

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

- Chapter 935 – 966

Breaking Through The Bottleneck

Chapter 935: Breaking Through The Bottleneck

In Dwayne's opinion, he was willing to give Jordan a chance because he appreciated his talent and didn't want to kill a young expert like him. If he introduced him to the Peerless Martial Association, he would be considered to have made a contribution to the association, and Jordan would definitely help him out of gratitude.

However, Jordan had not only turned down his offer, but he even persuaded him to pledge allegiance to Lucas. It was simply a giant insult to him!

Who would leave an organization as powerful as the Peerless Martial Association and pledge allegiance to a greenhorn instead?

He wasn't brainless!

Besides, Jordan's request was clearly to insult him!

Thus, Dwayne didn't appreciate Jordan's talent anymore. All he wanted was to kill him now.

"Hmph!"

But before Dwayne even took action, Jordan, who was injured, immediately made the first move!

Jordan darted over, and the two of them got into another brawl.

But this time, Dwayne was shocked to discover that Jordan, who should be extremely weak due to his injuries, was actually much stronger than before!

And the most terrifying thing was that as time passed and they exchanged more and more blows, Jordan's aura gradually increased, each time stronger than the last!

This discovery made Dwayne feel frightened!

At the same time, Lucas, who had been sitting in the backseat of the Land Rover, finally looked at the two people fighting with a trace of interest in his eyes.

It seems that you're finally starting to break through your bottleneck!

Although he was indeed stronger than you just now and even injured you, he will eventually become a whetstone that will sharpen your sword!

Lucas thought to himself, feeling heartened.

...

On the field, Jordan's aura and strength increased again and again. The more it did, the more frightened Dwayne was.

Logically speaking, it was only reasonable for someone to be increasingly exhausted the harder and longer the battle was, just like he was now.

But this young man wasn't like this at all. He had clearly sustained some severe internal injuries from his punches, and his body should have become weaker. But instead, his aura was more intense, and he was getting stronger.

It didn't make any sense at all!

Dwayne gritted his teeth and continuously increased his strength, but he still found that despite exerting his greatest strength, Jordan could still keep up with him. Moreover, the gap between them was continuously shrinking!

The kid in front of him was just like a monster!

Bang!

He kicked Jordan's arm again.

Jordan was knocked back several steps by the force of the kick, but his expression didn't change. He immediately rushed straight toward Dwayne again to take on his attacks.

Even though Jordan had clearly taken strong punches and kicks from Dwayne, he didn't seem affected in the slightest, as if his pain threshold had increased. The force he had used to hurt Jordan previously could no longer do any damage.

At this moment, Dwayne had the illusion that it was because he had become too weak.

But he was an expert who had been immersed in martial arts for decades. So he could still tell if he had become weaker or if the other party had become stronger.

Indeed, the other party was becoming stronger!

But this was the reason he found it unbelievable!

“Punk, who exactly are you?” Dwayne asked through gritted teeth during the fight.

He had never met a young man like Jordan, who got stronger and stronger the more they fought!

Dwayne had a hunch that if he let Jordan go on like this, he would one day grow into a terrifying opponent!

Thus, the best solution was to kill him immediately and eliminate this threat while he was still growing!

But despite thinking so, Dwayne was still shocked to discover that he couldn't do it!

“Hah, you just have to remember that the person who killed you is Jordan!”

The more Jordan fought, the better he got at it. As the invisible bottleneck began to ease up, he seemed to be able to sense his potential being stimulated. The strength and speed that he originally thought were eady at their limit were being surpassed continuously. Even the powerful powerhouse of the Peerless Martial Association in front of him didn't seem to be that difficult to deal with anymore.

This feeling made an unprecedentedly strong aura emerge from Jordan's body. His fist was full of power as he punched straight at Dwayne's face!

“Go to hell!”

In this instant, Dwayne felt a sense of fear that made his hairs stand on end!

As an expert in martial arts, Dwayne was well aware of what kind of terrifying power Jordan's punch contained!

Oh no! He shouted inwardly, but it was too late for him to dodge the punch. All he could do was place his arms in front of his face to block.

Bang!

Jordan's punch hit Dwayne's arm, knocking Dwayne back and sending him flying away!

Thud!

With a dull sound, Dwayne fell to the ground and spat out a mouthful of blood!

His face was deathly pale, and his mind was groggy. For a moment, he had no idea where he was.

His arm had blocked Jordan's punch, but it only prevented the punch from hitting him in his face.

Now, his arm was so painful that he was about to pass out, and he didn't know if it was broken or not. His head had also been struck by the punch, causing him to fall into a brief moment of unconsciousness.

Thus, when he was sent flying away, he couldn't even control his body and could only crash to the ground.

The power of Jordan's punch was just that terrifying!

Jordan rubbed his fist with a sinister smile on his face as he approached Dwayne one step at a time.

"Didn't you say that you wanted to kill me?"

"You also wanted me to leave Lucas and join the Peerless Martial Association?"

"Oh, by the way, do you still want to take Lucas's life?"

"Given the way you are now, I doubt you can even defeat me. What qualifications do you have to fight Lucas?"

What he was saying was like slaps hitting Dwayne's face!

Dwayne knew very well that Jordan's blow just now had caused him to suffer a lot of damage, so he couldn't even control his body now.

Jordan was already so terrifying. In that case, how strong was Lucas, who had been sitting in the car?

At this moment, great fear surged in Dwayne's heart!

Chapter 936: Shocking

Dwayne finally realized that he barely knew anything about Lucas even though he thought that he had already understood him very well. He knew nothing about his strength!

Now, he couldn't even defeat Lucas's subordinate. In that case, how could he possibly kill Lucas and take revenge for his buddy Julian?

The more Dwayne thought about it, the more uneasy he felt. *No, this can't go on. Otherwise, I'll die here!*

Dwayne stared at Jordan, who was standing not too far in front of him, followed by Lucas, who was sitting in the Land Rover. A flash of determination suddenly appeared in his eyes!

He grabbed a handful of dirt from the ground and threw it at Jordan!

"Damn it!" Jordan didn't expect an expert like Dwayne would suddenly make such a roguish move. He shouted and quickly raised his hand to cover his eyes.

Dwayne took the opportunity to get up from the ground and turn around to flee.

"Don't think that I'm afraid of you. One day, the Peerless Martial Association will make you two die!" Dwayne said ferociously while escaping.

"Damn it!" Jordan cursed angrily. He flicked his sleeve and shook off the dirt before chasing after Dwayne.

"Don't chase him." An incredibly familiar voice sounded from behind Jordan.

At some point, Lucas had quietly gotten out of the car and was standing beside the Land Rover.

In the distance, Dwayne, who had already run a hundred meters away, suddenly staggered forward and fell to the ground as if he had been shot by a gun.

The tall and burly Dwayne struggled on the ground for a while before suddenly stiffening. Then he stopped moving.

Dwayne, a top expert of the Peerless Martial Association, died just like that!

Jordan was slightly stunned for a moment before immediately realizing that Dwayne had definitely died in Lucas's hands.

Jordan walked to Dwayne and glanced at the tiny hole that had penetrated through the back of his head. He exclaimed in awe, "Lucas, you... you're too strong!"

He had just tried his best to defeat Dwayne and had even sustained some internal injuries, yet Dwayne got killed by a pebble Lucas flicked out effortlessly.

It was indeed very infuriating.

Fortunately, he was Lucas's follower, so he felt very much at ease by his side.

If he were Lucas's enemy, facing such an unimaginably strong enemy would be too terrifying!

The mere thought of it made him feel hopeless!

...

In an exquisite villa belonging to the Howards in DC...

Sitting in his study, Ezra was holding a book in his hand. He read it for a long time, but he didn't process a single word in it.

He put the book down in annoyance, raised his wrist to look at the time on his watch, and frowned.

It had been almost an hour since Lucas left the Howard residence. No matter what, the Peerless Martial Association's top powerhouse Dwayne should have already killed Lucas by now.

But why wasn't there any news yet?

"Did Dwayne... not make a move? Or did he mess up?" Ezra frowned, but soon, he dismissed the thought.

He understood Dwayne well enough to know that he shared a close relationship with Julian. He was certain that Dwayne would definitely deal with Lucas after learning that the person who had killed Julian appeared in DC.

It was even more impossible for Dwayne to mess up.

Dwayne's true strength was among the top five in the entire Peerless Martial Association headquarters, and he was sure that Lucas was no match for him!

"Those pieces of trash haven't obtained any news!"

Just as Ezra was thinking about whether to call the subordinates he had sent out to keep an eye on the news, the door to his study was suddenly knocked on forcefully.

"Come in!" Ezra said in displeasure.

The next second, one of his subordinates rushed in with panic written all over his face. "Mr. Ezra, he's dead!"

Ezra was about to lose his temper. But after hearing this remark, he realized that this subordinate was the one he had sent to keep an eye on Dwayne.

“Did you just say he’s dead?” Ezra was stunned. Then he immediately had a look of ecstasy on his face. “Haha, is that damned Lucas Gray dead?”

“I knew it. I knew I could count on Master Dwayne! Even if Lucas Gray is more powerful than the Howards, so what? I refuse to believe that he can defeat Master Dwayne of the Peerless Martial Association!”

“Haha, as long as he dies, it will be impossible for Grandpa to hand over the position of helmsman to Florence. Besides, Samuel has just been stripped of his status as successor, so he won’t be able to compete with me anymore!”

“Soon, I will become the most legitimate successor of the Howards!”

Ezra was so excited that his face flushed red, and he looked in the sky to laugh a few times.

His subordinate was on the verge of tears. “No... Mr. Ezra, you’re mistaken!”

“The person who died isn’t Lucas Gray but... Master Dwayne of the Peerless Martial Association!”

“What did you say?!” Ezra’s face froze. Then his expression changed drastically when he realized what exactly the subordinate had said. “What did you say? Who did you say is dead? Master Dwayne is dead?”

“Yes... the person who died is Master Dwayne!”

The subordinate stammered, “I followed your instructions and followed Lucas Gray’s car quietly. I saw with my own eyes that Master Dwayne’s SUV stopped Lucas Gray’s car, and then there was a conflict.

“I... I was afraid of being discovered by them, so I didn’t dare to get too close and could only hide and watch from a distance.

“Later, Lucas Gray’s car drove away, and Master Dwayne... died on the ground! I went to confirm it, and he’s really... really dead!”

The subordinates revealed everything that he had seen.

Ezra staggered and loosened his grip on his collar before asking in disbelief, “How is that possible? Master Dwayne is a top expert of the Peerless Martial Association. How could he have died in the hands of that punk Lucas Gray?”

“Master Dwayne’s true strength can be ranked among the top five in the Peerless Martial Association. How could he be killed by a young punk like Lucas Gray?”

“I don’t believe it!”

Ezra snapped at the subordinate, “You said you personally saw it yourself. How did Master Dwayne die?”

The subordinate hurriedly said, “I was too far away, so I can’t describe their fight in detail. But I saw a small hole in the back of Master Dwayne’s head after he died. He looked like he had been shot!

“But... but I didn’t hear a gunshot. I don’t know...”

“A small hole in his head? That’s right. He must have been shot!” Ezra seemed to have come to a sudden realization. “I was wondering how they could have killed Master Dwayne, who has such a high rank in the Peerless Martial Association. It turns out they used a gun!”

“You probably didn’t hear the gunshot because they used a silencer to prevent trouble. Hmph, how daring!

“If the Peerless Martial Association finds out about this, those two punks aren’t going to survive the night!”

A look of menace appeared on Ezra’s face again.

Chapter 937: Peerless Hades

After all, Ezra was a person with profound thoughts. Although he was greatly surprised that Lucas was still alive and had even killed Dwayne, he soon thought of another way to kill Lucas.

He believed that as long as the Peerless Martial Association learned of Dwayne’s death, they would definitely not let Lucas off!

With a sinister smile, Ezra took out his phone and planned to contact the other experts of the Peerless Martial Association.

Bang!

Someone suddenly kicked open the door of Ezra’s villa!

A tall and burly man came in.

“Who are you?!” Ezra hollered. His pupils suddenly constricted the moment he saw the door of the villa that had been kicked to the middle of the living room!

This... this is definitely not an ordinary person!

“Who exactly...”

Just as Ezra was about to ask about the identity of this man who suddenly barged in, he was surprised to find that there were several Howards following behind this man, including Felix, Samuel, and Florence.

“Grandpa? What... what’s going on? Who is this?” Ezra asked with a look of bewilderment.

But before Felix and the others could answer him, the tall and burly man suddenly moved closer and grabbed Ezra’s neck.

“Tell me how Dwayne died?” The tall and burly man looked straight into Ezra’s eyes, exuding a cold and sinister aura.

Ezra’s eyes suddenly constricted, and a massive wave of fear surged in his heart.

Who exactly is this person?

Why would he find me about Dwayne’s death?

Does he already know that Dwayne’s death is related to me?

Of course, what scared Ezra even more was that this man was still strangling his neck tightly, making him feel horrified. He didn’t doubt that his neck would break if this man tightened his grip.

“Lucas... Lucas Gray killed him!” Ezra didn’t dare to hesitate at all as he frantically answered.

The tall and burly man immediately tightened his grip on Ezra’s neck and questioned with murderous intent, “Lucas Gray? Who is that? Speak up!”

“Arghh!” Ezra merely felt an immense force on his neck, making him feel so suffocated that his eyes rolled backward. He felt as if the bones of his throat were about to break!

The Howards’ hearts skipped a beat when they saw this scene. Felix subconsciously wanted to plead for mercy and beg him to let his grandson off, but he instantly lost his nerve when the tall and burly man glared at him.

“I... I say it! P-Please let me go. I’ll tell you everything!” Ezra was being strangled to the point of his eyes rolling back as he spoke with great difficulty.

“Hmph!” The tall and burly man flung him hard onto the floor like he was tossing a bag of garbage.

“Speak up! If I find out that you’re lying to me, I’ll make sure your life is a living hell!” the burly man said coldly.

Ezra was overwhelmed with pain, but he couldn’t worry about it now. He took two deep breaths to relieve his feeling of suffocation.

His face was deathly pale and streaming cold sweat. His body was trembling violently, and he was too weak to even support himself.

Ezra was extremely distressed.

At the side, Felix felt heartbroken when he saw this, but he knew that the burly man was an existence that even the Howards didn’t dare to offend. So he didn’t dare to say a word.

Actually, Felix was still confused, as he had no idea why this terrifying big shot suddenly barged into their home and even looked for his grandson Ezra to ask him about the whereabouts of another expert.

“I’ll speak... Lucas is the one who killed Julian York!

“So after Master Dwayne found out about this, he immediately wanted to kill Lucas, but he ended up getting killed by Lucas instead!

“I’ve just found out about this news. Lucas Gray has a powerful subordinate, and they worked together to kill Master Dwayne with a gun!”

Ezra revealed everything with horror all over his face. Of course, he was extremely smart and didn’t mention that he was the one who tipped Dwayne off and asked him to kill Lucas.

Now that Dwayne was already dead, the Peerless Martial Association would definitely not let him off if they found out that his tipoff caused Dwayne’s death!

After hearing what Ezra said, Florence immediately panicked. “Ezra, what nonsense are you saying? Lucas just left us now long ago. How could he have killed Master Dwayne?

“And you’ve been staying at the Howard residence. How could you have found out about this?

“You... Don’t spout nonsense here just because of some personal feuds and deceive this expert from the Peerless Martial Association!”

Florence was extremely anxious now.

Felix had just publicly announced that as long as she could ease the relationship between the Howards and Lucas within ten days, he would hand over the position of helmsman to her. It could be said that Lucas was extremely important to her now, so how could she possibly watch Ezra accuse Lucas of killing Dwayne?

Seeing how the Peerless Martial Association's expert was behaving, she knew that he had come with hostile intentions. If Ezra was allowed to continue talking, he would probably harm Lucas!

In that case, all of Florence's future plans would be foiled!

Afraid that the burly man would really think that he was saying nonsense, Ezra hurriedly shouted at Florence, "What do you know? I'm telling the truth! Master Dwayne was killed by Lucas Gray!"

Florence was furious. "I'm your aunt. How dare you speak to me like that?"

Then she turned to face Felix and complained, "Father, look what he's become. I'm his aunt. How dare he yell at me? Does he even care about his elders? If he becomes the helmsman, I'm afraid he wouldn't even take you seriously, let alone me."

Felix's forehead throbbed, and he barked, "All of you, shut up!"

Now that a top expert of the Peerless Martial Association had suddenly visited and asked about an important thing from his grandson, the slightest carelessness could bring about a calamity to the Howards. Yet these two were still arguing with each other for the sake of power and authority at this critical juncture. How insensible!

Felix was the head of the family after all. After he gave the order, even Florence and Ezra had to keep their mouths shut regardless of how unwilling they were.

Felix looked at the burly man in front of him and said very politely. "Hades, there must be some misunderstanding here. Lucas Gray left our residence just an hour ago. He couldn't have killed Master Dwayne. My grandson probably heard wrongly. I'm really sorry!"

Even Felix didn't know the real name of this burly man. All he knew was that his code name was Hades and that he was not to be provoked.

Thus, even though he was the helmsman of the Howards, he was extremely polite toward Hades.

Hearing what Felix said, Hades darkened immediately. "In that case, your grandson didn't tell me the truth?"

"I just told you that if you dared to lie to me, I'd make sure your life is a living hell!"

Hades raised his foot, stomped down on Ezra's chest, and pressed down hard!

Chapter 938: Bait

"Ahhh!" Ezra shrieked in misery.

Although Hades didn't exert his full strength, even 1% of the strength from a terrifying person like him was still far from what a scion like Ezra could resist.

At this moment, Ezra only felt that the bones in his chest were being crushed by Hades, and the pain made him turn pale in horror.

"I... Everything I said is true! Don't kill me! Master Dwayne... Master Dwayne was really killed by Lucas Gray. My subordinate saw it with his own eyes! This can't be wrong!" Ezra frantically said with horror written all over his face.

"How did your subordinate manage to witness it?" Hades asked doubtfully, his eyes narrowed.

"Because... because..." Ezra's eyeballs rolled around as he tried to find a reason to get out of this.

But he was overwhelmed with fear, so his thoughts were much slower than usual. After a while, he still couldn't find a reasonable excuse.

But Hades wasn't a fool. As soon as he saw Ezra's eyes moving around, he immediately knew what he was thinking.

"Hmph! Don't play any tricks in front of me. Hurry up and tell me the truth!

"If you dare to lie to me, I'll stomp you to death immediately!"

Hades's foot pressed down harder on Ezra's chest.

"Ugh! I... I'll speak up!" Ezra was in so much pain that he didn't dare to have any other thoughts. He frantically said, "I... I informed Master Dwayne that Master Julian's murderer is Lucas Gray and that he just left the Howard residence!"

"It's absolutely true that Lucas Gray killed Master Julian! I saw it with my own eyes back at the martial arts competition in California!"

"This matter isn't a secret in California and Oregon. It's easy to find out about it! I'm definitely not lying!"

"And when Master Dwayne looked for Lucas Gray to take revenge, he... he was despicably shot dead!"

Ezra didn't dare to hide anything as he hurriedly told everything he knew and had done.

After Felix heard this, the veins on his forehead throbbed violently, and his face was full of anger.

He had already said publicly that no Howard was allowed to cause trouble for Lucas again!

But Ezra, his grandson who had always been obedient, had completely disregarded his orders and even defied them. He had deliberately revealed Lucas's whereabouts to the Peerless Martial Association so that they could hunt Lucas down!

Although the relationship between him and Lucas was strained, and Lucas didn't hold much affection for the Howards, he was unquestionably strong. If he could get Lucas's power and use it for the Howards, it would definitely help the Howards go further.

This was why Felix had issued the order to make Florence think of a way to ease their relationship with Lucas.

But he didn't expect his grandson to play tricks behind his back and try to get Lucas killed!

Moreover, Lucas didn't die. Instead, it was Dwayne, an expert of the Peerless Martial Association, who died. And now, he had even provoked Hades of the Peerless Martial Association.

If he didn't handle it well, even the Howards would be implicated!

At the thought of this, Felix wished he could kill his stupid grandson immediately!

Florence was just as horrified and angry.

She didn't expect that Ezra had actually followed them to California and witnessed Lucas killing Julian.

Moreover, Ezra had tried to use the Peerless Martial Association to get rid of Lucas in order to become the successor of the Howards!

That would be terrible!

Florence felt that things were going awry. If Lucas became an eyesore to the Peerless Martial Association, he would probably have no way out except death!

She didn't think that Lucas alone would be able to deal with the massive and terrifying Peerless Martial Association.

Suddenly, Ezra pointed at Florence and said loudly, "This woman was at the competition too. She witnessed it with her own eyes!

"She's also Lucas Gray's mother-in-law. His wife is this woman's illegitimate daughter!

"If you want to deal with Lucas and make him show up, you can use this woman to force him to comply!"

Ezra's words immediately shocked all the Howards!

In particular, Felix and Florence felt a chilling wave surge up from the bottom of their feet!

The first of the Howards' rules was that the members of the family were not to turn against each other.

But Ezra was now guiding an outsider to kill a Howard!

This was way too overboard!

Hades' gaze followed the direction of Ezra's finger. When it landed on Florence's pale face, his lips curled into a bloodthirsty smile.

"It turns out that the Howards are so close to Lucas Gray... Hah, what a great surprise!

"In that case, I will give you a chance. Call Lucas Gray right now and tell him to come to the Howard residence within twenty minutes. Otherwise, I don't mind killing his mother-in-law here!"

Everyone suddenly turned to look at Florence.

Florence even turned paler and stumbled backward a few steps.

The expressions on the Howards' faces were rather interesting when they saw this scene.

Some people expressed sympathy for Florence, while others seemed to be gloating.

After all, Florence was merely a woman, yet the helmsman had agreed an hour ago to let her become the next helmsman of the Howards. This made many of them indignant.

Meanwhile, Ezra was the most excited one.

He was certain that as long as Florence was used as bait to lure Lucas to the Howard residence, Hades would definitely kill him!

Once Lucas died, Florence's plan to succeed as the helmsman would be foiled completely.

At that time, he would be the successor of the Howards!

Florence took several steps backward until her back was against the wall. Then she leaned against the wall to stabilize her body.

But Florence's expression was extremely bad, and her heart was in a panic.

She could indeed ignore Lucas's wellbeing, but he was the key to whether she could become the helmsman. If Lucas died, then all her plans would be in vain, and it would be difficult for her to have a good future!

Moreover, Lucas didn't acknowledge her as his mother-in-law, nor did he care about her wellbeing. Even if she begged him to save her, he would never do so since he would know how dangerous it was!

If... if Lucas refused to come, what would happen to her?

Would she be killed by the terrifying Hades?

Chapter 939: Dilemma

Florence endured her fear and said, "Although Lucas Gray is my son-in-law, if you're thinking about using me to get him to come to the Howards', you can forget about it!

"I abandoned my daughter soon after she was born. I haven't even met her once in more than twenty years, and we don't have any mother-daughter relationship!

"Now, she doesn't even acknowledge me as her mother, and Lucas Gray won't acknowledge me as his mother-in-law either. In fact... he even threatened me and warned me not to disrupt my daughter's life. Otherwise, he wouldn't be polite to me!

"Given our terrible relationship, do you still think he would willingly come here for the sake of my life?

"I'm actually of no use against Lucas!"

Florence spoke through gritted teeth. In order to escape this situation, she didn't hesitate to reveal her true relationship with Lucas in front of the Howards.

It wasn't an affectionate and caring relationship between a mother-in-law and son-in-law. Rather, they were no different from strangers. They even held animosity toward each other.

Florence could no longer care about whether revealing the truth would affect her gaining authority among the Howards or not. She knew that if she didn't draw a clear line between her and Lucas now, Hades would probably really treat her as bait to lure Lucas into coming over. If Lucas didn't come, she would be dead meat!

"Hah, I don't care. No matter what, go inform him now!"

"I don't care what method you use. In short, if I don't see Lucas Gray here within twenty minutes, I will immediately kill you!"

"Also, you Howards are all his accomplices. No one will escape!"

Hades stared coldly at Florence and the surrounding Howards. "Remember, you only have twenty minutes!"

"How... how did this happen?"

The Howards were in a mess.

The man in front of them was named Hades because he was extremely ruthless.

Although the Howards were one of the top eight families of DC, Hades didn't take them seriously at all.

In the eyes of many, the eight top families of DC were at the pinnacle of the country, and the massive and powerful Peerless Martial Association was probably slightly stronger than one of these families.

But in the eyes of the experts of the eight top families of DC and the Peerless Martial Association, they all knew that the eight top families would have to stand together to be a match for the Peerless Martial Association.

The Howards would never be able to resist a behemoth like the Peerless Martial Association alone!

At this moment, the Howards were completely panicked as they all turned to look at Felix and Florence.

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Meanwhile, Lucas had already returned to the hotel room he had booked in DC. He was currently in a video call with Cheyenne and Amelia.

"Daddy, you've been away from home for days. I miss you so much!" Amelia placed her adorable little face in front of the camera and pouted while saying coquettishly, "Daddy, when can you come home?"

Looking at his daughter's tender and cute face, as well as her glistening eyes full of affection, Lucas felt like his heart was about to melt.

"I'm coming home tomorrow. I'll take you out for some good food then, okay?" Lucas said calmly.

Lucas had basically settled his matters in DC, so he didn't plan to continue staying here. He decided to head home early tomorrow morning.

Amelia drew a large circle with her tender finger and asked with her bright eyes blinding in anticipation, "Hehe, really? There are lots of things I want to eat! I want fish and chips, meatballs, casserole, and ice cream! And lots of other delicious food!

"Daddy, will you really take me out to eat?"

Lucas chuckled and teased Amelia, "Amelia, you want to eat so many things, but can you finish everything? Why don't you choose a favorite first?"

Amelia immediately scrunched her brows in thought, seemingly in a dilemma. "Uh... what should I do? Do I only get to pick one? In that case... I pick... I pick..."

Watching Lucas teasing Amelia, Cheyenne couldn't hold back her laughter. "When you come home tomorrow, she might still be in a dilemma!"

Lucas smiled as he looked at his pretty wife and adorable daughter.

Suddenly, Cheyenne said, "Ah, I have an incoming call. I'll talk to you later! Goodbye!"

"Alright, see you in Orange County tomorrow!" Lucas hung up with a smile.

After video chatting with his wife and daughter, Lucas was in a much better mood, and the gloomy feelings he had felt at the Howards' previously were gone.

He didn't want to bother about those matters about the Howards.

Lucas was annoyed with the people of the Peerless Martial Association too.

Once he returned to Orange County tomorrow, the matters in DC would come to an end for now.

But just as Lucas was getting ready to take a shower, his cell phone suddenly rang.

The caller ID on his phone showed that it was Cheyenne, who had just hung up.

Despite being slightly puzzled, Lucas quickly answered. "Hello, Cheyenne..."

Cheyenne's fluttered voice immediately rang in his ears. "Lucas! Bad news, my... that woman just called me and said that someone from the Peerless Martial Association is at the Howards' right now and that you have to be there within twenty minutes. Otherwise... he'll kill her!"

Lucas frowned.

The woman that Cheyenne was referring to was undoubtedly Florence.

Lucas had also thought that the people of the Peerless Martial Association probably wouldn't let the matter rest just like that and that they would soon come to him. But he didn't expect the Peerless Martial Association to take action so quickly and even use Florence as a threat.

Although Lucas didn't care about Florence's life, she was Cheyenne's mother after all, and there was no way he could ignore this.

"Lucas, what's going on?!"

"Aren't the Howards one of the top eight families of DC? Why would the Peerless Martial Association threaten them?"

"Also, why... why did that person from the Peerless Martial Association insist on having you go over?"

"What's going on?"

Cheyenne was incredibly flustered, and she sounded like she was sobbing.

She had no idea what was going on, and all she knew was that Lucas and Florence were in danger, so she was extremely anxious and nervous.

Although she had yet to reconcile with Florence, Florence was her mother and the woman who had given her life after all. How could Cheyenne possibly leave her alone after knowing that she was in danger?

Moreover, she was extremely worried about Lucas's safety. Since the other party dared to use Florence's life to threaten Lucas, he would definitely be in great danger if he went.

They were both people Cheyenne cared about greatly, making her feel extremely conflicted. She wanted Lucas to rescue Florence, but she didn't want anything to happen to him.

Lucas could tell from Cheyenne's voice that she was worried. He smiled and comforted, "Cheyenne, don't worry. I'll head to the Howards' now. Rest assured. Nothing will happen to either of us!

"Don't forget where I returned from.

"I was known as the invincible God of War. What can a mere Peerless Martial Association do to me?"

Chapter 940: Expulsion from the Family

Lucas's confident voice immediately gave Cheyenne peace of mind.

At the thought of Lucas's past and the power he had shown in the face of the various powerful enemies previously, she believed that Lucas wasn't blowing his trumpet.

Since he said that he would be fine, she was sure that he definitely would!

"Honey, I trust you!" Cheyenne gritted her teeth and said, "I'll wait here for news from you. Once you're done handling those matters, call me to let me feel relieved!"

"Okay, I will. Rest assured, and wait for my good news!" Lucas agreed with a faint smile.

After he hung up the phone, his face immediately darkened. He knocked on the door of another room within the presidential suite.

Jordan came out with a puzzled look. "Lucas, is something wrong?"

"Another person with a death wish is here. You can practice your skills again!" Lucas said coldly. "Let's immediately go back to the Howards'!"

Jordan knew that something must have happened. Without further ado, he followed Lucas out the door and drove the car to the Howard residence.

...

At this moment, in the Howard residence in DC...

The Howards all gathered in Ezra's villa, looking extremely nervous.

Florence looked especially horrified when the crowd surrounded her.

She knew that Lucas would never come to the Howards' to save her, so she could only call Cheyenne.

Since Cheyenne was the person Lucas cared about the most, and Cheyenne would never watch her biological mother die just like that, Florence knew that she would definitely ask Lucas to save her.

In other words, Lucas would definitely come.

But what Florence was most worried about now was that it was probably impossible for Lucas to survive Hades' wrath.

As the most terrifying existence of the Peerless Martial Association, Hades had unfathomable strength. Even Lucas couldn't possibly be a match for this terrifying expert!

Not only was Florence thinking this way, but the rest of the Howards also had no hope that Lucas would be able to defeat Hades.

Although Lucas had revealed a domineering aura that made Howards' experts feel terrified, Jordan was the only one who took action. Lucas had never displayed his true strength.

As for the matter of Lucas killing Julian and Dwayne, the Howards had only heard about it but didn't see it with their own eyes. Thus, it was even more impossible for them to imagine Lucas's combat power.

Moreover, because of the immense power of the Peerless Martial Association in DC, the Howards didn't believe that Lucas's power alone could match up to that of Hades, the top expert of the Peerless Martial Association.

Among the nervous Howards, only Ezra had some faint excitement in his eyes.

As long as Lucas came, he would definitely be killed by Hades!

After that, Florence would completely lose her eligibility to compete to be the head of the family, and Ezra would finally get the position he had been longing for!

Ezra was still planning things out in his head. But he never thought that if Lucas was killed by Hades, he wouldn't be able to escape the blame for instigating Dwayne, which led to his death!

Given Hades' character, he would never let Ezra go, so it was even more impossible for him to be the Howards' helmsman!

As time passed, the time limit of 20 minutes set by Hades was almost up.

But Lucas never appeared.

Florence twisted her fingers and looked at the door every few seconds. She seemed to be getting more and more anxious and nervous.

If Lucas really didn't show up... she would probably be killed by Hades!

She had now figured out Hades's identity and character, and her heart was full of fear for this man who would kill without blinking and had a past of being brutal.

Lucas... why aren't you here yet? Come quickly!

If you still don't come, I... I'm going to die!

Aren't you afraid that Cheyenne will blame you for this? Hurry up!

Florence exclaimed hysterically.

The other Howards also looked terribly uneasy, and they kept looking at the villa entrance.

Hades had already said that if Lucas didn't show up on time, the rest of the Howards wouldn't be able to escape either!

If Hades took his anger out on them, they would be in deep trouble!

"Hah, there's only two minutes left before time is up!

"If Lucas Gray doesn't show up in two minutes, don't blame me for starting a massacre here!"

Hades looked at the watch and suddenly had an extremely morbid, cold, and bloodthirsty expression as his gaze swept the Howards one by one.

The hearts of all the Howards tensed up, and a feeling of fear instantly surged from the bottom of their hearts.

What he said was so menacing that the Howards all felt terrified.

Although the Howards had many guards and expert bodyguards, they were nothing to the Peerless Martial Association!

Since Hades said that he wanted to launch a massacre here, it was definitely not just an empty threat!

"Florence, what have you done? Your son-in-law is a scourge! If it wasn't for him, this wouldn't have happened to our family!"

“That’s right! If it wasn’t for your desire to seize power and become the helmsman, this wouldn’t have happened!”

“You put the rest of us in trouble for your own ambitions. How can we live in the same place with a vicious woman like you? You should have been expelled from the family long ago!”

“How dare you even dream of being the helmsman? Bitch, you should get out of the Howard family as soon as possible!”

“That’s right. Get the hell out of the family!”

...

The rest of the Howards rebuked Florence under the extreme fear.

They all agreed that if it wasn’t for her son-in-law, the Howards wouldn’t be facing the current crisis, nor would they be threatened by Hades.

Hades sneered at this scene and chuckled sinisterly.

The Howards, one of the eight top families of DC, really show their ugly side in the face of the threat of death!

But of course, these privileged and pampered scions were nothing in the face of true strength. They were no different from poor dogs and cats at the mercy of their slaughterer!

If not for some rules of the Peerless Martial Association, he would be able to slaughter all the hundreds of people in the Howard residence by himself right now!

Although he couldn’t kill all the Howards, he was still allowed to kill a few to assert dominance.

While thinking about it, Hades couldn’t help sticking out his tongue to lick the corners of his mouth and show a bloodthirsty and maniacal smile.

This smile immediately sent a chill into the Howards’ hearts.

Felix gritted his teeth and said, “Hades, as you can see, none of us welcomes that punk, and only this woman is related to him.

“I will immediately expel this woman from the family. You can do whatever you want with her!

“I only hope that you can spare the rest of the Howards!”

Felix's words immediately caused Florence to freeze, completely dumbstruck.

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Chapter 941: Cold-Blooded and Heartless

Florence's eyes widened in disbelief. She couldn't believe those words came out of her father's mouth.

Just now, all the Howards were accusing and blaming her. They even wished they could kick her out of the family immediately. Despite feeling sad, she didn't have any other emotional fluctuations.

But her father actually put all the blame on her and even said that he would sever ties with her, expel her from the family, and let Hades deal with her.

What he said made Florence's blood freeze!

Even Hades looked surprised as he asked sinisterly, "Isn't this woman your biological daughter? Can you bear to leave her at my mercy?"

Felix nodded without hesitation. "Yes. Although she's indeed my daughter, she's brought disaster to the Howards. For the sake of my family, I can only expel her from the family!

"After we remove her from the family, she and her son-in-law will no longer have anything to do with the Howards. You can do whatever you want to them, but I hope that you won't vent your anger on the rest of the Howards."

His eyes were extremely cold, and his words were extremely indifferent and heartless.

This scene was like a dagger stabbing deep into Florence's heart.

Tears welled up in Florence's eyes as she asked through gritted teeth. "Father... in your heart, have you never treated me as your daughter?"

Felix stared at her coldly. "How dare you have the cheek to ask me that? If it wasn't because of you and your son-in-law, how could the Howards be in so much trouble?"

"Also, don't think I'm unaware that you've hated me for a long time. You should already know about that man, and maybe you've been thinking about how to kill me to avenge him.

"At this point, what right do you have to say that I don't care about our father-and-daughter relationship?"

Felix spoke mercilessly and exposed what Florence had been trying hard to hide.

Florence felt like a sharp knife suddenly stabbed in her chest, putting her in so much pain that her face turned deathly pale.

“So, you already knew...” She laughed self-deprecatingly before suddenly raising her head to glower at Felix with a burning gaze. She shouted, “You were the one who did that to me first!

“I used to look up to you and respect you as my father, but what about you?”

“For the sake of the family’s interests. You kept trying to stop us from being together and insisting that I marry a man from another wealthy family. Later, you even killed him!

“And you deliberately hid this information from me, making me look like a fool for thinking that he abandoned me and my child. I even hated him for so many years! You must have been so proud to see me kneeling in front of you and begging for forgiveness while hating him. At the time, did you ever think that I was your daughter?”

“Later, you still used me as a pawn and made me marry another man. Did you ever treat me as your daughter?”

“Since you’ve treated me like this, am I supposed to continue treating you as a loving father and let you use me? Shouldn’t I hate you?”

Florence stopped hiding the hatred and grievances in her heart. She lashed out at Felix with her face covered in the tears she had been holding back for years.

But after Felix heard Florence’s complaints, his expression didn’t change at all. He merely said coldly, “You’re a daughter of the Howards, and the purpose of your existence is to obey the family’s arrangements obediently and contribute your value to the family! What am I raising you for if you’re useless to the family?”

“As for that man, you’re the one who killed him!

“You’ve long known about the family rules, so you have known that your only choice was to marry a scion of another wealthy family for a marriage alliance. But you insisted on disobeying me and eloping with that man. In the end, the person who killed that man is you, not me!

Felix’s cold and indifferent words were like a hammer slamming into Florence’s head, causing her to be so dizzy that she could barely stand.

How... was this possible?!

Clearly, Felix was the heartless man who had ordered someone to kill Drew Cruise, yet he pushed the blame onto her!

“So... when you said that as long as I could salvage the relationship between Lucas and the Howards within ten days, you would let me become helmsman. Was that a lie too?” Florence stared intently into Felix’s eyes with clenched teeth.

With a contemptuous sneer, Felix said, “Do you think that the Howards, one of the eight top families of DC, would hand over the position of helmsman to a woman? How embarrassed would the Howards be if word about that got out?”

Florence stumbled forward and almost fell to the floor, her mind almost turning blank.

At this point, she finally realized that right from the beginning, Felix had never thought of handing over the position of helmsman to her because she was just his pawn.

Felix had only made a verbal promise to tempt her into slogging her guts out to do whatever he wanted her to.

Even if she really completed those matters, he would have a hundred reasons to demand more from her. But in the end, he would never give her the position of helmsman.

He clearly knew what she wanted the most, but he used it as bait to make use of her!

It was just like how Felix didn’t hesitate to break her and Drew Cruise up to get her to agree to a marriage alliance. He had even killed Drew.

Felix had said that he could allow her to return to the Howards on the condition that she agreed to marry into the Lambert family. Later, he even controlled her to seize all the Lamberts’ assets.

What he was doing now was also for the sake of the family’s interests.

Florence smiled self-deprecatingly, “It turns out that everything you said to me is fake!

“You said that you wanted me to find a way to resolve the conflict between Lucas and the Howards, and then you would let me become the family head. You were just using me to rope Lucas in to make him work for the Howards.

“Also, you told Lucas previously that if he brought Cheyenne back to the Howards, you would let him become the Howards’ helmsman. You must have been fooling him too, huh? Unfortunately, I took it seriously and even reprimanded him...

“In fact, Lucas has much greater awareness than me! Back then, he rejected it without hesitating at all. He must have already seen through your motive, and he never trusted you at all! Haha, despite being at this age, I’m still far more ignorant than a young man!

“Now, someone from the Peerless Martial Association came, and it’s related to Lucas. You severed ties with him because you think that he’s about to die and won’t be of any use to the family. In order to do that, you’ve even kicked me out of the family!

“Father, you’re really cold and ruthless. All you care about are interests! You try to make use of anyone who will benefit you, and you won’t hesitate to kick away anyone who has no value to you!

“Haha, you’re just a heartless person! You’re so cold-blooded it’s terrifying!”

Pamela smiled mirthlessly with a face full of tears.

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I should have long realized what kind of a person my father is. Yet I keep holding onto hope for him, thinking that although he’s heartless, he should still care about me since I’m his daughter.

But the cruel truth had now hit Florence hard, causing her to sink into despair!

Chapter 942: She Regrets

Felix glanced at Florence with a straight face and sneered. “It seems that you’re not that stupid after all! You’re right. But as the helmsman of the Howards, I naturally prioritize the interests of the family before everything else! Any other emotion is nothing but a burden!

“I might as well tell you the truth. I did consider grooming your son-in-law, but unfortunately, he had a death wish and offended the Peerless Martial Association by killing Julian and Dwayne. He will definitely die today!”

Felix thought that the only path Lucas had left was death since he had already offended the Peerless Martial Association.

Even if he was powerful and could defeat Hades of the Peerless Martial Association, the other experts and powerhouses of the association would definitely never let him off!

Felix was well aware of how terrifyingly powerful the Peerless Martial Association was.

Even if the eight giants of DC joined forces, they might not be able to suppress the Peerless Martial Association, much less Lucas alone.

To the Howards, a dying person naturally had no longer of any use value.

After hearing the conversation between Felix and Florence, the Howards were all shocked.

They originally thought that Felix really planned to give up the position of the Howards' helmsman to Florence or Lucas. They even secretly thought that Felix was getting old and muddled. But now, they finally knew that it was all bait Felix threw out.

When Samuel heard all this, a look of euphoria appeared on his face.

The reason he was removed from the position of successor was that he had tried to kill Lucas, thereby violating the family rule that the Howards were not to kill each other.

But since Felix had already given up Lucas and planned to sever ties with him, then the mistake he had made before probably wouldn't be considered a mistake anymore.

Like this, Felix should also restore his canceled position as the heir of the family.

Meanwhile, a surge of excitement appeared in Ezra's eyes.

It turned out that his grandfather had only been using Florence. He didn't really intend to let her become the helmsman as promised.

Now, Samuel had also been removed from his position of successor, so he was sure that he would become the helmsman eventually!

Both of them were just as excited, but they were trying their best to control their expressions so that they wouldn't seem too happy.

After all, Hades was still here, and the Howards' crisis was still unresolved.

Florence wiped the tears off her face, took a deep breath, and suddenly asked, "Hah, are you so sure that Lucas Gray will definitely die here?"

Felix raised his brows. "I admit that Lucas Gray does have some ability, but do you really think he can live when the Peerless Martial Association is targeting him?"

"I just said that I felt that you weren't that stupid, but you've now asked such a stupid question!"

Florence pursed her lips and said coldly, "Is that so? You'll probably see in a bit who the truly stupid one is."

For some reason, Florence, who had lost confidence in Lucas after seeing Hades, suddenly had huge confidence in Lucas now that her father had abandoned her.

Perhaps it was because Lucas was the only person she could count on now, or perhaps it was because of the power Lucas had shown before. In short, Florence suddenly had a firm thought in her heart. She believed that Lucas would never lose to Hades!

“Hmph, woman, do you really think that punk can escape from my hands?” Hades frowned in displeasure. “I’m too lazy to bother talking to you! Twenty minutes is up, and that punk Lucas Gray is still nowhere in sight. You can die now!”

With that, Hades stood up from the couch, exuding an oppressive aura, suddenly appeared in front of Florence, and grabbed her neck.

Terrified, Florence tried to dodge, but how could a weak woman like her escape from Hades, an expert of the Peerless Martial Association.

When the Howards saw Florence being strangled and kicking her legs in the air desperately, their expressions changed drastically as they took a step back involuntarily. Yet no one was willing to come forward to plead for Florence.

“Ahh... Let go... Save me...” Florence had trouble breathing and tried her best to squeeze out a few words while on the verge of suffocation. She subconsciously turned to look at Felix.

But Felix still looked calm and indifferent. He merely glanced at her casually before looking away without any intention to plead for her.

Clearly... he was the helmsman of the Howards. If he really pleaded for mercy with Hades, Hades would probably let her off for the time being. It would at least buy some time.

But Felix didn’t do anything. It was as if she had become truly useless now, so he didn’t have to bother about her anymore.

A penetrating coolness enveloped Florence.

While she was suffocating and her vision became dim, she suddenly recalled some scenes from many years ago.

At the time, she was still a young girl who had just graduated from college and was reserved and innocent.

But at some point, she ditched the bodyguard that her family had sent to follow her in a fit of anger. While enjoying a rare moment of freedom, she encountered a few lechers who surrounded her in an alley and tried to violate her.

A coarse and large hand covered her mouth. Those who passed by would quickly escape upon seeing this scene, and no one dared to step forward to help her.

Florence, who had always lived in the lap of luxury, finally knew what it was like to be helpless as her desperate cries for help were all futile.

Just when she was about to fall into despair, a young man dressed in extremely simple clothes appeared in front of her like a knight in shining armor.

Florence would always remember how Drew looked back then. He was only in his early twenties and looked a little immature. Facing the lechers, he didn't show a single trace of fear or nervousness. But more than that, he looked dignified and righteous as he stood in front of her without hesitation.

Drew wasn't a martial arts expert, but his ruthlessness and determination to fight despite being injured scared the lechers away.

From then on, Florence fell in love with him.

Afterward, Florence and Drew slowly developed a romance after this encounter of the hero saving the damsel from distress.

But their relationship was vehemently opposed by the Howards, especially Felix, who grounded Florence.

Later, Florence and Drew found a way to escape. They eloped and escaped far away to a city on the west coast. Soon, they found out that she was pregnant.

In order for Florence and their child to have a happy family, Drew took the initiative to return to the Howards to ask for Felix's forgiveness and blessings.

But Drew soon died and never returned to Orange County. He never got to see Florence and their child again.

She even misunderstood him and hated him for years.

A teardrop slowly rolled down Florence's eyes as she recalled the past. At this moment, when she was on the brink of death, her heart was full of endless regret!

Chapter 943: He's Here

Cheyenne was clearly the child she had with her beloved, but she had mistreated her and abandoned her when she was a child. She had shown her no concern for years and had failed to be a good mother. She really owed her so much!

If there was a chance in the next life, she swore that she would definitely treat her well!

Florence slowly stopped struggling as the grip on her neck tightened, causing her face to turn purple from suffocating.

The corners of Hades' lips curled up into a sinister smile.

"If she dies, I'll make sure the entire Peerless Martial Association dies with her!"
Suddenly, a domineering and cold voice filled the air in the villa.

Everyone was shocked as they turned to look at the villa entrance.

In the dark night, a tall and slender figure took a step out of the darkness with a fierce, murderous aura, looking just like the Reaper!

"He... he's Lucas Gray!"

"He actually came!"

"Yes, it's him!"

For some time, the Howards exclaimed one after another.

After all, just over an hour ago, Lucas had just left the Howard residence, and his domineering image in the banquet hall was still deeply etched in the hearts of every Howard.

There was another figure behind Lucas. It was Jordan, who was always around him.

Their sudden appearance took everyone by surprise.

They had all thought that Lucas wouldn't return to the Howard residence for Florence.

Even Hades, who was about to break Florence's neck, looked over. In particular, when he heard the Howards calling Lucas's name, there was excitement in his eyes.

The prey he had been waiting for for a long time finally showed up!

But when Lucas's face appeared under the light of the Howards' villa, Hades narrowed his eyes with a look of disdain on his face.

He thought that the person who could kill Julian and Dwayne would be a terrifying expert, but it turned out to be a young man only in his twenties!

It was really ridiculous.

Moreover, what Lucas said also made Hades, who had always been respected, extremely displeased.

“Punk, did you just say that you’d make the entire Peerless Martial Association die together with this woman if I kill her?” Hades asked threateningly, his eyes full of a bloodthirsty murderous intent.

Florence, who thought that she was definitely going to die, suddenly opened her eyes when she heard Lucas’s voice! *He... he really came!*

Florence started struggling in Hades’ grip. Only Lucas could save her!

Lucas sneered. “Seems like you’re not deaf.”

All the Howards’ faces stiffened.

How dare Lucas Gray say that to Hades?!

Does he not know who this person is?

Hades’s face darkened as he shouted, “Punk, how dare you act so arrogant in front of me? Looks like you really don’t know any better!”

Ezra seized the opportunity to step forward and yell at Lucas, “Lucas Gray! How dare you speak to Hades of the Peerless Martial Association like that?! Don’t forget that your mother-in-law’s life is in his hands!”

He wasn’t stepping forward to remind Lucas about Florence’s life being at stake but to remind Hades that he could kill Florence immediately to assert dominance in front of Lucas.

As long as Florence was killed by Hades, he would have one less hindrance to deal with. Moreover, Lucas would definitely form a death feud with Hades and eventually get killed by him.

Thus, all his problems would be eliminated!

Lucas narrowed his eyes at Ezra, fully aware of his intentions.

“A villain often ends up miserable. I hope you’ll be mentally prepared!” Lucas said coldly and then stopped looking at him.

But his words and icy-cold gaze immediately made Ezra shudder as he felt horror surging from the deepest part of his heart.

He even had a feeling that Lucas might really kill him!

No... no! That can’t happen. Lucas is about to be killed by Hades! Ezra kept saying to himself before suppressing the horror caused by what Lucas said.

Lucas looked at Hades and frowned slightly when he saw the hand squeezing Florence's neck.

"As a powerhouse of the Peerless Martial Association, it doesn't seem right for you to be bullying such a helpless woman.

"Didn't you want to force me to come here? Now that I'm here, you should let her go," Lucas said coldly.

"Hah, what if... I refuse and kill her in front of you?"

With a bloodthirsty smile, Hades suddenly tightened his grip on Florence's neck even though he had just loosened it a little.

Florence only felt a massive force on her neck, making her feel that it was about to be snapped in half. Her eyes rolled backward, and she began struggling with every last ounce of strength within her.

She could no longer speak, as her windpipe was being strangled. She couldn't even take a breath of air.

Hades watched Florence's dying struggle with glee, relishing in her misery. He even deliberately looked at Lucas provocatively.

What he enjoyed the most was watching these weak people struggling or raging helplessly in front of him before he killed them.

But Lucas's behavior disappointed Hades.

Reason being, Lucas's expression didn't change much despite seeing Florence, his mother-in-law, on the verge of being killed by Hades. He didn't show any panic, fear, or plead like Hades imagined.

It made Hades extremely displeased and unfulfilled.

"Hey, I heard that this woman is your mother-in-law, right? Aren't you afraid that I will really kill her?" Hades asked with his brows furrowed.

"She's in your hands. It's up to you if you want to kill her or skin her alive." Lucas looked extremely calm. "Do you really think that I came here to save this woman?"

What he said immediately made the expression on Hades's face freeze.

"Punk, what did you say?"

Chapter 944: Face-Off

Just before this, Florence had already told Hades that Lucas's wife was just her illegitimate daughter whom she had abandoned, and neither of them had any feelings for each other. As such, Lucas definitely wouldn't rush over to save her.

Hades didn't believe it at first. But now, seeing with his own eyes how cold Lucas was toward Florence, he finally believed what she said.

At the same time, it made him see Lucas in a different light.

Originally, when Hades saw how young Lucas was, he was full of disdain. Young people tended to have all sorts of flaws.

Therefore, he once thought that this young man must have resorted to some despicable means to kill Julian and Dwayne, two top experts of the Peerless Martial Association. As Ezra had said, the fatal wound on Dwayne's corpse was a hole caused by a bullet.

If this young man was as ruthless and cold as those sly old foxes, he could possibly become a top powerhouse.

Staring into Lucas's eyes, Hades suddenly sneered. "Hmph, since you don't care about this woman's life, I'll kill her right now!"

He tightened his grip, and in the next second, he was about to break Florence's neck.

But the moment he was about to do so, a thin hand suddenly grabbed his wrist!

Immediately afterward, a huge force came from this hand, clamping down on his!

Hades' pupils suddenly constricted. Just now, Lucas suddenly vanished from about ten meters away from him. Without a doubt, the person who suddenly appeared and grabbed his wrist was Lucas!

"I didn't come here to save her, but did I give you permission to kill her?" Lucas's cold and indifferent voice rang in Hades' ears, as if it came from hell.

Hades's expression changed drastically. He couldn't figure out how Lucas suddenly appeared behind him even though he had been more than ten meters away just now.

His eyes couldn't even get a clear glimpse of Lucas's movements!

Moreover, the terrifying force coming from Lucas's hand grabbing his wrist caused him to feel excruciating pain. Hades had no doubt that Lucas would be able to crush his wrist bones by applying some more force!

"Who... are you?" A layer of cold sweat emerged on Hades's face as he felt a great threat.

If he had previously thought that Lucas had killed Dwayne with a gun, he didn't think so now.

The strength of this young man was beyond his imagination!

In fact, he wasn't even sure if he could even defeat Lucas!

"Let go or have your hand broken, your choice," Lucas said indifferently.

Although Lucas sounded extremely arrogant, and Hades would definitely kill anyone who dared to say something like this to him, he actually chose to let go immediately.

Cough Cough!

Florence's body fell to the floor, and she coughed for a long time before taking deep breaths, seemingly relieved to have survived a close shave with death.

She finally survived!

"Since I've let her go, shouldn't you let go now?" Hades asked through gritted teeth, trying his best to endure the pain coming from his wrist.

He just had a face-off with Lucas yet came out on the losing end. It made him extremely embarrassed and furious.

"Hmph!" Lucas snorted coldly, but he still let go of Hades's arm.

Hades immediately withdrew his hand. When he saw the bruising on his wrist, his forehead throbbed.

"..."

It was dead silent in the Howards' villa.

Everyone stared dumbfoundedly at everything in front of them with deep shock in their eyes.

Lucas had suddenly appeared beside Hades and grabbed his wrist to force him to let go of Florence. The Howards thought that Hades would definitely lose his temper and teach Lucas a lesson.

But to their surprise, this powerhouse, who had been extremely tyrannical in the Howards, suddenly behaved in a drastically different manner. He actually let go of Florence obediently!

Seeing the way Hades was now, he still seemed to be extremely wary of Lucas!

Is Lucas Gray... so powerful that even a top powerhouse of the Peerless Martial Association can't defeat him?

At this moment, Felix's face abruptly twitched while his heart began pounding rapidly.

The scene in front of him made him feel a strong ominous hunch, as if he had just missed a chance that was gone forever!

Lucas, his grandson-in-law, actually forced Hades of the Peerless Martial Association to back down and not dare to move easily. Just how powerful must he be?

"Punk, you killed two experts of the Peerless Martial Association. We're never going to let you off!

"Just wait for me here. You'll die here soon!"

Hades stared into Lucas's eyes ruthlessly, and then...

He turned around and walked toward the entrance of the Howards' villa. Instead of fighting with Lucas, he chose to leave immediately!

This scene caused Ezra, Samuel, and the others to be so astonished that their eyes were about to fall out.

They could have never imagined that Hades, who had just threatened to kill the Howards and wanted to kill Lucas, would turn around to flee after just a brief face-off with Lucas!

But immediately afterward, something even more shocking happened!

"Stop! Did I say that you could leave?"

As Lucas's indifferent and cold voice sounded, Jordan moved quickly and stood at the entrance of the villa to stop Hades.

Ezra, Samuel, and the rest of the Howards were immediately flabbergasted, thinking that Lucas was much more arrogant than Hades of the Peerless Martial Association!

Hades, who was blocked, slowly turned his head around and stared at Lucas with a cold, murderous look in his eyes.

"None of you can stop me from leaving!"

He wasn't a fool. Lucas's incredible speed just now and the massive force in Lucas's grip on his arm made him know clearly that he was no match for Lucas.

Since he knew he couldn't defeat Lucas, he naturally wouldn't care about his pride and insist on fighting him!

Thus, escaping was Hades's best choice now!

Although Jordan was standing at the entrance, Hades didn't take him seriously at all. He simply rushed toward Jordan and swung his fist to force him back.

"Hah, good that you're here! Do you really think you can escape?" A fierce battle intent suddenly appeared on Jordan's face as he charged forward to meet Hades!

The two of them collided almost immediately!

Chapter 945: Training Target

Lucas stood in the villa and looked at the two people fighting without any intention of making a move.

On his way to the Howards, Lucas had asked Jordan to come along so that Jordan could fight with Hades.

Jordan's skills had been stuck at a bottleneck for a long time, and the best way to break through was by engaging in intense battles or even struggling between life and death.

Just over an hour ago, Jordan and Dwayne had fought, and his bottleneck loosened significantly while his combat skills improved greatly. At first, he was slightly inferior to Dwayne and even suffered some injuries. But he eventually defeated Dwayne and forced the latter into fleeing.

But Dwayne clearly wasn't enough, as he couldn't make Jordan break through his bottleneck completely.

Since Hades was here to avenge Dwayne, he should be stronger than him.

He was a good candidate for Jordan to try his hands at.

As long as Jordan engaged in a life-and-death struggle with a powerhouse of this level, he would be able to maximize his potential and break through his bottleneck to reach a higher level!

So Lucas didn't do anything when Jordan moved to stop Hades.

Meanwhile, Hades had initially thought that Jordan was just an insignificant lackey whom he would send flying with a punch.

But when their fists collided, Hades realized that he was extremely wrong!

Although Jordan was very young and only in his twenties, the power in his fist almost crushed the fingerbones of Hades, who didn't use his full strength because he had underestimated his opponent!

Amid the intense pain and the massive power contained in Jordan's fist, Hades was actually knocked back and moved back several steps in a row!

All the Howards were stunned.

They never thought that Hades, who was incomparably formidable to them, would be knocked backward by a single punch from Lucas's subordinate!

Hades took several steps back before defusing the massive force from his wrist. The pain in his fingers made burning rage surge throughout his body.

The fact that he had the domineering nickname Hades, which the head of the association had given him, was enough to show how much power and authority he commanded.

But he was now blocked by Lucas's subordinate, and he was even forced back by a punch. It was an enormous disgrace to Hades!

"Punk, you're courting death!" Hades was furious, and killing intent was surging in his eyes.

Jordan curled his lips in disdain. "I really thought that you were some peerless expert, but I didn't expect you to be too scared to fight against Lucas!

"You were the one who threatened Lucas with that woman's life to come here. Why are you behaving like a mouse seeing a cat now that Lucas is here? Why are you fleeing in panic?"

"Someone like you is indeed not worthy of being Lucas's opponent. In that case, I'll fight with you and teach you a lesson!"

Jordan's remarks immediately enraged Hades! "Punk, I must kill you!"

But after shouting, he subconsciously glanced at Lucas. When he saw that Lucas didn't show any intention of fighting him, he felt slightly relieved.

Hades knew very well that he was no match for Lucas. If he pitted himself against Lucas, he would have no chance of winning!

Jordan sneered. "Old man, you're very arrogant. But if you want to take my life, let me see how capable you really are!"

“Since you have a death wish, I’ll fulfill it!” Hades roared angrily. He stomped hard on the floor and charged toward Jordan.

He thought the reason Jordan had managed to force him back just now was only that he had underestimated the enemy and didn’t take Jordan, causing him to suffer a loss.

So this time, Hades began accumulating all his power from the start before attacking Jordan ferociously.

On the other side, Jordan’s face was brimming with fighting intent.

Although he had repelled Hades just now, Jordan was well aware that Hades wouldn’t be easy to deal with. His true strength was indeed a notch superior to his.

Of course, this was better because there would be more value in defeating him. In this way, he could train his own skills and break through his bottleneck!

Moreover, Jordan knew that the chance to fight with a powerhouse like Hades was rare to come by.

Bang!

Soon, the two of them were clashing.

They exerted their full strength, so this battle was extremely intense.

Because the battle was taking place in the living room of Ezra’s villa, the Howards screamed and hid in the corners of the first floor once the fight broke out, afraid of being affected.

The couch, coffee table, vases, and other items in the villa were pulverized during the fight between the two powerful experts.

Lucas picked up Florence, who was still lying on the floor without any energy to move, and carried her by her clothes to a safe place at the side.

Florence’s expression was extremely complicated at this moment. She wanted to thank Lucas, but she didn’t know how to start.

But Lucas hadn’t expected Florence to thank him. After carrying her to the edge of the hall, he turned his head and stopped looking at her.

“...” Florence opened her mouth, but she didn’t say anything in the end.

“Hey, I heard that you’re an expert of the Peerless Martial Association, and your nickname is Hades, right? With such a domineering name, why is your strength so mediocre?”

“You can’t even compare to Dwayne. Aren’t you too mediocre?”

“You can’t even defeat me, but you’re thinking of killing Lucas? You must be dreaming.”

“Or have your skills degenerated to such a terrible state because you’ve gotten used to being on a pedestal in the Peerless Martial Association?”

Jordan mocked Hades while fighting intensely with him.

Although Hades’s first few attacks were fierce, his later moves became weaker and weaker, and he seemed to have yet to exert his full strength.

Jordan was fighting Hades in order to make a breakthrough, so he was naturally displeased.

But Hades had actually never thought of fighting seriously with Jordan.

Hades wasn’t a fool. He knew that Lucas, whom he couldn’t beat, was still keeping an eye on him. Even if he used his full strength and defeated Jordan, he would still never be a match for Lucas.

Thus, he didn’t want to fight Jordan at all. Instead, he used the opportunity to quietly approach the villa entrance in order to facilitate escaping!

But he was now taunted by a greenhorn like Jordan. He was about to blow his fuse!

Chapter 946: Real Fight

“Punk, don’t be so arrogant in front of me! I don’t want to kill you! Don’t dig your own grave!” Hades hollered furiously through gritted teeth.

Jordan smirked without stopping his hands, attacking Hades while mocking, “I want to dig my grave. Don’t bother holding back. Come, show me your true strength!”

“Otherwise, you’re just trash who only knows to issue threats but can’t even beat a young man like me!”

“Is your Peerless Martial Association full of trash like you?”

Jordan was very good at trash talking and angering his opponents.

As expected, Hades was completely enraged by his trash talking.

“Punk, do you really think I’m afraid of you? Go to hell!”

Hades suddenly roared as his aura erupted violently. He was obviously a level stronger than earlier!

It just so happened that Jordan was kicking toward his waist. Hades’s eyes flashed with hostility as he reached out at lightning speed, grabbed Jordan’s ankle, and swung his entire body upward!

After Hades completely released his power, his speed and physical strength increased drastically. He was twice as fast as before!

When Jordan saw Hades’s arm reaching over, he knew things were bad. But before he could change moves or dodge, Hades had already grabbed his ankle tightly. The next moment, a strong force suddenly came from Jordan’s leg, and his whole body was forced upward, making him completely lose his balance.

“Shit!” Jordan’s expression changed drastically, but he only saw crazy murderous intent on Hades’s face. Then the scene in front of him quickly reversed.

This meant that this body was rapidly plunging downward!

Bang!

Before he could react, Jordan was smashed hard onto the floor.

Crack!

The solid wooden ground trembled violently, and a cobweb-like crack immediately began spreading.

With this fierce smash, Jordan felt excruciating pain throughout his body.

Fortunately, when he was about to be slammed into the floor, he subconsciously curved his arms to protect his head. Otherwise, Hades’s smash would probably have caused him to suffer severe injuries and completely lose his combat ability even if he didn’t die.

Lucas narrowed his eyes slightly with a calm look on his face.

At this level, although Jordan was temporarily at a disadvantage, he could still deal with it completely.

After Hades picked Jordan up and smashed him onto the floor, he expected Jordan to be severely injured or even lose his combat ability. But unexpectedly, this punk protected his head with his arms at the critical moment and didn’t sustain any severe injuries.

“Go to hell!” Hades’s face flashed with menace as he once again grabbed Jordan’s ankle, wanting to smash him onto the floor a few more times until he could no longer move.

But since Jordan had just taken this move from Hades, how could he continue to be attacked several more times with the same move?

Just as Hades lifted Jordan’s right calf, Jordan quickly propped himself up against the floor with his hands and propelled himself with his arms to kick Hades’s chest hard!

Jordan’s blow was just as violent. Hades was caught off guard and was sent flying away by Jordan’s kick!

With this kick, Hades’s tall and burly body flew straight out of the villa before landing on the green stone floor in front of the villa.

Boom!

With a dull thud, Hades fell hard on the stone ground!

For a moment, all the Howards were utterly shocked.

They thought that it was impossible for Jordan to break free since Hades had already caught hold of his ankle. But they didn’t expect Jordan to be able to turn the tables so quickly and kick Hades out of the villa, which was at least seven meters away!

Felix, the head of the Howards, looked at the scene in front of him as the ominous hunch in his heart became more and more intense.

Since it was already so difficult to deal with Jordan, it seemed that even Hades might not be able to defeat Lucas today!

His previous behavior would definitely make Lucas deal with the Howards, especially when he openly said that he would kick Florence out of the family and draw a clear line between the Howards and Lucas to keep themselves out of trouble.

Thus, their only solution now was to think of a way to help Hades get rid of Jordan and Lucas!

A crazy and twisted expression appeared on Felix’s face. He had always been resolute. He immediately pulled out his phone to make a call. “Get people to take action immediately!”

...

Outside the villa, Jordan had already chased after Hades to continue fighting with him.

When Hades was kicked out of the villa by Jordan, he thought that he would take the opportunity to escape as soon as possible. But Jordan chased after him and followed closely behind, making him understand that it was impossible for him to easily withdraw from the Howard residence.

Moreover, this young man was just Lucas's subordinate, yet he could already force him to such an extent.

Lucas stood at the side expressionlessly, seemingly about to target him at any moment.

Hades gritted his teeth, knowing that there was no way he could escape now. His only solution was to go all out and defeat the punk in front of him!

At the thought of this, Hades stopped holding back and used all his power to fight toe-to-toe against Jordan.

"Hmph, you're finally behaving like an expert and not like the weakling earlier!" Jordan said with excitement as he clenched his slightly numb fingers after punching Hades.

"Weakling? Hmph! I'll turn you into a real weakling soon!"

With killing intent on his face, Hades gritted his teeth and swung his fist at Jordan ferociously!

Whoosh!

This punch seemed to have an invisible energy shrouding it, emitting an extremely sharp sound of breaking through the air.

Hades's punch contained all his power!

Just by looking at this power, it was imaginable the terrifying force this fist contained.

"Great!" Jordan roared as his dark eyes stared at the incoming powerful fist. In this instant, he suddenly threw a punch that contained all his power.

A menacing aura that seemed no weaker than Hades's also emerged from Jordan's fist!

Bang!

With a terrifying explosive sound, their fists collided fiercely!

Chapter 947: Breaking Through the Bottleneck

Fierce gusts of wind erupted in all directions from where their fists collided, and the trees around them began rustling as their branches broke.

Amid the violent impact, a figure took several steps backward.

This person was Jordan.

With both sides exerting their true power, Jordan obviously still wasn't a match for Hades.

"Hmph, is that all the strength you have?" Hades sneered before clenching his fists and attacking Jordan again.

Whoosh!

He raised his hand and threw several savage punches, each aimed at Jordan's head and chest. Every punch came with a whistling sound.

"Haha!"

To everyone's surprise, not only did Jordan not find a way to dodge, but he even raised his fists to face Hades's offensive directly!

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

...

The sound of fists and kicks clashing once again resounded.

Although Jordan was continuously forced to retreat under Hades's fierce attacks, he didn't back down but gathered the strength to strike back stronger each time.

After another attack, Jordan once again stepped backward. But this time, he stopped after two steps before charging at Hades again.

There was immense shock in Hades's eyes.

Previously, Jordan had to retreat at least five or six steps. But as they continued to fight, Jordan's strength, speed, and battle sense began to improve steadily.

As the opponent fighting Jordan, Hades was well aware of this.

He was certain that Jordan was slowly becoming stronger and stronger during the battle with him.

How... how is that possible?!

A terrifying thought surged in Hades's heart.

He had heard others say that people with such physiques would continuously increase their potential during battle and become stronger. These physiques were simply everyone's dreams.

People with such physiques were true martial arts prodigies, and they could often achieve considerable success because their potential was constantly improving. No one knew where their limits were.

This was why people with such physiques would grow to become extremely terrifying.

Of course, people possessing these physiques were few and far between.

But it was very likely that Jordan had such a legendary physique!

After Hades knocked Jordan back once again, he didn't charge forward and instead asked with a solemn expression, "Who... who are you?"

This time, Jordan merely took a step back, and he was already able to keep up with the power and speed of Hades's attacks. The battle intent in his body was becoming more and more stimulated.

Jordan sneered. "It's none of your business who I am! Or are you starting to feel scared now?"

Hades roared angrily, "Punk! I just want to give you one more chance! Don't be ignorant!"

"Hah, give me a chance?" Jordan laughed. "I bet you're worried about who I am and if there's a powerful backer behind me because you've discovered my physique. You're just afraid of offending my backer.

"Hah, I don't mind telling you that my only backer is Lucas!

"You're not scared and want to escape now, are you?"

Jordan deliberately spat and provoked him.

He knew that Hades was already scrupulous toward him, and he even doubted if there was a powerful force behind him. But he would never let go of this chance to fight Hades.

Jordan could already feel the bottleneck restraining his power loosening up greatly during the fight. He should be able to break through and advance to a higher level soon.

At this critical juncture, how could he let Hades run away?

“Bullshit! Hmph, don’t think I don’t know that he’s just an abandoned child of the Huttons. He was already kicked more than twenty years ago. What background can he have?”

“Hmph, I appreciate your talent and don’t want to kill you. But since you don’t cherish the opportunity, I have no choice but to kill you!” Hades shouted furiously, and the murderous intent on his face was even more intense.

“Hah, then come and kill me!” Jordan licked the corner of his lips, clenched his fists, and charged toward Hades!

Gusts of wind from the violent impacts once again shrouded the area.

Under the impact of their collisions, the ground turned into a wasteland as the precious flowers and plants were blown away everywhere.

The Howards watched their fight, deathly pale.

If an attack of this level hit them, it would probably kill them!

The twin experts standing behind Felix had astonishment in their eyes.

They were also top experts in DC, but both Jordan and Hades were displaying terrifying combat power that was far above theirs.

Recalling how they had wanted to stop Lucas and Jordan under Felix’s order previously, the twin experts felt terrified.

For experts at Jordan’s levels, even if two brothers joined forces, they wouldn’t be a match for them.

Besides, there was still Lucas, whose power seemed to be even more mysterious and unfathomable. If they really fought, the twins would definitely be the ones to die!

After recognizing Jordan’s physique, Hades didn’t dare to be negligent. For this kind of person who got stronger and stronger as they fought, he definitely couldn’t fight him like before.

This method would only make Jordan become gradually stronger. Eventually, he would obtain power on par with his or even become stronger!

He would never allow such a thing to happen!

Hades decided to be ruthless and condensed all his power in his right fist before punching Jordan!

“Go to hell!”

The punch landed hard on Jordan’s chest, sending him flying!

Jordan’s chest convulsed violently, and his innards were almost crushed. The moment he landed on the ground, he opened his mouth to spit out a large mouthful of blood.

Hades withdrew his fist and looked at Jordan, who was lying on the ground, with a bloodthirsty smile on his face.

“Hmph, I told you a long time ago that you’re no match for me at all! You can die now!”

He walked toward Jordan step by step.

Although Hades had consumed a large amount of his strength in the powerful punch just now, he could at least stand upright properly.

On the other hand, Jordan had taken his punch and fallen hard onto the ground. He had suffered severe injuries and probably lost all his combat ability.

Next, he would destroy him completely!

But just as Hades was about to reach Jordan, he suddenly discovered to his horror that Jordan, who should have sustained serious injuries, was slowly getting up from the ground while exuding an aura even more terrifying than before!

“You... you...” Hades was so shocked that he couldn’t say another word.

Jordan raised his hand, wiped away the blood on the corner of his lips, and smiled sinisterly. “I really have to thank you for that punch. It helped me break through my bottleneck!”

A rich and majestic aura suddenly emerged from Jordan’s body.

But at this moment, Jordan’s pupils suddenly constricted, and his hair stood on end!

He felt a great sense of crisis from the intuition he had developed from years of experience on the extremely dangerous battlefield!

The next moment, a bullet ripped through the air with a boom!

Bang!

Chapter 948: Death

The moment the gunshot sounded, Jordan had no time to react. But Hades, who was standing a meter away from Jordan, shuddered and then pressed straight toward Jordan.

Jordan was still thinking about the gunshot when Hades suddenly slammed him onto the ground.

The Howards were all watching this scene with dumbfounded expressions, clueless about what was going on.

Felix, the head of the Howards, had a trace of smugness in his eyes as he heaved a sigh of relief.

Jordan was finally killed by the person he arranged.

“I didn’t expect the Howards to do such a thing.” Lucas’s cold voice suddenly filled the air.

The rest of the Howards looked puzzled.

They wondered what Lucas meant.

Felix sneered. “Lucas Gray, you can’t spout nonsense like that. I don’t know what you mean.

“Your subordinate was so arrogant. Who knows who he’s offended. Now that he’s been shot dead, he’s only getting what he deserves!”

Lucas smiled faintly. “You’d better save your explanation for the Peerless Martial Association!”

Bang!

Felix suddenly had an ominous hunch.

Jordan was Lucas’s subordinate and best friend. Now that he was dead, Lucas still didn’t seem sad at all. In fact, he was even smiling.

It... it shouldn’t be like this.

Felix had planned to order his subordinates to kill Lucas while he was flustered because of Jordan’s death.

But now that Lucas was extremely calm and even smiling, his heart sank as he felt extremely unconfident.

Just as Felix was feeling anxious and thinking about Lucas's strange behavior, a familiar voice suddenly came from the side.

"Lucas! Are you alright?"

Felix abruptly turned around and saw Jordan, whom he thought had been killed, climbing up from the ground and quickly walking toward Lucas.

Jordan was agile and full of vigor, completely unlike someone who had been shot.

Felix's heart immediately sank as he glanced at Hades behind Jordan.

But Hades was now lying on the ground, probably because Jordan had just pushed him off his body. He was looking up and staring into the dark starry sky with empty eyes that contained his confusion just before dying.

Boom!

Felix only felt his head buzzing, as if he had been struck by a bolt of lightning, and his mind instantly went blank.

"He... he..."

At this moment, a butler beside Felix hurriedly ran over to check on Hades's condition before hurrying back in panic. He reported in a shaky voice, "Mr... Mr. Howard... Hades... Hades is dead!"

Felix only felt that all his body's strength was drained at this moment. If not for the twin experts reaching out to support him, Felix would have fallen to the ground.

"How could... how could the person who died be Hades? That's impossible!" Felix muttered in disbelief.

The people at the side probably had no idea what the gunshot was, but Felix was well aware of it.

Reason being, Felix had arranged for this person to kill Jordan.

When Felix noticed that there was something wrong with Hades, he had immediately made a call and arranged for his subordinates to take action.

After all, if Hades really died in the Howard residence, the Peerless Martial Association would definitely hold them responsible.

Even if he said that Hades didn't die at the hands of the Howards and that Lucas and Florence had been kicked out of the Howards and no longer had anything to do with the Howards, the Peerless Martial Association still definitely wouldn't let them off easily.

Thus, Hades couldn't die no matter what. In that case, the person who had to die was definitely Jordan and Lucas.

But Felix never expected that Jordan wouldn't die, while the person who got shot and died was Hades!

He felt his vision turning black, and his heart was completely panicked.

But he was a sly old fox who had been holding great power and authority in the Howards for decades. Since the matter had already happened, it was too late for regret and fear.

So after the initial panic and fear, Felix gritted his teeth and began to think about how to resolve the crisis facing him.

Soon, he came up with an idea.

Felix suddenly glowered at Lucas and hollered at him, "Lucas Gray! I never thought that you'd be so audacious as to kill not only Dwayne of the Peerless Martial Association but also Hades! You're really daring!

"When the other members of the Peerless Martial Association come over to pursue the responsibility later, I will definitely tell them the truth about this matter!" Felix said righteously, as if he was harming his family for the sake of justice.

The rest of the Howards suddenly widened their eyes in surprise.

That gunshot was actually arranged by Lucas?

On the other hand, Lucas was almost amused by Felix's brazen and self-righteous words.

"Mr. Howard, is it true that the older you are, the thicker your skin is? I'm really amazed by how good you are at lying through your teeth!" Lucas smiled mockingly.

Felix's face was covered in righteous indignation, and he didn't blush at all. "Is that the attitude you should have when speaking to your elders? The Peerless Martial Association's expert Hades was shot and killed by someone you secretly arranged. Do you still dare to deny it?"

Lucas snorted coldly. He couldn't be bothered to continue wasting his breath on Felix, who was deliberately feigning ignorance. He said to Jordan, "Go to that building at your nine o'clock that's a kilometer and a half away."

As a subordinate who had followed Lucas for years, Jordan immediately understood what Lucas meant. He glared at Felix and then immediately sprinted toward the building Lucas mentioned.

When Felix heard Lucas mention the building, his face immediately shuddered, and a look of horror appeared.

This building was exactly where the sniper ambushed at!

But this location was told to him via a text message from the sniper. How could Lucas possibly know?!

"What... what are you talking about? Don't think you people can fabricate something to frame the Howards!" Felix said to Lucas through gritted teeth. At the same time, he turned to look at one of the twin experts, wanting to inform the sniper to leave his spot immediately.

But at this moment, Lucas looked at them with a smirk. "If anyone dares to act rashly, don't blame me for being ruthless!"

Chapter 949: You'll Be Helmsman

Lucas's eyes were full of intimidation, making Felix and the twin experts beside him too scared to act rashly.

They all knew that there was no way they could inform their man to leave since Lucas was right in front of them. So they could only grit their teeth and keep quiet.

Lucas stopped paying attention to them and suddenly looked at Florence next to him. He asked softly, "Do you still want to be the helmsman of the Howards?"

As soon as he said this, all of the Howards, including Florence and Felix, were dumbfounded.

They would have never thought that Lucas would suddenly ask Florence this.

After being stunned for a few seconds, Florence quickly understood Lucas's intentions.

Indeed, in the last ten years or so, she had always wanted to become the head of the Howards.

But after Felix had ruthlessly revealed how he had only used the position of helmsman as bait to lure her into doing things, it made her now feel nothing for him as her father.

Besides, the Howards had just watched Hades almost strangle her to death, but no one had been willing to come forward to help her. They made Florence lose almost all her familial affection for the Howards.

It could be said that Florence no longer had any feelings for the Howards, and she had finally stopped obsessing over the position of family helmsman, which she had longed for for countless years.

After nearly experiencing death, she finally realized that power and status were only superficial. What she had to do now was to live well and treat her daughter, Cheyenne, well to make up for the love she lacked for the last two decades or so.

But now that Lucas had suddenly asked her if she was still interested in becoming the Howards' helmsman, he clearly had some ideas.

Felix quickly realized what Lucas's motive was. He immediately flew into a rage and shouted at Florence, "Rebellious girl, if you dare to covet the position of helmsman, the Howards won't let you off!"

Florence sneered with contempt. "You don't even want to acknowledge me, your worthless daughter. You even wanted to sacrifice my life for the safety of the family. What's wrong even if I want to become the helmsman of the Howards?"

"You're not the only person who can take this position. So what if I'm interested? Do you still want to stop me?"

"Besides, whether or not I become the Howards' helmsman is not up to you!"

Florence sneered before turning to look at Lucas.

Now, the person who called the shots among the Howards was no longer Felix but Lucas!

Florence honestly no longer treated Felix as her father. All she felt for him now was complicated hatred.

Her father had killed the love of her life, causing her life to become a tragedy, and was so cold and ruthless toward her. In his eyes, she was just a pawn that he could use.

Once she was no longer of any use value, Felix wouldn't bother taking another look at her.

If Lucas hadn't arrived just now, she would have really been killed by Hades.

Furthermore, there probably wouldn't be a single Howard who would shed a tear for her!

Why should she care about the feelings of such a cold-blooded and heartless family?

She had already been on the brink of death, so there was nothing left to fear now.

Even facing her father, Florence was no longer as cautious as she was before. Instead, she had now developed a backbone and would no longer let him manipulate and threaten her.

Felix was so enraged by Florence's attitude that even his fingers trembled.

"Very well! I didn't raise you to this age for you to anger me!

"You think you can be all smug and arrogant in front of me now that you have your son-in-law to back you up, huh? But don't forget. He has already offended the Peerless Martial Association. If he dies someday, let's see what you can do!"

Florence sneered, "So what? If Lucas hadn't saved me earlier, I would already be dead now. Every minute and every second of my life is already a blessing! Do you think I'm still afraid of death?

"Even if I die because of Lucas, I'd do so willingly!

"Besides, Lucas may not necessarily lose to the Peerless Martial Association! The scene you want to see might not happen!"

Florence really didn't care about such threats anymore.

She even felt a sense of transcendence that was beyond life and death.

Lucas glanced at Florence in surprise.

Although he had indeed saved Florence from Hades, he honestly didn't do so because he appreciated her or cared about her. He simply didn't want her death to upset Cheyenne.

After rescuing her, he stopped paying attention to her.

But he was truly surprised by what she said and couldn't help changing his impression of her slightly.

After saying her piece, Florence immediately looked at Lucas and said seriously, "Lucas, if you think that it would be better for me to be the head of the Howards, I'm definitely willing to take over!"

Lucas looked at her and nodded. "Okay. From now on, you will be the new helmsman of the Howards!"

The two of them decided on who would become the helmsman just like that, as if there wasn't anyone else around. Felix, the current head of the family whose presence was completely disregarded, flew into a rage.

"What nonsense are you talking about here? I'm the only one who can decide who becomes the head of the family! Neither of you are in any place to interfere!" Felix shouted angrily.

At the side, Ezra stepped forward with a sneer and mocked, "Lucas Gray, this is my family! As an outsider, you're in no place to meddle with our family's affairs!"

"If you insist on doing so, I'll take that you've decided to make us your enemy!"

"Grandpa, Lucas Gray is very ambitious. He's probably been coveting your position for a long time. Both he and Florence should be punished!"

Lucas was undoubtedly the person Ezra hated the most at the moment.

As long as Lucas didn't die, he would Florence become the head of the family.

Ezra felt that this position could only belong to him, and no one could take it away from him!

So no matter what, Lucas had to die!

Samuel gritted his teeth, stepped forward, and said, "Yes! It's up to us to decide who becomes the next helmsman! My father and the Howards should have the final say, not an outsider like you!"

He also desperately wanted to become the helmsman, so he obviously wouldn't be willing to let Florence take over.

The rest of the Howards looked at each other without saying anything.

No matter who became the helmsman, it didn't have much to do with them, so there wasn't a need for them to take sides now and offend people.

Furthermore, the powerful combat strength Lucas and Jordan had shown earlier terrified them, so they didn't dare to accuse Lucas or fault him for his actions.

Anyway, no matter who became the Howards' helmsman, as long as this person ensured that their interests remained unchanged, the rest wasn't important.

“Lucas, I’ve brought him back!” Jordan’s voice suddenly came. He was dragging a half-dead person on the ground!

Chapter 950: Are You Remorseful?

Everyone was attracted by Jordan’s sudden voice and turned to look at the figure he was dragging.

It was a stranger in his thirties with a thick beard. Perhaps because Jordan had broken his legs, he looked miserable and in pain as Jordan dragged him toward the Howards.

The rest of the Howards didn’t know him, so they looked bewildered.

But when Felix saw this person and the Barrett sniper rifle Jordan was holding in his other hand, his face twitched.

“Mr. Howard, you should know who this person is, right? What do you think the Peerless Martial Association will hear from this man if I hand him over to them?” Lucas smiled while looking at Felix, whose expression drastically changed.

Felix gritted his teeth, and the loose skin of his cheeks began trembling.

Of course, he knew who this bearded man was. He was the famous sniper he had secretly arranged.

Felix had wanted this sniper to kill Jordan and then find a chance to kill Lucas. But he never expected Jordan to be completely unscathed while the person shot to death became Hades of the Peerless Martial Association.

Now, this person was dragged in front of everyone by Jordan.

If Lucas really handed over this bearded sniper to the Peerless Martial Association, they would find out about everything, and the Howards definitely wouldn’t be able to escape the wrath of the Peerless Martial Association!

“I don’t know what you’re talking about!

“Who is this person? Does it have anything to do with the Howards? Even if you hand him over to the Peerless Martial Association and prove that he killed Hades with a sniper rifle, what does it have to do with the Howards?” Since Felix couldn’t find a better solution, he could only continue to feign ignorance.

Lucas sneered with raised brows. “I haven’t said anything yet, but you already know that this man killed Hades with a sniper rifle. You’re really impressive!”

Hearing this, the rest of the Howards were astonished.

What?

Hades was really shot to death by a sniper?

And... it seems to have something to do with Felix.

If Hades had really been killed by the Howards' sniper, the Peerless Martial Association definitely wouldn't let them off!

At the thought of this, the Howards turned pale.

Felix gritted his teeth and said angrily to Lucas, "What exactly do you want?"

Lucas looked at Felix's pale face and suddenly said, "You've done countless vile things for years for the sake of gaining so-called power and status. Have you ever felt remorseful toward those people you've hurt?"

"I heard that my father-in-law, whom I've never met, was killed by you. You caused their family to fall apart and my wife to be abandoned by the roadside since she was a child. As a result, she had to suffer a lot throughout her childhood. Don't you want to say something about this?"

An icy cold gaze appeared in Lucas's eyes.

He had only met Felix for the first time tonight, but he didn't have a good impression of him during the brief contact.

He was an old man in his seventies, but he was still so greedy for power and interests. He was brutal and ruthless, and his eyes were full of nothing but cold calculations.

Just now, he had even ordered the sniper to kill Jordan!

If Lucas hadn't reacted in time and thought of an idea to block the bullet the instant it shot over, Jordan would probably be dead now.

If not for the fact that he was Cheyenne's grandfather, Lucas would have killed him!

Besides, Felix had even killed Cheyenne's father, which was also a feud that had existed between them for years.

Florence stared at her father, biting her lip so hard that it started bleeding.

The death of the man she loved the most would forever be the most painful part of her past!

"I can't even bring myself to call you my father. You don't care about kinship at all. Even though I'm your biological daughter, I'm just a pawn you can use! You killed the person I love the most and ruined my life. You're not worthy of being my father at all!" Florence said angrily with red eyes.

Felix snorted coldly and snapped in exasperation, "Shut up!"

"As the helmsman of the Howards, everything I've done is for the benefit of the Howards! Love and kinship mean nothing to me.

"All you know is the Howards are one of the top eight families of DC and hold a prestigious position. But do you know the tragic past the family went through to get to where we are now?"

"Also, do you think it's easy being the helmsman? There are so many wealthy families in DC, and a slight carelessness would cause us to fall from the top and be shattered into pieces!"

"If it weren't for my conscientiousness and effort that I've put into managing the Howards painstakingly for all these years, do you think you'd get to lead such an affluent life and enjoy the glory of an elite family?"

"For the sake of the family's interests, I'm willing to do anything. Killing a few people means nothing to me. So what if I treat you as pawns?"

The more Felix spoke, the more agitated he became. He suddenly turned his head to stare at Florence and roared, "Hmph, what right do you have to accuse me?! You have no idea how much effort I've put in to allow the Howards to stand strong and remain at the top!"

"Hah, I'm already seventy-five years old. Who knows how many years I have left to live. Don't you think I want to enjoy a comfortable and relaxed life and leave the Howards to you guys?"

"Everything I've done is for the Howards!"

He looked extremely agitated as he revealed his philosophy of life.

He was a cold and ruthless person who cared only for family interests. He was willing to do anything for the sake of his family!

Lucas watched everything coldly without saying anything.

Whether it was for his family or his own desire for power and authority, only Felix himself would know.

Lucas came here today only to save Florence from the Peerless Martial Association. The other matters had nothing to do with him.

After Florence heard what Felix said, her eyes widened in disbelief.

A moment later, she smiled miserably while tears flowed out of her eyes.

Chapter 951: Forcing and Snatching Authority

“Yeah, you said that you’re willing to do anything for the sake of your family. You don’t even need any family affection for your children. All you care about is your own interests. It’s my misfortune to have been born as your daughter. I’ll admit it and resign to fate!

“But what did he do wrong? He only wanted to come to DC to beg you to let us off because he loves me and our child. He wanted you to stop chasing after us and allow us to live well in this world. He just wanted you to give us your blessings!

“He never harmed the Howards in any way, but why did you have to kill him?! Why did you kill the person who loves me the most in this world?”

Florence started crying loudly with tears all over her face.

She was agonized at the thought of Drew Cruise, the love of her life!

Her mother had died a long time ago, and her father had merely treated her as a pawn he could use. The rest of the family was cold-blooded and ruthless. When she lacked power, no one was willing to speak up for her.

Her daughter, whom she hadn’t met for more than twenty years, was just like a complete stranger to her.

That man was the only one who had existed ever so vividly and loved her so passionately in the decades of her life.

But he was killed under her father’s orders!

From the moment she learned the truth about Drew’s death, her life was already completely ruined!

Felix silently listened to Florence’s tearful complaints, but his gaze didn’t waver at all. Clearly, everything Florence said couldn’t touch his heart at all. He barely felt any emotions, let alone guilt or remorse.

Only when Florence was choked up and could no longer bring herself to continue speaking did Felix say slowly, “Hmph! What’s the point of saying that now?”

“You’re a Howard. From the day you were born, you were destined to give your everything for the family!

“Back then, I had already arranged your marriage partner, but you just had to fall in love with a penniless boy. You defied my orders for his sake, and you even eloped from DC with that bastard, causing the Howards to become the laughing stock of many!

“So of course he had to die!

“I’ve told you a long time ago that I will never hesitate to kill anyone who puts the family at risk or affects the family’s interests!

“It’s the same even if you’re my daughter!”

When Florence heard this, the luster and vigor in her eyes gradually dimmed.

Indeed, since she was clearly aware of how cold and ruthless her father was and how he didn’t care for his children at all, why should she expect him to feel guilty for what he had done back then?

She closed her eyes before suddenly opening them again and saying to Felix, “Fine, it’s useless for me to say anything to a heartless person like you.

“I just hope that you won’t regret what you just said!”

Felix looked at Florence without saying a word.

Florence wiped away the tears on her face with her sleeve before suddenly turning around to face Lucas and saying solemnly, “Lucas, help me, I want to become the head of the Howards! From now on, I will call the shots in the family, and I will abolish those rotten rules!”

Lucas could clearly feel the difference in Florence’s attitude now.

A few minutes ago, when Lucas asked her if she wanted to become the helmsman of the family, she seemed hesitant and even resistant, but she agreed for his sake.

But Florence’s eyes were now glowing, as if she had made up her mind to do something and that she was determined to obtain the position of helmsman at all costs!

But Lucas didn’t disapprove of Florence’s changes.

“Since you want it, then the position of helmsman is yours from now on. You’re free to do whatever you want. I won’t interfere with your decisions,” Lucas said clearly with an indifferent smile.

After getting Lucas's promise, Florence immediately showed him a grateful look.

Immediately afterward, Florence glanced at the Howards around her before asking loudly, "Does anyone have any objections to me taking over as the head of the family?"

At this moment, Florence was completely different from the way she was before. Her eyes were full of determination and the aura of a powerful person about to take on a superior position.

The rest of the Howards opened their mouths in shock, unable to believe that things had really come to this.

Is Florence really going to become the head of the Howards?

But... Felix, the helmsman, is clearly still around...

What should we do now? they wondered.

"Florence! How dare you!" Felix glared daggers at Florence. "I'm still alive. You're in no place to be the head of the family!"

"No, even if I die now, you will never become the head of the Howards! Just give up now!"

Florence wasn't afraid. She even smiled. "You no longer call the shots for the Howards now!"

Then she took out a golden whistle from her pocket and blew it.

Beep!

As the sharp whistle sounded, the messy sound of shuffling footsteps filled the air around them.

Soon, twenty-odd powerhouses dressed in black compression wear suddenly appeared and surrounded the Howards.

This scene shocked the Howards and made them panic!

None of them expected that Florence had secretly nurtured a group of powerhouses!

When... when did she manage to get such a powerful squad without any of us noticing?

Many Howards turned as pale as a sheet.

But Lucas remained expressionless, seemingly having long known about Florence's backup plan.

The truth was indeed so. Lucas was a high-level expert. The moment he stepped foot inside the villa, he could already sense that there were more than twenty extraordinary auras hidden all around the villa.

But at first, Lucas didn't know that they were experts Florence had prepared. Only when she pulled out the whistle did he suddenly realize.

But since Florence had her own subordinates, there was no need for him to get involved.

Strictly speaking, these were all the Howards' internal affairs, and Lucas didn't want to get involved. Otherwise, if he accidentally killed someone, it would be difficult for him to explain himself to Cheyenne.

He would just leave it to the Howards to deal with their own affairs.

Meanwhile, he would stay here and ensure that Florence was safe.

After seeing these men in black, Felix was stunned for a moment, but he was an experienced man after all, and he quickly reacted.

"Florence, how dare you hide these people? Are you planning to force me into giving you my power and authority?" Felix yelled at Florence, his wrinkly face beet red from anger.

Chapter 952: Killing Everyone Who Gets in the Way

Florence sneered and mocked, "If that's what you want to call it, go ahead!"

"But you taught me all of this. You forced me to do this!"

"If I hadn't agreed to the marriage alliance with the Lamberts and obtained the greatest authority in the Lambert family, how could the Howards have encroached on all their assets so quickly?"

"Everything I've done for the Howards all these years isn't any less than anyone else!"

"I'm a Howard too. Why can't I become the helmsman of the Howards?"

"Am I not qualified to be the helmsman just because I'm a woman? Is there a family rule that states that the Howards aren't allowed to have a woman as the family head?"

Florence's sharp gaze swept across all the Howards.

Because of her extremely powerful aura, none of the Howards she glanced at dared to look her in the eye at all, let alone talk back to her. They looked away from her eyes almost immediately.

“Hah, what a joke!” Felix sneered. “Although there isn’t a rule that states women can’t be the helmsman, the Howards have existed for a few hundred years. In the last few centuries, no woman has been the helmsman!”

“Who are you to break this precedent and become the first female head of the family? If word about this gets out, the Howards will immediately become the laughing stock of all the rich and powerful families in DC!”

Although he was already 75 years old, he was still full of vigor and energy, and he didn’t lose the upper hand in arguing against Florence at all.

“Hmph, you’re ridiculous!” Florence refused to give in and sneered. “What era is it now? Equality between men and women has been going on for decades. Yet you want to stop me with an idea from hundreds of years ago?”

“Since this precedent hasn’t happened before, then I’ll break this precedent! I will become the first female head of the family. And I will abolish those bullshit rules that place men superior to women!”

“From now on, men and women in the Howard family will be equal, and all women will enjoy the same rights and freedoms as men!”

“The position of the Howards’ helmsman should be held by a capable person. As long as a woman is outstanding enough and has contributed enough to the family, she can also become the head of the family!”

“I want to see who in DC dares to laugh at me!”

At this moment, Florence’s body was brimming with an unprecedented domineering aura and faith.

Standing in the middle of the crowd, she exuded an aura that couldn’t be refuted!

Florence had undergone outstanding education in the Howards, and later on, she had even founded and developed a great corporation known as the Flor Group by herself. She definitely wasn’t a weak woman.

“Rebellious girl... you’re unfilial! How dare you defy me?!” Felix pointed at Florence. He was so furious that he was trembling and the veins on his forehead were throbbing.

“Florence Howard, how dare you speak to Father like that?!” Samuel stepped forward and yelled at Florence angrily. “Father is already so old, yet you’re saying such callous

things to provoke him. Do you deliberately want him to anger him to death so you can get what you want?”

Florence glanced at Samula coldly and mocked, “You don’t have to pretend to be a filial son at this time! Who doesn’t know that you’ve long coveted the position of helmsman and that you’ve been hoping to take over sooner.

“Unfortunately, Father has already revoked your position as successor, and now, I’m the head of the family. That’s why you’re indignant, right?”

Being hit in his sore spot, Samuel was annoyed and furious. “Shut up! Stop spouting nonsense! As your brother, I don’t want you to be talking back to Father. Is there anything wrong with this?”

“Don’t forget that Father is still the head of the Howards, and only he has the right to decide who becomes the next helmsman!”

“If Father really hands over the position of helmsman to you, I’ll have no objections, and I’ll be the first to support you. But now, you obviously want to snatch the position away from Father!

“You’re treacherous and rebellious. I must stop you no matter what!

“Don’t you have a lot of experts under your command now? If you want to harm Father, just kill me first!” Samuel yelled loudly and reprimanded Florence furiously.

Meanwhile, Ezra stood silently at the side, quickly thinking about the current situation.

Now that the terrifying man Lucas was on Florence’s side and wanted to help her become the helmsman, Florence’s power was greatly strengthened.

Moreover, the fact that Florence had immediately summoned a team of more than twenty experts with her whistle meant that she still had some trump cards. Who knew how many more trump cards she had.

Thus, Florence posed a huge threat to him!

His only chance now was to step out like Samuel did and try his best to perform in front of his grandfather so that the latter would hand over his position to him.

But given Lucas’s domineering style, Felix might not be able to suppress him!

No, I can’t do that.

His best method at present was to stay put and see if there would be any twists in the situation for him to take action!

Ezra made up his mind, gritted his teeth, and stood still, not stepping forward or speaking up.

Florence smiled in contempt as she watched Samuel behaving like a filial son. “Hah, Samuel, you’ve always been so hypocritical since we were kids!

“Since you want to die to prove how much you really respect Father, I’ll grant your wish to show your filial piety!

“Since you want to die, you can’t blame me!”

Florence commanded her subordinates, “I’ll count to five. If Samuel continues to get in my way, kill him!”

“Yes!” The twenty or so experts agreed in unison.

An austere and murderous aura surged to the sky!

The Howards nearby looked at the people in front of them in horror.

Even though they didn’t know any martial arts, they could feel the terrifying aura that gave them goosebumps from the twenty or so people in front of them!

The strength of each of these experts was on par with the bodyguards that the Howards had spent a ton of money to hire!

Samuel’s eyes widened in disbelief. “Florence! I’m your brother. Are you really going to order your subordinates to kill me?”

Chapter 953: Replacing Old With New

With a look of indifference, Florence sneered, “Brother? Why didn’t you say that when I was being strangled and almost died?

“Cut the crap. If you still refuse to get lost, you can try and see if I’ll really order my people to kill you!

“Five...

“Four...”

...

Samuel’s face instantly paled, especially when he heard Florence counting down from five. The fear within him immediately surged to the peak.

In the past, he might have been able to use his identity as her brother to restrain her and make her comply.

But Florence had completely lost all her affection and feelings for him and the Howards. She no longer cared about kinship and had become indifferent and heartless.

Florence would probably really kill her biological brother now.

“Three...

“Two...

“One!

“Time’s up!”

After finishing the countdown expressionlessly, Florence immediately ordered her subordinates, “Do it!”

Four men in black immediately charged toward Samuel. They were each holding a sharp dagger in hand, and the cold blades glistened under the light.

Samuel was finally convinced that Florence would really kill him!

In this life-and-death situation, Samuel could no longer care about anything else as he closed his eyes and shouted frantically, “W-wait! I... I concede! I’ll give up on being the helmsman! I won’t fight with you or stop you anymore!”

“Stop!” Florence sneered as she raised her hand.

The four black-clothed experts attacking Samuel immediately stopped and returned to their previous positions.

Only after seeing these experts leave did Samuel heave a sigh of relief and take a deep breath.

The brief second just now felt like a year to him. It was so long that it made him feel suffocated.

After conceding to Florence in front of everyone, Samuel felt very humiliated. But at the same time, he couldn’t help feeling joyful for overcoming an ordeal. His forehead, chest, and back were all drenched in cold sweat.

Florence glanced at his wretched appearance and suddenly smirked at Felix. “Look how much of a coward your chosen successor is!

“Just because he’s a man, are you going to hand over your position to him even though he’s such an incompetent coward?”

“Is that what you keep claiming to be for the best interests of the family? Hah, how ridiculous!”

“Oh, by the way, although Samuel is a hypocritical coward, at least he can still step forward and pretend. But another coward from the Howards doesn’t even have the courage to speak up!”

“Is that why only men are fit to be the helmsman of the Howards?”

“If the Howards really landed in the hands of these good-for-nothings, we would really be doomed!”

Florence glanced at Ezra mockingly, who was standing at the side without even daring to say a word.

Her words were sharp, and coupled with the actions of Samuel and Ezra, no one could refute her at all.

“You... you!” Endless fury surged in Felix’s heart, as well as some misery. Perhaps he was upset with Florence’s sharp words, or perhaps he was angered by the embarrassing behavior of his son Samuel and his grandson Ezra, whom he valued greatly.

His face turned red and white while his entire body trembled in fury. Suddenly, Felix spat out a mouthful of red blood!

“Felix!” A few Howards subconsciously shouted, but they quickly realized that someone else was now the helmsman, so they didn’t know how to treat Felix.

For a moment, more than ten Howards stood around them, but none of them dared to go forward to hold Felix or speak up for him.

Seeing this scene, Florence felt melancholic yet amused.

This was the Howard family, whose members had grown up with the mindset of putting interests before all else, which her father had instilled in them.

All of them were raised to be cold-blooded and heartless, valuing only profits and losses but not humanity and kinship.

Seeing Felix’s pale and shriveled old face, Florence couldn’t bring herself to be cruel.

“Someone, come take the Howards’ former helmsman to the hospital for proper care and treatment!”

A few of the Howards’ servants hurried over from the corners they were hiding in and held Felix to help him away.

At this moment, Felix’s expression was also extremely complicated.

He looked at his children, grandchildren, and family members standing around him but were too scared to even speak. He then looked at Florence, who was standing in the middle of the crowd with an imposing aura. After a long time, a strange expression appeared on his face. He seemed to be caught between laughter and tears.

With the help of the servants, he stood in front of Florence and took a few glances at her before suddenly announcing, “I, Felix Howard, the helmsman of the Howard family, hereby announce that from now on, the new family head is Florence Howard!”

After speaking, he stopped looking at the expressions of the people around him, slowly closed his eyes, and allowed the servants to hold him to leave the villa.

Under street lights outside shone on Felix’s white hair as his figure suddenly hunched, making him look much thinner and weaker. It heralded the end of an era.

From now on, Florence called the shots in the family!

Florence became the first ever female helmsman of the Howards!

Lucas watched silently from the side.

Florence had controlled the entire scene alone and taken the position of helmsman resolutely, which made Lucas change his opinion of her for the better.

This woman was truly capable. Lucas was looking forward to seeing what the Howards would become under her leadership.

But before that, there was still a very important matter that needed to be resolved.

Florence also turned her attention to a young man. “Since I’ve now become the helmsman, I naturally have to help the family clean up!”

Chapter 954: Betraying the Family

Florence’s icy gaze landed on Ezra next to her.

Ezra’s heart tensed up, and he hurriedly showed a warm smile. “Congratulations on becoming the new helmsman of the Howards, Aunt Florence!”

“It’s the Howards’ honor to have a smart and wise helmsman like you!”

Ezra quickly flattered Florence.

Since things had developed to this, and Ezra couldn’t take back the position of helmsman from Florence, he could only express his loyalty and make her less hostile toward him.

Florence sneered.

The Howards had previously blamed her and Lucas for causing the Peerless Martial Association to become their enemy. But at the end of the day, the root cause was Ezra, who had wanted to use Dwayne to kill Lucas. If not for him, Dwayne wouldn’t have died trying to assassinate Lucas, and Hades wouldn’t have come to the Howard residence to take revenge.

It could be said that Ezra was the culprit who started it all!

Moreover, if Lucas hadn’t arrived in time and saved her from Hades, Florence would have long been strangled to death by Hades.

It was all caused by her nephew Ezra!

Therefore, Florence would never let Ezra, this seemingly mild-mannered but deadly snake, off.

“Hah, Ezra, you’re really good at acting! You’re congratulating me for succeeding the position of helmsman, but you’re actually still planning to inform someone to deal with me, aren’t you?”

With a cold expression on her face, Florence stared straight into Ezra’s eyes.

Ezra’s heart skipped a beat as he gripped his phone in his pocket tightly.

He was extremely flustered, but he tried his best to remain calm and explain, “Aunt Florence, how can you think of me that way? I didn’t do anything! I...”

“Go get his phone from his pocket!” Florence interrupted Ezra and ordered the people around her.

A man in black immediately rushed toward Ezra.

Ezra’s expression changed drastically as he gripped his phone tightly and shouted, “No! Aunt Florence, even though you’re in charge of the family now, you have no right to invade my privacy or snatch my phone away! You... you’re going overboard!”

While shouting, he looked around in panic to find an escape route.

“Hmph! Hold him down and grab his phone!” Florence said coldly.

Ezra was panic-stricken. If Florence really got hold of his phone, she would definitely find his messages. At that time, he would be dead meat!

No, no matter what, I can't let them get my phone!

Ezra gritted his teeth and suddenly threw his phone at a fountain nearby!

As long as his phone fell into the water and short-circuited, no one would be able to find out what was inside!

As long as they didn't have any evidence, there was nothing Florence could do to him even though she was the helmsman now.

Ezra had a well-thought-out plan. But unfortunately, the moment he threw his phone, Florence's subordinate pinned him down to the ground, disrupting the original trajectory of his phone and causing it to fall to the ground soon after he threw it. It didn't even make it close to the fountain!

When Ezra struggled to raise his head from the ground, he saw his phone being handed over to Florence respectfully.

“Florence Howard, you... That's my phone. You can't look at the contents and invade my privacy!” Ezra roared at the top of his lungs.

Unfortunately, he was now pressed firmly to the ground by Florence's subordinate, and it was impossible for him to stop her.

Moreover, he was behaving like he had a guilty conscience. Even a fool would know that there must be something fishy on his phone.

Florence unlocked Ezra's phone and immediately saw the two text messages sent not long ago in the chat history.

When she saw the content of the messages, her face immediately darkened, and her eyes were full of murderous intent when she looked at Ezra.

“Ezra, you actually betrayed the family by tipping someone off! You deserve to die for what you've done!” Florence yelled furiously.

Hearing this, the Howards were shocked.

The Howards were a big family that had been passed down for hundreds of years. According to the family rules, anyone who betrayed the family could be executed directly!

They knew that Ezra was definitely dissatisfied with Florence taking over as the helmsman, and he might even think of taking revenge.

But they were even more puzzled as to who Ezra had tipped off and what he intended to do to the Howards and Florence.

“Hah, I tipped someone off and betrayed the family?” Seeing that the secret in his phone had been exposed, Ezra decided to go all out and stop pretending. He revealed his true colors and said contemptuously, “That’s right. I tipped someone off, but you forced me to do it, Florence!

“You’re a woman, so you’re not qualified to be the helmsman. But you used despicable means and ganged up with your son-in-law to force Grandpa to hand the position over to you!

“You didn’t get the position fair and square. Who would acknowledge you?

“I admit that I’ve used some tricks, but they’re nothing compared to what you’ve done!

“I tipped off the people of the Peerless Martial Association. I just wanted to kill Lucas Gray. So what? Doesn’t he deserve to die?

“I’m using my own methods to clean up our family. It’s not considered betraying the family at all!

“On the contrary, you’re the biggest traitor of the family because you used despicable means to snatch the position of helmsman!”

Ezra was pinned to the ground and unable to move, so he could only lash out at Florence in desperation.

Florence was extremely gloomy now, and she couldn’t wait to kill the incompetent Ezra!

He had clearly tipped off the people of the Peerless Martial Association and released news that would cause the Howards to face a calamity. But he didn’t realize the seriousness of the matter at all. In order to deal with her and Lucas for his own selfish desires, he didn’t even care about the well-being of the entire Howard family. He was simply out of his mind!

“Ezra, shut up! Don’t try to twist facts!

“Lucas is my son-in-law, so he’s not an outsider but one of the Howards!

“You, on the other hand, have no regard for what will happen to the Howards or how the Peerless Martial Association will deal with us. All you care about is the position of helmsman, and you’d do anything to get it. You’re the traitor of the Howards!”

“If it wasn’t for you, the Howards wouldn’t be facing a calamity today, and things wouldn’t have turned out the way they are now!”

“How dare you argue for yourself in front of us when things have already come to this?! You’ve caused us to face a terrifying enemy, so you must die to pay for your crime today!” Florence hollered furiously.

Ezra didn’t seem to care, and he had a twisted look on his face.

“Haha, anyway, I’ve already informed the Peerless Martial Association, and they’ll be coming soon. None of you will be able to escape!”

“Even if I don’t become the helmsman, you can forget about it! Even if I have to die, I’ll make all of you die with me!”

Ezra burst into maniacal laughter.

Chapter 955: The Peerless Martial Association Arrives

Ezra was screaming and laughing like a lunatic.

The man in black holding Ezra down frowned and struck him on the back of his neck, causing his eyes to roll backward as he passed out.

Although Ezra had already fainted, what he just said was still ringing in the ears of everyone present.

They didn’t expect Ezra to be so crazy as to inform the Peerless Martial Association to come over.

Hades’s corpse was still lying right in front of the Howards’ villa, and he had been shot by a sniper arranged by the Howards. The Peerless Martial Association would definitely be enraged and hold the Howards responsible!

The Peerless Martial Association was a massive organization with countless powerful experts. As one of the top eight families of DC, the Howards knew this all too well.

Hades alone had almost destroyed the Howards. No one had been able to stop him at all.

Now that Hades had died in their residence, the Peerless Martial Association would definitely send more terrifying big shots to hold them responsible. If the Peerless Martial

Association vented their anger on the Howards, many Howards would probably die, and the family might even get eradicated!

How could the Howards possibly be able to resist?

All the Howards subconsciously turned to look at Lucas.

If the Peerless Martial Association's powerhouses really came to hold the Howards accountable, Lucas was probably the only person who could protect them!

Florence looked at Lucas, gritted her teeth, and suddenly said, "Lucas, leave immediately before the people from the Peerless Martial Association arrive! Take Cheyenne and your daughter somewhere remote and live in recluse!

The Howards were all stunned.

They originally thought that Florence would get Lucas to stay and help them deal with the Peerless Martial Association since he was her son-in-law. They didn't expect her to ask him to leave!

But if Lucas really left, what would happen to the Howards?

Hades had died in their residence, and since the Peerless Martial Association knew this, they definitely wouldn't let them off easily!

Were they all going to wait for death?

"No, Mr. Gray can't leave! He's the only one who can fight against the Peerless Martial Association's experts now. If he leaves, how can Howards withstand the Peerless Martial Association's wrath?"

"Yeah, Florence, you'd better consider it carefully. Mr. Gray is the only person we can rely on now. He can't leave!"

"The Howards are about to face our greatest crisis ever. If Mr. Gray leaves at this point, what are we supposed to do? What will happen to the hundreds of people who live here? We can't possibly all escape. Are we supposed to just wait here to die?"

"Florence, quickly think of a way to get Mr. Gray to stay here and help us!"

...

The Howards were all panic-stricken as they requested Florence to get Lucas to stay in the Howard residence to help them deal with the people of the Peerless Martial Association.

Lucas was surprised.

He didn't expect Florence to be worried about his and Cheyenne's safety and tell them to leave quickly instead of asking him to stay and help resolve the Howards' crisis.

It seemed that Florence was indeed different from before.

Facing the Howards' request, Florence shouted resolutely, "No!

"I think you all know what we're about to face. In the face of the terrifying Peerless Martial Association, the Howards are just like eggs and easily crushed!

"Although Lucas is powerful, he's alone. How can he possibly defeat the thousands of experts of the Peerless Martial Association?

"So, the only way now is to leave the Howard residence immediately! Not only him, all of you should leave too!"

"Go back to your homes to take your valuables with you and flee immediately. Leave as fast as you can and run as far as you can before the people of the Peerless Martial Association arrive!"

Florence spoke loudly with a helpless and agonized look on her face.

She had just taken over as the head of the family less than half an hour ago. But now, the Howards were facing a crisis that could possibly annihilate them. How ironic.

Initially, only the people present were aware that Hades had been killed by one of the Howards in their home. If they had handled it properly, they could have covered it up.

But for the sake of competing for power and suppressing her and Lucas, Ezra had actually informed the Peerless Martial Association about this matter. Since the news had already spread, even Florence had no way to turn the situation around.

Thus, the only way to survive now was to flee as quickly and as far away as they could!

"Hah, you want to run away?"

"Since you've killed someone from the Peerless Martial Association, none of you can escape today!"

Suddenly, an extremely cold voice sounded from the front, resounding clearly in the ears of everyone present.

As this hair-raising voice sounded, people clad in black robes landed quietly around the Howards like phantoms.

The word 'Peerless' was embroidered clearly on their robes.

These people were from the Peerless Martial Association!

After seeing these terrifying figures, the Howards immediately turned pale in fright.

Before they could do anything, the ten-odd experts of the Peerless Martial Association had already completely surrounded them!

Although there weren't that many people from the Peerless Martial Association here, they were all elites of the association, and their auras were extremely formidable.

In particular, the person standing at the front who had just spoken had a hideous scar on his face that ran from the corner of his mouth directly to the bottom of his cheekbone. A mere glance at it was extremely terrifying.

The terrifying scar-faced man, the leader, didn't look at the Howards but instead at the corpse lying nearby.

The corpse was facing the sky with its back on the ground. His eyes were wide open and staring at the sky with an expression of realizing his imminent death on his face.

There was an obvious hole in the middle of his forehead, and the blood flowing out of it was slowly coagulating.

The corpse clearly belonged to Hades, the powerhouse of the Peerless Martial Association whom the Howards' sniper had mistakenly killed.

"Hah, the Howards are really brave. You even dare to kill the top powerhouses of the Peerless Martial Association! It seems that you're tired of living in luxury after so many years!" the scar-faced man hollered furiously, his voice as loud as a bell and full of a murderous intent that shrouded every single person present in an instant!

Chapter 956: Escape Quickly

The powerful and unparalleled killing intent shocked the Howards, so much so that they didn't even dare to utter a single word.

As the current head of the family, Florence had no choice but to endure her fear and step forward.

Looking at the scar-faced man, she tried her best to remain calm and said, "Sir, there's a huge misunderstanding here. Please calm down and let me explain it to you carefully."

The scar-faced man looked at Florence and said disdainfully, "You're just a woman. You're not qualified to talk with me! Get your family's helmsman out here immediately!"

He obviously treated Florence as a junior of the Howards, and there was great displeasure on his face.

“I am the current helmsman of the Howards, Florence Howard. My father already handed his position over to me last night.”

Florence grasped her fingers to encourage herself before asking politely, “How may I address you, this gentleman from the Peerless Martial Association?”

After hearing what Florence said, the scar-faced man was a little surprised. He finally looked at Florence before smirking and saying with contempt, “Hah, I can’t believe that the esteemed Howard family has declined to the point of letting a woman become the family head. You people are really getting worse and worse!”

“Since you’ve asked, you’d better remember my name. I am Damien Zander, the chief of the US headquarters of the Peerless Martial Association!”

Boom!

As soon as Damien revealed his identity, the Howards’ expressions greatly changed!

Damien’s name wasn’t unfamiliar to the scions of wealthy families who had been living in DC since they were children.

On the contrary, his name was like thunder in their ears and made them terrified.

Damien was the top powerhouse of the Peerless Martial Association in the US, whose status was second only to the chief of the global headquarters. He was the head of the dozens of US branches!

He had an even more prestigious and honorable position than the eight top families of DC!

Yet this terrifying big shot had come to the Howard residence in person!

In the past, the Howards would probably all be overjoyed and honored.

But now, Damien was actually here to denounce the Howards, making them plunge into desperation!

Even the chief of the Peerless Martial Association’s US headquarters had come. Clearly, the Peerless Martial Association attached great importance to Hades’ death, so the Howards would absolutely die today!

Florence’s face paled as despair appeared in her eyes.

But since she was the head of the family, she should do her duty.

Florence gritted her teeth and said solemnly, “Mr. Damien, I’m very sorry about Mr. Hades’s death, but please believe me. The Howards definitely didn’t mean to kill Mr. Hades, and we have absolutely no intention of becoming enemies of the Peerless Martial Association. Please be magnanimous and let us off!

“Of course, it’s an indisputable fact that a powerhouse of the Peerless Martial Association died in the Howard residence. We have nothing to argue about this, but we will do our best to make it up to Hades’s family and compensate for the Peerless Martial Association’s loss!

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“I will fulfill all your commands as long as it’s within my abilities to do so!”

No matter what, Hades had indeed died in the Howard residence, and he had even been shot to death by their sniper. If the Peerless Martial Association wanted them to take responsibility, the Howards were willing to bear it!

But the dead couldn’t be revived after all. All Florence could do was to provide as much financial compensation as possible in hopes that the Peerless Martial Association would let the rest of the Howards off.

Damien obviously wasn’t interested in this.

“Compensation? You killed one of the top experts of the Peerless Martial Association, yet you can casually mention compensation?” Damien sneered as if he had heard a huge joke. “Do you know how much effort and money the Peerless Martial Association spent to discover and train a top powerhouse like Hades?”

“How do you want to compensate for it? It won’t be enough even if you give up your entire family!

“All of you must die today. I will use your lives to compensate for the life of the Peerless Martial Association’s expert!”

Damien spoke expressionlessly and sentenced all the Howards to death.

The Howards immediately turned as pale as a sheet. Some of the timid ones even slumped onto the ground.

“Mr. Damien, please...” Florence’s face was pale too. She wanted to plead for mercy and beg him to spare the Howards.

“Shut up! I don’t want to hear any more nonsense!” Damien interrupted. Then he turned to look at the people present and said with a gloomy expression, “Who is Lucas Gray? Get out!”

Everyone was stunned and then subconsciously turned to look at Lucas.

Damien personally asked Lucas to come out. Indeed, he was here to deal with him.

Florence’s heart skipped a beat. *No, I can’t let Damien capture Lucas!*

Florence gritted her teeth and knelt in front of Damien. “Mr. Damien, this is really just a misunderstanding. Please let the Howards off. I beg you!”

Her only hope now was that Damien would let the Howards and Lucas off. She was willing to do anything for it!

Most of her life had been going from one mess to another, and she had even neglected her daughter because of her hatred, leaving her to live without motherly love for years.

When Hades seized her throat and almost killed her, Florence finally realized that mistreating her daughter was her greatest regret.

Lucas was her daughter’s husband, so no matter what, Florence didn’t want him to die because she didn’t want her daughter to feel the same misery of losing her beloved.

If Damien had to kill Lucas, she was willing to make up for it with her life!

“Florence!”

Seeing Florence kneeling in front of Damien to beg him, the Howards felt extremely upset.

The powerhouses of the Howards and the men in black who worked for Florence all stepped forward one after another to confront the people of the Peerless Martial Association.

Although their martial arts skills were inferior to these top powerhouses of the Peerless Martial Association, they wouldn’t surrender without a fight at such a critical juncture.

Florence turned her head and shouted at the Howards’ experts, “All of you... stand down! Don’t do anything!”

Under her orders, the Howards’ experts could only retreat unwillingly.

A playful smile appeared on Damien's lips, but this wouldn't make him change his mind. "I've already said that all the Howards must die today! And that young man named Lucas Gray must die too!"

There was immense killing intent in Damien's eyes.

An intense look of despair instantly appeared in Florence's eyes.

But then she suddenly did something that shocked everyone!

Florence leaped toward Damien's feet, hugged his calf, and turned around to face Lucas. "Lucas, quickly escape!"

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Chapter 957: Fighting Hard and Protecting Each Other

When Lucas saw Florence's action, his face was full of surprise!

Although he had already noticed that Florence had changed a lot compared to before, her current actions were still far beyond Lucas's expectations, causing him to be shocked.

"Get lost!" Damien was caught off guard by Florence hugging his calf. He flew into a rage and lifted his other foot to stomp on her head.

A terrifying expert like Damien could easily crush a stone with his foot, let alone a weak woman like Florence who didn't know any martial arts.

Florence felt a ferocious aura overwhelming her from above, and her instinctive fear made her close her eyes.

But she didn't flinch or retreat while hugging Damien's calf.

The only thing she wanted to do now was to hold Damien's leg tightly and hinder him to buy Lucas time to escape!

Lucas was her daughter's husband. He definitely couldn't die here!

Seeing Damien's terrifying foot about to stomp on Florence's head, a figure suddenly rushed over and kicked Damien's chest!

Bang!

Under the impact of the immense force, Damien took several steps back.

He regained his balance, narrowed his eyes, and stared at the young man in front of him.

The others present gawked at the figure who suddenly appeared out of nowhere to kick Damien, making him retreat several meters.

Who else could it be other than Lucas?

Florence was already prepared to die, but there was now a sudden change in the situation. Damien's calves, which she was holding, suddenly retracted, and the terrifying stomp didn't touch her.

She opened her eyes apprehensively and found that she was still lying on the ground while Lucas was standing in front of her, facing off against the terrifying expert Damien.

In this instant, tears welled up in Florence's eyes.

She had rarely been protected like this in her life.

The last time she was saved from a desperate situation was more than twenty years ago, when she had just met Cheyenne's biological father, Drew Cruise.

"As I said earlier, I came to the Howards' today to keep you alive. I'm a man of my word!" Lucas's calm yet resolute voice came from above Florence's head.

Florence's eyes suddenly widened in disbelief. Immediately afterward, a long-lost warm and fuzzy feeling flooded her heart.

Although Lucas didn't have a good relationship with her and had yet to accept that she was his mother-in-law, the fact was that he had saved her from the brink of death twice tonight.

Even the Howards and her father, whom she had lived with for decades, didn't extend a helping hand to her when they saw her in danger and on the brink of death. All they cared about were their own interests and had no regard for her.

Yet Lucas, her son-in-law, whom she obviously wasn't on good terms with and had met only a few times, was actually willing to come to the Howard residence to save her despite knowing that an expert had laid a trap here.

And now, what Lucas just said made Florence feel a strong urge to cry.

It turned out that there were still some people who didn't want her to die.

Her daughter and her son-in-law didn't want her to die.

At this moment, Florence wished that she could see Cheyenne so that she could apologize to her properly.

Jordan also stepped forward and stared at Damien with a strong battle intent in his eyes. "Lucas, let me deal with him!"

During the previous battle with Hades, Jordan had finally broken through his bottleneck, and his strength had risen to another level. So despite knowing that Damien was tough to deal with, he still wanted to try and see if he could deal with him.

Lucas shook his head and said lightly, "You are not his match yet."

His words immediately made Jordan understand that even though his strength had increased to another level, he still wasn't a match for Damien.

In this regard, Jordan didn't feel frustrated or reluctant. After all, Damien was already in his forties or fifties. Moreover, he was also the chief of the Peerless Martial Association's US headquarters. He had terrifying strength, and it was normal for Jordan to be inferior to him.

Thus, Jordan stopped talking and obediently retreated behind Lucas.

At this moment, Damien rubbed his chest that was still a little numb from the kick, and he looked at Lucas with a cautious gaze. "You're Lucas Gray, right? What exactly is your identity?"

When he asked about Lucas previously, all the Howards subconsciously turned to look at the young man in the middle. So Damien immediately knew that this slender young man was the target he wanted to find.

But Damien was honestly a little disappointed when he saw Lucas.

Reason being, he heard that several experts of the Peerless Martial Association, Julian, Dwayne, and even Hades, had all been killed by Lucas.

When he really saw Lucas, he discovered that he was just an extremely ordinary-looking young man in his twenties, making Damien feel disappointed.

But just now, the terrifying speed and strength that Lucas had burst out with in an instant made Damien feel an immense pressure that came from the depths of his soul.

The terrifying strength and pressure actually emerged from a young man in his twenties. It made Damien, the knowledgeable chief of the Peerless Martial Association's US headquarters, feel slightly shocked.

Damien refused to believe that this young man didn't come from a powerful background.

Lucas stood in place and said indifferently, "My identity isn't important. But are you sure that you want to kill me and all the Howards?"

He stood still calmly. But somehow, there seemed to be a powerful aura pressing down on Damien, as if Lucas was a mountain.

Many of the Howards had looks of anticipation and respect.

Lucas was now their only hope!

At this moment, the Howards had long forgotten how they had just wanted Lucas to die on the spot. But now, they saw him as their savior.

Life was clearly unpredictable.

Florence's eyes also showed some surprise.

Just now, the only thing on her mind had been that Lucas had saved her from dying, and she hadn't paid attention to his combat power.

She initially thought that Lucas would definitely be no match for Damien, so she didn't hesitate to sacrifice her life to stall for some time to let Lucas escape.

But based on the current situation, Lucas didn't seem weak at all. He might really be on par with Damien!

"I'm really very curious about your identity. Is there something you can't say?"

After Lucas spoke, everyone thought that Damien might be enraged. But to their surprise, Damien suddenly smiled, and the killing intent on his face instantly vanished. Instead, he smiled and began talking to Lucas.

The scene made many people puzzled.

Chapter 958: The Problem Doesn't Lie With Me

The reason Damien could become the chief of the Peerless Martial Association's US headquarters was definitely not that he was a reckless man with superb martial arts skills. On the contrary, his mind and wisdom were much better than most people's.

Thus, just based on the power of Lucas's kick just now, Damien concluded that Lucas definitely wasn't a simple person.

Possessing such terrifying strength at such a young age showed that he definitely had an extremely powerful and terrifying background.

Even though he was now the chief of the Peerless Martial Association's US headquarters, he didn't dare to kill Lucas rashly.

"Since you're so eager to know, I don't mind telling you. I'm just an abandoned child of the Huttons," Lucas said calmly with a smile.

He naturally wouldn't easily reveal his other identity.

Given Damien's abilities, he would definitely be able to find out about his blood ties with the Huttons soon.

As for whether or not Damien could guess the other matters, it would depend on his abilities.

As expected, after hearing what Lucas said, Damien frowned slightly with a solemn expression.

Abandoned child of the Huttons... In that case, Lucas should have something to do with the Huttons of DC.

But his skills were absolutely not obtained from the Huttons.

Even Michael, the current helmsman of the Huttons, and his son Jace wouldn't be able to reach the terrifying level of this young man in front of him.

This could only mean that there was something more to Lucas that he wasn't willing to say.

Damien narrowed his eyes as he sized up Lucas and Jordan again.

Based on their demeanor and aura, Damien vaguely sensed an aura of tough vigor from them.

Only people who had experienced life and death on the battlefield would have such an aura.

After Damien deliberated slightly, his expression suddenly changed as he roughly guessed Lucas's true identity and background.

If he was really from that place...

"Hah, so that's how it is! It seems the Huttons really lack good judgment to have missed a talent like you. I reckon they'll definitely regret it when they find out!" Damien sighed emotionally and suddenly ordered the powerhouses of the Peerless Martial Association he had brought. "Stand back, all of you."

With his order, the experts of the Peerless Martial Association scattered around the villa and surrounding the Howards, Lucas, and Jordan all retreated behind Damien.

Seeing this, the Howards immediately looked shocked. *Is the Peerless Martial Association... going to let us off?*

Damien looked at Lucas. "For your sake, I can give you a chance and forgive the Howards for what happened today.

"But powerhouses of the Peerless Martial Association have died at the Howard residence. If I return just like that, I won't be able to explain it to my comrades."

Hearing Damien's intentions to let it go but needed an out to do so, Lucas asked, "What do you want then?"

Damien smiled. "I need a reasonable explanation."

Lucas thought about it and said to Florence, "Hand Ezra over to him."

Florence froze in shock but immediately followed Lucas's instructions and instructed her subordinates to drag the unconscious Ezra to the front.

Damien glanced at Ezra and recognized him to be the most outstanding third-generation scion of the Howards. He asked with raised brows, "Why?"

Lucas said, "Since you're here, I can let you know what happened between me and the Peerless Martial Association."

"First of all, it was Julian York of the Peerless Martial Association who took the initiative to come to California and asked to hold a tournament to fight with me to the death. I defeated him and killed him in the arena. Is this my fault?"

Damien said with raised brows, "Since Julian took the initiative to find you and ended up dying in the arena, it indeed isn't your fault."

Lucas smiled faintly. "Alright. Next is about Dwayne. I had no feud with him, and I didn't even know him. But someone instigated him to stop me while I was on my way back from the Howards'. He wanted to kill me to avenge Julian but was killed by me instead. Is this also my fault?"

Damien immediately frowned.

They were all martial artists, and it was common for them to fight and kill to take revenge. If Dwayne had really taken the initiative to seek revenge against Lucas but ended up getting killed by him instead, it indeed wasn't Lucas's fault.

After all, Dwayne was the one who provoked Lucas first. It would be unreasonable if Dwayne could try to kill Lucas, but Lucas wasn't allowed to fight back.

"Okay, if the truth is really as you said, it's Dwayne's fault for provoking you when he's not as skilled as you. It's not your fault for killing him since he provoked you first," Damien said in a deep voice.

Lucas nodded. "Next is Hades. Both he and Dwayne were in similar situations. They both died because someone deliberately tipped them off, and then they came to me for revenge."

Lucas was a little vague about what had happened to Hades, and he even took the blame for it. Otherwise, if the Howards were accused of manslaughter, it would lead to another slew of issues. It would then be hard for the Howards to get away with it.

"..." After hearing what Lucas said, Damien was speechless for a while.

When he first heard that Lucas had killed three of the top ten powerhouses of the Peerless Martial Association in a row, he was furious and wanted to capture Lucas to make Lucas answer to him.

But after hearing Lucas's explanation that the three of them had taken the initiative to provoke Lucas and eventually got killed, he felt that it indeed wasn't Lucas's fault.

In the end, Lucas kicked Ezra, who was on the ground, with his toe and said to Damien, "The person who instigated Dwayne to kill me, wanting to use the Peerless Martial Association to kill me, is Ezra Howard, the most scheming third-generation scion of the Howard family.

"So, I will hand this person over to you and leave him at the disposal of the Peerless Martial Association. This is the explanation I'm going to give you.

"Mr. Damien, are you satisfied with this explanation?"

Damien had an extremely gloomy expression on his face. He was livid at the thought of Dwayne and Hades dying because of Ezra.

But since they were already dead and Lucas had cooperatively handed over the culprit for his disposal, Lucas had given him an out.

Next, it was up to him to decide whether or not to accept it.

Chapter 959: Peaceful Resolution

Damien had actually already guessed some of Lucas's origin.

In fact, Damien could tell from Lucas's aura and his martial arts skills that he must have come from one of the mysterious and powerful armies of the country and that he must have a high status.

But Damien still couldn't guess which army.

But knowing this alone was enough for him.

Therefore, Damien would never fight with Lucas, who was from the military, because even if he won, he would end up offending the military, which was simply a death wish.

He had always been a smart man, and judging the situation was his forte.

This was why Damien changed his attitude the moment he guessed Lucas's identity and instantly restrained his killing intent.

"Mr. Gray, your explanation is very reasonable, but the Peerless Martial Association has lost three experts after all. We can't let the matter go just like that.

"I will have people continue to investigate this matter thoroughly. If I find out that the truth is unlike what you said, don't blame me for coming back to the Howards' to look for you.

"Since you've said that you'll hand Ezra Howard over to the Peerless Martial Association, I will take him away." Damien pointed at Ezra, who was still lying unconscious on the ground.

Lucas nodded and said with a smile, "That's natural. You can take this person away and investigate this matter as you please. If you really think that it's my responsibility, you can come and look for me at any time."

He was once again giving both of them an out.

Damien took another glance at Lucas before suddenly waving his hand and exclaiming, "Let's go!"

Then he took the ten or so experts of the Peerless Martial Association and Ezra with him, leaving the Howard residence.

Only after seeing with their own eyes that all the people of the Peerless Martial Association had left did the Howards seem to snap out of their dreams and stare at each other in disbelief.

"Have... the people of the Peerless Martial Association left just like that?"

"Are we really saved? Hah, great! We're all perfectly fine!"

“This is all thanks to Mr. Gray! You’re our great savior!”

“Yes, thank you for saving us, Mr. Gray!”

...

The Howards were extremely grateful to Lucas.

No one paid attention to Ezra, who had been taken away by the Peerless Martial Association.

But it was obvious enough. Ezra had done so many terrible things for the sake of power and his own benefits. He had gotten two experts of the Peerless Martial Association killed and had been completely given up by the Howards. The Peerless Martial Association definitely wouldn’t spare him.

...

In a luxurious villa near the center of the Howard residence...

Felix was sitting on a sofa and listening to the servants talk about what had just happened excitedly. He didn’t move for a long time.

“So... in the end, he was the one who saved us...” Felix sighed with a complicated look on his face.

He didn’t expect that his grandson Ezra would inform the Peerless Martial Association about everything that happened in their family without hesitating at all just for the sake of seizing power. His actions had almost caused the destruction of the Howards.

He also didn’t expect that Lucas would be the one to save the day and convince Damien, the chief of the Peerless Martial Association’s US headquarters, to give up on taking revenge and leave the Howard residence.

Life was indeed unpredictable...

“Grandpa, the doctor just said that you can’t move about freely yet. Take your medicine.”

At this moment, an extremely beautiful girl in her twenties walked over with a glass of warm water and a few bags of pills and placed them on the small coffee table in front of Felix.

This woman was naturally Pamela.

Previously, her father, Samuel, had gotten people to drag her away and lock her in her room, causing her to be absent for the matters that had happened in the Howard residence.

She had hurried over only after Felix vomited blood and was helped to his villa. She then found out about everything that happened from Felix.

Felix looked at the pills without touching them and instead sat on the couch and asked her despondently, "Pamela, tell me. Have I really done the wrong thing?"

After hesitating for a moment, Pamela looked at how aged her grandfather, who was usually strong-willed, was at the moment and gently in a mellow voice, "Grandpa, I don't know what I should say about what you've done previously. But you've indeed underestimated Lucas and his power."

Hearing this, Felix smiled self-deprecatingly.

"You're right. I did underestimate him too much. I only wanted him to work for the Howards. Once I couldn't use him, I'd destroy him. It turns out that I was absurdly wrong!

"If I hadn't seen what happened tonight, how could I believe that he, a young man in his twenties, would be able to deter the chief of the Peerless Martial Association's US headquarters? No one would believe this kind of thing!"

After sighing, Felix suddenly remembered that his granddaughter Pamela had desperately tried to stop him when he wanted to deal with Lucas previously, telling him that Lucas was terrifyingly powerful. Moreover, she had even once stood in front of Lucas to shield him and prevent Samuel from killing him.

"Pamela, do you know more about Lucas Gray?" Felix suddenly asked.

Pamela gritted her teeth and nodded. "I do know a little bit about him, but it's enough to let me know that he's definitely not an ordinary person. We absolutely can't provoke him easily!"

Then Pamela told Felix all about her sudden encounter with a group of terrorists in that remote town abroad more than a year ago, during which Lucas had suddenly appeared and single-handedly took out 30 to 40 terrorists armed with various firearms.

After hearing Pamela's story, Felix widened his mouth in shock, unable to say a word even after a long time.

"No wonder... he actually has such powerful martial arts skills. No wonder he was so dismissive and disdainful when facing the weapons and bullets of the Howards..."

“Haha, since he could appear in such a remote place and completely eliminate a group of terrorists on his own, how could he possibly be an ordinary person? He... he doesn't belong to the same world as us!

“No wonder he doesn't care for the position of the Howards' helmsman at all. Hah. Not to mention the Howards, I doubt he even takes the eight top families of DC seriously...

“Yet I treated him as a pawn that I could use. Haha, it was an absolute mistake on my part! Ahem!”

Felix sighed self-deprecatingly before suddenly coughing several times. A few mouthfuls of blood spewed out of his mouth.

“Grandpa! Grandpa, how are you?”

Pamela instantly panicked and helped support Felix. Extremely flustered, she ordered the servants, “Quick, get the doctors! Grandpa suddenly vomited so much blood!”

Chapter 960: Come To DC

Soon, the dedicated medical team hired by the Howards hurried over, sent Felix to the treatment room, and carried out emergency rescue on him.

The rest of the Howards learned of the news, rushed over, and crowded around the door.

Ten minutes later, the attending doctor came out of the treatment room with a look of dejection and said to the Howards with difficulty, “I'm very sorry. We've tried our best, but Mr. Howard has passed away!”

Boom!

This news was like a massive thunderbolt that immediately stunned all the Howards in place.

Felix was dead!

“Father!” Florence immediately let out a grief-stricken cry and staggered to the floor!

She initially thought that she had long since lost all feelings for her father.

She thought she no longer cared about him after he treated her as a pawn, killed her lover, manipulated her life at will, and chose to leave her in the lurch when she was on the brink of death.

But after hearing about his sudden death, she realized how much pain and misery she was in.

“Father...”

“Grandpa!”

“Mr. Howard...”

...

The Howards immediately started wailing in grief and agony.

Standing away from the crowd, Lucas looked at the situation from afar and then left the Howard residence with Jordan.

He didn't have any affection for Felix at all, so he wouldn't stay here to watch them cry in grief.

In the car on the way back to the DC Hotel, Jordan suddenly asked, “Lucas, although Damien, the chief of the Peerless Martial Association's US headquarters, is very powerful, and he's much stronger than me, he's no match for you. Why... why did you let him go?”

Sitting in the back seat, Lucas said, “Because he's a smart person and very good at judging the situation. I reckon he must have guessed some details about my origin. That's why he restrained his killing intent and took the initiative to give me an out. I'd like to give someone like him a chance.

“Besides, if I really killed him, I would form a deadly feud with the Peerless Martial Association. Although I'm not afraid of them, there are even more powerful people in the Peerless Martial Association. If they wanted to harm the other people around me, it would be an unpreventable disaster.

“Taking a step back and making concessions when appropriate will allow us to avoid trouble sometimes. Isn't that good?”

Jordan smiled and nodded, but he suddenly said, “Lucas, you didn't use to compromise in the past. You've changed greatly since we were in the Falcon Regiment.”

With an emotional gaze in his eyes, Lucas said slowly, “The situation is different. Now, there are many people around me that I have to protect. I don't want to get them implicated.”

After a moment of silence, Jordan agreed with a smile. “Lucas, you're right. Things are indeed different when there are people you worry about and need to protect.”

...

When the two of them returned to the Hotel, it was almost midnight.

Recalling the promise he had made to Cheyenne, Lucas took out his phone and called her.

As soon as he finished dialing her number, she immediately picked up. Clearly, Cheyenne had been holding her phone and waiting anxiously for news from him.

"Lucas, are you alright?" Cheyenne asked as soon as she spoke.

Lucas felt a warm and fuzzy feeling in his heart.

His wife had been holding her phone and worried about him during this period of time. How could he not be touched?

"I'm alright, and she's fine too. Don't worry!" Lucas smiled.

After making sure that Lucas and Florence were both safe and sound, Cheyenne finally heaved a huge sigh of relief.

"It's great that you're alright! Honey, thank you so much!" Cheyenne said gratefully.

"We're married. You don't need to thank me." Lucas smiled.

But then he thought about Felix and decided to tell Cheyenne about him with a solemn expression. "Cheyenne, there's something I need to tell you. Felix Howard passed away half an hour ago."

No matter what, Cheyenne was still Felix's granddaughter, so Lucas felt that she had the right to know about this matter.

"..." Cheyenne fell silent for a while.

Although she had yet to acknowledge Florence and didn't have any plans to return to the Howards, she knew that Felix was her grandfather.

Although the two had never met, there was no way they could cut off their blood ties.

Moreover, Cheyenne still felt a little sad for this elder of hers who had suddenly passed away before they even met.

Lucas knew that Cheyenne had always been an extremely kind person. After learning that her grandfather suddenly passed away, she obviously wouldn't remain unmoved.

“Cheyenne, come to DC tomorrow to send him off,” Lucas said considerately.

“Okay, I’ll take a flight to DC tomorrow morning!” Cheyenne said sobbingly after making up her mind.

...

At 10 a.m. the next morning, a plane from Orange County landed safely at an airport in DC.

Cheyenne walked out of the airport, clad in an all-black outfit and carrying a small suitcase.

Although she had yet to return to the Howard family to acknowledge her roots and ancestors, Felix was still her grandfather. So wearing black was considered a form of respect for the deceased.

Dressed in black, Cheyenne looked prettier than usual. And with her eyes slightly red and mournful, she was extremely eye-catching.

Cheyenne, who was immersed in the grief of her elder passing, was naturally not in the mood to bother about the gazes of those around her. She just kept her head lowered and walked out of the airport.

“Adam, quick, look at that woman. She’s gorgeous!”

In the airport lobby, a languid-looking young man kept his eyes fixed on Cheyenne when he inadvertently saw her walking over from a nearby spot. He didn’t move at all and shouted excitedly at the scion of another wealthy family next to him.

The young man named Adam seemed doubtful at first, and he even mocked, “Hah, you’ve worked for me for so long. What kind of woman haven’t you seen before? Must you make such a fuss...”

While speaking, he turned his head to glance in the direction the young man was pointing.

This glance immediately left him speechless, and a look of amazement appeared in his eyes.

A few seconds later, Adam said lustfully, “Tsk, punk, you really have great judgment. This woman is indeed gorgeous!”

Cheyenne didn’t notice these two harboring designs on her from the moment they saw her, nor did she notice that they were already walking toward her.

“Hey, gorgeous!”

She was making her way out of the airport lobby when the two young men stopped in front of her with overly enthusiastic looks on their faces.

Chapter 961: Threats and Promises

Suddenly blocked, Cheyenne stopped with a look of displeasure.

As the most beautiful girl in Orange County, she had always hated people who got in her way to flirt with her.

Before she could say anything, the slovenly young man said to Cheyenne, “Hey gorgeous, let me introduce myself. I’m Will Donaldson, the manager of Crescent Entertainment in DC. I have beside me the chairman of Crescent Entertainment, Adam Piers!

“Crescent Entertainment is one of the largest entertainment companies in America, and we have discovered and promoted many of Hollywood’s biggest stars! Miss, you’re very attractive. Are you interested in joining us to develop your career as a celebrity?”

“I can guarantee that once you sign with us, we’ll definitely promote you to become an internationally-renowned star! All eyes will be on you, and you’ll gain both fame and fortune!”

Cheyenne frowned and said without any interest, “I’m sorry, but I’m not interested in the entertainment industry. I still have something to do now, so please move aside.”

Despite feeling displeased, Cheyenne remained polite and wanted to walk away from them.

“Hey, Miss, don’t go!” The slovenly young man immediately stepped forward to block Cheyenne. He said enthusiastically, “Miss, I really mean it. You’re very attractive, and your looks, figure, and aura fit the criteria for the artists we scout and train perfectly!

“If you join our company, we will definitely be able to make you a popular celebrity within three months. Given our ability, we’ll definitely be able to turn you into an A-list celebrity within six months, and within a year, you will be extremely famous in the US!

“By then, you will be getting million-dollar endorsement deals and casting calls. You’ll be able to earn hundreds of millions of dollars a year. This is a fantastic deal that doesn’t come by often!”

The slovenly young man tried his best to convince Cheyenne by describing to her extremely tempting and wonderful scenarios.

Most young and beautiful women would probably have long been tempted by the offer and agreed to the young man's invitation to join Crescent Entertainment.

Adam smirked complacently with an extremely firm look on his face.

He and his sidekick, Will, had already used the same tactic to trick countless girls with dreams of achieving stardom and getting rich overnight into joining their entertainment company. He believed that the beautiful Cheyenne wouldn't be able to resist the temptation either.

"I'm sorry. I'm really not interested in the entertainment industry. I'm in a hurry now, so please move aside!" Cheyenne's face immediately turned sullen.

"Gorgeous, don't be in such a hurry to turn us down! You may not know the background of Crescent Entertainment. I can tell you that Adam Piers, the man beside me, is the chairman of Crescent Entertainment, and he's from one of the top eight families of DC. He holds great power and resources. As long as he's happy, he can easily make you become a top celebrity in the US!

"I can guarantee that we're definitely not lying to you!

"If you don't believe us, we can take you to Crescent Entertainment right now so that you can take a look at it in person. What do you think?"

Will was rattling on incessantly, trying his best to persuade Cheyenne. He even revealed Adam's identity.

He had done the same thing and succeeded countless times.

Adam Piers was indeed the heir of one of the top eight families in DC, and Crescent Entertainment was indeed his company. But they were not really trying to find potential celebrities to groom and promote. They were just using this as a reason to deceive the beautiful women they had set their sights on.

These girls who were deceived by Will into joining Crescent Entertainment would each sign a 20-year contract, which basically meant that they would be selling their wonderful youth to Crescent Entertainment.

All the girls signed to the company would become the playthings of Adam, regardless of whether they were willing or not.

Only those who were sensible enough to flatter him would be groomed as artists.

Those who didn't know any better would end up extremely miserable and even get dragged to the other entertainment joints owned by Adam to become the playthings of others.

Those who couldn't stand it and wanted to terminate the contract prematurely would have to pay a huge sum of tens of millions to compensate for the breach of contract. Most people absolutely wouldn't be able to afford it.

Therefore, from the moment they signed the contract, they had already fallen into an extremely terrifying trap, and they could only be at the mercy of Alex and his company for the rest of their lives.

Over the years, nearly a hundred beautiful girls had been tricked into joining Crescent Entertainment. And all of them had ended up getting ruined by Adam.

Now, Adam had set his sights on Cheyenne, and his eyes were full of satisfaction and determination to take possession of her.

Cheyenne was much prettier than all the women he had toyed with before, and he was full of desire for her.

"I've already said that I'm not interested in the entertainment industry. Please move aside!"

After being obstructed in all sorts of ways and having said so much, Cheyenne was about to lose her temper, even though she usually had a good temper.

Her grandfather, whom she had never met, had passed away, and she was in a terrible mood. But they kept getting in her way and refusing to let her leave. Anyone would be mad in her shoes.

If not for the fact that this was DC and that the young man in front of her was probably really one of the Piers, one of the eight most powerful families in DC, Cheyenne would have slapped him.

Seeing that Cheyenne was unmoved despite everything he said, Will felt annoyed and immediately threatened her, "Babe, it's your honor that Adam has taken a liking to you. Don't be stubborn and make us do this the hard way!"

If tempting her didn't work, then they would have to do it by force. Anyway, it wasn't like they hadn't done this before.

Cheyenne was just a weak woman and alone here in DC for the first time. Facing the threat from these two men, she naturally felt frightened.

"What.. what do you want to do? This is DC. Are you going to kidnap me?" Cheyenne's face turned pale.

"Haha, so what if it's DC? Babe, like I just said, this man next to me is Mr. Adam Piers. Dc is his tuft, and he can do whatever he wants. Even if he took you away by force now,

no one would dare to say a word. Do you believe me?" Will threatened with a look of menace.

"Will, mind your words. Don't frighten this delicate beauty." Adam, who had been standing next to him for a while, finally spoke up at this moment. He first reprimanded Will a little before turning to look at Cheyenne with a warm and graceful smile. "Beautiful, even if you're not interested in being a celebrity, you're indeed very outstanding, and you've attracted me. Why don't we be friends?"

Chapter 962: No Need to Be Afraid

Although Adam seemed to have a gentle and harmless smile, Cheyenne wasn't a simple-minded and ignorant girl who had just stepped into society. She was a capable woman who had single-handedly founded the Brilliance Corporation and developed it into its current scale.

She could tell at a glance that Will and Adam were just staging an act where one of them played the good guy while the other played the bad guy.

Moreover, she didn't want to befriend the man in front of her who seemed to harbor designs on her.

"I don't know you, and I don't want to get to know you. We can forget about being friends! Please stop pestering me. If you continue to stop me, I will call airport security!" Cheyenne said coldly with a sullen look on her face.

"Hah, you're not showing me any respect at all!" The smile on Adam's face suddenly vanished, revealing a scowl as he stared at Cheyenne sinisterly.

No woman he had ever liked had ever been able to escape from his hands!

And the woman in front of him was so ignorant that Adam couldn't bother to keep up with the act anymore and directly revealed his true colors.

Will sneered with an arrogant look on his face. "Call security? Go ahead! Try it!"

"I'm not afraid to tell you straight that the Piers are a shareholder of this airport. You can try and see if anyone will dare to interfere."

Cheyenne immediately turned pale.

She looked around, and sure enough, there were two security guards in blue standing near them. They had obviously seen the conflict here, but they simply turned their heads away, as if they didn't see anything.

Lucas had yet to arrive, and she was all alone. Without being able to rely on the security guards for help, she really couldn't deal with these two scoundrels.

"Enough, beauty, come with us!" Adam said and winked at Will.

Will immediately understood. With a wicked smile, he stepped forward to grab Cheyenne's arm.

Even if they took Cheyenne away by force, no one would dare to interfere...

Smack!

Just as Will was about to grab Cheyenne, an arm suddenly appeared in front of him and grabbed his hand in time to stop him from touching Cheyenne.

Will was stunned, and he found that the person who grabbed his arm was a young man in his twenties!

"Where did you come from, punk? How dare you meddle with the Piers' affairs?" Will cursed as soon as he spoke.

Adam immediately frowned. "Who do you think you are? Are you trying to be the hero saving the damsel in distress? Hah, you really have a death wish! What are you waiting for? Hurry up and let go."

Cheyenne was stunned. After getting a clear look at the person grabbing Will, she immediately had joy all over her face. "Honey, you're here!"

The young man who grabbed Will's arm was none other than Lucas!

After Will and Adam heard the way Cheyenne addressed him, their expressions immediately changed.

They didn't expect that this woman they had taken a fancy to was already in a relationship with another man who had rushed over so quickly.

But they weren't bothered by the fact that she was attached. Adam was determined to get any woman he wanted!

"Punk, is this your woman? I've already taken a liking to her. I'll give you thirty grand to let her accompany me for a night. How about it?" Adam said to Lucas nonchalantly.

"Screw off!" Lucas narrowed his eyes, and a trace of killing intent instantly burst out of his eyes as he twisted Will's arm and snapped it!

Snap!

Amid the crisp sounds of bones cracking, Will's arm was twisted badly, and he immediately shrieked in misery.

Lucas would never let off the man who dared to covet and insult his woman!

"Punk, how dare you lay a finger on my person?!" Adam immediately hollered.

He was furious about the fact that someone dared to harm his subordinate in this DC airport!

After letting go of Will's arm, Lucas shifted his lethal gaze onto Adam.

Staring into Lucas's cold and merciless eyes, Adam suddenly felt an immense fear surge in his heart.

"I'm warning you. Don't mess around! I'm from the Pier family, one of the eight most powerful families in DC. If you dare to harm me, the Piers will never let you off!" Adam said sternly while pointing his finger at Lucas and retreating.

"The Piers? One of the eight top families in DC? So what?" Lucas sneered. "How dare you harbor designs on my woman? You're really audacious!"

Then Lucas stepped forward and ruthlessly slapped Adam's face!

Smack!

The slap sent Adam flying far!

"Honey! He's... from the Pier family!" Cheyenne instantly turned pale as she grabbed Lucas's hand nervously.

Just now, Will had brought up Adam's identity several times. So once she saw Lucas slapping Adam away, her heart immediately tightened.

Although she knew that Lucas had been in the army for a few years and was also the head of the Falcon Regiment in Calico, he had already left the army and had likely lost the protection provided by that identity.

Moreover, although Lucas was also a Hutton, he had long been kicked out of the family, and he no longer had any authority or status in the family.

In this regard, he couldn't compare to the scions of the eight top families.

It was especially so because they were now in DC, the turf controlled by these top families. Lucas's subordinates were all in California, so they wouldn't be able to be of any help.

Cheyenne was now most worried that Lucas would face the crazy revenge by the Piers. It would be terrible!

Lucas held Cheyenne's hand and comforted her softly, "It's alright. Don't worry!"

When Cheyenne saw Lucas's firm expression, her panicked heart slowly calmed down.

"Let's go!" Lucas said. He took Cheyenne's hand and walked out of the airport without even looking at Will and Adam, who were wailing on the floor.

At this moment, Adam, who had been sent flying by Lucas's slap, finally got up from the floor with great difficulty while covering his red and swollen cheek. He yelled furiously, "Stop... stop! Bastard, hold it right there!"

But Lucas and Cheyenne were both already far away and didn't want to pay attention to him.

"Bastard! Punk! How dare you ignore me and even hit me? I won't let you off!" Adam roared at the top of his lungs, his heart filled with burning fury.

But before he could instruct airport security to help him catch them, Lucas and Cheyenne were long gone.

The two were already inside the car and driving toward the Howard residence.

"Honey, will it really be okay? What if that person.... takes revenge against you?" Cheyenne asked worriedly in the car.

Lucas smiled lightly. "Honey, there are some things I haven't figured out how to tell you. But you just need to know that I don't take the eight top families of DC seriously at all. They can't pose a threat to me, and you don't have to be afraid of them."

Chapter 963: The Piers' Condolences

After Cheyenne heard what Lucas said, astonishment emerged on her face.

In almost everyone's eyes, the eight giants of DC were untouchable, yet Lucas could face them calmly and even disregard them.

Given Cheyenne's understanding of Lucas, she knew that he would never talk big, which was enough to show that he was even more powerful than the top eight families of DC!

Cheyenne suddenly found that her husband seemed to have become more mysterious.

"Where's Amelia?" Lucas suddenly asked, changing the topic.

Cheyenne said, "When I left this morning, she was still sleeping. But I've asked Dad and Charlotte to stay home with her today and buy her some delicious food."

Lucas shook his head and sighed. "Yeah, I broke my promise with her. I promised to take her out for a good meal today, but I couldn't go back today. I hope she won't blame me for not keeping my promise!"

Amelia was now over five years old, and she was extremely smart. Sometimes, the adults found it hard to deal with her!

"That depends on how you coax her when we get back home. Amelia is quite sensible, so she probably won't blame you," Cheyenne said.

On the way, Lucas also mentioned to Cheyenne some things that he didn't get to tell her over the phone yesterday. For example, the fact that Florence had become the new helmsman of the Howards.

Cheyenne was surprised, but Lucas didn't tell her the details or mention anything about the Peerless Martial Association. All he said to her was that Felix had acknowledged Florence's position as the helmsman before he died.

Cheyenne was silent for a moment.

Florence was her biological mother, but they had yet to reconcile.

Cheyenne couldn't even decide what kind of attitude she should treat Florence with.

But no matter what, Cheyenne had come to DC this time to attend Felix's funeral.

Felix was her grandfather, whom she had never met and had never spent time with before. She felt sad after learning of his death.

Moreover, Felix was Florence's father, so she reckoned that Florence must feel miserable...

Cheyenne gritted her teeth as she thought about it. For a while, she didn't know how she should face Florence.

Lucas stretched out his hand and squeezed Cheyenne's palm to comfort her silently.

About an hour later, the two arrived at the entrance of the Howards' manor in DC.

At this moment, there were numerous white wreaths at the entrance of the manor. They were clearly holding a funeral.

When Cheyenne saw this scene, her heart sank and felt even sadder.

Lucas took Cheyenne's hand and led her inside.

The funeral hall was in the first villa of the Howard residence.

When Cheyenne followed Lucas inside, Florence turned her head and immediately burst into tears the moment she saw Cheyenne. She hurried over and hugged Cheyenne tightly.

"Cheyenne! Cheyenne... It's all my fault! I... I'm not a good mother. I've really let you down..." Florence embraced Cheyenne tightly, as if she was hugging the last trace of warmth in this world. She was bawling so hard that she was running out of breath.

Ever since Florence was on the verge of death yesterday and figured out that the person she owed the most in her life was her daughter, she had desperately wanted to see Cheyenne.

After Felix suddenly passed away from a terminal illness, she was in an even more sorrowful mood.

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She had always thought she hated her father for killing her lover and ruining her life completely. But the moment she learned of his death, she was still grief-stricken.

Her father was gone forever!

At that moment, Florence even felt some remorse.

Although Felix had died because of the sudden rupture of a cerebral artery, Florence knew that Felix might not have died if so many things hadn't happened yesterday and if she hadn't forced Felix to step down from his position.

The only blood relative she had left was her daughter!

Florence hugged Cheyenne tightly, not wanting to let go for a moment.

After the initial shock, Cheyenne looked at her mother, who was hugging her and weeping bitterly. She couldn't help feeling grief-stricken. She opened her arms and hugged her as tears streamed down her eyes too.

The other Howards felt a little sour when they saw Florence and Cheyenne crying in each other's arms, and the sounds of crying became louder in the hall.

But at this moment, a servant of the Howards suddenly came and said loudly, "Mr. Conrad Pier is here with his family to pay respects!"

It was normal for the other families in DC to come and pay their respects to the Howards since they were holding a funeral.

But upon hearing the name of the Piers' former helmsman, the Howards seemed surprised.

The former helmsman of the Piers, Conrad, was about the same age as Felix, and the two used to be old friends. But due to some conflicts, they grew distant from each other.

Moreover, Felix had been staying in the position of helmsman and had been in full control of the Howards, unlike Conrad, who had already handed over his position to his son over a decade ago and stepped down from the pinnacle of power. He spent his time with his family and grandchildren afterward.

The Howards didn't expect that Conrad would suddenly come to the Howards' to offer his condolences in person.

Due to Conrad's noble status, the Howards sent two of their direct descendants to welcome him personally.

Soon, an old man with white hair wearing a black suit entered with the help of a junior.

Lucas glanced at Conrad before looking at the junior next to him with a trace of surprise, then he frowned.

It was because the junior helping him was Adam, who had tried to make a move on Cheyenne at the airport earlier.

It seemed that Adam had a high status in the Pier family, and he was highly likely to be Conrad's favored grandson. Otherwise, he wouldn't be supporting Conrad and standing next to him at the moment.

The expression on Cheyenne's face immediately changed the moment she saw Adam, and she subconsciously clutched Lucas's sleeve tightly.

She didn't expect that Adam would suddenly come to the Howard residence.

What if he pursued the matter at the airport and caused a commotion?

Chapter 964: Marriage Agreement Before Death

Lucas could sense Cheyenne's nervousness, so he immediately held her hand and patted it to reassure her.

Since Lucas and Cheyenne were standing in the corner of the hall, they weren't very noticeable, and Adam failed to see them when he arrived.

With the support of his grandson Adam, Conrad slowly walked toward the casket at the front and let out a long sigh.

“Felix Howard, you old foggy, I told you a long time ago not to expect too much from your children and grandchildren. When you got older, you should have just handed over control to them, lest you have to exert yourself and tire yourself out thanklessly.

“But you didn’t listen to my advice! Look how things turned out now. You’re dead, and your daughter even forced you to retire. You ended up dying in anger. What was the point? You suffered a huge loss!

“Old foggy, I wouldn’t be able to die in peace if I were you!” Conrad said painfully.

What he said immediately made all the Howards have a drastic change in expression!

Conrad’s words were not any condolences to Felix but a direct slap to the face of Florence, the current head of the family!

He was clearly trying to say that Felix’s death was entirely caused by Florence, who forced her father to step down from her current position. As a result of anger and anguish, he died. What he said simply shamed Florence without any mercy.

Florence’s face immediately turned pale.

Although she also blamed herself because Felix probably wouldn’t have passed away so soon if not for her, many matters had happened in the Howard residence yesterday. Besides, Felix was already 75 years old, and now that he had suddenly died from an illness, it indeed wasn’t entirely her fault.

Florence was extremely devastated by Felix’s death, and now that Conrad was accusing her, she felt as if her heart was being stabbed by a dagger.

But Florence gritted her teeth without saying anything on account that Conrad was the former head of the Pier family and her father’s friend.

After paying respects, Conrad suddenly turned around, looked at the Howards, and said to Florence, “Apart from expressing my condolences, I have one more thing to do here.”

Florence frowned but still asked politely, “Uncle Conrad, what’s the matter?”

Conrad looked at her and suddenly smiled. “It’s very simple. Before your father passed away, he agreed to an engagement with me. Although he’s already passed away, I have to keep the promise. So the other thing I’m here for is to propose marriage!”

As soon as he said this, the Howards were shocked.

It was Felix's funeral, yet Conrad suddenly mentioned a marriage at this juncture.

It was too peculiar!

Besides, Connor said that it was a marriage that Felix had arranged with him before he died. But the Howards were utterly dumbstruck as they looked at each other and saw the confusion in each other's eyes. They had never heard of this before.

Florence glanced at him and frowned. "I've never heard my father mention this before. Uncle Conrad, what exactly are you referring to?"

For some reason, Florence had an ominous premonition.

"It's the marriage between you and my son Derek! I'm here today to propose marriage to you on behalf of my son!" Conrad said firmly with a determined look.

Boom!

Almost all the Howards were stupefied!

What... what kind of a joke was this?

Conrad was proposing to Florence?

But Florence was now the helmsman of the Howards. How could she marry into the Pier family?

Conrad had clearly come with hostile intentions!

Conrad first mentioned the engagement that none of them had heard about, and then he asked that Florence marry his son. It was ridiculous.

Now, Felix had already died, so he couldn't come forward to clarify if he had really agreed on the engagement with Conrad. They could only rely on Conrad's claims.

Besides, if Florence really married into the Pier family, what would happen to the Howards since she was the head of the family?

Would the Howards still be on par with the Piers?

Would the Howards then belong to the Piers?

All the Howards immediately turned to look at Florence.

Now, Florence was already their helmsman, and this matter concerned her marriage. Naturally, she had to be the one to decide how to handle this matter.

Florence was also shocked by what Conrad said.

But she was smart enough to understand Conrad's intentions immediately.

After pondering for several seconds, Florence gathered her emotions and closed her eyes before saying calmly, "Uncle Conrad, you must be joking. I married a long time ago, and I returned to my maiden family only after my husband passed away. I will never marry someone else now."

"In that case, you must be an unfilial daughter. You don't even want to fulfill your father's last wish?" Conrad said sternly with a cold expression.

As an experienced man who had been a family head for decades, he had always been dignified and austere. But now that he suddenly lost his temper, he was very imposing.

The Howards could all sense the intense pressure from Conrad.

Even Florence's heart skipped a beat.

But Florence was now the head of the Howards, and her every word and action represented the Howards. She naturally couldn't show her timidness toward Conrad, even though he was an elder.

"My father has already passed away. Uncle Conrad, do you have any evidence to prove that this is my father's last wish?"

"I can't marry into the Pier family just because of something you've said, right?"

Florence tried her best to speak calmly.

Frankly speaking, Conrad had been extremely hostile toward her as soon as he arrived. He had even accused her of being unfilial. Florence was trying her best not to hold it against him on account that Conrad was her father's friend and her elder.

But she would never agree to marry into the Pier family just because of a mere agreement that they made before Felix died!

Even if she wasn't the helmsman of the Howards, she would never marry a man she wasn't interested in!

After hearing Florence's rejection, Conrad immediately looked extremely gloomy. "Hah, are you suspecting that I'm making this up to deceive you?"

Chapter 965: Shifting Targets

Conrad stared closely at Florence with his sharp, hawk-like eyes and said coldly, “No matter what, I am your elder and your father’s best friend. Do you think I’d deliberately deceive you about this?”

Florence’s face turned sullen, and she said firmly, “Uncle Conrad, in that case, I’ll tell you sincerely that my father has already passed away and I’m now the helmsman of the Howards. It’s up to me to decide my marriage. I don’t care whether you really came to an agreement with my father, but it’s all pointless now!

“Moreover, I make my own decisions on my own matters, and I call the shots in the Howards now!”

Florence’s blatant contradiction made Conrad’s wrinkled face even more gloomy.

“What if I insist that you marry into the Piers?!” Conrad narrowed his eyes and stared at Florence with a threatening gaze.

The rest of the Howards watched on without saying anything.

In fact, Conrad was already behaving very rudely.

It was extremely impolite and inappropriate to propose marriage at someone else’s funeral. Furthermore, Conrad had shown no respect to Florence, the head of the Howards.

The reason he wanted Florence to marry his son was obviously for profit.

The Howards and the Piers were both among the top eight families of DC, which meant that they were on par.

If someone had dared to speak to the Howards’ helmsman like this in the past and even disregarded them, the Howards would definitely have been displeased and stepped forward to defend the helmsman.

But the new helmsman was Florence, who didn’t rise to her position in a glorious manner. She and Lucas had forced Felix to step down, and many people were indignant about it. Moreover, she was a woman, and many people looked down on her in this chauvinistic family.

So even though Conrad was insulting and forcing Florence, none of the Howards stepped forward to stand up for her, for fear of offending the Piers.

“You have no evidence. Why should my mother be forced to marry your son?” A furious voice suddenly resounded in the funeral hall.

Cheyenne walked out and looked at Conrad with anger written all over her face.

She couldn't stand it anymore. No matter what, Florence was her biological mother, and she couldn't stand watching her mother being forced to marry someone!

Everyone turned to look at Cheyenne.

Seeing Cheyenne standing up for her and even saying the words 'my mother', Florence felt her chest tighten as her tears instantly flowed out.

This was the first time she heard Cheyenne acknowledge that she was her mother...

Moreover, when no Howard was willing to speak up for her, Cheyenne, the daughter she had never raised, was actually willing to stand in front of her to help her against the Piers' overbearing forcefulness.

If not for the current situation, Florence would have wanted to hug Cheyenne and cry.

But although Florence was very touched, she knew that Conrad wasn't a benevolent person. Now that Cheyenne was speaking up for her, she would probably get schemed against by the sinister Conrad.

So Florence immediately said to Cheyenne, "Cheyenne, stop talking!"

There was nothing but anxiety and concern on her face.

The Piers were obviously targeting her, and Florence didn't want to get Cheyenne involved.

But Adam, standing beside Conrad, finally discovered that the woman he had met at the airport was also in the funeral hall of the Howards. Moreover, the damn Lucas, who had the guts to hit him, was standing right next to her!

Tension was bound to arise when enemies met. The moment Adam saw Lucas, his eyes turned red in hatred. He clenched his fists, wishing he could immediately charge forward and beat Lucas to a pulp!

But he soon realized that this occasion wasn't suitable for a fight.

Adam's eyes glowed, and he immediately thought of a good idea for revenge. He inched close to Conrad's ear and started whispering something.

After Conrad heard what Adam said, surprise appeared in Conrad's eyes, and he turned to look at Cheyenne.

He felt that she was indeed a good woman.

To be honest, Conrad's purpose today was to get Florence to marry his son. Once the head of the Howards became his daughter-in-law, at least some of the Howards' massive fortune would probably belong to them.

But when he saw Florence's firm appearance, Conrad felt that it was probably impossible to force her to marry his son.

Moreover, if Florence really got married, the Howards would probably re-elect a new family head, which would defeat his purpose.

In that case, since this young woman was Florence's only daughter, there would also be huge benefits to the Piers marrying her.

Based on their interaction, Florence seemed to care about her very much.

In that case, getting hold of Cheyenne was akin to getting hold of Florence, the head of the Howard family. It was also equivalent to getting hold of the Howards.

In that case, having Cheyenne marry into the Pier family seemed to be more beneficial to them.

After figuring this out, Conrad suddenly asked Cheyenne, "Are you Florence's daughter? What's your name?"

A look of great interest appeared in his eyes.

No matter what, Conrad was the former head of one of the top eight families of DC, and he was deliberately making himself look more dignified and austere.

Facing Conrad, Cheyenne felt some fear.

It wasn't that she was timid, but rather, she was still too young and inexperienced. She couldn't compare to Conrad, who had lived for nearly eight decades.

Seeing Conrad shifting his interest to Cheyenne, Florence immediately became anxious and stood in front of Cheyenne."Uncle Conrad, on account that you're an elder, the Howards will naturally be willing to welcome you if you're here to give your condolences to my father. But if you have other plans in mind, pardon me for failing to serve you well!"

She had always been concerned about Conrad's status as an elder and didn't want to fall out with him. But given the way Conrad looked at Cheyenne, he clearly had ill intentions. Florence would never let the Piers covet her daughter!

Chapter 966: Overbearing

Conrad narrowed his eyes and suddenly said, "Since you're not willing to remarry, you shouldn't say no to other women of your family marrying into mine, right?"

"Unless you're willing to sever all ties with the Piers and become enemies with us from now on!" he said half-threateningly.

To be honest, Florence really wanted to tell Conrad that she didn't want to sacrifice any of the Howards' women and get them to marry into other wealthy families because she had once been treated as a pawn of a marriage alliance between wealthy families and had suffered greatly for it.

But Florence couldn't say these words so overbearingly now.

After all, she had just taken over as the head of the Howards, so her foundation was extremely unstable. Although Florence hated marriage alliances, this was a common practice among wealthy families.

Just as Conrad said, her rejection would mean that she completely offended the Piers.

Therefore, regardless of her reluctance, Florence could only grit her teeth and agree with a nod. "If there is a suitable candidate, I will not oppose a marriage between the Howards and the Piers."

"Okay, since you've already said so, I won't be polite with you!" Conrad seemed to know that Florence didn't dare to oppose a marriage with the Piers. He immediately said, "The one standing next to me is my most valued grandson, and he just told me that he likes your daughter very much. In that case, let her marry him!"

"Thank you very much, Grandpa!" Adam said loudly with joy written all over his face. At the same time, he turned to look at Cheyenne and Lucas with smugness in his eyes.

Hmph, punk, didn't you dare to hit me and ruin things for me?

Then I'm going to snatch your woman right in front of you. Let's see what you can do!

Anger and panic immediately appeared on Cheyenne's face.

Next to her, Lucas's face was completely gloomy.

"No!" Florence rejected resolutely. "I will never agree to that! My daughter is already married and has a child. She will never be a candidate for a marriage alliance!"

Conrad sneered self-righteously, "So what if she's married? It's not a big deal. It's fine since my grandson likes her. Just tell her to get a divorce and remarry. The Piers won't mind that she was once married."

Florence was so furious that she was almost speechless.

She had already said that her daughter was married and had a child, so she couldn't marry Adam. But Conrad was being so coercive and aggressive, as if it was right for her daughter to get a divorce and marry his grandson.

Moreover, he was acting as if the Piers were being kind enough not to mind that Cheyenne had married before.

"Mr. Piers, I've made it very clear that my daughter is happily married, and she will never get a divorce to remarry your grandson! Just drop the idea!

"It's my father's funeral today. Please consider the friendship between you and my father in the past and don't keep making unreasonable demands at his funeral!

"Otherwise, it will make me suspect that you're here to create trouble deliberately instead of offering your condolences!"

At this moment, Florence no longer cared about Conrad's identity as an elder, and her tone was much colder than before.

What a joke. If Conrad wanted to bully her, she could still tolerate it. But now that he was targeting Cheyenne and trying to ruin her happiness, she definitely couldn't tolerate it!

The rest of the Howards didn't expect that Florence would suddenly be so aggressive, so much so that she was almost going toe-to-toe with Conrad.

Lucas had been standing by the side without speaking.

The reason he didn't speak up wasn't that he didn't want to care about Cheyenne's affairs but that he wanted to see how far Florence could go.

Although Lucas had already changed his opinion about Florence after the series of events that had happened last night, she was now the head of the Howards. If she didn't have the ability to uphold the family and resolve some provocations, it would be difficult for her to attain success even with Lucas's support.

But Florence was performing well so far, and Lucas was especially satisfied with the way she was defending Cheyenne.

In that case, Lucas didn't mind giving Florence a hand.

After hearing what Florence said, Conrad immediately flew into a rage and knocked his cane against the floor loudly. “How dare you speak to me like that and question my intentions? Even your father never spoke to me in such a tone. You disobedient and unfilial young woman, you’re indeed very disrespectful! It seems I have to teach you a lesson for your father!”

Florence sneered without a single trace of fear. “I respect you because you’re an elder, but don’t think it’s because I’m afraid of you!

“You don’t need to keep calling me unfilial. The Howards know better than you whether or not my father was angered by me, so you don’t have to twist facts and make all these false allegations against me!

“Although I’m a woman, my father personally appointed me as the helmsman of the family!

“Mr. Pier, to put it bluntly, you’re just someone my father knew when he was still alive. You’re not even considered friends. I address you as Uncle Conrad only out of respect, but you have to get things straight. What right do you have to claim to be my elder and teach me a lesson on my father’s behalf?”

Florence retorted hostilely, immediately angering Conrad.

“You... you! You’re pissing me off! Are you trying to ruin the relationship between the Howards and the Piers and become enemies with us?”

Conrad slammed his cane against the floor with all his might. He wanted to berate Florence for disobeying him, but she snubbed him with her words, causing his face to flush red in anger.

“The person who’s destroying the relationship between our two families and wants us to become enemies isn’t the Howards but the Piers!

“If you came to the Howards’ today with ill intentions to covet my family’s assets, please leave immediately!” Florence said unceremoniously.

From the moment Conrad entered the Howard residence, he had never respected her as the new head of the family. He had even tried to make her and Cheyenne marry into his family, so she stopped being polite to him!

“You... you bitch, how dare you drive me away?” Conrad’s eyes widened, and he raised his cane, about to stab Florence.

He was furious.

Conrad initially thought that since Felix, the troublesome old foggy, had finally died and handed over his position to a woman, he wouldn't have any troubles at the Howard residence. He didn't take Florence seriously at all. He had come to the Howards' today to take control of her and then the Howards.

But Conrad didn't expect that Florence would dare to be so aggressive in front of him. Not only did she not let the Piers take advantage of her, but she even had the audacity to tell him to leave!

How dare this bitch do that?!

Florence was incredibly infuriated to be called a bitch in front of everyone by Conrad. But her upbringing made it impossible for her to call Conrad an 'old foggy' or hurl vulgarities at him in retaliation.

"Hmph, he's just an old bastard throwing his weight around and taking advantage of the situation. You don't have to tolerate him at all." A cold voice suddenly resounded clearly in the funeral hall.