides, I think it'll only benefit you if anything!" Vince's tone became mellower as he tried to convince Axel not to oppose mm and instead stand on his side by highlighting their mutual interests.

If he could successfully persuade Axel, then he would have one less formidable enemy and one more ally who could help him deal with Lucas!

Chapter 717: A Conflict Breaks Out

Although Vince had a good plan in mind, Axel didn't buy it at all.

"Get lost! Who are you to play tricks in front of me? Psht!"

Axel glanced at Vince in disdain before glancing at all the people in the venue. He said in a voice that was as loud and bright as a bell, "To be frank with you and to make

things clear beforehand, anyone who chooses to stand on the Smiths' side shall be deemed as a traitor and an enemy of the Peerless Martial Association!

"Now, I'll give you three minutes to think it over and decide whether you want to choose to join Smith Business Alliance and become a dog of the Smiths or stand firm on our side!

"Remember, there is no turning back or room for regrets after you make your choice. If you've decided, don't regret it!

"The three-minute timer starts now!"

After deciding to turn against Vince, Axel gave his ultimatum and asked the families present to choose their sides immediately.

Those who intended to cooperate with the Smiths and join their business alliance would all be treated as traitors of California!

It caused a huge uproar!

Axel's decision sparked another commotion in the conference venue.

The Smiths and the Peerless Martial Association were both big shots that none of them could afford to offend. Yet they were now forced to make a choice between the two and were thus stumped as to what decision they should make.

The Parkers of LA, the Hales and the Sawyers of Orange County, and the Coles from San Francisco, who never intended to join the Smith Business Alliance in the first place, weren't in much of a dilemma. Instead, they merely speculated about what the Peerless Martial Association would do in the future.

As for the twenty-odd families who had already voted in public and expressed their stand to join the Smith Business Alliance, they were all shocked and frightened, almost on the verge of crying in panic.

After all, this was a matter of great importance to the survival of their families. And if they weren't careful enough, they would become victims of the power struggle between the Smiths and the Peerless Martial Association.

Lance and Herman also began pondering about it seriously.

Previously, Lucas and the Smiths were the ones confronting each other, so they were still confident the Smiths would emerge victorious against Lucas. Although the benefits of joining the Smith Business Alliance were certainly much less than they had expected, it was still acceptable.

However, the Peerless Martial Association's sudden intervention had caused things to take a turn for the worse, and it became a battle between the Smiths and the Peerless Martial Association.

Since these two families were from California, they knew how powerful the Peerless Martial Association was and were certain that Vince's chances of victory were definitely going to be reduced significantly.

Besides, the Smiths were rooted in DC. Even if Vince lost, he could just leave.

But the Kingstons and the Walkers were local families rooted in California. If they lost, they would definitely face consequences that were just as unbearable and torturous as that of the lower-level families.

It was really a tough choice!

Axel looked at the big clock on the wall and said expressionlessly, "There is still one last minute left!"

Now, the commotion in the venue became even more obvious, and many families felt a great sense of oppression and urgency as large sweat droplets emerged on their faces.

"Thirty seconds left!" Another devilish voice announced.

At this moment, a family head finally stood out and said fearfully, "W-we, the Perezes, withdraw from the Smith Business Alliance!"

After this helmsman took the initiative to stand out, it was easier for the rest to follow suit.

Next, the helmsmen of more than ten families began to express their stand one after another.

"The Ansons wish to withdraw from the alliance!"

"The Jasons wish to withdraw from the Smith Business Alliance!"

"The Michaels wish to withdraw from the alliance!"

...

As they continued to do so, Vince's face turned even more sullen.

"Time's up!"

By the time the three minutes were up, four families still decided to choose to stand on the Smiths' side.

But they were all terrified and flustered, and they didn't dare to raise their heads to look at Axel.

Since they had bitten the bullet and insisted on choosing to stand on the Smiths' side, they were taking a gamble that Vince could defeat the Peerless Martial Association or at least be able to save their families.

"Okay, so the four of you and your families have decided to become traitors and make an enemy of the Peerless Martial Association, huh?" Axel suddenly said while staring at these family heads coldly.

"Kill them!"

Without wasting any time or effort, Axel issued the order. Six men in black immediately appeared behind him and swiftly leaped toward the people of the four families. They were as quick as cheetahs killing their prey.

"Axel Fox, how dare you!?" Vince immediately hollered, his eyes full of menace.

At the same time, more than ten bodyguards dashed out from behind him, launching an attack on the six people from the Peerless Martial Association.

However, although there were many bodyguards behind these families, they were far inferior to the six experts of the Peerless Martial Association, and they were badly defeated.

In less than a minute, the bodyguards were almost all beaten to the ground, with only one person still standing—the expert Vince brought over from DC.

This scene immediately made countless people astonished.

The strength of these bodyguards and that of the experts of the Peerless Martial Association were worlds apart!

The helmsmen of these four families looked at each other, their hearts filled with terror as they got on their knees and began kowtowing to Axel, begging for mercy without any regard for anything else.

"Mr. Fox, the Troys will withdraw from the Smith Business Alliance immediately!"

"The Barts will withdraw from the Smith Business Alliance immediately too!"

"The Nelsons will also withdraw from the Smith Business Alliance!"

“The Carsons are withdrawing from the Smith Business Alliance too!”

These helmsmen who had joined the Smiths were terrified when facing the absolute power and threat of the Peerless Martial Alliance, so much so that they chose to withdraw from the Smith Business Alliance.

“Damn it!” Vince was so furious that he couldn’t help cursing. At this point, everyone had withdrawn from the Smith Business Alliance that he had started. His plans were completely foiled today!

It was a huge insult to the arrogant Vince!

However, Axel looked at the last four families who had withdrawn and smirked. “I’ve already said previously that there is no room for regret. Once you’ve made your choice, there’s no turning back! Kill them!”

As soon as he said this, the six men in black from the Peerless Martial Association each took out a dagger from their waist, put it on the neck of these helmsmen, and then slit their necks!

Blood gushed out high, and the four helmsmen were all horrified as they clutched their necks and fell to the ground.

The helmsmen of four top families had their throats slit and were killed right on the spot!

Chapter 718: Hurry Up and Get Lost

The incredibly bloody scene immediately made many people throw up on the spot. Many others with poor tolerance fell to the floor in horror while clutching their faces in misery.

No one dared to question the actions and power of the Peerless Martial Association.

Vince was enraged as he stared at Axel and roared, “Axel Fox, don’t go too far!”

Axel was simply shaming him by doing this!

If possible, Vince wished he could kill Axel now!

Unfortunately, he only had one capable bodyguard with him now, and the ones he had just sent out had all been killed by the six experts of the Peerless Martial Association.

“Hmph, I’ve long said that this is a matter that concerns California, but you’re just an outsider. Who are you to interfere?” Axel glanced at Vince with extreme disdain.

He said sarcastically, "Maybe the Smiths are used to being arrogant in other places and like calling the shots for everything. But in California, you're in no place to issue any orders as long as I'm helping the Peerless Martial Association!"

"Now, take your people with you and leave California immediately! Otherwise... Hmph!"

"Otherwise, what? I'm a Smith. Do you really dare to lay a hand on me?" Vince was enraged.

"Hah, if I lay a hand on you, wouldn't that be what you want? Rest assured. I won't do anything to you. But once I force you out of California, don't blame me for being too rough!" Axel said aggressively, unafraid of Vince's threats.

"You!" Vince had never experienced the feeling of being chased out by others before, and his face darkened.

"What are you waiting for? Why aren't you getting lost yet? Do you need us to send you off?" Axel glowered at him.

"What are you waiting for? Why aren't you getting lost yet? Do you need us to send you off?" Edmund also suddenly bellowed at Vince.

He had long been displeased with Vince. And now that Axel was telling Vince to get lost from California, he felt like his anger had been vented.

"What are you waiting for? Why aren't you getting lost yet? Do you need us to send you off?" Damon also shouted.

Now, everyone knows that Vince had already completely lost and no longer had the capital to continue showing off here.

He happily chimed in to insult Vince. Since the conflict could no longer be appeased, he thought that he might as well curse at him to make himself happy.

"What are you waiting for? Why aren't you getting lost yet? Do you need us to send you off?"

"What are you waiting for? Why aren't you getting lost yet? Do you need us to send you off?"

"What are you waiting for? Why aren't you getting lost yet? Do you need us to send you off?"

...

Next, Bruce, Connor, Ethan, and the helmsmen of many other families in California shouted at Vince to get lost immediately.

The Elite Business Exchange today was originally an event that belonged only to the first-class families in California. But because of Vince and his ambitions, there was a drastic change in the event.

Everyone shouted in unison for Vince to get out, and the commotion was getting so loud that it seemed to almost set off a tremor in the large hall.

Vince was so furious that his eyes were bloodshot, and he was clenching his fingers tightly, his nails digging into the flesh of his palm.

But regardless of how livid he was, he had no choice but to bear with it now because the dozens of families in front of him had already gathered under the lead of the head of the Peerless Martial Association's California branch. He couldn't rival against such a huge force alone!

Even the Kingstons and the Walkers, who used to curry favor with him, didn't dare to stand on his side at this moment.

It was extremely obvious. After all, Axel actually had the guts to kill the helmsmen of four great families right on the spot in front of so many people. How could the Kingstons and the Walkers possibly stand on the Smiths' side? They didn't have a death wish!

"Very good. I'll remember all of you! Just you wait and see. One day, I will make all of you kneel before me and regret what you've done to me!" Vince's eyes were bloodshot as he gritted his teeth and memorized the faces of all the helmsmen present.

Then he stood up and looked straight at Axel. "You can make me go and give up my plan to dominate California, but you must promise me one condition. There's one person here that I must kill!"

Vince stared at Lucas without hiding the resentment in his eyes at all.

Axel sneered. "I've already done you a favor by letting you leave California on your own, yet you're still trying to negotiate with me?"

Vince said without any compromise, "Axel Fox, don't think that I'm leaving because I'm afraid of you! The strength of this expert beside me is not necessarily inferior to yours! It's not impossible for me to fight you to the death!"

Axel narrowed his eyes, seemingly pondering about Vince's words seriously.

Indeed, although several of Vince's bodyguards had died, his strongest expert was truly extremely powerful. If he really wanted to fight him, it would really be somewhat difficult.

Of course, Axel had more than ten members of the Peerless Martial Association with him, and they could definitely win the fight in the end, but the price to pay would definitely be enormous.

Besides, there was a high probability that they might really form a feud with the Smiths because of this matter, so it didn't seem like a wise choice.

"So, who do you want to kill?" Axel asked with raised brows.

By asking this question, it meant that he agreed to Vince's request.

Without thinking, Vince directly raised his hand and pointed straight at Lucas. "Lucas Gray, scram here. It's your time to die!"

The crowd was shocked. Only then did they remember that just before Axel and the Peerless Martial Association intervened, Vince had been in the midst of a confrontation with Lucas and had mentioned that his son had been killed by Lucas.

This also explained why Vince didn't mind threatening a life and death fight with Axel before he left. He wanted to kill Lucas.

Lucas didn't bother raising his head at all, as if he hadn't heard the killing intent in Vince's voice at all. He continued to drink the tea gracefully.

His nonchalance, contempt, and complete disregard of Vince made the latter enraged again.

But before he could lose his temper, a faint voice beside Lucas said, "Vince Walker, do you really think that we're all at your mercy?"

Edmund stood next to Lucas and looked at Vince with a firm and formidable gaze in his eyes.

Vince sneered. "He killed my son, and it's only right that I take revenge on him to seek justice! You're just the helmsman of the Coles. What right do you have to meddle in my affairs?"

"As long as I'm here, you won't be able to lay a single finger on Mr. Gray!" Edmund didn't budge and waved his hand. The Coles' bodyguards behind him immediately rushed forward to firmly protect Lucas behind them.. It was clear that he wanted to protect Lucas.

Chapter 719: Courting Death

“Edmund Cole! Are you really going to go against the Smiths? You should know what will happen if you go against me, right?” Vince was enraged.

When Axel Fox of the Peerless Martial Association rebuked him just now, he had tolerated it because the association was extremely powerful and strong at combat. So it was understandable for him to bow down for the time being.

But he felt that Edmund had no right to be clamoring in front of him.

Edmund was just the helmsman of the Coles, a lowly family that he could easily destroy!

“Vince Walker, if you want to act like a big shot, get lost back to DC. This is California!” Edmund exclaimed without the slightest bit of fear. “Mr. Gray is a valued guest of the Coles. If you try to lay a finger on him, we won’t take it lying down!”

Ever since he had inadvertently guessed that Lucas was the captain of the Falcon Regiment, Edmund had been full of excitement and zeal. The fact that he now addressed Lucas as ‘Mr. Gray’ as opposed to just ‘Lucas’ like in the past was proof of the respect he had for Lucas.

The Falcon Regiment was the holy grail of countless soldiers, as it was a regiment that represented god-like strength and the power to protect. And the captain of the Falcon Regiment was an existence called the God of War and someone not to be desecrated.

Although Edmund had left the battlefield of Calico for nearly two decades, the years he had spent fighting and shedding blood would forever be engraved in his mind!

Thus, he wouldn’t allow anyone to disrespect Lucas, let alone hurt him in front of him!

Bruce also stepped forth and stared at Vince with a hostile gaze, “Mr. Cole is right. Mr. Gray is also the Hale’s valued guest, and I can’t tolerate an outsider like you throwing your weight around and disrespecting Mr. Gray!”

Damon stood up and said formidably, “Count me in! Mr. Gray isn’t someone you can touch. Vince Walker, you should take your people and get lost from California!”

“That’s right!” Ethan also stepped forth and spoke self-righteously. “Vince Walker, we won’t let you lay a finger on Mr. Gray. Otherwise, the Sawyers won’t let you off!”

Despite confronting Vince, several helmsmen of powerful families stood out in a row to defend Lucas. This scene was shocking to the other powerful families in the venue.

Lucas remained sitting without saying a word. But so many families had stood up for him and protected him. They even told Vince to get out of California immediately!

Vince was a highly valued direct descendant of the Smiths in DC. He was also very likely to inherit his family's empire in the future!

Axel had the guts to point at Vince's nose and tell him to get lost because he had the backing of the powerful Peerless Martial Association. Besides, these helmsmen had only dared to yell a few times bravely because they wanted to express their stand in front of Axel. After all, no one would dare to disobey the Peerless Martial Association.

But they definitely wouldn't dare to yell at Vince and tell him to get lost again now.

Was it really worth it for these powerful families to offend the Smiths for Lucas, someone abandoned by the Huttons?

At this moment, the head of the Peerless Martial Association's California branch seemed cautious.

The helmsmen standing out to protect Lucas were not from ordinary families.

Besides, the young man whom they were taking risks to protect was certainly not a simple person either.

At this moment, Vince once again experienced what it was like to have a wolf by the ears.

He initially wanted the expert behind him to kill Lucas immediately.

But the bodyguards of these helmsmen had already surrounded Lucas, protecting him from danger. Even if Lucas didn't know any martial arts, it would be difficult for Vince's subordinates to kill Lucas while he was under the protection of so many people.

To make matters worse, once he got his bodyguard to take action, it would mean that he was formally going against these families. When the time came, he would be standing here alone and at a complete loss for how to settle the matter.

At the end of the day, it was all because he had underestimated his enemies beforehand and had brought only one top expert with him to San Francisco. As a result, he was completely outnumbered now. If the ten or so experts of the Smiths were with him now, he wouldn't be subject to the threat of these few families in California!

"Indeed, those who have a death wish and court death on their own accord can never be stopped." While they were in a stalemate, Lucas finally put down the teacup in his hand, sighed slowly, and stood up.

With his movements, he exuded an invisible aura that was as cold as the winter wind. It quickly swept across the entire hall, causing people to shiver uncontrollably. They felt the chill from the bottom of their heart and deep within their bones.

The face of the expert standing behind Vince suddenly changed, and he subconsciously took a step forward to block Vince.

At the same time, a look of shock appeared in Axel's eyes, and he began to look at Lucas warily and solemnly.

Even he couldn't tell the strength of the young man in front of him, but he knew that this young man was extremely dangerous!

It was the intuitive sense that powerhouses had!

Lucas took two steps forward, stared at Vince, and said playfully, "You said you want my life?"

When Vince saw Lucas's calm and nonchalant look, anger surged in his heart again.

"That's right. Since you've killed my son, you should understand the principle of a life for a life! Now, it's time for you to pay for my son's life!" Vince said with a face full of hatred, but his heart was full of frustration.

He didn't want to waste his time talking to Lucas here at all. He just wanted the expert he brought to kill Lucas right away. Unfortunately, the situation wasn't up to him, and he didn't dare to act rashly.

"Hmph. I've told you more than once that you should be searching for the real murderer of your son, yet you keep trying to frame me for it? Do you really think I'm a pushover?" Lucas sneered, not wanting to repeat himself for the third time.

Vince gritted his teeth.

In fact, at the very beginning, he really only treated Lucas as an insignificant small fry. So despite knowing that Lucas might not be his son's murderer, he didn't want to change his mind at all.

But he had already realized that this young man in front of him was really not a pushover but a tough nut to crack.

When Wendy, next to him, heard that the topic of conversation was about Roy's death again, she hurriedly stood up and lashed out at Lucas, for fear that Vince would suspect her again. "You are deliberately shifting the blame. You are responsible for the death of my nephew, and Lance Kingston, the head of the Kingston family, can testify to it. How dare you deny it?!"

Lucas raised his eyebrows. "Oh? Lance Kingston is aware of it too. Why don't you tell me why I killed Roy Smith? Also, did you witness it with your own eyes? Or do you have any other evidence?"

As soon as he asked this series of questions, a trace of nervousness immediately appeared on Wendy's and Lance's faces.

Chapter 720: Evidence of the Truth

Wendy glanced at Lance and said, "Now that things have come to this point, do you still want to deny it? Good, then I shall reveal everything so that you can die a justified death!

"Why did you kill my nephew? It's because your friend Jordan stole my nephew's fiancée, so there was a conflict between the two of them. Because you're good at martial arts, you beat up my nephew and humiliated him before chasing him away!

"My nephew obviously couldn't take it lying down, so he got my bodyguard, Master Eli, to seek revenge on your friend. But in the end, you killed both Eli and my nephew in Orange County!"

Lance gritted his teeth and stood out to say, "That's right. At the time, Mrs. Smith was a guest at my home. So I'm also aware of this matter. The truth is as it is! Roy and Master Eli were both shot to death by you, and their corpses are now still at my house!"

Although Vince had lost in front of Axel today, Lance still had to stand on Wendy's side and help her cover it up.

After all, if the real cause of Roy's death was exposed, Wendy and the Kingstons would both be doomed!

Moreover, if he could help the Smiths convict Lucas, the Smiths would probably remember it and give him credit for it. They might even help the Kingstons.

But Lance and Wendy had tallied their statements beforehand, though Lance couldn't say many of the details.

"Oh, you said that I shot Roy dead. Where is the evidence? Or did you see me shoot and kill him and his bodyguard with your own eyes?" Lucas sneered.

Lance immediately tensed his neck and said, "Of course I have evidence! That day, when you killed the two of them, the roadside surveillance cameras captured your actions! Mrs. Smith and I have seen the footage, and we have determined that you are the murderer!"

"Oh~ so there's actually camera footage as evidence, huh? Very well, quickly show it to us. I also want to know how I actually shot and killed that Smith scion!" Lucas said with a face full of mockery.

There was naturally no surveillance camera footage.

Two beads of sweat appeared on Lance's forehead. But he quickly thought of something to say and revealed a sad and indignant look as he pointed at Lucas and rebuked furiously, "How dare you ask me for the camera footage as evidence when things have already come to this? Haven't you long snatched the footage? I really want to ask you for it, but I'm afraid you've destroyed it long ago!"

Their justified way of twisting facts made Lucas burst into laughter.

"Okay, since you say I took the video evidence, it just so happens that I have a video clip, so I might as well play it for everyone! Let's see what this so-called murder evidence is all about!"

While speaking, he took out a small USB flash drive from his pocket and waved it at Lance and Wendy with a bizarre smile at the corner of his mouth.

Lance and Wendy looked at each other, and both couldn't help having an ominous hunch.

The two of them knew, of course, that Lucas hadn't killed Roy at all. Roy and Eli had actually died in the living room of the Kingstons' home, so how could there possibly be any footage from the roadside surveillance cameras?

In that case, what was the content of the video that Lucas wanted to show them?

Connor volunteered to take the flash drive from Lucas and then walked to the projector at the front of the venue. After a series of actions, a clear image appeared on the large projector screen.

Everyone stared intently at the projection screen, wanting to know what Lucas was showing.

The scene on the screen was shot in the living room of a mansion, and there were three people standing inside. In addition to Wendy and Lance, who were currently present, there was also a young man in his twenties.

"Thank you, Aunt Wendy! But we just need to teach the Stones a lesson. Please let Maddy off. After all, I still want to marry her," the young man said to Wendy.

After hearing the way he addressed Wendy, everyone figured out immediately that he was probably Vince's son Roy.

"Okay, I got it." Wendy smiled and agreed. But the next second, she pulled out a small pistol from her body and aimed the dark muzzle at Roy.

“Aunt Wendy, you...?!” Roy was astounded, and his eyes suddenly widened.

But the next moment, the dull and bizarre sound of a gun with a silencer attached filled the air. A finger-thick hole immediately appeared between Roy’s eyebrows, from which blood flowed out.

Roy still had shock and disbelief all over his face as his pupils gradually dimmed. Then he slowly fell backward to the floor.

“Mrs... Mrs. Smith! Wh-what are you doing?” Lance was terrified and utterly shocked in the video.

Immediately afterward, Wendy took the gun and aimed it at the middle-aged man resembling a bodyguard kneeling on the floor. She then pulled the trigger and ended his life.

“Ah... Actually, I didn’t want to do this, but I didn’t have a valid reason to ask the family for help.

“Only with Roy’s death would the Smiths take this matter seriously and send a stronger, elite expert to deal with Lucas Gray. Now, do you understand my approach? Roy and Eli have both been killed by Lucas Gray, right?”

Wendy glanced at Lance.

Lance shuddered and hurriedly said, “Yes! That’s it! Mr. Kingston found out that Lucas Gray’s friend snatched his fiancée, so he felt insulted and brought Eli with him to take revenge on Lucas Gray. However, both of them were brutally killed by Lucas Gray!”

“It’s good that you know. I will contact the Smiths in DC now, and soon, I will be able to take revenge for my love and son!”

...

The video footage ended here. Although it lasted only a short two to three minutes, all of them had watched clearly how Roy and the bodyguard died.

The moment she saw the video, Wendy got the chills, and even her blood froze, as if she had been thrown into a cellar.

Next to her, Lance’s face was no better than hers. Deep down, he thought, Oh dear! It’s over. We got exposed!

At that moment, Wendy couldn’t wait to run over and unplug the damned USB flash drive from the projector before destroying the video completely so that no one could see it!

But as soon as she moved, an iron grip caught her arm hard.

“Hold it. If you dare to move a single step, I will immediately kill you!” Vince said in a voice full of murderous aura. Even though the lights were off and his expression was barely visible, Wendy could feel her cousin gritting his teeth.

So, in the next two to three minutes of the footage playback, Wendy’s heart was skipping beats, and she was full of fear.

Only after the video came to an end and the lights in the venue lit up again did Wendy raise her head and see the anger on Vince’s face.

“This is what you call the truth, huh?” Vince had a terrifying gaze in his eyes, and he wished he could devour Wendy alive.

Chapter 721: Apologize To Me

Wendy couldn’t endure it any longer. Her legs went limp, and she fell straight to the floor.

“Vince, I... I was just bewitched. That’s why I made that mistake. I’m sorry, Vince. Please forgive me. I’ll never dare to do this kind of thing again!” she pleaded while shuddering.

Lance also trembled in fear. He knelt in front of Vince and begged for forgiveness. “Mr. Smith, t-this is none of my business! I was also very shocked and surprised, but Mrs. Smith forced me to help her cover up the truth. If I didn’t listen to her, none of the Kingstons would have been able to survive. I had no choice but to help her lie to you. Please have mercy and spare my life!”

The others at the scene looked extremely complicated.

The scene shown in the video, as well as the two people kneeling before Vince and crying and begging for mercy, was simply the best plot twist. It was much more exciting than the plot of some corny soap operas.

It turned out that while Wendy and Lance both identified Lucas as Roy’s murderer, the truth was that Wendy was actually the murderer. In order to frame Lucas for it, she had even plotted with Lance. Indeed, women were the most vicious!

It was no wonder that people often said that art came from life, but life was far more melodramatic than art.

Furthermore, many people were interested in Wendy's ex-husband and son, whom she mentioned in the video. The dramatic secrets between big families had always been a hot topic of gossip that everyone liked hearing.

Everyone craned their necks forward to watch, not wanting to miss any detail. But at the same time, they were trying their best to control their expressions, lest they seemed overly enthusiastic.

After all, such a thing was definitely a disgrace to the Smiths.

With nothing but cold indifference in his eyes, Vince looked at the two people kneeling in front of him.

The Smiths were not a close-knit family in the first place, and there wasn't much of a father-son relationship between Vince and his son Roy. Even when he received the news of Roy's sudden death, he didn't feel grief-stricken and was merely angry.

If Roy's death could bring him and the Smiths some benefits, he would have died a worthy death. Even if Vince had to kill Roy personally, he would definitely not be reluctant about it.

But Roy had actually died at the hands of Wendy, and the reason was just to avenge her damn son and ex-husband. It made Vince furious.

Moreover, if word about this matter spread back to DC, the Smiths would become the talk of the town and everyone's laughing stock!

Vince would never tolerate that!

"Kill!" Vince roared. The expert behind him immediately stepped forward and smacked Lance's head with his palm without the slightest hesitation.

Crack!

The palm of martial arts experts was powerful enough to split a boulder. Lance's skull instantly shattered as his eyes bulged out. He died without even being able to make a single sound!

This scene made Wendy tremble in horror.

"V... Vince, I-I really know I was wrong. Please just spare me! I-I won't dare to do anything like this again in the future. I can give you all my assets too. I..." Wendy was frightened out of her wits. Seeing Vince's subordinate approaching her, she desperately begged him for mercy.

Without waiting for her to finish, Vince ordered coldly, "Kill her!"

Crack!

With another slap, Wendy ended up with the same fate as Lance. Her skull shattered, and she died violently on the spot!

Vince had resolutely taken two lives just like that, and one of them was even his cousin. Everyone had a deep understanding of how cold and cruel Vince was, and they unanimously lowered their heads, not daring to look at him again.

Vince didn't even look at the two corpses at his feet. He merely stared at Lucas viciously before turning around to leave.

"Hold it. Did I say you could leave?" Lucas suddenly spoke up in a domineering tone to stop Vince from leaving.

The crowd was astonished.

A maniacal murderous intent appeared in Vince's eyes. He stopped, turned around, and hollered furiously, "Punk, what else do you want?"

With a cold look on his face, Lucas said, "You seem to have forgotten something. I was framed by the Smiths for no rhyme or reason, and you repeatedly tried to kill me. Now that the truth has come to light, and it's proven that I didn't kill your son, aren't you going to give me an explanation?"

Only then did the crowd understand that Lucas had called out to Vince to stop him to give him an explanation.

Lucas was way too daring.

Vince was from one of the top eight families of DC. Even if the helmsmen present had been wrongly accused, they would be overjoyed if the Smiths didn't continue to pursue the matter against them. They obviously wouldn't dare to ask for an explanation.

Lucas was really outrageously daring!

At this moment, the head of the Peerless Martial Association's California branch had a hint of surprise in his eyes.

The reason he dared to confront Vince was that the incomparably powerful Peerless Martial Association backed him, giving him great confidence.

But the young man in front of him was just an abandoned son of the Huttons, who had been kicked out of the family for years. How could he have the courage to call Vince out and demand an explanation from him?

While the others thought so, Vince, the person in question, was boiling with fury. “Punk, who do you think you are? How dare you ask me for an explanation? Do you think the Smiths are afraid of you and that we can let just anyone trample all over us?”

Vince’s eyes were full of infuriation.

“When you’ve wronged, you should naturally apologize. Haven’t your elders taught you this?” Lucas said in exasperation.

“You want me to apologize to you? No way! Do you have the qualifications?” Vince roared angrily.

Lucas raised his eyebrows and said calmly, “Qualifications... In that case, I’ll have to resort to other methods to tell you whether I have the qualifications or not!”

As soon as he finished speaking, there were countless buzzing discussions from the crowd.

“This kid is really arrogant. No matter what, Vince is a Smith. He’s just shooting himself in the foot by doing this. How stupid!”

“Even if you want to kick him when he’s down, you ought to consider who he is! Vince isn’t someone whom an abandoned child like him can afford to mess with!”

“I bet this punk is just getting carried away. Everything would have been fine after Vince left, but he just had to do this. I’m afraid he might not be able to escape later!”

...

There are many different opinions, but almost everyone thought that Lucas was dead meat for sure.

Lucas turned a deaf ear to the discussions.

Lucas really didn’t take the Smiths seriously. Besides, he wasn’t even facing the helmsman of the Smiths but merely a direct descendant.

Furthermore, if Lucas wanted to, he could go back to DC at any time and become the helmsman of the Huttons, making his status far above Vince’s.

Not to mention Lucas’s other identity—the esteemed captain of the Falcon Regiment of Calico, titled the God of War of Calico.

Vince chuckled mirthlessly and stared at Lucas coldly.. “Come on. I want to see how exactly you can make me apologize to you!”

Chapter 722: Tyrannical Lucas

As soon as Vince finished speaking, Lucas took two steps toward him.

At this moment, the heart of the middle-aged expert behind Vince skipped a beat because he actually sensed a danger that resembled a gale and massive waves during a high tide coming from Lucas's seemingly calm gait.

"Mr. Smith, it's dangerous! Go quickly!" He abruptly took a step forward to shield Vince.

Lucas caused him to feel overwhelming pressure, so much so that cold sweat broke out on his forehead.

He felt as if Lucas was a tall and majestic mountain towering over him. He was even petrified with fear, without the slightest confidence in defeating Lucas.

After hearing the caution and nervousness in the middle-aged expert's tone, Vince was also astonished.

He knew very well that this expert was one of the Smiths' best experts, and he enjoyed a good reputation in DC.

But he was now uncertain if he could deal with Lucas and even asked Vince to leave.

Without waiting for Vince to ponder any further, Lucas exclaimed coldly, "You're not going anywhere!"

At the same time, Lucas's feet moved, and he vanished right on the spot before appearing behind Vince!

Axel, sitting nearby, suddenly exclaimed in shock as he stood up with disbelief all over his face.

Initially, Lucas and Vince were only over ten meters apart from each other, with the middle-aged man in between them.

But Lucas actually suddenly appeared behind Vince in a second. His speed was so incredible that it left Axel completely astounded.

Of course, this was also because Axel had shown up too late and hadn't been able to witness with his own eyes Lucas's incredible speed when he was confronting Gaia, the Walkers' former sharpshooter.

Vince felt that Lucas had vanished from in front of him in the blink of an eye. Immediately afterward, he felt a terrifying aura coming from behind him. The next instant, a hand directly pressed on his shoulder.

“Apologize!” An incredibly cold voice sounded beside his ear as Lucas pressed Vince’s shoulder down farther.

“Ah!” Vince felt as if there was a boulder on his shoulder, making him unable to support himself. He shrieked in misery and fell hard to the floor!

Bang!

The sound of his knees smashing against the floor was extremely loud!

One of the future successors of the Smiths was directly pressed on his knees to the floor by Lucas!

This scene left everyone dumbfounded!

How is this possible?!

How dare he do that?!

Everyone’s hearts were surging with these thoughts, and they were all horrified.

Even Axel’s heart was shaking, and he couldn’t utter a single word for a long time.

Even he wouldn’t dare to do what Lucas did!

He actually forced the future successor of the Smiths to get on his knees. What a maniacal move!

If Axel had the guts to do this, he would definitely provoke the Smiths and cause a huge conflict to break out between the Smiths and the Peerless Martial Association. This would be a terrible consequence that he absolutely couldn’t bear!

Yet Lucas actually dared to do so!

Is he really not afraid that the Smiths will take revenge? Even Axel couldn’t tell if Lucas was bold or reckless and brainless.

He could only look at Lucas with shock while cursing incessantly in his head.

On the other hand, Damon and Bruce, who were on Lucas’s side, had unspeakable excitement and a great sense of pride in their eyes.

He was the person they had pledged allegiance to, and he was so domineering. Regardless of which family people were from, they would always have to get on their knees in front of him!

An overbearing person like him was the person they should sincerely follow and trust!

Next to them, Ethan also clenched his fists tightly as a look of excitement emerged on his face.

How many people could be like Lucas, a domineering and tyrannical young man who actually didn't take the eight giants of DC seriously at all?

Only now did he finally understand why the chief butler of the Huttons had been tasked to bring Lucas back to DC when he had just returned to Orange County.

Such an excellent and outstanding talent was the successor that every family wanted!

Previously, Ethan had even been worried that Lucas was too weak and might lose the battle, especially since he didn't have the support of the Huttons. Thus, he wavered.

Looking at the incredibly domineering figure standing behind Vince, Ethan wanted to give himself a tight slap on the face. Which of the Huttons would be able to fight against a man like Lucas?

Lena looked at Lucas with admiration, her pretty little face flushed with excitement while her heart pounded rapidly.

He was such a domineering, powerful, and handsome man. How many women would not be moved by such an outstanding man?

After meeting such a rare and outstanding dreamboat like Lucas, there wouldn't be any other man in the world who could attract her or win her heart.

Lena wasn't the only one who felt this way. Many other female attendees, from teenage girls to ladies in their forties, gazed at Lucas with glistening eyes, their hearts racing.

After hearing the sound of Vince's knees hitting the floor hard, the middle-aged expert in front of him finally came to his senses and turned around in panic, only to see Vince being held down on his knees.

"Punk, hurry up and let go of Mr. Smith!" the middle-aged roared at Lucas furiously with wide eyes. He raised his hand to smack Lucas to force him into letting go of Vince.

"Get lost!" Lucas raised his head and roared. Then an invisible aura surged toward the middle-aged expert.

The middle-aged expert only felt a violent trembling in his heart as the aura made it palpitate. He was completely terrified, as if he was seeing a menacing beast baring its fangs and pouncing toward him.

“Ah!” The middle-aged man was horrified, and cold sweat gushed out from every pore of his body, immediately soaking his clothes.

Stomp! Stomp! Stomp!

The middle-aged man took six steps backward in a row before he could finally stabilize his body. His entire body seemed to turn limp like a deflated balloon, and he no longer had the courage to take a step forward.

Lucas had merely roared angrily, yet he managed to make Vince’s most outstanding expert withdraw far, far away!

The scene made the people in the venue completely dumbstruck!

Chapter 723: Kneeling To Beg For Mercy

The sharp pain coming from his knees made Vince grimace.

But what was even more unbearable was the humiliation of being forced to get on his knees in front of the crowd!

Never in the five decades of his life had he ever suffered such humiliation!

“Y-you, let go of me!” Vince’s eyes were bloodshot as he hollered furiously while struggling to break free from Lucas’s grip.

Unfortunately, the strength Lucas possessed was simply not something that Vince could resist. Try as he might, he couldn’t break free from Lucas’s hand at all.

“I told you that you have to give me an explanation! I will use my own methods to make you do it!” Lucas said coldly while looking down at Vince. “It seems you haven’t experienced it enough yet.”

Then Lucas suddenly tightened his grip on Vince’s shoulder, digging his hand like a claw into the flesh of Vince’s shoulder.

Crack!

The hair-raising sound of bones cracking clearly reached the ears of everyone around.

“Ahhhhhh! My... my shoulder!” Vince suddenly tilted his head up and let out a miserable shriek.

His shriek immediately made countless people subconsciously shiver.

The designer white shirt Vince was wearing became stained with fresh blood gushing out of the holes that Lucas made in his flesh. It was terrifyingly red and bloody.

“Do I have the qualifications to receive an apology from you now?” The expression on Lucas’s face didn’t change in the slightest, as if he was just pinching a puppet while asking this question coldly.

Vince began inhaling cold air in large mouthfuls, his face covered in cold sweat. The excruciating pain coming from his shoulder caused his vision to turn black as he wailed in pain, unable to answer Lucas’s question at all.

“My patience is limited. I’ll give you ten last seconds. If you don’t apologize, you’ll die now!” Lucas gave an ultimatum coldly.

Others didn’t dare to lay a hand on Vince because they were afraid of facing the Smiths’ retaliation.

But Lucas wasn’t afraid at all.

Vince had repeatedly tried to kill him even after knowing that he wasn’t his son’s murderer. Lucas was being nice enough by only asking for an apology.

If Vince still didn’t know what to do, Lucas definitely didn’t mind killing him.

At this moment, Vince was kneeling on the ground, his knees, shoulder, and heart in immense pain!

He was the future successor of the Smiths, but he was now being forced to get on his knees to apologize by a young man in his twenties.

If this matter spread back to DC, the Smiths would definitely strip him of his position as a successor!

For a top wealthy family like the Smiths, the family’s honor and pride were more important than anything else. Moreover, the fact that he had disgraced the Smiths had already become a stain on their reputation, and he would definitely lose the chance to take over the family in the future. He would even become the laughing stock of other wealthy families in DC.

Therefore, Vince didn’t want to give in at all.

Be it for the sake of his dignity as a man or his future, he wasn't willing to give in to Lucas, the Huttons' outcast.

But if he held on without apologizing, Vince didn't have the slightest doubt that Lucas would really kill him!

He was definitely not scaring him but really dared to do it!

"Five...

"Four...

"Three...

"Two...

...

Lucas began counting down expressionlessly.

Just as he was about to count to the last second, Vince finally couldn't withstand the tremendous psychological pressure and completely bowed down.

"I'm sorry!

"I... I shouldn't have listened to others without finding out the truth and mistakenly thought you killed my son!

"And I shouldn't have tried to kill you twice because of it... I'm sorry! I was wrong! I hope... you can forgive me!"

Vince lowered his head, gritted his teeth, and spoke these words with great reluctance.

The meeting hall that accommodated several hundred people was extremely quiet, and even the sound of breathing could barely be heard.

Everyone opened their mouths wide in shock while looking at Vince in disbelief.

Vince, who was previously extremely domineering and aloof, whom no one dared to offend, was actually forced by Lucas to apologize to him and beg for forgiveness in such a humiliating manner!

If they hadn't seen this scene with their own eyes, they would probably never have believed it!

Axel looked at Lucas's domineering figure, and a thought suddenly appeared in his mind.

Such a powerful and formidable young man had terrifying future potential!

If he could get him to join the Peerless Martial Association, Lucas would probably be able to enter the headquarters and hold true power within a few years!

At that time, the benefits he could gain as the introducer would be unlimited!

The more he thought about it, the more intense the gaze in his eyes. He even subconsciously licked the corners of his mouth.

"You can get lost now." Lucas looked down at Vince coldly.

Vince gritted his teeth with all his might, feeling extremely humiliated. He struggled to get up from the floor while enduring the pain in his body. He then walked toward the door of the venue without saying a word.

Seeing this, the middle-aged expert hurriedly chased after him.

"Wait a moment!" Lucas suddenly said.

The middle-aged expert shivered, wishing he could flee immediately. But he knew that there was no way he could escape from Lucas's terrifying speed.

He timidly turned his head and carefully asked, "Wh-what else do you want?"

Lucas raised his finger and pointed to the floor next to him. "Take the corpse of your family member away."

Wendy's corpse was lying on the floor.

The middle-aged expert heaved a sigh of relief, hurriedly walked over, picked up Wendy's corpse, and dashed out of the hall.

The Smiths had finally left.

However, the atmosphere in the venue wasn't much more relaxed, and everyone looked at Lucas nervously.

The reason was none other than that the power Lucas just showed was simply too shocking. He could even force the future heir of one of the eight giants of DC to kneel and apologize, and he could kill anyone he wanted. These families were nothing compared to him.

At this moment, the other two of the three top whales of San Francisco looked at Lucas with great fear and nervousness.

The corpse of Lance, whom Vince's expert had just killed, was still on the floor, and no one dared to go forward to collect it.

The rest of the Kingstons were also worried that Lucas would continue to retaliate against them, but they couldn't help huddling up, not daring to even look at Lucas.

The Walkers were even more panicked and horrified.

Herman clenched his fists and tried his best to maintain a calm look on his face. But his trembling lips and ashen face were already revealing the panic within him.

Just a short while ago, he had sent two of the Walkers' experts to kill Lucas.

The martial arts expert Freddie had not only failed to subdue Lucas, but he had even gotten killed by Lucas's counterattack on the spot.

On the other hand, Sharpshooter Gaia had surrendered on his knees in front of Lucas's terrifying strength and even pledged allegiance to Lucas by killing Nate.

The two failed attempts to threaten and harm Lucas had not only caused the Walkers to suffer a great loss, but they had undoubtedly formed a deadly feud with Lucas.

Lucas forced Vince to kneel down and apologize on the spot because he had misunderstood him and wanted to kill him. This meant that he definitely wasn't someone who could be fooled easily.

How would Lucas retaliate against the Walkers then?

All of the Walkers were extremely nervous.

They watched in horror as Lucas turned around, glared at Herman, and suddenly said calmly, "It's your turn next. I'll give you the chance to do it yourself!"

Chapter 724: Surprise Shot

Herman's heart suddenly sank.

Lucas was undoubtedly implying that he should die to atone for his mistakes.

All the Walkers showed misery and sadness to part with him, but no one dared to come forward to oppose Lucas.

Now, Lucas had already shown his immeasurable strength that families like theirs could no longer defy.

Moreover, the families that had chosen to follow the Smiths earlier also seemed anxious and agonized.

Lucas didn't pursue the matter against the rest of the Walkers and instead only told Herman to kill himself, which meant that he was letting the other Walkers off.

After all, Herman was the one who had ordered to kill Lucas.

Herman opened his mouth and wanted to plead with Lucas. But as soon as he saw the cold and indifferent gaze in Lucas's eyes, he understood that there was no way that Lucas would let him off.

He smiled bitterly, and his old face seemed to have instantly aged by several years.

He had already lived until such an old age, and even if he died now, he didn't have much to regret. In fact, he was willing to give up his life in exchange for the safety of the other Walkers, so he wouldn't die for nothing.

However, Herman was indignant! Why should I die?

Herman suddenly raised his head with maniacal hatred in his eyes as he stared at Lucas. He pulled out the pistol hidden in his pocket and pointed it at Lucas.

"If you want me to die, then go to hell and explore the way for me first!"

Herman had a hysterical look on his face, and his hand holding the pistol was trembling slightly due to the intense agitation in his heart. This made his move even more dangerous because he might pull the trigger at any moment.

As long as Lucas died, there would no longer be a threat to the Walkers. From now on, the Walkers would still be the top family in San Francisco!

This scene immediately caused many people present to scream.

No one had expected that Herman had hidden a pistol on his body and that he would aim it at Lucas at this moment.

"Herman Walker! Stop!" Edmund shouted as he stood up with anxiety and anger.

"Herman Walker, if you dare to shoot Mr. Gray, the Coles will definitely become your enemy. Even if I have to use up all the Coles' resources, I will make sure to drench the Walkers in blood! Try it if you don't believe me!"

He was truly enraged. Lucas was the captain of the Falcon Regiment, so how could he possibly be shot by someone like Herman?

Axel of the Peerless Martial Association narrowed his eyes, stood out, and said slowly, "Herman Walker, I advise you not to make a move against Lucas Gray. Otherwise, I won't spare your family either!"

He saw a lot of potential in Lucas, and he was even ready to introduce him to the Peerless Martial Association. How could he allow Herman to hurt Lucas?

"Herman Walker, if you dare to lay a hand on Mr. Gray, I definitely won't let you off!" Bruce, Damon, and Ethan also stood out and rebuked Herman furiously.

Looking at the scene in front of him, Herman felt extremely miserable.

Seeing that he wanted to kill Lucas, several people from these powerful families of California immediately came forward to protect him.

But when Lucas wanted to kill him, none of his former allies came forward to speak up for him or ask for mercy on his behalf. In fact, none of the Walkers dared to plead for him either.

Why?

Am I that inferior to this young man Lucas Gray?

What have I done wrong as the head of the Walkers?

There wasn't any enmity between him and Lucas prior to this, and he had previously wanted to kill Lucas only because he wanted to curry favor with the Smiths, so as to give the Walkers a better chance to become stronger. Was there anything wrong with this?

Who is Lucas Gray to force me to kill myself as an apology? Herman was indignant!

The more Herman thought about it, the more agitated he became, and his hand holding the pistol trembled more and more, as if he would pull the trigger at any moment.

The numerous people standing immediately looked extremely nervous, fearing that he would really shoot Lucas dead.

But compared to the people next to him, Lucas, who was held at gunpoint, was much calmer.

He stood still with a slight smirk on his face. "Herman Walker, as I said earlier, things like guns are useless against me. Do you really think you can hit me? "

Then he laughed and walked straight toward Herman as if he was just taking a leisurely stroll.

“You... Hold it right there! If you dare to take another step forward, I’ll shoot you immediately!” Herman yelled frantically, his face covered in sweat, his hand trembling violently.

Seemingly not hearing the threat at all, Lucas didn’t stop, and he said with a smile, “Try shooting then. No one’s going to stop you.”

“Don’t you think I won’t dare!” Herman roared and then pulled the trigger.

Bang! There was a loud gunshot.

However, to everyone’s astonishment, Lucas was unharmed. But instead, Herman, the one with the gun, had a bullet hole in the middle of his forehead.

There was obvious shock and confusion on his face, as if he couldn’t understand why he had been shot. Then his body fell backward.

With’s Herman’s death, everyone looked at the only other person here holding a gun.

This person was none other than the Walkers’ former Sharpshooter Gaia.

Gaia had his arm raised, and there was still faint smoke wafting out of the muzzle of the pistol in his hand.

“Mr-Mr. Gray...!” Gaia gulped hard and stammered, “I-I just wanted to help you... He actually tried to shoot you. He deserved to die!”

If someone who didn’t know the inside story saw it, they would definitely think that Gaia was worried about Lucas’s safety, so he had resolutely killed his former boss and saved Lucas.

But Lucas smiled coldly while looking at him.

He had always had sharp senses, and he was already aware of it when Gaia stood not far behind him and took out his pistol.

Moreover, he also knew that Gaia’s pistol was not aimed at Herman at all but at the back of his head.

If Lucas hadn’t quickly shifted his head to the side the moment Gaia fired, the bullet would have probably pierced through his head!

The fact that this person actually dared to pretend to be a loyal servant in front of him seemed extremely ridiculous to Lucas.

“Do you think I’m a fool? For people who try to kill me, they will only die!” Lucas said coldly.

Then he flipped his finger, and a pistol suddenly appeared in his hand. It was the one he had taken from Gaia earlier.

Bang!

Without giving Gaia a chance to argue, Lucas simply fired a shot and used the bullet that Gaia was most familiar with as the last gift of his life.

Gaia’s eyes were wide open as blood kept gushing out of the bullet hole between his eyebrows. The luster in his eyes faded away, and he slowly fell to the floor.

There was dead silence in the venue!

Chapter 725: Untitled

Perhaps Gaia would never be able to figure out how Lucas had evaded his sudden attack from behind.

Besides, Lucas didn’t bother to guess Gaia’s motives. After all, he wouldn’t have trusted someone like Gaia who could betray his former employer.

Axel admired Lucas even more.

He had seen clearly from the side just how Lucas had managed to evade the sudden attack from behind.

Lucas was a cautious and powerful young man who was resolute when it came to killing. He was certain Lucas had excellent potential and a great future!

Lucas looked around the room and said indifferently, “From today onward, the Walkers and the Kingstons will completely disappear from California! If I see anyone from either of your two families in California starting tomorrow, I will kill them!”

His cold and overbearing words were like a large stone thrown into a pond, causing everyone to exclaim in astonishment.

The Kingstons and the Walkers looked terribly dismayed.

But they were also aware that the Kingstons and the Walkers had already offended Lucas badly and that the helmsmen of their families had already died here. Facing the

powerful and capable Lucas, the two families had completely lost their ability to resist and could only obediently do as he said.

Moreover, Lucas was already showing them mercy by merely demanding that they leave California instead of killing them or taking advantage of the opportunity to seize their properties.

The three top families of San Francisco, who were evenly matched before, had their trinity broken in the blink of an eye. And now, the Coles were the only family left.

Edmund couldn't help sighing in amazement.

Of course, he didn't sympathize with the Kingstons and the Walkers. These families had their greed to blame for ending up in this situation today!

However, Edmund also understood that from now, all of California would probably become Lucas's turf.

With the absolute strength he showed today, no family in California would dare to be disrespectful towards him in the future.

This was the deterrence that came from absolute power!

Of course, as the captain of the Falcon Regiment, Lucas could easily dominate merely California.

Even if he went to DC one day to take all eight families under his wing, Edmund wouldn't be surprised because Lucas was completely capable of doing this with his power!

After the Kingstons and the Walkers left the venue with the bodies of their respective helmsmen, the atmosphere in the venue became somber again.

At this moment, Edmund suddenly came forward to stand in front of Lucas and said solemnly, "From today onward, the Coles are willing to pledge allegiance to Mr. Gray!"

Edmund's words were like another boulder immediately setting off a huge wave in the venue.

Who was Edmund Cole?

He was the helmsman of the Coles and the only surviving one of the top families in San Francisco. It could be said that the Coles had become the most powerful family in California now that the two other families were about to be eradicated!

Yet the head of the Coles actually pledged allegiance to Lucas in public!

The shock and disbelief in the crowd's hearts were imaginable!

"The Hales are also willing to pledge allegiance to Mr. Gray and take orders from him!"

At this moment, Bruce and the new helmsman of the Hales, Connor, both stood out and expressed their allegiance to Lucas.

"The Parkers are also willing to pledge allegiance to Mr. Gray and take orders from him!" Damon strode forward and bowed to Lucas with great respect.

"The Sawyers are going to plead allegiance to Mr. Gray too!" Ethan also stood out and loudly announced his allegiance.

...

As the helmsmen of these families stood out to pledge allegiance, the rest of the people present also understood that this was irreversible.

"The Summers are going to plead allegiance to Mr. Gray too!"

"The Kellers are going to plead allegiance to Mr. Gray too!"

"The Julians are willing to plead allegiance to Mr. Gray too!"

...

After the few most powerful families in California took the lead in pledging allegiance, the rest of the sixty-odd families stood forth one after another to pledge allegiance to Lucas.

In the end, apart from the Taylors of Orange County and Axel, the head of the Peerless Martial Association's Californian branch, the rest of the forces at the exchange had already pledged allegiance to Lucas.

Such a matter was really unprecedented!

Frederick, the head of the Taylors, began to panic, and he couldn't help looking at Axel.

The Taylors had a close relationship with the Peerless Martial Association, and they had always been dependent on the Peerless Martial Association. In fact, many of the Taylors' decisions were actually made according to the Peerless Martial Association's wishes.

For example, before today's Elite Business Exchange meeting began, Frederick's proposal to form an ally with Lucas and the others in Orange County's exclusive reception room was actually an order given by Axel.

Thus, now that all the families had pledged allegiance to Lucas, Frederick was at a loss for what to do because, in reality, the Taylors had already pledged allegiance to the Peerless Martial Association. Before receiving Axel's approval, Frederick definitely didn't dare to pledge allegiance to Lucas, not even verbally.

Axel narrowed his eyes dangerously.

He had brought the people of the Peerless Martial Association here, but he didn't expect that after he suppressed Vince, Lucas would suddenly intervene. Lucas had even used his domineering power to snatch that position away.

Axel was now in a somewhat unhappy mood.

"Lucas Gray, I advise you not to rejoice too soon. You should know that the Smiths aren't going to let you off easily once they learn that you've just forced Vince to kneel down and apologize to you, right?" Axel suddenly said.

Unlike everyone else who had changed the way they addressed Lucas to 'Mr. Gray', Axel didn't show any respect at all.

Lucas glanced at him with raised brows and said nonchalantly, "And then?"

Axel's lips, which were always pressed together, thus making him seem extremely mean, were curled into a peculiar smile at the moment. "I can guarantee that even if the Smiths are one of the eight top families in DC, the Peerless Martial Association will be able to protect you! The only condition is that you join the Peerless Martial Association and become one of us!"

Chapter 726: Refusal To Join

Axel's words immediately shocked everyone.

No one had expected that Axel wanted Lucas to join the Peerless Martial Association.

Even Lucas was rather surprised as he immediately looked at Axel with a strange expression. "You want me to join the Peerless Martial Association and become one of you?"

Axel nodded with a smile. "Yes! The Peerless Martial Association is an extremely large organization with branches all over the world. We're definitely more powerful than the eight families in DC! So even if the Smiths want to find trouble with you, they definitely won't be able to do anything to you when you're a member of the association.

“In addition, the Peerless Martial Association attaches great importance to martial arts. Your skills are very good, so once you join us, I believe that you’ll be able to surpass my position in a few years and even directly be able to enter the headquarters to hold great power!

“At that time, whether it’s wealth, power, status, beautiful women, or anything else, you can have it all! Isn’t this the life all men dream of?” Axel said to tempt him.

Didn’t all people work hard for these things?

Axel believed that Lucas was an extremely ambitious man, and he was certain that Lucas would be tempted by his conditions!

Countless people wanted to join the Peerless Martial Association every year just so that they could enjoy these privileges. Unfortunately, most people didn’t qualify to join.

For example, many people present were green with envy after hearing Axel’s invitation to Lucas.

If they could, they also hoped to join such a powerful organization like the Peerless Martial Association. But unfortunately, they knew that they didn’t have the qualifications to do so.

Axel was still calculating many things in his mind. Once Lucas joined the Peerless Martial Association, it was basically the same as taking all the families in California with him. Given Lucas’s power, he would definitely enter the headquarters of the Peerless Martial Association in the future and hold great power. When the time came, it would be time to reap the most benefits for himself.

Axel never even considered the possibility that Lucas would reject him. So after hearing Lucas’s following words, he was stunned as he rubbed his ears in disbelief. “What did you just say?”

“I said,” Lucas looked at him and repeated word for word, “I’m not interested in joining you guys.”

Axel’s face immediately changed slightly.

He had never thought that Lucas would reject him and refuse to join the Peerless Martial Association!

This was something that many could only dream of, yet Lucas actually didn’t know any better!

Indeed, Axel admitted that Lucas had great strength. Otherwise, he wouldn't have thought of getting Lucas to join. But one person's strength was indeed limited. Does he really think that he can ignore all other forces just because he's good at martial arts?

Axel's face darkened as he said with extreme displeasure, "Lucas Gray, do you know what you're turning down? The invitation to join the Peerless Martial Association isn't extended to anyone."

"Mr. Fox, Mr. Gray has already said that he doesn't want to join the association. Why do you have to be so overbearing?" Edmund stepped forward and spoke up for Lucas.

In fact, he felt rather annoyed.

Lucas was the captain of the Falcon Regiment and titled the God of War. Axel had to be dreaming by asking Lucas to pledge allegiance to the Peerless Martial Association!

"I'm asking Lucas Gray. Shut up!" Axel roared at Edmund.

Lucas's refusal had already taken him by surprise and completely disrupted his future plans. Axel was extremely unhappy, and Edmund's sudden interruption made him feel even worse.

Edmund had wanted to say something. But after seeing that Axel was clearly enraged, he didn't want to cause any more trouble for Lucas, so he could only stand by indignantly without saying anything.

"Lucas Gray, I'll ask you one last time. Are you really going to turn down my invitation to join the Peerless Martial Association? After today, I won't give you another chance even if you want to join in the future. You'd better think this through!" Axel said threateningly.

If Lucas refused to join the Peerless Martial Association, all of the wishful plans Axel had made in his head would fall through. In fact, he would even have to try and snatch the position of California's hegemon from Lucas.

Lucas would either become a member of the Peerless Martial Association or an enemy of the Peerless Martial Association!

In response to Axel's threat, Lucas merely said, "Get lost!"

His words stunned everyone!

No one expected Lucas to speak so rudely to the head of the Peerless Martial Association's California Branch and tell him to get lost.

Axel was dumbfounded too. When he reacted, he was boiling with fury. "Punk, what did you say?!"

As the head of the California branch of the Peerless Martial Association, he enjoyed the respect of many people. But now, a young man in his twenties actually reprimanded him! It was shameful!

A terrifying murderous intent quickly gathered in Axel's eyes as he glowered at Lucas. The ten or so black-clothed men in Peerless Martial Association uniforms behind him also flew into a rage, and they glared at Lucas with the intention of starting a fight as soon as Axel issued an order.

As experts of the Peerless Martial Association, they could easily defeat the bodyguards of several top families, and they were confident that the ten of them could easily defeat Lucas!

Facing these Peerless Martial Association experts glaring at him, Lucas said indifferently without batting an eyelid, "I told you to get lost. Didn't you hear me clearly?"

...

There was a dead silence.

Many people in the venue closed their eyes, not daring to look at the scene in front of them anymore.

How audacious of Lucas Gray. He has definitely angered Axel.

What's going to happen next?

Will Lucas Gray and the people of the Peerless Martial Association really get into a fight here?

In fact, these families had just pledged their allegiance to Lucas, so they didn't want to see both parties fighting.

If Lucas won, he would become the arch nemesis of the Peerless Martial Association, and there would probably be constant turmoil in the future.

But if Lucas lost, the Peerless Martial Association would probably find trouble with those loyal to him.

What exactly would happen next?

Everyone wondered to themselves in fear.

Chapter 727: Acknowledging Him As Their Master

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

“Punk, you’re really too arrogant! You have to know that young people who are too arrogant usually don’t end up well!” Axel said through gritted teeth.

He desperately wanted to instruct the people behind him to take down Lucas immediately.

Unfortunately, based on the strength Lucas had displayed earlier, Axel could conclude that his strength might not be comparable to Lucas’s, and he didn’t have the confidence to make a move against Lucas.

Reason being, it was apparent that everything Lucas had shown was far from his true strength.

Even though he had many people on his side, he wouldn’t have any advantage if the gap between their martial arts skills was too large because it would be like a group of young children fighting against a tall and strong adult.

Lucas sneered. “You don’t have to worry about me. At least, I’m still alive and well now, and none of those who have tried to go against me ended up well. I hope you’ll remember this!”

“You!” Axel was once again stumped by Lucas’s words to the point that he was about to vomit blood.

At this moment, Edmund finally couldn’t bear it anymore. “Mr. Fox, the Peerless Martial Association has always boasted about not interfering in the affairs of the top families. But now, you keep trying to force Mr. Gray to join the Peerless Martial Association. Isn’t that too much?”

“That’s right. It’s Mr. Gray’s freedom to choose if he wants to join the Peerless Martial Association or not. He has clearly stated that he doesn’t want to join you, yet you refuse to give up. You’ve really gone overboard!” Bruce accused righteously.

“Yes, the Peerless Martial Association has indeed gone overboard!” Damon also stood by Lucas.

“Indeed, the Peerless Martial Association is being too much!” Ethan said.

The other major families looked at each other before standing up and saying in unison, “The Peerless Martial Association has gone overboard!”

Axel’s face became even more gloomy.

He was already extremely displeased that Lucas had the audacity to reject his offer and even rebuke him, which was an absolute insult to Axel.

Now, the helmsmen of these families of California dared to stand on Lucas's side and reprimand him for being overboard, making him even more furious.

Moreover, it was all caused by Lucas!

With so many families helping Lucas, there was nothing he could do to Lucas now, let alone take his anger out on these families.

"Okay, you people are very good! Since you've all chosen to take his side, don't regret your decision later!" Axel looked around at the crowd angrily before turning around to leave with the people of the Peerless Martial Association.

"Congratulations, Mr. Gray, for becoming the leader of California today. Furthermore, the Hales have acknowledged Mr. Gray as our master." With a smile on his face, Bruce took the lead to get on one knee in front of Lucas while pulling Connor down as well. They knelt to Lucas at the same time.

The Hales had actually pledged allegiance to Lucas a long time ago and had even acknowledged him as their master. Bruce and Connor took the initiative to reveal their identities in front of everyone to show the relationship between the Hales and Lucas.

Bruce and Connor's actions immediately shocked the families present.

Just a short while ago, they had all decided to pledge allegiance to Lucas. But now, the Hales actually acknowledged Lucas as their master, which was a big deal!

Unless there was an immense gap in power, or they greatly trusted the other party, a family would never easily acknowledge another person as their master.

As one of the four top families of Orange County, the Hales actually took Lucas as their master. It was simply too shocking!

"From today onward, the Parkers will also acknowledge Mr. Gray as our master!" But before everyone's shock subsided, Damon also took the Parkers' direct descendants with him to Lucas and got down on one knee in front of him.

The Parkers and the Hales were actually in a similar situation, and they had also pledged loyalty to Lucas a long time ago. Damon was extremely impressed by Lucas's abilities, so he was the second to publicly acknowledge Lucas as his master.

"From today onward, the Sawyers will acknowledge Mr. Gray as our leader!" Not wanting to be left out, Ethan hurriedly got on his knees in front of Lucas after the Hales and the Parkers did.

He had given up on Lucas once before, and even now, he often regretted his decision, especially after witnessing Lucas's powerful strength today. It made Ethan convinced that Lucas definitely had a limitless future.

Thus, he had to seize this opportunity to strengthen the relationship between Lucas and his family!

"The Coles of San Francisco will acknowledge Mr. Gray as our master from today onward!" Edmund also stepped forward and got down on one knee in front of Lucas.

"What?!"

Three top families' actions of acknowledging Lucas as their master one after another had already shocked the crowd. Edmund's actions pushed their shock to the peak!

Edmund not only represented the top family in California now, but he had always been a tough, righteous, and zealous person who had never submitted to anyone in all these years.

Yet he actually got on one knee in front of a young man in his twenties and willingly offered his service to him!

This scene deeply agitated everyone in the room!

Clement, standing next to Edmund, was shocked silly!

He could never have imagined this. Just last night, he had condescendingly thrown a four-million-dollar bank card at Lucas and demanded that he stay away from his daughter and father.

But in just one day, Lucas became the master of the Coles with his overbearing power and had a status far superior to his.

...

Seeing that even the strongest Cole family in California had recognized Lucas as their master, the helmsmen of the other families looked at each other and all knelt down on one knee toward Lucas.

"The Julians are willing to plead allegiance to Mr. Gray!"

"The Kellers are willing to acknowledge Mr. Gray as our master!"

"The Sheldons are willing to acknowledge Mr. Gray as our master!"

...

All of a sudden, all the major families at the venue got on one knee and pledged allegiance to Lucas.

In the end, only the Taylors of Orange County were left standing and sticking out like a sore thumb.

Lucas stood proudly among the crowd and glanced at Frederick indifferently.

Frederick, the head of the Taylors, immediately stiffened as sweat gushed out of his body.

Chapter 728: The Dust Settles

The gaze in Lucas's eyes was extremely calm, but Frederick felt an invisible pressure coming straight down from above his head.

Bang!

Frederick could no longer endure the pressure and immediately got on one knee on the floor.

He said in a hoarse voice, "From today onward, the Parkers will also acknowledge Mr. Gray as our master."

By now, apart from the Kingstons and Walkers, who had been kicked out of California, the rest of the sixty-odd top families of California had pledged allegiance to Lucas.

It was an unprecedented event!

Lucas had achieved the goal that Axel Fox and Vince of the Smiths, one of the eight most powerful families in DC, had failed to achieve with all their efforts!

Lucas felt extremely emotional.

When he came to the Elite Business Exchange, he had to worry about facing the malice and retaliation from the Kingstons and the Smiths. But to his surprise, the situation changed drastically in just two hours.

Even Lucas hadn't expected these changes.

...

It was already past 10 p.m., and the lights outside were shining brilliantly in the darkness.

A silvery-gray Ferrari was speeding on the highway leading to the San Francisco International Airport.

Vince, who had just left the Walton Hotel, was sitting in the backseat.

But he looked extremely ill-tempered, and he was clenching his jaws.

The middle-aged expert in the front passenger seat asked cautiously, "Mr. Smith, should we ask the family for help and get the family to send more experts?"

The incident that just took place at the Elite Business Exchange was still vivid in the middle-aged man's mind.

He had followed Vince for many years, so he naturally knew how frustrated and furious he must be after suffering so much humiliation.

At the same time, he was also very frightened and nervous.

Reason being, he had been frightened into retreating six steps under Lucas's shout and had failed to protect Vince, causing him to suffer extreme humiliation by being forced to kneel and apologize.

If Vince wanted to take his anger out on him and blame him for it, he wouldn't be able to defend himself.

Vince raised his head in annoyance and said coldly, "Shut up! If you dare to breathe a word about what happened today to the family, I won't spare you!"

What had happened today at the exchange was the biggest shame of his life. The thought of it made Vince boil with fury and the strong urge to people him immediately!

The middle-aged man's heart skipped a beat, and he quickly kept quiet, not daring to utter a word.

After a long while, Vince finally raised his hand to touch the wound on his shoulder and said resentfully, "One day, I'll make sure to pay back double the humiliation and pain I suffered today! But for now, I can only forcibly endure it and wait for the right moment!"

"If the Smiths hear about what happened today, not only will the reputation of the Smiths be tarnished, but even the others in the family will use this opportunity to attack me. When the time comes, my position as the next helmsman won't be guaranteed!"

"Also, since the Peerless Martial Associated intervened in the situation in California, even if I seek help from the family, it's impossible to regain California. Instead of seeking revenge on that punk, what I should do now is to find another place as soon as

possible and strive to make achievements to secure my position in the family! Do you understand?"

Hearing this, the middle-aged man understood his considerations.

Vince had just suffered humiliation in a way he had never experienced before. But he actually managed to weigh the pros and cons in such a short time and suppress his desire for revenge while thinking about the most important thing he should do to turn the situation around.

Vince was indeed worthy of being the most valued helmsman candidate of the Smiths and the one with the greatest chance of becoming the helmsman.

"Okay, Mr. Smith, I understand. But what if those families in California expose what happened today?" the middle-aged man asked worriedly.

He was a little worried that Vince might think that he was the one who spread the news in case this matter was really revealed.

Vince snorted coldly in disdain. "Unless those families really dare to become an enemy of the Smiths, they won't dare to breathe a word about what happened today!

"As for the people from the Peerless Martial Association, Axel will likely order them to keep their lips sealed about today's matter. After all, I'm an heir of the Smiths, yet they watched me get humiliated. If word about this spreads, it won't do them any good, and it will instead make the Smiths hate them. I believe he won't do such a stupid thing."

Vince trusted the middle-aged man beside him, who had protected him for many years, so he explained the matter to him patiently, which was rare for him.

After hearing Vince's explanation, the middle-aged man suddenly felt relieved.

This trip to California was a complete failure, but Vince had already designated a new goal and plan. As for taking revenge on Lucas, there was a lot of time for this!

The silvery-gray Ferrari sped through the night and headed straight to the airport.

...

Meanwhile, Axel was also furious after leaving the Walton Hotel.

Just now, he had basically been kicked out. It had been more than ten years since he experienced such humiliation!

"Damn Lucas Gray! You're just a greenhorn. Do you really think you're some big shot?"

“How dare you talk to me like that? How dare you treat me that way? I won’t let you off!

“I’ll pay you back for all this today. Just you wait!”

Sitting in the backseat of a car, Axel had a murderous look on his face, wishing he could kill Lucas immediately!

But he knew that while Lucas was arrogant, he had the capital to be.

Given the power Lucas showed tonight, Axel was shocked to find that Lucas’s strength was definitely above his!

The even more frightening thing was that Lucas was less than thirty years old, and he still had a lot of room for improvement. He had countless possibilities in the future.

Even he was not Lucas’s opponent, so no one in the Californian branch could deal with him.

Unless he asked for help from the headquarters and asked them to send a stronger expert, he wouldn’t be able to deal with Lucas.

But the Peerless Martial Association also had its own rules. If there was no valid reason, people couldn’t easily ask for help from the headquarters.

While Axel was vexed, one of his subordinates suddenly said, “I have a good solution.. Maybe I can help you kill that scoundrel Lucas Gray!”

Chapter 729: Killing Three Birds With One Stone

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

This subordinate’s name was Heath, and he had been by Axel’s side for a long time. Although he wasn’t very good at martial arts, his advantage was his intelligence and his flair for strategizing. He was a strategic genius whom Alex had always valued.

“Oh, what solution do you have? Let’s hear it.” Axel immediately developed an interest.

Heath didn’t say it directly and instead kept him in suspense and asked, “Mr. Fox, do you still remember the matter of Jude?”

Axel frowned. “Jude has been missing for more than two weeks. Have you found his whereabouts?”

Heath shook his head. “No. According to my conjecture, Jude is likely dead after being missing for so long.”

“Dead?” Axel immediately frowned. “How can you tell? Is this all your speculation?”

Heath nodded. “That’s right, but I don’t have any proof yet. Jude is a top-level member of our Peerless Martial Association branch. Although he usually relies on his brother’s status to behave recklessly, he basically rarely causes big trouble and has almost never disappeared for so long without informing anyone.

“So I suspect that he encountered an accident outside or was killed by someone.”

Axel’s face immediately darkened. At the same time, he felt extremely vexed and frustrated. He punched the leather seat and cursed, “Damn it!”

The reason was that Jude’s brother, Julian, was a member of the Peerless Martial Association Headquarters, and his status was much higher than that of Axel, the head of the California branch.

If Julian found out that Jude had died in the California branch’s turf, he definitely wouldn’t let Axel off!

Now that there was another thing to worry about, Axel was even more frustrated.

He started pondering. Heath was clearly telling him that he had a solution to deal with Lucas, so why did he suddenly mention Jude’s death? *Is there a connection between the two?*

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

“I think we can frame Lucas Gray for Jude’s death.” Heath narrowed his eyes and revealed his plan confidently.

“You mean, frame Lucas Gray and then let Julian deal with him?” Axel pursed his lips after figuring it out.

Heath laughed. “That’s right! Since you think that kid isn’t easy to deal with, it means that his martial arts skills are very impressive. At the very least, he’s on the same level as you. In that case, it won’t be a problem to say that he killed Jude.”

“Jude’s brother, Julian, is part of the Peerless Martial Association Headquarters, and his martial arts skills are even more superb. As long as we tell him that Jude was killed by Lucas, he will definitely come to California to avenge his brother!

“In that case, Lucas Gray will have to die!”

“After that, as long as Lucas is dead, who in California will be able to contend with you? When the time comes, you can just kill a few disobedient ones to warn the rest, and the

other families will then behave themselves. At that time, all of California will be back in your hands, right?" Heath said eloquently with a smug smile.

The more Axel listened, the happier he was.

The idea Heath gave him could be described as killing three birds with one stone!

He would be able to get rid of Lucas, shirk responsibility for Jude's death, and even be able to get his hands on California in the end. It was simply perfect!

"Okay, Heath, you're indeed very smart! Once we solve all these matters, I'll reward you! Hahahaha!" Axel patted Heath's shoulder and laughed out loud.

...

In the Walton Hotel of San Francisco...

The Elite Business Exchange, which was held only once every three years, officially came to an end.

Although the exchange this year was much more eventful than the previous ones, it was considered to have passed successfully.

Lucas ordered everyone not to spread a word about what had happened at the exchange today.

All the people present nodded in agreement before they walked out of the venue with a sigh of relief.

But before Edmund left, he looked at Lucas several times, seemingly wanting to say something, making Lucas bothered. So he asked him to stay.

After everyone left, and only Edmund and Lucas remained in the venue, Edmund took a deep breath, walked up to Lucas, and performed a military salute respectfully.

"I, Edmund Cole, a warrior of the Fifth Army under the Falcon Regiment, solemnly salute you, Captain!" Edmund seemed extremely agitated.

There was a trace of surprise on Lucas's face because he didn't expect Edmund to have guessed his identity and perform a perfect military salute to him so solemnly.

Zeal surged in Lucas's heart, and he raised his right hand to return a standard military salute to Edmund. "I, Lucas Gray, the former captain of the Falcon Regiment, salute to you, veteran!"

Only after saluting each other did Lucas say helplessly with a bitter smile, “Edmund, you really didn’t have to do that. I’ve now left Calico, and I’m no longer the captain of the Falcon Regiment either.”

Edmund had now received the confirmation from Lucas. Although Lucas said he was no longer the captain of the Falcon Regiment, he was still the supreme God of War not long ago, and it was enough to make Edmund feel overwhelmed and proud.

“Although you’ve now left Calico, the contribution you’ve made there, as well as the blood, sweat, and tears you shed, will always be worthy of being remembered! In my heart, you will always be the captain of the Falcon Regiment and worthy of my salute and respect!” Edmund said earnestly with the zeal of a soldier.

Lucas also admired Edmund, a veteran warrior who had also contributed several years of his youth on the battlefield of Calico.

“Okay, let’s not talk about this. I have other matters to ask you about, Edmund,” Lucas suddenly asked.

Edmund said respectfully, “Mr. Gray, please go ahead. I’ll answer all your questions!”

Lucas couldn’t quite get used to Edmund’s respectful attitude toward him.

However, he also knew that even if he wanted Edmund to change his mind now, Edmund probably wouldn’t agree. So he thought that it would be better to wait a little longer.

“What I want to say is that although I’ve unified California by a freak combination of factors, this doesn’t mean peace. Instead, there may be many hidden dangers lurking everywhere. At least, the Smiths and the Peerless Martial Association will definitely not give up, and they will definitely have follow-up actions.

“Now that they’ve suffered a little loss, they will definitely send stronger powerhouses the next time they come.. Edmund, do you have any suggestions?” Lucas asked sincerely.

Chapter 730: Battle Analysis

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

In fact, this was exactly the case. Before Lucas came to the Elite Business Exchange, he never thought that he would actually unify all of California and become its hegemon.

If not for the ambitions of the Kingstons, the Walkers, the Smiths, and the Peerless Martial Association, who kept forcing Lucas at every turn, Lucas probably wouldn’t have made an aggressive move and shocked everyone.

But since things had already come to this, Lucas wouldn't shirk responsibility and do nothing.

Therefore, he had to prepare for the future crisis that California might face so that he wouldn't be caught off guard.

The Coles were initially a top family in San Francisco, and now, they were the only powerful one. They undoubtedly had the greatest impact on the other families of California. Edmund had rich experience, so Lucas wanted to ask him for advice on this issue.

Edmund pondered for a while before saying cautiously, "Mr. Gray, I think the Smiths probably won't make any trouble for the time being, but we have to keep our guards up against the Peerless Martial Association!"

Lucas said with raised brows, "I'd like to hear more."

Edmund explained in detail, "Here's how it is. Let's talk about the Smiths first. Today, you forced Vince to kneel down and apologize in public. Not only has he been humiliated, but the Smiths have also been disgraced. If the Smiths hear about this, Vince will probably lose his position as one of the successors.

"As far as I know, there are five people within the Smiths competing with Vince for the position of the next helmsman. Once they find out about this, they will definitely attack Vince with all their might until he loses his competitiveness!"

"That's why I think Vince will definitely try his best to hide what happened today from the Smiths!"

"At the same time, California is not the only option for the Smiths. Vince can go to another state to carry out his plans. So I think his most important goal at the moment is to find ways to obtain results to stabilize his position among the Smiths. Coming to California to take revenge is not his first choice, so we can ignore the threat posed by the Smiths for now."

Lucas nodded, thinking that Edmund's analysis was reasonable.

Given Vince's character, he would indeed choose the solution that was more beneficial to him. He would likely postpone the matter of taking revenge until he became the helmsman of the Smiths.

Seeing Lucas nodding and agreeing to his point of view, Edmund was overjoyed. His following analysis became even more earnest.

"Next, let's talk about the Peerless Martial Association. The California branch of the Peerless Martial Association has established itself in California for years, and they have

a lot of intelligence in their hands. Although I'm still not sure why the Peerless Martial Association suddenly wants to take charge of California, which has been peaceful for years, our families and the Peerless Martial Associate have always stayed in our own lanes. We don't want to be controlled by them.

"Today, Axel also suffered losses at the exchange, so he's definitely upset. But since he could be the head of the California branch for so many years, he's definitely not a dimwit. He can't beat you, Mr. Gray, so he'll definitely get help from external sources.

"Moreover, I reckon that in all likelihood, he'll find some experts from the Peerless Martial Association Headquarters to deal with you. The Peerless Martial Association is full of powerhouses, and those with the best martial arts skills are almost all at the headquarters. Therefore, the people who come out of the Peerless Martial Association Headquarters will absolutely be extremely difficult to deal with!"

Toward the end, Edmund's expression became solemn.

He knew better than anyone else how lethal a peerless powerhouse could be.

For example, at the Elite Business Exchange that just ended, the Walkers, the Kingstons, and Axel would have probably long killed Lucas if not for his extraordinary martial arts skills that deterred them from acting rashly.

Lucas nodded. "If the Peerless Martial Association comes after me, I won't be afraid regardless of what experts they send. But I'm worried about whether they will attack you or not."

"After all, at the exchange just now, it was because the Coles, the Parkers, the Hales, and the others supported me and took the lead in pledging allegiance to me that the rest of the families followed suit, making matters reach the current situation.

"If the Peerless Martial Association holds a grudge against you because of this and wants to kill you, the matter will become very troublesome."

With Lucas's martial arts skills, he wasn't afraid of any top expert of the Peerless Martial Association, but he was only one person and couldn't protect all these families.

If these people who followed him wholeheartedly were instead implicated by him, Lucas would feel guilty and upset.

This was the issue he was the most worried about now.

Edmund smiled graciously. "Mr. Gray, don't worry! Although the Coles don't have top-level experts like the Peerless Martial Association does, we are no pushovers, and we won't let them bully us. We have many bodyguards and some firearms. I don't think everyone can dodge bullets like you, right, Mr. Gray?"

Lucas's worries eased slightly.

Indeed, how could a top family like the Coles not have some self-protection skills?

For example, the Hales and the Brookes of LA all had their own gunmen squads, and even top experts might not be able to escape a bullet barrage.

After all, there were very few people who could do this.

"Okay, as long as you know. Just be careful!" Lucas said.

"Don't worry, Mr. Gray. I definitely will!" Edmund agreed smilingly.

The two of them chatted casually for a while before Lucas left the Walton Hotel.

Just as he walked out of the hotel, a crisp and familiar voice came from the side.

"Lucas!" Charlotte was standing playfully at the entrance of the hotel. As soon as she saw Lucas, she immediately walked to him.

"Charlotte, it's so late. Didn't you go back to Orange County?" Lucas was a little surprised to see Charlotte here.

Reason being, Charlotte was the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch representative, so she should have attended the ordinary business exchange in the gymnasium opposite the hotel.

The ordinary business exchange meeting started at 5:30 p.m., and it should have ended long ago.

Moreover, Lucas had instructed Charlotte not to wait for him and to return to Orange County first.

Charlotte pursed her lips. "The exchange just ended, so I came here to wait for you."

The bright light at the hotel entrance shone on Charlotte's face, and Lucas surprisingly discovered that Charlotte's eyes were red. Her expression was rather unnatural too, as if something had happened.

Lucas's expression immediately became solemn. "Charlotte, did something happen to you?"

Chapter 731: Feud of the Past

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Hearing Lucas's question, Charlotte immediately smiled, shook her head, and denied, "No, it's just that this exchange didn't quite go as I imagined. The process wasn't that smooth."

He reckoned that it probably had something to do with the Stardust Corporation.

Lucas comforted her, "You don't have to worry about the company. You will find out tomorrow that the Stardust Corporation is about to take a huge leap, and it's very likely to become the largest enterprise in California."

Lucas was very confident about this.

He was the chairman of the Stardust Corporation, and he had just established his dominance at the Elite Business Exchange. Now, all the powerful and wealthy families of California were under his control. Even if he didn't do anything, the Stardust Corporation's share price and future contract volume would definitely skyrocket to a terrifying level.

It was definitely not an exaggeration to say that the Stardust Corporation would be soaring straight to the top.

"Is that so? I hope so!" Charlotte forced a smile.

Having spent several months interacting with his sister-in-law, Lucas could read her expressions well. He knew that she was obviously troubled and fretting over something. Even her smile didn't seem genuine. She looked extremely worried, seemingly having a heavy heart.

"It's already so late. You probably haven't had dinner, right? Let's go grab a bite!" Lucas suggested. "There's a specialty food street near Union Street. I heard it has delicious food from all over the world there. Let's go take a look."

Charlotte nodded and followed behind Lucas.

But unlike her usual bubbly self, Charlotte didn't say a single word. Instead, she was hanging her head low, seemingly in low spirits.

Lucas tried to find out what was going on, but Charlotte merely shook her head and gave him perfunctory replies such as 'I'm alright' and other simple replies.

Charlotte was a hot-tempered person, so if anyone provoked her, she would usually snap back at them immediately. She would rarely keep quiet about anything and stay in low spirits like she was now.

Lucas could tell that she really didn't want to talk, so he didn't force her to speak. But he was worried.

Who knew what had happened at the ordinary business exchange to make Charlotte like this.

In the end, the two chose to eat at a Victorian-style restaurant.

The restaurant's decor was extremely exquisite and unique, with extravagant and ornate furnishings. The waiters and waitresses were also dressed in Victorian-style uniforms, making them appear very distinctive.

But Charlotte merely glanced at them without showing any interest.

Lucas sighed silently. He was about to find a secluded table with Charlotte when a slightly familiar voice suddenly came from behind them.

"Hey, aren't you Miss Charlotte Carter, the general manager of Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch? Haven't you embarrassed yourself enough at the exchange just now? How dare you come here to continue making a fool of yourself!?"

Upon hearing the woman's voice, Charlotte immediately turned around to glare at her, her face turning red with fury.

Lucas frowned and looked over at the person who had just ridiculed Charlotte in public.

He found that she was someone he had met before.

He vaguely remembered that her name was Estelle Brooke, and she was from LA.

Her cousin Aston Brooke had once pretended to pledge allegiance to Lucas before repeatedly offending him. Eventually, Lucas had destroyed the entire Brooke family overnight, and all of them had left LA in a day.

Speaking of the feud between Estelle, Lucas, and Charlotte, it was actually caused by Estelle's husband, Declan Adams.

Declan was Charlotte's senior in college and also her crush back then because she had been too foolish then. Unfortunately, Declan had merely treated Charlotte's love for him as bragging rights. He had eventually gotten together with Estelle, an heiress of the Brookes, who were still wealthy at the time.

But Declan was just an ordinary man with a humble background in the first place. He had married Estelle only for her wealth so that he could freeload off of her. When he ran into the beautiful and successful Charlotte in Orange County again, he secretly became tempted and even harassed Charlotte at the entrance of the Stardust Corporation's office building. Lucas had eventually stopped him and then called the Brookes over for them to deal with Declan themselves.

The Brookes were furious. They beat Declan into a pulp before kicking him out.

Declan ended up with nothing. So he developed a grudge against Charlotte and kidnapped her to threaten Lucas. But Lucas eventually saved her while Declan fell to his death from the roof.

If not for Estelle suddenly appearing in front of him, Lucas would have almost forgotten about this.

Estelle's mockery and malice toward Charlotte was evidence of her hatred toward Charlotte.

Estelle didn't appear here alone. A young man in his thirties with a roguish gaze was standing beside her and nonchalantly sizing up Charlotte and Lucas.

"Estelle, is this the punk you said she's having an affair with? Her brother-in-law, right?" The young man deliberately sounded ambiguous.

Lucas immediately frowned.

Estelle had been staring at Charlotte and failed to notice that Lucas was standing right beside her. She immediately panicked.

She remembered how Lucas had dealt with the Brookes and eradicated them overnight, forcing them to flee LA overnight.

So as soon as she saw Lucas, she subconsciously retreated in fear.

But she soon remembered the young man beside her. Her cousin had a prestigious status, so there was nothing Lucas could do to them.

At the thought of this, Estelle immediately felt confident, and she even felt the thrill and pleasure of revenge.

"That's right. It's the two of them. She actually has an affair with her brother-in-law. How shameless!" Estelle said with a vicious look of malice.

The young man had a lewd expression on his face as he clucked his tongue in amazement. "What an awful scandal! But then again, this punk is really something for being able to sleep with both sisters! How lucky! Even I have to bow down to him!"

This wretched-looking young man was Jake.

And the words that came out of his mouth were even more disgusting.

Charlotte couldn't hold back any longer, and she snapped angrily, "Mind your words! Don't spout nonsense!"

"Nonsense? How is that nonsense? The fact that you and your brother-in-law have an extraordinary relationship and have been sleeping with each other is no longer a secret. Am I wrong?" Jake burst into laughter and deliberately spoke loudly in an exaggerated tone.

There were many other guests in the restaurant.. After hearing what Jake said, they looked over and started whispering among themselves about Charlotte.

Chapter 732: Stripping In Public

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Charlotte's face turned even redder with anger. But before she could refute, Estelle hurriedly beat her to it and exclaimed loudly, "You're right, Jake! This bitch Charlotte Carter is a promiscuous slut! My husband and I had a loving marriage back then, but this bitch seduced him and caused us to divorce!"

"After my husband died, she went to seduce her brother-in-law! I've never seen such a lowly and shameless woman like her! She thinks about seducing other people's husbands all day long. She's born cheap!"

"Come on, everyone. Come look at what this vixen really looks like! If she and her brother-in-law are innocent, and there's nothing between them, why are they having a meal together so late?"

Estelle began clamoring loudly.

As soon as she yelled, everyone in the restaurant looked over and shot dirty looks at Charlotte.

"Wow, it's my first time seeing a homewrecker being slammed and lashed out at in public! What a thrill!"

"That woman is really pretty too. Why would she ruin people's marriages? She even snatched her sister's man. How inhumane of her. How much does she hate her sister?"

"Hah, you probably don't know. Only pretty women are qualified to be homewreckers and mistresses. How could she possibly snatch people's husbands if she's not pretty enough?"

"Tsk, tsks, she's so young and good-looking. Why does she have to do such a shameless thing? What a disgusting hussy!"

...

All of a sudden, everyone started accusing and denouncing Charlotte.

Estelle held her head high with a smug expression.

Charlotte was almost on the verge of bursting into tears because of these words. The usually eloquent and sharp-tongued young lady was now incredibly infuriated by the uncouth and callous slander about her, but she couldn't utter a single word.

"Hah, since you're so fond of snatching other women's men, you're either doing it for money or because you need a man too desperately, right, Miss Carter? How about you be my woman? I can pay you too. How does eight thousand dollars for every time you sleep with me sound?" Jake leered lustfully at Charlotte's face.

Estelle chimed in sneeringly, "Jake, don't be fooled by her. God knows how many men she's slept with. She's just a whore, and even two hundred is too much to sleep with her! Eight thousand is enough to book her for an entire month!"

"Haha, good idea, Estelle! Eight thousand a month is indeed more than what those hookers cost."

Grinning, Jake turned to look at Charlotte with fiery eyes. "Miss Carter, did you hear that? If you stay with me for a month, I'll give you eight thousand immediately. Of course, if you serve me to my satisfaction, I'll give you a bonus. How does this sound?"

It was totally a public humiliation!

Tears began welling up in Charlotte's eyes, and she bit her lip hard, for fear that she would immediately burst into tears once she spoke.

"Where did these mad dogs come from? Do you want to die?" Lucas stepped forward with a cold gaze as he shielded Charlotte. He glared at the two people in front of him with a murderous gaze. *How dare these two slander and insult Charlotte? They really deserve to die!*

Seeing Lucas defending Charlotte, Jake laughed out loud. "Haha, your brother-in-law indeed can't stand it anymore. Is he defending his lover?"

Estelle had a contemptuous look on her face. "Hah, he's indeed defending this little bitch! You're just a live-in son-in-law. What right do you have to speak here? Even if you're good at fighting, can you lay a finger on my cousin? If you dare to touch him, his family won't spare you!"

She hated Charlotte and Lucas!

Although Declan had been incompetent, he had been suave and handsome enough to make Estelle fall in love with him. Otherwise, she wouldn't have gone through all the trouble to get the Brookes to agree to let her marry Declan, who came from a humble background.

She thought that if not for Lucas and Charlotte, Declan wouldn't have been seduced and bewitched, the Brookes wouldn't have forced them to get a divorce, Declan wouldn't have died, and the Brookes wouldn't have ended up fleeing from their home!

She blamed Lucas and Charlotte for everything!

Thus, Estelle will never let them off. Relying on the fact that Jake belonged to the Watson family, a top-tier family in San Jose, she wasn't afraid that Lucas would do anything to them!

Charlotte had already learned of Jake's identity at the business exchange just now. Hearing Estelle's threat at this moment, she gritted her teeth and whispered to Lucas, "Lucas, let's go. Don't bother about them!"

She wasn't afraid of the two of them, but she didn't want Lucas to be implicated because of this. After all, the Watsons were the most powerful family in San Jose, and Lucas would encounter a lot of trouble if he went against them.

So Charlotte decided to endure her anger, not wanting to implicate Lucas and cause things to escalate to the point of being unmanageable.

Charlotte would rather let herself suffer and wanted to leave, but Estelle didn't want to let her off so easily.

Let her go? That'd be letting her off too easily!

"You want to leave after doing such a shameless thing? You must be dreaming!" Estelle sneered.

She grabbed Charlotte's wrist and shouted, "How can we let such a hussy off so easily? Everyone, shouldn't we strip this shameless woman in public and teach her a lesson so that she won't dare to seduce other men again?"

The shocking statement immediately made all the people around them excited. Many even began whistling and clamoring.

"Go ahead! Strip her! If you don't, you're not human!"

"There's a good show to watch! Isn't it too exciting to watch someone get stripped in public?!"

“My God, I’ve made the right decision coming here to eat today. If this beauty really gets stripped in public, there will be a feast for our eyes!”

...

Hearing these voices, Estelle felt a strong sense of accomplishment, and she raised her hand to tug Charlotte’s collar.

“Stop it!”

Before Estelle could touch Charlotte’s collar, a strong hand grabbed her wrist, rendering her immobile.

At the same time, Lucas’s incomparably cold voice drilled into Estelle’s ears, sounding as if it came from hell.. “Try touching her if you dare.”

Chapter 733: I’m Your Father

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Lucas’s fingers, like iron pincers, tightly grasped Estelle’s wrist.

“Oww! Let go! Let me go!” Estelle yelled frantically as her face distorted in pain.

Next to her, Jake immediately lost his temper. He rolled his sleeves up and charged over to hit Lucas. “Damn it, punk. Let go of my cousin!”

He clenched his fist and punched Lucas.

With a cold and austere look on his face, Lucas dragged Estelle forward, causing Jake’s punch to land on her face.

“Oww!” Estelle immediately shrieked in misery and covered her eyes with her other hand.

“Jake, you... you hit my eye!” she cried in pain.

Jake was also dumbfounded, and he quickly said, “Estelle, I didn’t mean to hit you! It’s all this asshole’s fault!”

Then he kicked Lucas’s waist with a ferocious gaze in his eyes.

“Ah!” Estelle shrieked once again as she held her waist. “J-Jake! You kicked me. It hurts!”

Jake was infuriated. He had clearly aimed his kick at Lucas, yet when his kick was about to land, Lucas dragged Estelle over again.

“Punk, if you have what it takes, stand still right there. I’m going to teach you a lesson!” Jake roared angrily. Being played like a fool by Lucas made him boil with fury.

Lucas naturally didn’t bother to pay attention to Jake’s roguish behavior and directly took out his phone to make a call. “Tell Reynold Watson to come to a restaurant called The Monarch on the food street next to the Walton Hotel within fifteen minutes. I want to see him!”

After giving the order, Lucas hung up.

When Jake heard Lucas say Reynold’s name, he was shocked. But he soon recalled the information Estelle had told him about Lucas and sneered. “Hah, you’re really acting big! Reynold Watson is the head of my Watson family. You thought of him because you heard that I’m a Watson, huh?”

“It’s obviously impossible for you to know him. Who are you trying to scare by making that phone call here?”

“You’re ordering him to come here in fifteen minutes? Haha, you’re hilarious! I’m warning you. Don’t play tricks in front of me, or the Watsons won’t spare you!”

As soon as Jake finished speaking, Lucas’s phone suddenly rang. It was an unfamiliar number, but the caller ID showed that it was a number from San Jose.

Lucas guessed who was calling and answered it directly.

“Mr. Gray, I heard that you’re looking for me in a hurry? I’m rushing over to the food street now. May I ask what the matter is?” Reynold’s voice was full of cautiousness.

Lucas glanced at Jake and said, “Is there a person named Jake Watson in your family?”

Reynold thought for a moment before answering, “Yes, there’s indeed such a person. Did that bastard offend you, Mr. Gray?”

“Yes, he even told me that the Watsons won’t spare me,” Lucas said calmly.

These words frightened Reynold, who was nothing in front of Lucas and had to behave extremely carefully. Yet some unworthy bastard in his family actually had the audacity to speak to Lucas in such a manner.

“How dare that bastard speak to you like that?! Mr. Gray, this is indeed my junior’s fault. I’ll head there right away! You can deal with Jake Watson however you want. I won’t have any objections even if you kill him right on the spot!”

“Now, may I please have a word with that damn bastard?” Reynold asked fearfully.

Lucas pressed the speaker button. “Go ahead.”

On the other end, Reynold barked in fury, “Jake, you idiot. How dare you offend Mr. Gray? I’m telling you, you’d better get on your knees in front of Mr. Gray and apologize to him now to get his forgiveness! Otherwise, by the time I come over, you’ll be dead. Do you hear me?”

Jake froze for a moment before cursing loudly, “Who the f*ck are you? How dare you order me?”

Probably because of the distortion of the voices through the phone and the fact that Jake hadn’t had much contact with Reynold, he couldn’t tell that it was Reynold on the other end.

“I am Reynold Watson, the head of the Watson family of San Jose! Am I qualified to order you or not?” Reynold was so enraged that he was about to die.

But Jake still failed to recognize his voice. Instead, he mocked in disdain, “Haha, how dare you impersonate the Watsons’ helmsman? I know. You must be in cahoots with this punk. You two are putting on an act and expect me to fall for it?”

“You idiot, if you are the Watsons’ helmsman, then I am your father!”

On the other end, a wave of anger surged straight to Reynold’s head, and he was about to explode in fury.

“Okay, wait for me. I’ll go over and clean you up right now! Even if Mr. Gray spares your life, I can’t spare you!” Reynold roared through gritted teeth.

“Haha, fine, I’ll wait for you right here. I’m afraid you won’t dare to come, you f*cker!” After hurling a vulgarity, Jake ended the call.

Then he looked at Lucas with a mocking expression. “Punk, you’re still too young to be playing this trick in front of me! Come on. I’ll be waiting here now. Let’s see how you’re going to continue lying later!”

“If no one comes later, you and your scoundrel friend won’t get away with impersonating the helmsman of the Watsons! I will definitely let you know the consequences of offending the Watsons and pretending to be our helmsman!”

Estelle laughed sarcastically. “Hah. Since you’re so fond of acting, you might as well become an actor! That’s much better than freeloading!”

The two played along, and under their deliberate slandering, the people around them started pointing fingers at Lucas and Charlotte.

Charlotte was so angry that she wanted to go up and fight with them, but Lucas stopped her.

He saw no need to stoop to their level.

The Elite Business Exchange had ended not long ago, and he reckoned that Reynold must not be far away.. He should be able to rush over soon, and then Lucas would leave it to him.

Chapter 734: Time Is Up

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Jake raised his hand, looked at the time on the watch, and said sternly, “As far as I know, just a few minutes ago, the Elite Business Exchange held in the Walton Hotel ended. I’m waiting to see if the Reynold Walker you mentioned can make it here within fifteen minutes!”

Estelle said fawningly, “Speaking of this Elite Business Exchange, I heard that it was supposed to be hosted by the Watsons this time, but the hosting rights were transferred to the Kingstons. I’m sure the Kingstons must have given the Watsons a lot of benefits, right?”

“Haha, that’s for sure!” Jake said smugly. “The Elite Business Exchange happens only once every three years, and the people invited are all from the top forces of California. The rest aren’t even eligible to participate! The organizer of every session gets to reap a lot of benefits, and since we gave the hosting rights to the Kingstons, the Kingstons will definitely not mistreat us!

“Heh. Although the Watsons are already the top family in San Jose, as long as we get the Kingstons’ support, it’s just a matter of time before we expand into the San Francisco market. Who knows? We might become the fourth most powerful family in California in the future!”

He spoke proudly and behaved arrogantly as if the Watsons were already the fourth most powerful family in California.

After hearing what Jake said, many people here showed looks of shock and envy.

It seemed that this descendant of the Watsons would definitely be able to rise even higher in the future due to the Watsons’ status.

But Lucas revealed a trace of mockery.

Jake kept leveraging the power of the Watsons and talking about how great the Watsons were. But in fact, he couldn't even enter the Walton Hotel. Reynold had brought a few of the Watsons' juniors over, but Jake wasn't among them. This was enough to show that he wasn't a core member of the Watsons at all.

The fact that he couldn't even recognize Reynold's voice meant that he had had very little contact with Reynold. He was basically a distant relative, yet he bragged and threw his weight around, which was ridiculous.

In addition, the incident in the Walton Hotel had just ended a bit ago, and Lucas had issued an order for everyone to keep their lips sealed about it. Thus, Jake wasn't aware that the Kingstons, whom he revered and hoped to gain the support of, had already become a thing of the past and would be eradicated from San Francisco in another hour.

And it was all done by Lucas, the man in front of him whom he despised.

A trace of anxiety appeared on Charlotte's face.

If the Watsons really received help from the Kingstons, coupled with the fact that the relationship between the Watsons and the Walkers had always been close, the Watsons' future would definitely be bright.

Although Lucas was blood-related to the Huttons of DC, he had been expelled from the Huttons twenty years ago. He seemed to have nothing to do with the Huttons over the years, and he wouldn't be able to get any help from the Huttons.

In Charlotte's opinion, although Lucas had also received an invitation to the Elite Business Exchange, he was still far inferior to hegemony like the Kingstons and the Walkers of San Francisco. If the Watsons really wanted to deal with Lucas, there was no way he could resist it.

It was also because of her fear and scruples about the Watsons that she had been extremely tolerant of Jake and Estelle's verbal abuse and insults to her today. She was worried that she might cause trouble for Lucas.

"Lucas, forget it. Why don't we just go?" Charlotte said softly with a pleading gaze in her eyes.

She really didn't want to implicate Lucas in this and then have him face the retaliation of the Watsons, the Kingstons, and the Walkers.

As for what Lucas said earlier about having the Watsons' helmsman come over within 15 minutes, Charlotte didn't dare to carry too much hope even though she didn't think Lucas was lying and acting.

Lucas smiled at her comfortingly. "Don't worry. You're just like my sister. Since they bullied you, I'll definitely seek justice for you!"

A warm stream of heat immediately surged in Charlotte's heart.

She had never had a brother, but Lucas was really protecting her like he was her brother.

"Oh wow, now you've become his sister again, huh?" Jake said with a lewd smile. "So, are you his god sister or a 'sister'?"

He was deliberately implying something lewd.

Estelle began laughing maliciously. "Hahaha, look at how lovey-dovey they are. How disgusting."

"Shut up!" Lucas glared daggers at them, immediately frightening them into not daring to speak vulgarly again.

"Hmph, continue being tough. I'll wait here and see what else you can say later!" Jake spit on the ground, moved a chair from the side, and sat opposite Lucas and Charlotte. He stared at them, for fear that they would take the opportunity to run away.

Time passed by minute by minute, and in the blink of an eye, more than ten minutes had passed.

Charlotte was somewhat uneasy, and she repeatedly looked at the entrance of the restaurant, only to see no one here yet.

She clenched her fists tightly.

On the other hand, smug smiles appeared on Jake's and Estelle's faces.

It had almost been fifteen minutes since Lucas's call. But unfortunately, Reynold hadn't appeared yet.

Jake shook his watch in his hand and said smugly, "Kid, fifteen minutes are up! Didn't you say that you'd make Reynold Watson appear in fifteen minutes? Where is he now?"

Estelle covered her mouth and laughed coquettishly. "Jake, this punk is just lying! The Watsons have such a high status! How could the helmsman do the bidding of a live-in husband?"

"Besides, Jake, you're from the Watson family. Why would the helmsman come here to reprimand you for an outsider? That actor this punk hired to impersonate Mr. Watson

even wanted to make you get on your knees and apologize to this bastard. That's hilarious!

"Jake, I think you don't have to show any mercy. Why don't you make both of them kneel and admit their mistakes to you? They can get up when you're happy! They were just shooting themselves in the foot by suggesting this idea.. They really deserve it!" Estelle suggested with vicious resentment on her face.

Chapter 735: Please Punish Me

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Estelle absolutely hated the two of them.

She was originally the heiress of a top family of LA and lived in the lap of luxury with her handsome and obedient husband, Declan Adams.

But ever since she met Cheyenne and Lucas, her life had changed drastically. Her husband had been seduced by this shameless woman, and he had even been kicked out by the Brokes before eventually falling to his death.

The Brookes, her family, had also been destroyed by Lucas, and she had been forced to go far away and live with her grandmother's maiden family, the Watsons. Since she was now living under someone else's roof, she obviously couldn't live as comfortably as before.

Now, the Watsons would soon gain the support of the Kingstons and the Walkers and subsequently rise to another level. Now that she had once again run into the two people she saw as the culprits who landed her in such a plight, she naturally wouldn't let go of this great opportunity to take revenge!

"Who is going to get on their knees and apologize to scumbags like you? I have never provoked you, yet you keep pestering me, slandering me, and humiliating me by leveraging the Watsons' power. You keep making up these crimes, framing me, and blaming me. You people are the ones who should be apologizing to me!" Charlotte yelled furiously with red eyes.

"Hah, you're already on the brink of death, yet you're still being so stubborn!" Estelle glared at Charlotte in disdain.

Then she suddenly said to Jake with malicious intent, "Jake, in my opinion, these two people are refusing to kneel down and admit their mistakes. How about you get this woman to serve you for a few days to atone for her sins? What do you think?"

She was deliberately tempting Jake.

Once Jake really began lusting over Charlotte and developing the urge to get fresh with her, Lucas definitely wouldn't let him off, and the two of them would surely get into a fight.

Since Jake wouldn't be able to defeat Lucas, he would definitely be beaten up terribly.

In that case, how could the Watsons possibly let Lucas off?

This was Estelle's plan to get Lucas killed. Even if Lucas killed Jake, her plan to take revenge on Lucas would work once the Watsons sought revenge on him!

After hearing what Estelle said, Jake narrowed his eyes at Charlotte and burst into laughter. "Haha, good idea, Estelle!

"Miss Carter, since you want a man, I think I'm pretty good-looking. If you accompany me for two days, I will let you and your so-called brother-in-law go. How does that sound?"

Then Jake reached out his hand to raise Charlotte's chin like an absolute lecher.

A murderous look flashed in Lucas's eyes. Just as he was about to make a move, a figure suddenly dashed in from outside. "Stop it!"

The person who came was a middle-aged man of about fifty years old. He was drenched in sweat and had horror written all over his face as he glowered at Jake, wishing he could chop off the hand reaching to molest Charlotte!

As soon as Jake heard the voice, his body immediately stiffened, and he frantically turned around.

The moment he saw the person's appearance, he was so scared that he shivered, and he could barely speak clearly. "Un-Uncle Reynold, w-why are you here?"

The middle-aged man who arrived was none other than the helmsman of the Watsons, Reynold Watson.

He finally realized that the person Lucas had talked to was indeed Reynold. But he really couldn't tell over the phone just now.

Now, seeing that the real helmsman had really appeared in front of him, Jake was beyond shocked. *This punk actually knows the Watsons' helmsman and can even order him!*

At this moment, Reynold stared at Jake, wishing he could strangle this incompetent imbecile immediately.

“Heh, if I hadn’t come, wouldn’t you be making trouble for me? Who said that he’d be my father if I’m really Reynold Watson?”

As soon as Jake heard this, he was even more frightened, and his legs went limp as he fell to his knees. “Please spare me, Uncle Reynold! I... I must have been deaf to have failed to recognize your voice. Otherwise, even if you beat me to death, I wouldn’t dare to say such treacherous words!

“I-I’m sorry for being such a fool!”

Jake reached his hand out and slapped himself on both sides of his face.

Smack!

Smack!

In order to appease Reynold, Jake didn’t dare to go easy on himself and slapped himself so hard that red palm marks soon appeared on his face.

This scene immediately shocked many people around them.

Just a minute ago, Jake was still smug and full of complacency. But now, he actually got on his knees and slapped himself out of his own accord. Clearly, the person standing in front of him was indeed the helmsman of a top family.

Not everyone could see the helmsman of a top family, yet they actually got to see the helmsman of the Watsons in person, which gave them absolute bragging rights!

But what surprised them even more was that since the person in front of them was the real helmsman of the Watsons, it meant that the phone call Lucas had made earlier was absolutely true.

With just a casual phone call, he managed to make the helmsman of a top family immediately rush over. Clearly, Lucas’s identity was far more prestigious than that of the Watsons!

Who exactly is this young man? They wondered.

But Reynold simply ignored Jake, who was kneeling on the ground and smacking himself. Instead, he walked to Lucas, and then...

Thud!

The esteemed helmsman of the Watsons got on both knees in front of Lucas!

This scene instantly made everyone present utterly astonished!

W-what's going on? Jake looked at the scene in front of him and was so dumbfounded that his eyes almost fell out of their sockets!

He was the high and mighty helmsman of the Watsons, yet he actually knelt down in front of Lucas.

How incredible!

Estelle, next to them, also had her jaw drop in shock.

The Brookes were now living with the Watsons, so of course, she knew how proud and arrogant Reynold usually was. He would basically ignore them and be aloof.

Yet he was now kneeling on both knees in front of Lucas!

“No... th-this is impossible! It must be an illusion!” Estelle shook her head frantically, unable to believe the scene in front of her.

Charlotte gaped in surprise and utter disbelief as she stared at the middle-aged man kneeling in front of Lucas. *Is he... really the Watsons' helmsman? Why is he suddenly...*

Before she could overcome her shock, Reynold prostrated on the floor with extreme respect and a shameful look on his face. “I’m sorry, Mr. Gray. There was a traffic jam on the road, and I was a minute late. Please punish me!”

His words immediately left everyone in utter astonishment again!

Chapter 736: Admitted To It Himself

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Everyone was still guessing the reason the helmsman of the Watsons had knelt down to Lucas. Even though the Watsons had offended him, there was no need for him to make such a grand gesture.

But the truth was far more frightening than they had imagined. Reynold had merely arrived a minute later than the time Lucas had given him, but he had actually gotten down on both knees to apologize to him!

The people watching felt as though they were about to lose their minds!

If they weren't all hallucinating or Reynold hadn't suddenly gone mad, the only possibility was that Lucas's identity was far more prestigious than that of Reynold! Thus, he had to get on his knees to apologize and seek forgiveness from Lucas even though he was only a minute late because of heavy traffic!

In that case, since Jake had said so many insults to Lucas just now, how would Reynold solve this problem?

As their focus shifted to this issue, everyone turned to look at Reynold.

At this moment, Jake was shocked beyond words.

He had never expected that Reynold would be so subservient and respectful toward Lucas. This could only mean that Lucas was definitely not just an ordinary live-in husband as Estelle had claimed.

Now, he was full of regret, and he wished he could drag this bitch Estelle over and slap her a few times!

Lucas ignored Reynold kneeling in front of him and turned his gaze to Jake. He said coldly, "You just said that you wanted me to kneel and apologize to you, and you even wanted my sister-in-law to serve you for a few days before you would let us off, huh?"

How could Jake dare to think so now? He hurriedly shook his head. "No, no, no! I was too blind and offended you and your sister-in-law, Mr. Gray. I've got a foul mouth, and I babble nonsense all the time. Please don't take it to heart. Just take it that I was talking nonsense. Please forgive me!"

Jake was worlds apart from his arrogant self just now, and he was about to cry out in fear.

Even the head of the Watsons had kneeled in front of Lucas and apologized for being a minute late. Yet he, a distant relative of the Watsons, had said so many crazy and offensive things to Lucas. He had to have a death wish!

Jake wished he could rewind time to twenty minutes ago. If he could start all over again, he would never offend Lucas, this terrifying person.

Lucas turned to Estelle again and asked coldly, "You just said that my sister-in-law is a mistress who deliberately seduced your husband to destroy your marriage?"

Estelle was about to be frightened to death at this point.

She had known previously that Lucas's methods were very powerful. Otherwise, he couldn't have forced the Brookes to the point of having to flee LA. Estelle once again recalled the scene of Lucas remaining unscathed despite having numerous gunmen of the Brookes shooting him. He had even used pine needles to blind them.

She really shouldn't have gone to provoke this terrifying enemy, but she was too indignant. Besides, she had thought that she had found a backer in the Watsons, so she

could easily take revenge and trample all over him. This was why she had tried hard to urge and influence Jake. It was so that the Watsons would go against Lucas.

But Estelle never expected the head of the Watsons to be so humble and subservient in front of Lucas!

Or rather, Lucas's status today had greatly exceeded Estelle's imagination. It finally made her realize that she would probably never be able to take revenge against Lucas!

At this moment, when she saw Lucas's icy cold gaze, she no longer dared to think about taking revenge against the two of them. Now, she only wanted to protect herself, and she just hoped that Lucas would spare her!

"No, no. She... Charlotte isn't actually a mistress, and she didn't seduce my husband either. My... my husband pestered her because she's beautiful!

"Also, the reason my husband and I divorced was that he has been freeloading off of my family while still looking for other women. So the elders of my family couldn't stand it and decided to kick him out! It had nothing to do with Miss Carter! She didn't destroy my family either!

"Also, I... I'm jealous of Miss Carter, so I deliberately spread those rumors. Actually, Miss Carter has never seduced a man before, and they... they're all rumors I made up!"

Estelle revealed all her crimes in one go, for fear that Lucas would punish her even more severely.

After she finished speaking, there was a huge commotion around them.

Just now, Estelle had kept clamoring that Charlotte was a homewrecker and brazen hussy who had seduced Estelle's husband and her brother-in-law. She had even wanted to strip Charlotte in public and had been inciting the onlookers. Thus, they thought that Charlotte was a vixen and had badmouthed her.

Yet she had now confessed so quickly that everything was just rumors she had made up out of jealousy and vengeance!

The sudden twist in events immediately made many people incredibly furious because they felt that Estelle had used them.

"This woman is so cheap! Her husband went around harassing this lady, yet she accused this lady of being a mistress who seduced her husband. She really twisted the facts!"

"She's too detestable! I really believed her nonsense and scolded Miss Carter several times. Now, I feel very sorry for her! It's all this woman's fault. She's atrocious!"

“Yeah, despite knowing how important a woman’s reputation is, she kept harping on this and accusing her. She’s really too much!”

“That’s right. Miss Carter’s brother-in-law is so powerful, and she’s so beautiful. How could she possibly snatch the man of an ugly woman inferior to her in every way? It’s really too outrageous!”

...

All of a sudden, the surrounding crowd felt cheated and began lashing out at Estelle indignantly.

Meanwhile, Estelle shrank back without daring to say a word.

“It seems that I was too kind to your family before.” Lucas looked at Estelle coldly. “Previously, I left a way out for your family.. As long as you left LA, you wouldn’t be punished. Now, you’ve destroyed it yourself, so don’t blame me for being ruthless!”

Chapter 737: The Brookes’ Disaster

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Estelle’s heart sank. She felt as if she had been struck by lightning.

If she really brought a devastating blow to the Brookes because she had offended Lucas today, her father and grandfather would definitely not spare her!

The moment she thought of this, her heart began trembling. She could no longer care about anything else and immediately fell to her knees in front of Lucas.

“Mr... Mr. Gray, what happened today is all my fault! I’m sorry! I... I’ll kowtow to you! Please spare the Brookes. Don’t let my grandfather and family find out!” Estelle Brooke begged miserably. She even clenched her jaw and began kowtowing on the ground.

Bang!

Bang!

...

Estelle was really terrified at this moment, so she kowtowed very forcefully. Soon, her forehead was red and swollen.

But Lucas remained unmoved.

To Lucas, the Brookes were just a small family that he had once defeated, and they posed no threat to him at all. He didn't intend to kill them. Otherwise, he wouldn't have let the Brookes leave LA and let them off the hook for all their previous misdeeds.

He had given the Brookes a way out on the premise that they would no longer come and cause trouble for him.

But now, Estelle had actually taken the initiative to jump in front of him and even slandered and defamed Charlotte. Lucas naturally wouldn't go easy on the Brookes.

As for whether the entire Brooke family should atone for Estelle's mistakes, Lucas didn't feel that there was any issue. He had already warned the Brookes, but the Brookes had failed to take their family in hand. They had allowed Estelle to wreak havoc and randomly accuse others, so they should naturally also take the blame.

At this moment, Reynold also understood what stupid things Jake and Estelle had done through their conversation.

He didn't expect that while he was trying to find ways to get closer to Lucas, the new hegemon of California, a distant relative of the Watsons and a woman with a different last name, who had come to join the Watsons, would dare to offend Lucas so terribly!

At the beginning, when the Brookes in LA were destroyed overnight, the Brookes' helmsman, Andrew, had brought many members over to join the Watsons.

Because Andrew's wife was a Watson, Reynold had accepted the Brookes on the account that they were relatives. He had even prepared two villas for them to live in. He was rather benevolent to them.

But Reynold hadn't expected that the person who overthrew the Brookes was Lucas.

Now, an incompetent woman of the Brookes had actually offended Lucas once again, causing trouble for the family.

The reason Jake had offended Lucas, whom he didn't even know, must have also been because Estelle had instigated him!

"Reynold, I heard that the Brookes are currently staying with the Watsons. Is that right?" Lucas asked.

Reynold wiped the cold sweat on his forehead and answered carefully, "Yes, we're just distant relatives..."

Lucas interrupted him and directly instructed, "I don't care what kind of relationship you have with them, but from today onward, I don't want to see anyone from the Brookes

appearing in California. Do you hear me? If you can't do it, the Watsons will also be eradicated from California!"

When Reynold heard this, his heart instantly pounded rapidly.

From what Lucas said, it seemed that he didn't want to let the Brookes off, but he surprisingly didn't pursue the matter against the Watsons.

It finally made Reynold relieved.

"Yes, Mr. Gray. I promise to do it! From tomorrow onward, there will no longer be any Brookes in California!" Reynold agreed without hesitation.

Then he stood up from the ground and looked at Jake and Estelle, who were still kneeling next to him, his eyes full of disgust. He instructed his bodyguards, "Take these two people back immediately and punish them severely! Those who have offended Mr. Gray can't escape death!"

"Yes!" Several burly bodyguards immediately came over and firmly held the terrified Estelle and Jake. They even covered their mouths and dragged them out of the restaurant.

The surrounding people covered their mouths. Based on what Reynold said in the end, these two people probably wouldn't be able to survive.

But they had all witnessed the matter from the beginning to the end. These two people could only blame themselves for taking the initiative to provoke Lucas, a person whom they couldn't afford to provoke. No one sympathized with them at all.

Lucas had wanted to bring Charlotte here to have a late-night snack before returning to Orange County, but they had suddenly encountered Estelle. Moreover, all the people in the restaurant were looking at the two of them with complicated gazes in their eyes. There were even a few people who came over to try and befriend them. Seeing this situation, Lucas and Charlotte were no longer interested in eating.

"Shall we go back?" Lucas looked at Charlotte and asked softly.

"Huh? Oh... okay!" Charlotte finally snapped back to her senses before leaving with Lucas.

"Mr. Gray, I'll see you two off!" Reynold tagged along fawningly until he sent the two of them to their car. Even after this, he was still standing from afar and watching them leave.

The car was driving back to Orange County.

Charlotte, sitting in the front passenger seat, was silent for a while. Eventually, she finally couldn't help asking, "Lucas, Mr. Watson... His attitude toward you... Something must have happened at the Elite Business Exchange today, right?"

She was now the general manager of the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch, and she had become much sharper and better at observing than before. Besides, Reynold had made it so obvious today. So Charlotte naturally thought that something big must have happened at the Elite Business Exchange today, and it also had to be related to Lucas.

Lucas thought that many things did happen at the Elite Business Exchange today, and most of them were astonishing and would take California by storm. But he didn't like praising himself, so he smiled indifferently. "Some things indeed happened, but they're good for us. You'll know in the future."

Seeing that Lucas was unwilling to mention more, Charlotte stopped asking. But since Lucas said that they were good things, and Reynold was indeed respectful to him, she didn't need to worry.

"Hah, that's what you said! As long as they're good, I'm also waiting to see more good news from you!" Charlotte stopped feeling burdened and instead smiled radiantly. It was the first pleasant smile she had since she had started being gloomy for a long time.

Lucas smiled lightly and drove smoothly to his home in Orange County.

At this moment, far away in a villa of the Watsons in San Jose, the Brookes had yet to know the terrifying disaster about to strike them.

Chapter 738: Severance of the Future

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

In the Watsons' luxurious villa, Andrew, the head of the Brookes, who used to be a top family in LA, was wearing silk pajamas and sitting in the middle of a hall while sipping tea comfortably.

Although the days of living with the Watsons in San Jose weren't as comfortable as they were when he was a family head in LA, Reynold treated the Brookes well. In addition to providing them with two four-story villas, he also occasionally gave them some tea leaves, tobacco, wine, and so on.

Andrew wasn't sitting here alone. Sitting on the sofa opposite him was a middle-aged man in his fifties. He was Andrew's son, Shaun Brooke, the father of Aston and Estelle.

“Dad, it’s already so late. The Elite Business Exchange held in San Francisco must already be over, right?” Shaun asked while rubbing his hands together with glistening eyes.

Andrew looked at the time and nodded. “Logically speaking, it should be almost over. I think it won’t be long before Reynold comes home.”

He let out a long sigh and said with regret, “If nothing had happened to the Brookes, we should have also been invited to the exchange this time. We wouldn’t have to sit here and wait for Reynold’s news.”

When Shaun heard this, a trace of resentment appeared in his eyes. “Yes, the Brookes used to be a top family in LA. If it wasn’t because of that bastard, we wouldn’t have to stay with the Watsons and depend on them. We could have participated in this Elite Business Exchange to build more connections! It’s all that bastard’s fault! Dad, when I think about this, I want to rip that bastard apart alive!”

With a gloomy look, Andrew exclaimed resentfully, “I’m just like you! However, we have to endure it for a while longer! But the opportunity might be coming soon!”

“This time, the Elite Business Exchange should have been hosted by the Watsons at first. But since the Watsons gave the rights to the Kingstons, the Kingstons will definitely vigorously support the Watsons. In that case, it likely won’t take long for the Watsons to be able to expand into the San Francisco market, and there’ll be a chance for them to become the fourth largest magnate in San Francisco!”

“When the time comes, we will be able to borrow the Watsons’ power and make a comeback. With the help of the Watsons, we should be able to gain a firm foothold in San Jose soon. Within a few years, the Brookes might be able to become the next top family in San Jose!”

“At that time, we will seek revenge on Lucas Gray. Let’s see how long that punk can continue being arrogant!”

While Andrew spoke, a terrifying murderous intent appeared in his eyes.

Back then, the Brookes had been fighting for many years in LA, and they had painstakingly managed to become a top family almost on par with the Parkers and the Owens of LA.

But because of Lucas’s appearance, their efforts in the past two decades had gone down the drain overnight, and the Brookes even had to sell their hard-earned businesses to him!

He would take revenge on Lucas sooner or later!

Shaun also had a murderous gaze in his eyes. “Yes, that punk ruined the Brookes and also caused my son to become crippled. I must settle scores with him! If I don’t kill him, I swear I won’t be a man!”

Once Lucas was mentioned, both Shaun and Aston clenched their jaws in hatred.

After a moment of silence, Andrew changed the topic. “Esttele went to San Francisco this time. I wonder if there’ll be any gains.”

At the mention of his daughter Estelle, Shaun smiled. “Estelle is pretty good at socializing, and she’s already made friends with several of the powerful families in San Jose. She followed a young man named Jake Watson to San Jose this time. She even managed to enter the ordinary business exchange. I reckon we’ll be able to form some new connections that will be of great benefit to the Brookes’ future development.”

“Yes, that’s not bad.” Feeling heartened, Andrew nodded. “You taught your daughter well. Moreover, you can introduce her to some men so that she can find a suitable marriage partner as soon as possible. That’ll be of great help to the Brookes...”

Bang!

While the two were still discussing how the Brookes were going to develop and grow their power in the future, the villa’s door was suddenly slammed open from outside. Afterward, a dozen or so burly men donning the uniforms unique to the Watsons’ bodyguards rushed in from the outside.

Andrew and Shaun were both shocked. They immediately stood up from the couch and looked at them with displeasure.

“You should be the Watsons’ bodyguards. Why did you barge in so rudely without even knocking on the door? Tomorrow, I’ll ask Mr. Watson just who gave you the guts!” Shaun hollered at the bodyguards furiously.

But when one of the bodyguards standing at the front heard this, his face didn’t change at all, and he merely said coldly, “By Mr. Watson’s order, the Brookes are to be eradicated from LA from today onward for offending the master of California!”

With his order, these bodyguards behind him immediately whipped out their daggers, which were shining with a chilling murderous glint.

Andrew and Shaun were shocked. *This... this is genuine murderous intent... Are the Watsons going to kill us today?*

Andrew stepped forward and forced himself to endure the horror in his heart to ask extremely reluctantly, “I... I want to ask clearly. How exactly did the Brookes offend

anyone? Who is the master of California? Even if you want us to die, you have to let us know the reason!”

At this moment, he was really full of reluctance and indignation!

As the head of the Brookes, he had been devoted to promoting the Brookes and leading them to glory in the last two decades or so.

Initially, he had already been close to succeeding, and the Brookes had painstakingly become a top family in LA. But just because he had misjudged Lucas’s strength and tried to make use of him, he had accidentally caused the entire Brooke family to collapse overnight. His years of hard work had gone to waste and fell into Lucas’s hands!

Now, he could finally see some hope of a comeback and was planning a beautiful future. Yet he was suddenly cruelly told that the Brookes had offended the master of California, who wanted them to disappear from this world immediately.

How could Andrew accept this?

But since the other party was called the master of California, it meant that his status was far above the Brookes and the Watsons, and he was an existence not to be disobeyed!

However, even after Andrew racked his brains, he still didn’t know who this person was and how the Brookes had offended such a terrifying existence!

The lead bodyguard sneered.. “In that case, I’ll fulfill your request before you die. The master of California is an extremely young man with the last name Gray from Orange County, and he has a feud with your family!”

Chapter 739: The Brookes Disappear

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

“Last name Gray, from Orange County, has a feud with the Brookes?” A figure quickly surfaced in Andrew’s mind—Lucas Gray.

But how could Lucas become the supreme ruler of California?

There must be something wrong with this!

Both Andrew and Shaun were in disbelief.

“No, no matter who that master of California is... the Brookes have been in San Jose. We couldn’t have offended him!” Shaun said anxiously.

The lead bodyguard said, "You have to ask your daughter, Estelle Brooke! She maliciously humiliated Mr. Gray and his sister-in-law in San Francisco, and she even tried to urge a member of the Watsons to deal with Mr. Gray. She's absolutely unforgivable!

"Mr. Gray has already given us orders. If any of the Brookes are still alive in California after today, the Watsons will no longer exist either.

"So, you can all die in peace now!"

Several bodyguards came forward and flashed their daggers in their hands. Andrew and Shaun knew that they were about to die.

Andrew had a look of despair on his face. He didn't expect that his granddaughter he had just praised would cause this huge disaster. He was certain that the 'Mr. Gray', who was the 'master of California', was Lucas without a doubt!

Lucas had already given them a chance before and allowed them to leave LA alive. Yet Estelle had just offended him terribly. He knew that they were bound to die this time!

"Hahahaha! This is probably God's will. It's the Brookes' retribution. Hahaha!

"But even if I have to die, I will do it myself. I don't need you to do it!"

Andrew looked up to the sky and laughed a few times, his voice filled with despair and sarcasm, as well as endless regret.

He remembered that he had once pledged his allegiance to Lucas. If he hadn't done so for the sake of using Lucas and had instead been sincere about it, the Brookes would have probably become much stronger than before. They might have even become the top family in California.

Unfortunately, he had been muddled at the time and chose to be hostile to Lucas, which caused the destruction of the Brookes' foundation, leading them to their current plight.

He really regretted it now!

Andrew laughed miserably a few times before suddenly picking up the fruit knife on the coffee table and slitting his neck with it!

Screech!

Blood spurted out of his neck as he fell to the floor. Blood continued to gush out of the cut artery of his neck!

“Dad!” Shaun cried out in despair and lunged forward to cover Andrew’s throat but to no avail. He could only watch Andrew twitch a few times before dying.

The once mighty and powerful helmsman of a top family had died just like that!

Shaun looked at his father’s lusterless eyes, and a smile of despair appeared on his face after he spaced out for a while.

Even his father had given resisting and committed suicide. He obviously knew that the Brookes had already fallen into a terrible plight of no return.

He picked up the fruit knife Andrew had dropped on the floor and stabbed himself in the heart.

Soon, he also closed his eyes forever and left the world, following the steps of his father.

The lead bodyguard looked at the fallen figures of Andrew and Shaun on the floor, and his expression changed slightly. But he soon regained his composure and ordered indifferently, “Kill all the other Brookes!”

“Yes!” The bodyguards immediately rushed to the other rooms of the villas.

Soon, the villas were full of panicked cries and screams.

None of the Brookes lived!

But Lucas, far away in Orange County, didn’t know all this yet.

In fact, he had instructed Reynold that he didn’t want to see any of the Brookes in California and only intended for him to drive the Brookes out of California.

But Reynold had used the most brutal way to exterminate the Brookes.

It was something that Lucas didn’t expect.

For some people, this was the last night of their lives. But for the vast majority of people, it was an incomparably ordinary night.

But bright early the next morning, there were several shocking pieces of news and headlines that astonished everyone.

“The Elite Business Exchange experiences major change. Two of the three top giants of San Francisco disappeared overnight!”

“The overbearing and invincible master of California has appeared and unified the major powerful families in the state!”

“More than sixty top families have submitted to the master of California!”

...

The large and eye-catching fonts on the front pages were all about news that shocked countless people in California.

When the first relevant piece of news appeared, everyone thought it was just a lousy joke.

But soon, when all the major news media in California were reporting these events at the same time, people realized that this wasn't a joke at all, but an astonishing fact!

The person who could make so many top families submit at the same time had really appeared!

Many people with a keen sense of smell were also secretly alarmed because they knew that there were going to be enormous changes in the entire layout of California.

Everyone was guessing who the master of California was. But all the media platforms seemed to have agreed that the only information they should reveal was that the master of California was known as Mr. Gray. There was no other information.

After all, Lucas had ordered everyone to keep quiet about the incident and his identity before the exchange ended. How could they dare to reveal his identity?

But there was no mention of the Smiths of DC, who had tried to seize control of California, and the Peerless Martial Association's California branch.

While the outside world was abuzz with the sudden appearance of the master of California, Lucas, the person in question, was living a quiet and comfortable life in Orange County.

He sent Cheyenne and Amelia to and from work and school every single day, living a warm and happy life.

William's injuries had gotten much better, and he could go home to recuperate.

However, Charlotte was almost too busy to do anything. Due to Lucas, many top wealthy families in California had submitted cooperation offers to the Stardust Corporation. The daily operations of the company were enough to make Charlotte so busy that she barely had time to eat. She worked overtime every day until very late before going home.

Lucas was speechless and said to Charlotte, "It's good to be busy with work, but you can't wear yourself out! There are some things that you should leave to your assistant and secretary. If you don't have enough staff, you should find a few more people instead of tiring yourself out."

Charlotte said, "Lucas, don't worry about it. I can handle it! Besides, the Stardust Corporation is so important to you, and we're at an extremely critical moment, so I don't feel comfortable leaving this in someone else's hand! I'd better take care of it myself!"

Lucas was touched.

The Stardust Corporation was indeed very important to him because it was the only thing his mother had left him.

Yet Charlotte cherished it so much that she would rather keep herself busy to the point of missing meals and not getting enough sleep than let Stardust Corporation suffer harm. Lucas really felt touched.

"Charlotte, thank you!" Lucas looked at Charlotte with heartfelt gratitude.

Chapter 740: The Howards' Noblewoman

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Charlotte giggled before saying, "As long as you don't forget. Take me out to play whenever you're free!"

Lucas laughed. "I won't forget. Once you're free, I'll take you out. I never go back on my word."

Charlotte immediately became joyful and smiled. "Okay, since you've said that, I'll be even more motivated at work! I'll try to finish up sooner!"

Lucas stayed in the company for a while longer. Seeing that everything was proceeding smoothly and that nothing had gone wrong because of the sudden business, he left the Stardust Corporation confidently.

But just as he arrived downstairs and walked out of the office, a tall and burly man wearing sunglasses suddenly blocked him.

"Are you Lucas Gray? My madam wants to see you." The man went straight to the point without wasting his breath on any nonsense.

Lucas immediately frowned. *Madam? Who wants to see me?*

Unfortunately, he wasn't interested at all.

There was no one in California who was qualified to summon him.

“No matter who your madam is, she has to come to meet me in person if she wants to see me,” he said coldly and then walked past the man toward the parking lot nearby.

A trace of anger immediately appeared on the man’s face.

“Punk, don’t be ignorant! Do you know how honorable my madam is?” he shouted angrily and appeared in front of Lucas in a flash to block him.

This time, perhaps because he was angry, he was exuding an extremely powerful aura and ready to force Lucas into submission with physical force.

This aura made Lucas slightly surprised.

The aura emanating from the man in front of him was more imposing than anyone Lucas had seen since he returned to Orange County!

Even Stanley was no match for this man.

Clearly, the person who could have a bodyguard of this level definitely had an impressive identity.

Lucas raised his eyebrow. “Who is your madam? You can’t possibly be unable to tell me your family background, right?”

The man replied proudly, “My madam is a Howard, the Howards who are one of the eight giants of DC.”

Seeing Lucas remaining nonchalant after hearing the Howards’ name, the man had a look of displeasure. “My madam said that she wants to speak to you about Cheyenne Carter.”

If Lucas had only heard the previous sentence, he wouldn’t have bothered to pay attention.

So what if she was a Howard? Lucas wasn’t afraid of her family and wouldn’t compliantly speak to her.

But what the man said afterward immediately made Lucas’s expression change.

A noblewoman from one of DC’s eight most powerful families wanted to talk to him about his wife.

Since it was about Cheyenne, Lucas wouldn’t ignore it regardless of what she wanted to say to him.

“Lead the way,” Lucas said indifferently.

The man pursed his lips, seemingly dissatisfied with Lucas’s attitude, but he didn’t say anything else. He led Lucas to a relatively low-key black Mercedes-Benz nearby and opened the door of the backseat.

A noblewoman dressed very luxuriously was sitting inside the car. She seemed to be in her early forties and had maintained her appearance very well.

“Madam, I’ve brought him here.” The man bent forward slightly and reported.

The noblewoman in the car raised her head and looked at Lucas. “You’re Lucas Gray, the live-in husband of Cheyenne Carter?”

Her voice was quite gentle and pleasant, but her tone was full of contempt and condescension, which was rather unpleasant.

“Since you’ve specially had someone come look for me, you must have already found out about my identity long ago. What’s the point of asking me that redundant question?” Lucas said coldly.

A trace of displeasure appeared in the noblewoman’s eyes, as if Lucas had offended her with his words.

“Get in the car and talk!” she commanded with an icy cold expression, her voice much colder than before.

Lucas was also very uncomfortable with this woman who suddenly appeared, and her commanding attitude made Lucas frown even more.

But at the thought that she was going to talk to him about Cheyenne, he got inside the car patiently.

In the spacious commercial car, there were no other people. Even the driver had gotten out. Lucas and the noblewoman were the only ones in the car.

“Tell me what you want from me.” Lucas said directly without any nonsense.

But the noblewoman didn’t say anything and instead sized Lucas up several times with a critical gaze.

Lucas noticed that she was looking at his face very seriously, as if she was trying to find something on it. But when she looked at his ordinary clothes, she pursed her lips slightly with a disdainful and condescending expression.

Lucas sat still, allowing her to size him up.

After a long while, the noblewoman finally looked away and said, "Time really flies. In the blink of an eye, the child kicked out by the Huttons together with Emma back then has already grown so old."

Lucas's heart stirred when he heard this woman mention his mother's name.

"You knew my mother back then?" Lucas narrowed his eyes slightly.

The noblewoman facing him smiled faintly. "Of course. Your mother was a famous figure in DC back then. She was beautiful and successful at a young age, and she even established the Stardust Corporation. She was much more capable than the children and grandchildren that many powerful families had dedicated to training.

"At the time, nearly half of DC's rich and powerful scions were infatuated with her. They wished they could marry her immediately.

"Unfortunately, although Emma was very capable, she came from an ordinary background with no powerful family to rely on. None of the powerful families considered letting her marry their male descendants.

"But later on, she got together with Michael Hutton and even got pregnant out of wedlock, causing countless tongues to wag in DC. In the end, due to the gossip and Emma being pregnant with the flesh and blood of a Hutton, the Huttons allowed her to give birth to the child and then brought her home. But they never gave her a proper status.

"Later on, the year you turned seven, Emma and you were kicked out by the Huttons and forbidden from returning to DC for the rest of your lives. Am I right about all this?"

The noblewoman nonchalantly recounted everything that had happened to Lucas and Emma in her gentle tone.

When Lucas heard this and Michael Hutton's name, he exuded a shockingly cold aura.

Michael Hutton, the head of the Huttons, one of the eight most powerful families in DC today, was Lucas's biological father!

Chapter 741: Biological Mother

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

When Lucas was driven out of the Hutton family together with his mother twenty years ago, he was already seven years old, so he would never forget the scene back then.

He remembered clearly what kind of life his mother had lived afterward and the reason she had died so early!

That heartless man wasn't worthy of being called a husband and a father!

Sensing the cold and terrifying aura coming from Lucas, the noblewoman was shocked. The aura he was exuding wasn't simple.

She sighed. "Then, have you ever thought that the reason your father did it is because he might have had difficulties? After all, all the Huttons had been against him marrying your mother..."

Lucas coldly interrupted her, "I don't care what reasons he had. I only know that from the moment he drove us out, he was no longer my father!

"If he did it because he succumbed to the Huttons, he should have never messed with my mother in the first place, let alone get her pregnant!

"If he truly loved my mother, he could have given up everything in the Hutton family and taken my mother away to start a new life!

"But what did he do? In the end, he let my mother down and abandoned her for the sake of the Huttons' power and the position as their helmsman. I will never acknowledge a weak, incompetent, and greedy scumbag who abandoned his wife and child as my father!"

Lucas's tone was cold and full of hatred when speaking about Michael.

He looked at the noblewoman with a trace of annoyance. "You probably didn't invite me here to talk about these old matters of the Huttons, did you?"

Seeing that he didn't want to talk about the Huttons, the noblewoman decided to change the topic. "First of all, let me introduce myself. My name is Florence Howard, and I'm here to talk to you about Cheyenne Carter."

Lucas raised his eyebrows. "Cheyenne is my wife. You're just from the Howard family who lives far away in DC. What do you have to say to me about her? She has nothing to do with you, right?"

Florence's expression was complicated for a while. "How can I have nothing to do with her? Cheyenne Carter is my biological daughter!"

"What?!" The news was completely beyond Lucas's expectations, causing him to lose his usual composure.

More than two weeks ago, he had already known that William and Karen were not Cheyenne's biological parents. Cheyenne had been picked up outside and adopted by them.

After learning about this, Lucas had speculated about what Cheyenne's biological parents were like. But 27 years had passed, and the clues from back then had long been broken, without any way to recover them.

Besides, Cheyenne seemed to have been deliberately abandoned beside a garbage can.

Lucas thought that perhaps because Cheyenne's parents didn't want her, he didn't even think about helping her find her biological parents.

But this noblewoman of the Howards actually said that she was Cheyenne's biological mother.

It was too shocking!

Lucas looked at Florence and began to scrutinize her carefully.

Florence's real age should be around fifty years old, but she had maintained her looks well and seemed to be only in her early forties. There weren't many fine lines on her face.

On closer look, Florence had beautiful features, with a small and exquisite face, large eyes, and fair skin. She had definitely been beautiful in her younger days.

Most importantly, the shape of her eyes, nose, and lips were indeed similar to Cheyenne's.

But there were many people who looked alike in this world. So based on looks alone, he couldn't be sure that Cheyenne was really Florence's daughter.

"How can you prove that Cheyenne is your daughter?" Lucas asked, suppressing the shock within him.

Florence bit her lower lip. "I have already done a paternity test. It's because I've determined that she's my daughter that I came to see you."

If a paternity test had been done, then Cheyenne being Florence's daughter was a sure thing.

For a while, Lucas's emotions were extremely complicated.

Cheyenne's biological mother had appeared. Lucas wondered how Cheyenne would feel when she found out.

"Since you are her mother, then why did you come to me? You should have gone to see her first, right?" Lucas asked doubtfully.

Florence had a cold and indifferent look on her face. "That's none of your business. I came to look for you today because I have a request for you."

Her icy gaze was fixed on Lucas.

"What request?" An ominous hunch surged in his heart.

"I want you to divorce my daughter and leave her immediately,"

Sure enough, Florence made a request that Lucas absolutely couldn't accept.

At the same time, Lucas found the request to be absurd and ridiculous.

At the beginning, Karen, his fake mother-in-law, had tried in every possible way to make him divorce Cheyenne. And now, Cheyenne's biological mother had suddenly appeared in front of him with the same demand.

Could it be that I'm destined to be unable to get along with my mother-in-law?

When Lucas saw Florence's hostile gaze and how she didn't treat him as a son-in-law in the slightest, his face also turned cold as he said indifferently, "You don't seem to be qualified to interfere in our marriage."

A trace of anger appeared in Florence's eyes as she said firmly, "I'm Cheyenne's mother, so I naturally have the right to take care of her affairs!"

"Mother?" Luca's face showed clear mockery and contempt. "A woman who has never been in Cheyenne's life has the nerve to call herself Cheyenne's mother?"

"Have you ever shown any concern for Cheyenne? Have you ever raised her? Now, you suddenly showed up to disrupt Cheyenne's life before even seeing her. Who are you to do that?"

"Cheyenne is now in her twenties, and she is in charge of her own life. You're in no place to make arrangements for her!"

"Even if you're really her biological mother, so what? Cheyenne is my wife and my daughter's mother. No matter who you are, you can't break up our family!"

With a dark expression, Lucas rejected Florence's unreasonable request.

Chapter 742: Unworthy of Being a Mother

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

He and Cheyenne had come a long way and had gone through many twists and turns before finally reaching the current stage of their relationship. They were now deeply in love with each other. How could Lucas possibly end their relationship because of a woman who suddenly appeared and claimed to be Cheyenne's biological mother?

If the woman facing him wasn't actually Cheyenne's biological mother, Lucas would have fallen out with her just after hearing what she said.

Florence sneered, clearly displeased with Lucas's ignorant rejection. "Hah, your marriage with my daughter was originally a mistake from the very beginning!

"You're just an abandoned descendant kicked out by the Huttons. You'll never be allowed to return to DC in your life. Even until you die, you will live in poverty, and you'll never make any outstanding achievements or make a name for yourself!

"But my daughter is different from you. She's my flesh and blood, and she'll definitely come home with me to the Howards'. When the time comes, she'll be my family's princess. Her status is very noble, and she's not someone you can cozy up to!

"She still has a bright future and a promising life. Being with you will only hamper her and waste her life!

"If you still spare a thought for her, you'd better quickly leave her and let her be free. Don't hold her back! Otherwise... with the Howards' power and status, you'll die easily!"

Florence sounded extremely self-righteous, and in particular, she used her family's power to threaten Lucas.

Lucas naturally wouldn't accept her threat. But deep down, his impression of Cheyenne's mother, who had suddenly popped up out of nowhere, became much worse.

"You're a woman yourself. Do you think a woman's happiness only depends on whether her husband's family is compatible with hers and whether he's wealthy and powerful enough? Do you not consider the happiness of your daughter?

"Frankly speaking, a mother like you really disappoints me.

"I might as well tell you this. No matter what you really think, the only person who can give Cheyenne happiness is me, so I will never give her up. I won't let people like you make arrangements for her life!

"If you insist on destroying our family and disturbing our life, I don't mind eradicating the Howards!"

Lucas's eyes were full of gloominess, but he sounded very serious.

If Florence and the Howards were determined to interfere with his and Cheyenne's lives, he would definitely eradicate the entire Howard family!

Seeing the determination in Lucas's eyes, Florence was shocked. *This young man is serious!*

As this thought flashed in her mind, her heart trembled, and she felt a great sense of oppression coming from Lucas. She had rarely felt this before, and it even caused a sense of fear within her.

But she soon came to her senses and was infuriated.

Lucas actually threatened her, a member of the esteemed Howard family!

"Young man, do you know what you're saying? Even your father, Michael Hutton, wouldn't dare to speak like that in front of me. You're so young, but you're terribly arrogant!"

"I've had someone investigate your situation. You used to live in poverty, and you were just a broke and worthless pauper. If not for the fact that someone had deliberately tried to humiliate Cheyenne by getting her to marry a lowly scumbag, do you think you would have been able to become a live-in husband?"

"Now, although the Huttons have given you your mother's former company, the Stardust Corporation, you only control a tiny branch in Orange County. The headquarters of the Stardust Corporation is still under the firm control of the Huttons. What can you get from it?"

"Furthermore, you disappeared for six years without saying goodbye soon after you married my daughter and only returned to Orange County half a year ago. How strong can your relationship with my daughter be?"

"So, don't talk to me about happiness. How deep is your relationship with my daughter? What kind of happiness can you bring her with your conditions? You're just paying lip service to me!"

Florence retorted angrily and undermined him to the point that he seemed worthless.

Of course, in the eyes of a Howard from DC, the Orange County branch of the Stardust Corporation was indeed not worth mentioning at all.

Lucas didn't get angry because of this and instead said with a calm gaze in his eyes, "Yes, it's true that Cheyenne and I haven't spent much time together. However, the strength of a relationship isn't something that can be measured by time but lies in the heart."

“You’ve never been by Cheyenne’s side for a single day of her life or even said a word to her. You’ve never understood her life, and you know even less about her relationships. On what grounds are you concluding that there are no strong feelings between us?”

“Moreover, do you know Cheyenne’s likes and dislikes? Do you know what she thinks? Do you know what kind of life she lived in the past and what she has experienced? You don’t know anything about her, yet you want to make arrangements for her life just because you’re her biological mother. You even claim that you’re doing it for her happiness. How ridiculous!”

“In fact, you didn’t even speak to Cheyenne before coming to me to say all of this. Have you ever spoken to her or asked her for her opinion? Have you respected her wishes?”

“What rights does someone like you, who knows nothing about her and has no regard for her wishes, have to interfere with her life?”

Lucas was extremely hostile and sharp-tongued, almost not giving Florence any respect at all.

In his opinion, Florence had only given Cheyenne life, but she hadn’t raised her a single day of her life. She didn’t deserve to be called a mother at all.

Lucas didn’t know how Florence, the esteemed heiress of the Howards, one of the eight top families of DC, could bear to let her own daughter be stranded outside for so many years without showing her any concern. He didn’t know if there were any hidden reasons.

But if Florence really wanted to act like Cheyenne’s mother, she should have looked for Cheyenne to make up for the lack of concern that she had shown her and for the familial love that they had missed in the past decades instead of treating Cheyenne like her property and making presumptuous decisions for her future self-righteously.

Lucas wouldn’t recognize this woman to be Cheyenne’s mother at all!

“You!” Florence was so enraged by Lucas’s merciless words that she could barely speak.

For many years, no one had ever dared to speak so rudely in front of her, especially when the other party was the punk she thought wasn’t worthy of her daughter and had even taken advantage of the latter.

“Don’t put on airs or show your arrogance as a member of one of the eight top families of DC in front of me. You’re nothing to me!” Lucas said coldly and then stopped looking at Florence, who was shaking with anger.

He opened the car door and stepped out to leave.

“Hold it!” The bodyguard wearing sunglasses, who had been guarding outside the car door, immediately yelled and stopped in front of Lucas when he noticed that Florence didn’t seem happy.

Lucas stared coldly at the man blocking him. “Get lost!”

The bodyguard wearing sunglasses looked inside the car and then shouted, “How arrogant!”

Then he clenched his fist and swung it at Lucas.

Since Florence had already given him the green light to hit Lucas, the bodyguard naturally wouldn’t stand on ceremony.

“Hmph!” Lucas sneered. He raised his fist and swung it directly at the other party’s striking fist.

Bang!

Both fists clashed fiercely.

The tremendous force from their fists emitted a loud sonic boom in the air.

Lucas didn’t move, while the bodyguard took seven steps backward before he could barely stabilize his figure and stand firm on his feet.

The bodyguard’s fingers were trembling and twitching violently, but the shock in his heart was indescribable!

He was actually punched so far back by a young man only in his twenties.

If he hadn’t rapidly retreated to mitigate the force, the unparalleled force coming from his opponent’s fist would have been enough to shatter the bones of his hand!

“If you dare to attack me again, I won’t let you off so easily!” Lucas said to the bodyguard coldly before leaving without turning back.

“...” Inside the black Mercedes-Benz business car, Florence’s eyes widened in disbelief.

This bodyguard was the strongest expert beside her, and Florence was very clear about how powerful he was.

Her bodyguard’s strength ranked among the top even in all of DC.

But he had just been knocked back seven steps by Lucas's punch. Even his hand was almost crippled!

"Madam..." The bodyguard walked back to Florence with a grave and somber expression. "I'm sorry, Madam. That punk's martial arts skills are far superior to mine. I can't deal with him."

Hearing the bodyguard say this himself, Florence immediately dug her fingers into the cushion of the backseat with all her might.

"He's actually more skilled than you. How is that possible?"

"According to the information we found, Lucas Gray is clearly just an ordinary, penniless man!"

"Something must have happened in the six years he disappeared! Unfortunately, we weren't able to find out any information about him during that time... Could he have obtained some unknown opportunities?"

Florence muttered, analyzing the situation.

The bodyguard was also extremely shocked.

In fact, there was one more thing he didn't say just now—the immense power of Lucas's punch was almost enough to shatter the bones of his right hand. But even so, Lucas hadn't used all his strength.

If Lucas really used all his strength and wanted to take his life, he would have almost no room to fight back.

Even in DC, Lucas's strength was extremely terrifying, not to mention that he was now only in his twenties.

At this moment, Florence felt a sense of panic surge within her. It was as if she had just accidentally lost something extremely important, causing her to feel a vague uneasiness.

Florence forced herself to put aside her uneasy thoughts and said calmly, "Forget it. Let's not talk about him for now. Don't forget that besides dealing with Lucas Gray, there's a more important matter on our agenda for our trip to Orange County this time!"

She had come to Orange County for two purposes this time. She had initially thought that she could easily deal with Lucas, and it should have been just a matter of a few words. Thus, she came to Lucas first.

But she didn't expect Lucas to be so defiant, causing her to face a setback in the execution of her first plan.

However, her other plan was the key purpose of her visit to Orange County this time.

The bodyguard frowned slightly. "Madam, according to the information that we've found, I'm afraid this matter won't be easy to handle."

Florence's beautiful eyebrows furrowed tightly as she said with frustration, "Yes. I heard that at the Elite Business Exchange in California, even the Smiths and the California branch of the Peerless Martial Association intervened. Vince Smith and Axel Fox, the head of the California branch of the Peerless Martial Association, both wanted to get a piece of the pie. However, they had both lost to the Master of California.

"I heard that the Master of California is still very young, but he's domineering, tyrannical, and competent. Even Vince Smith, who's usually fierce and stern, was forced to kneel down and apologize in public. A man like him is really godly! No matter what, the Howards must find a way to befriend him and get closer to him!"

A look of determination to get what she wanted appeared on her face.

Indeed, she had come to Orange County this time because the Howards had received some news. So they had specially sent her to Orange County and instructed her to think of a way to establish a connection with the famous Master of California and get close to him.

Even if they couldn't recruit him to join the Howards, it wouldn't be too late to devise a strategy to rope him in later once they established a friendly and cooperative relationship.

A young man only in his twenties actually managed to dominate all of California, making some 60-odd top families and forces in California bow down to him. What kind of a terrifying talent was he? He was definitely talented and competent enough to spur any of the eight giants in DC to do everything possible to form friendly ties with him!

If the Howards could seize the opportunity first, it would be of crucial help to their future development.

"Andy, immediately mobilize all the forces you have at your disposal to find out the identity of the Master of California is!" Florence ordered in a deep voice.

"Yes, Madam!" Andy, the bodyguard wearing sunglasses, immediately agreed, and then he asked hesitantly. "In that case, how should we handle Miss Cheyenne?"

At the mention of Cheyenne, Florence's eyes had an extremely complicated gaze.

After a long time, she sighed and said firmly, “No matter what, she’s my flesh and blood that I gave birth to after nine months of pregnancy. She must acknowledge me as her mother!

“As for Lucas Gray, although his martial arts skills are good and even better than yours, so what? Can he compare to the Master of California?

“They’re both young men, but Lucas Gray is much worse than the Master of California, who unified all of California!

“Even if my daughter is married, she should be married to a powerful man like the Master of California! If she does, she will not only be able to obtain an extremely prestigious status, but she will also be able to help the Howards take control of California!

“Lucas Gray is just a stumbling block getting in the way! If he chooses to be stubborn and refuses to leave my daughter, I’ll have no choice but to get rid of him!”

A ruthless murderous intent emerged in Florence’s eyes.