

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

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Don't Go On

Chapter 363: Don't Go On

Bright early next morning, both Lucas and Cheyenne headed downstairs with conspicuous dark eye circles.

Smiling, Charlotte walked toward them with a carton of yogurt drink in hand and apologized insincerely, "Cheyenne, Lucas, you two didn't get a good night's sleep, huh? I'm really sorry I couldn't keep an eye on the little gooseberry and failed to stop her from going back to disturb you guys!"

Amelia asked with bewilderment, "We have gooseberries at home? Where are they? I want to see them!"

Charlotte burst into laughter, picked Amelia up in her arms, and gently tapped the tip of her little nose twice. "Hahaha, it's just some adorable gooseberry. I'll take you to see it some other day when we have the chance."

Amelia was confused, but she nevertheless nodded obediently, making the playfully evil Charlotte laugh even louder.

"Charlotte, are you itching for a beating?" Cheyenne chided, her face as red as a tomato.

Charlotte smiled. "Fine, fine, Cheyenne, it's all my fault for failing to keep an eye on her yesterday. I promise I'll watch her properly next time and give you guys ample time to 'interact' properly so that you can give Amelia a little brother or sister soon!"

"Huh? Little brother?!" Amelia immediately caught the keyword. She quickly turned around and exclaimed excitedly, "I want a little brother!"

Charlotte said wickedly, "Amelia, if you want to have a little brother sooner, you have to sleep beside me every night from tonight onward!"

"Why? Why will I get a little brother if I sleep beside you every night?" Amelia asked in confusion, her eyes and mouth wide open.

“Uh... because your Daddy and Mommy have to sleep with each other alone to give you a little brother!” Charlotte explained with an evil grin.

“Why?” Amelia frowned, feeling extremely vexed. “I want a little brother, but I also want to sleep beside Daddy and Mommy.”

Her thin little eyebrows furrowed into a frown, and she was feeling extremely conflicted while pondering seriously about this troubling issue that left her in a dilemma.

Seeing this, Charlotte chuckled even more gleefully.

Cheyenne glared at her playful sister, who was often up to mischief. Just as she was about to say something, Amelia suddenly clapped her hands and exclaimed loudly, “I know what we can do!”

“From now on, I’ll sleep with Mommy while Daddy can sleep with Aunt Charlotte. That way, I’ll get to sleep with Mommy and have a younger brother too!”

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

The three adults were all astonished and at a complete loss for words.

Cough Cough

Charlotte choked on her yogurt drink and began coughing violently to the extent that her face was completely flushed. She then picked up her purse and scurried out of the house in panic after saying, “I-I’m going to work now!”

Amelia stared at Charlotte’s back in confusion. “Is Aunt Charlotte skipping breakfast today?”

Cheyenne seemed to be extremely uneasy too. But when she saw the innocent gaze in her daughter’s large, clear eyes, she was at a complete loss for words. She could only glare at Lucas and then say to Amelia, “Don’t say such things again in the future. Your aunt is mischievous. Don’t be like her!”

Amelia tilted her head, her large eyes full of confusion.

Lucas coughed and hurriedly said, “Okay, let’s have breakfast! Let’s see what delicious food there is today.”

Soon, the family of three finished their breakfast. As usual, Lucas was in charge of driving Cheyenne and Amelia to the Brilliance Corporation and the kindergarten.

...

At this moment, in the Wallaces' manor...

The Kingstons arrived in the morning.

After searching the manor for most of the night, the Wallaces' efforts to find Henry's murderer had been futile. At daybreak, they had no choice but to report the matter to the Kingstons fearfully.

After all, Henry had worked for the Kingstons, and now that he was dead, they had to inform the Kingstons about it no matter what. Otherwise, they would be blamed even further when the Kingstons pursued the matter.

In the living room of the main villa where Pierre, the Wallace family head, resided, a young man in his thirties was sitting on the master seat, exuding a noble and dignified aura.

On the other hand, Pierre was sitting at the side, with his body leaning forward a little in a respectful manner.

Next, Darren, Bryant, and the rest of the Wallaces took seats as well.

There was a stiffened corpse that had already turned cold laying on the ground in the middle of the guest hall. His bald head was still shiny, and his eyes were wide open, seemingly in unrest. There was also a slash wound on his neck.

The corpse belonged to Henry, who had been slashed fatally in the neck in a single move by Stanley last night.

"I want you to tell me honestly what exactly happened last night," the young man on the master seat ordered indifferently.

Although his tone wasn't harsh, it was authoritative and gave off a sense of oppression, making the Wallaces tense up subconsciously.

A layer of sweat instantly seeped out from Pierre's forehead, as the young man opposite him made him feel genuine fear from the bottom of his heart.

The young man was Marc Kingston, the most highly regarded direct descendant of the Kingstons.

Although he was Kyle's cousin, their statuses in the Kingston family were worlds apart.

For example, Kyle had to try marrying Gisele Taylor, someone of the four major families in Orange County, in order to gain a stable foothold in his family. But Marc had never regarded the Taylors highly.

Marc was the most respected descendant of the Kingstons.

Of course, the reason for Marc's formidableness was not only his identity but also his character. Legend had it that while Marc might seem gentle and soft-spoken on the surface, he was actually very temperamental and extremely brutal. He had killed at least ten people by beating them to death and other means.

Of course, those were just rumors, and Pierre had never witnessed any of those acts of violence before. But he was nonetheless genuinely afraid of Marc.

After hearing Marc's question, Pierre hurriedly answered, "Yes, Mr. Kingston! At about ten o'clock last night, a man suddenly broke into the villa that Henry was staying in. By the time we rushed there, Henry... was... he was already dead!

"Moreover, Henry was in extremely low spirits yesterday because of his apprentice's death, and he forbade us from going near his villa. So... so we didn't get to see who the murderer was..." Pierre said with his head hung low, after which he wiped the cold sweat off his forehead.

Marc sneered. "Hah, he was already dead when you rushed over, but none of you saw who the murderer was? Is that what you're trying to tell me?"

Pierre's heart tensed up, but he bit the bullet and said, "Yes, that's indeed the case! We also want to find the murderer and avenge Henry, but there's nothing we can do... We only know that the murderer must be related to that scoundrel Lucas Gray!"

Chapter 364: Ruthless Deterrence

Pierre deliberately chose not to reveal Stanley's name, but not because the Wallaces wanted to protect him.

Rather, they actually had the chance to shoot Stanley dead right on the spot last night, but due to their hesitation, they had let Stanley take advantage of the opportunity to escape.

If Wallaces gave the Kingstons an honest confession of what had actually happened last night, the Kingstons would definitely put the blame on them and hold them responsible. So after a discussion among all the core members of the family, they reached a consensus to hide what had happened yesterday from the Kingstons and just say that the murderer had already escaped by the time they arrived.

Marc glanced at Pierre and warned with a sinister expression, "I said, I want to hear the truth! Don't make me repeat myself!"

Pierre suddenly broke out in a cold sweat, and large sweat droplets trickled down his wrinkled face.

Could Marc Kingston already know something? Various thoughts flashed through Pierre's mind as he quickly tried to think of what to say.

But Marc's patience was wearing thin. He pulled out a Beretta 92FS pistol and started fiddling with it.

Seeing that the situation was turning awry, Pierre could no longer worry about anything else. He hurriedly said, "Mr. Kingston, actually, last night..."

Bang!

The loud and sudden gunshot startled everyone.

Before Pierre could finish his sentence, his expression stiffened and would remain that way forever. A bloody hole had appeared in his forehead, and blood was still gushing out of it. Immediately afterward, his old and frail body weakened completely and collapsed onto the ground with a loud thud.

This scene made everyone in the guest hall fall silent, and only the sounds of their hearts pounding rapidly and the gulping of saliva could be heard.

None of them had expected that Marc would be so brutal as to shoot Pierre dead right on the spot!

Although they had heard a little about Marc's temper and character, it was their first time witnessing his violence in person. And to make matters worse, the person he killed was the head of the Wallace family, who held the highest authority.

Since Marc didn't even hesitate to kill the family head, the rest of them were obviously insignificant to him!

"This is what happens to those who try to lie to me."

Marc fiddled with the pistol in his hand and glanced coldly at the Wallaces without even looking at Pierre's corpse on the ground. He said in a relaxed tone, "Now, I want to know the truth about what happened last night. The first person to speak up will be the next helmsman of the Wallace family."

Marc now held absolute power over their lives. Since Pierre was dead, the position of family head was vacated. Although Marc was an outsider, he did have enough power to decide who succeeded it.

Simply put, anyone who refused to comply would die!

After a brief silence, the direct descendants of the Wallaces vied to speak up. "I know. I'll tell you!"

"I'll speak up!"

"I'll go first!"

...

They all began scrambling to be the first to speak.

With a contemptuous smile on his face, Marc pointed his finger at the first person who spoke. "Okay, you will be the one."

The person Marc pointed at was none other than Darren, Pierre's son.

Darren shot a triumphant glance at his brother, Bryant, who turned as deathly pale, before quickly saying, "Henry's apprentice went to assassinate Lucas Gray yesterday, but he ended up getting killed, and his corpse was dumped in front of our place. Henry was so furious that he sent more than ten people to hunt Lucas Gray down. Last night, we waited for the news together, but there was suddenly a loud, explosive sound outside the villa. We quickly rushed out and discovered that a man had come for Henry..."

Darren then gave a detailed recount of what had happened inside and outside Henry's villa, including the conversation he had with Stanley, how things got physical, and how Stanley killed Henry with a single move. He also included the fact that they sent their gunmen to deal with Stanley.

Sitting comfortably on the chair, Marc listened quietly to Darren's explanation.

While Darren was feeling extremely anxious, Marc said leisurely, "That is to say, if you didn't hesitate at that moment, you wouldn't have missed the great opportunity to kill the murderer named Stanley Ray, and there was no chance he could have gotten away unscathed. But you guys were afraid of getting punished by me for this, so you made up a random excuse to deceive me by saying that you didn't see who the murderer was. Is that so?"

Darren broke out in a cold sweat immediately. He hurriedly lowered his head and apologized, "That... that was my father's decision. We all felt that it would be

inappropriate to do that, but we couldn't convince my father. After all, he's the head of the family! Please rest assured. None of the Wallaces had the intention of trying to deceive you!"

He put all the blame on Pierre because he was already dead anyway, and there was no way he could refute it.

Marc snorted coldly but surprisingly didn't continue to probe further. "I'll forget it this time. But if I ever find out that you have the audacity to deceive me again in the future, your fate will be the same as this person on the ground in front of you!"

Then he kicked Pierre's corpse without the slightest respect.

All the Wallaces watched Marc disrespect Pierre's corpse, but none of them, including Pierre's sons, dared to say a word.

If they said something wrong and ended up provoking Marc, they might end up dying too. None of them wanted to be shot by Marc's pistol.

Anyway, Pierre was already dead. They used his death as comfort for themselves.

Darren nodded profusely and exclaimed, "Yes! I promise that the Wallaces will never dare to deceive you again in the future!"

Only then did Marc nod in satisfaction, but he soon frowned again. "Stanley Ray? Why do I find this name somewhat familiar?"

The young man who had been standing quietly behind Marc and resembled a bodyguard said, "Mr. Kingston, Stanley is a top expert who used to work for the Brookes in LA. He's very skilled in combat, and assassination is his forte. Back then, the Kingstons once tried to recruit him, but he turned us down."

Marc immediately narrowed his eyes. "How dare he turn down our offer... Hah!"

He sneered and ordered, "Immediately investigate all the information about him and report to me. Make sure to find out every single detail!"

"Yes, Mr. Kingston!" The young man immediately acknowledged.

Marc stood up, and all the Wallaces immediately bent forward a little to bow to him respectfully.

After taking a glance at them, Marc pointed at Darren and declared, "From today onward, you are the head of the Wallace family. You have my permission to kill anyone who disobeys you."

Darren was overjoyed, and he immediately thanked him, "Thank you so much, Mr. Kingston!"

With Marc's declaration, he was now the rightful helmsman of the Wallace family, and no one would dare to question his eligibility for the position!

This included Bryant, whom Pierre had originally set to be the successor of the family. He could no longer make any comments!

Marc glanced at the Wallaces and instructed, "This matter will come to an end here. None of you are to deal with Lucas Gray again. Do you hear me?"

Chapter 365: Qualified Lackey

Although Darren was baffled as to why the Kingstons forbade them from dealing with Lucas even after Henry's death and even seemed to have the intention of letting him off, he had no choice but to obey Marc's orders and quickly agreed, "Yes, Mr. Kingston!"

After leaving the Wallaces' manor, Marc raised his head to look into the distant sky with a vicious gaze in his eyes. "Hmph, Lucas Gray, I'll let you live for a few more days. Soon, you will die without a grave!"

Soon, the news of Pierre's death spread throughout Orange County.

The Wallaces merely told everyone that Pierre had died because of a sudden cardiac arrest resulting from the shock of the tragic death of his grandson Liam.

But only ordinary people would be fooled by this explanation. The people of the top families all found his death to be very bizarre.

After all, even though Pierre was almost 70 years old, he had always been in good health and had never suffered from any heart diseases. So they found it unlikely that he would suffer from a sudden cardiac arrest.

More importantly, Pierre's grandson Liam had died only two days ago, and his corpse was still lying in a coffin in the middle of a hall in the Wallaces' manor. Yet Pierre had suddenly passed, and the new head of the family was now Darren and not Bryant.

All in all, everything was bizarre.

At this moment, many people in Orange County were secretly discussing this matter and directing their suspicions at Lucas, suspecting that he might have something to do with everything that happened to the Wallaces.

After all, Lucas and Liam had gotten into an altercation over the auction of a beautiful girl at the auction venue in Club Splendor the other day, which everyone present had witnessed with their own eyes.

But afterward, the news of Liam's death spread on the very same night of the auction.

Although it wasn't stated explicitly, many guessed that it must have something to do with Lucas.

Now that Pierre had also died, all kinds of rumors about Lucas became even more rampant.

Bruce, the head of the Hales, was extremely cautious when he mentioned this matter to Lucas. "Mr. Gray, I've already gotten the exact news, and they say that... Pierre Wallace has already died."

Lucas was stunned for a while, but he immediately understood Bruce's purpose for calling. He laughed and asked, "Surely you don't think that I was the one who did it, right?"

Bruce immediately understood that Lucas wasn't the culprit, but he didn't admit to his previous suspicions. Instead, he hurriedly said, "How is that possible? I just think that there's something really strange about this matter. Pierre Wallace is several years younger than me, and he has always been in good health. How did he just die all of a sudden? There must be something more to this."

Lucas agreed calmly, but he immediately thought of the Kingstons.

Henry, whom Stanley had killed last night, worked for the Kingstons, and now that Pierre had suddenly died a day after Henry's death, Lucas was certain that this matter had something to do with the Kingstons.

The Kingstons... A sharp glint flashed across Lucas's eyes.

In fact, Lucas didn't have a feud with the Kingstons in the first place, nor had he ever crossed paths with them. But for some reason, the Kingstons had decided to stoop low and let themselves be reduced to becoming the lackeys of the Huttons. They obeyed the Huttons and went against Lucas all the time.

First, they spread the news that Lucas was abandoned by the Huttons and that the Huttons were going to suppress the Stardust Corporation, causing the status of the Stardust Corporation in Orange County to be much lower than before.

Later on, they also secretly incited Oliver Harvey, a senior executive of the Stardust Corporation, to spread false rumors about an affair between Flynn and Charlotte. Afterward, he even jumped to his death and caused the media to shed a negative light

on the Stardust Corporation, resulting in public outrage. Although Lucas found out later that the culprit was Dave Lewis, the Kingstons were actually the true mastermind.

The person who secretly took photos of Lucas and Amelia at the amusement park was also sent by the Kingstons.

Scott Taylor even leveraged the power of his family and declared that he would seize Lucas's villa in Pearl Lake, all for the sake of pleasing Marc Kingston.

Of course, in addition to these matters, they had also carried out many underhanded tricks secretly.

The Kingstons put in plenty of effort to become excellent lackeys of the Huttons.

Lucas snapped out of his thoughts and said over the phone, "How much do you know about the Kingstons?"

Bruce was stunned and said carefully, "The Kingstons are a large family from San Francisco whose power is definitely among the top. Even though the Hales are one of the four most powerful families in Orange County, we're worlds apart from the Kingstons. It's safe to say that the Kingstons can annihilate us effortlessly.

"As far as I know, the Kingstons should have gotten the support of one of the eight greatest families in DC and have developed even more rapidly in recent years. But I'm not clear which specific family is helping them."

Lucas acknowledged. *Seems that it's not an absolute secret that the Kingstons and the Huttons are related.*

During the next few days, Lucas thought that the Kingstons would continue to attack him. But they were surprisingly quiet, which he felt was bizarre.

But Lucas didn't take the Kingstons very seriously and merely asked Wade and Stanley to continue protecting his family.

The past few days, Amelia had been pestering Cheyenne to tell her bedtime stories, and neither Cheyenne nor Lucas could bear to disappoint their precious daughter, so they never had the chance to get intimate with each other.

But apart from not being able to do the deed, their relationship was getting better and better. They were really just like a true married couple.

It was Friday. After getting off from work in the evening, Cheyenne hesitated for a while before suddenly saying to Lucas, "Lucas, it's my cousin's wedding day the day after tomorrow. My mom said that we should go there tomorrow to add a touch of liveliness and see if there's anything we can do to help."

After thinking about it, Lucas nodded. "Okay, let's go together then."

Cheyenne said with a trace of worry on her face, "Do you... really want to go?"

Lucas naturally understood what Cheyenne was worried and concerned about.

Karen's harsh attitude toward Lucas just went to show that she had always been displeased and prejudiced against him.

Karen's family members were also just as mercenary and materialistic as her. They would look up to the rich and despise the poor. In the past, they would make lots of nasty remarks about Lucas right in his face.

Just like those who met Lucas in the Carter residence after he returned to Orange County, they all treated him like garbage.

So Cheyenne was worried that Lucas would face the humiliation of those relatives at the wedding.

Lucas said nonchalantly, "It's up to them to say whatever they want. It doesn't affect us anyway. As long as you know that I'm not like what they say, I don't care about the opinions of others."

Cheyenne was touched to hear this and took the initiative to hug him. "Okay, let's go together tomorrow then!"

Chapter 366: Mother-in-law's Maiden Home

Bright early next morning, the family of four left their home, dressed to the nines.

Charlotte drove the Lamborghini that Lucas had given her to Golden Garden Estate to pick up William and Karen, while Lucas drove his black Jaguar as usual.

They headed to Cheyenne's cousin's home in two cars.

To Lucas's surprise, Karen's maiden home was in LA.

So he reckoned he should be able to take some time out to check on the properties acquired from the Brookes that Flynn was in charge of managing.

During this period of time, Flynn had been busy with organizing the companies Lucas acquired from the Brookes, so Lucas had decided to promote Charlotte from the acting general manager to the official general manager. Meanwhile, he had other arrangements for Flynn.

Orange County was only about an hour's drive away from LA.

Lucas was driving in a relaxed manner because he was familiar with the route, but beside him, Cheyenne was surprised. "Lucas, have you been to LA before?"

There were no outsiders in the car, so Lucas answered honestly with a smile, "Yes, and the Solar Corporation in LA belongs to me now too."

Cheyenne immediately widened her eyes in shock. "Really? You mean the Solar Corporation that belongs to the Brookes?!"

Lucas smiled quietly and continued to stare at the road ahead of him while driving.

But Cheyenne couldn't calm down.

The Solar Corporation could be considered one of the most well-known enterprises in LA, and it operated on a large scale and had massive funds. In fact, the power of the Solar Corporation alone was enough to rival a first-rate family.

The Brookes basically relied on the Solar Corporation to become one of the top families in LA.

But a short while ago, rumor had it that the Brookes had offended a mysterious big shot who caused the entire Brooke family to fall. All their businesses had been taken away from them and transferred to someone else while all the family members had left LA without a trace.

At the time, Cheyenne was shocked that such a behemoth had been destroyed just like that. Clearly, nothing in this world was predictable.

But she would have never imagined that the legendary mysterious person who had destroyed the Brookes turned out to be her husband.

All of a sudden, Cheyenne had countless questions for Lucas, such as why he wanted to destroy the Brookes, how and when he did it, and so on.

But after some contemplation, she decided to keep quiet instead of asking him about it.

It was enough for her to know that her husband, Lucas, was powerful but would never bully or plunder others' properties for no reason.

Soon, under Cheyenne's directions, they arrived at the entrance of a farmhouse situated between the core city area and the countryside.

It was an extremely spacious farmhouse with two three-story houses adjacent to each other. Although the decor wasn't considered exquisite, the houses occupied a large area.

There was a large concrete ground in front and a yard in the back, which added up to more than a thousand square feet in area. For those used to living in city apartments that were only a few hundreds of square feet, this place was naturally extraordinarily spacious.

Lucas stopped the car and got out together with Cheyenne and Amelia. Charlotte, Karen, and William had already arrived.

“Cheyenne, Lucas, you guys are here!” Charlotte greeted them with a smile while a couple behind her walked forward together with her.

The lady was about 24 or 25 years old and had thin lips. She was also a little sulky and didn't seem to be a nice person.

But the man beside her seemed to be an elite. He was clad in an immaculate suit and had his hair combed back neatly. He was also wearing a pair of shiny leather shoes and an expensive Patek Phillippe watch.

As soon as the woman saw Cheyenne, she walked over quickly and hugged her in an exaggerated and dramatic manner. “Cheyenne, I haven't seen you in a long time. I missed you so much!”

The woman was Nikki Heron, Cheyenne's cousin, the daughter of Karen's younger sister.

“Nikki, it's indeed been a while. Amelia, come greet your Aunt Nikki.”

Amelia greeted Nikki obediently. Nikki immediately grinned and squatted down to hug Amelia. After giving her two pecks on her cheek, she exclaimed, “Amelia, you're getting prettier and prettier!”

Amelia wasn't used to Nikki's affectionate behavior and quickly dodged by retreating backward.

Cheyenne moved her hand toward Lucas and was about to say something, but Nikki immediately acted as if she didn't see Lucas at all and grabbed Cheyenne's arm to pull her forward. “Come on, Cheyenne. Let me introduce a friend to you!”

She pulled Cheyenne to the elite-looking man and introduced enthusiastically, “This is my cousin, Cheyenne. Everyone calls her the most beautiful girl in Orange County. She's pretty, isn't she?”

She then introduced to Cheyenne, “This is Kenneth, a direct descendant of the Parkers, one of the top families in LA. His family is extremely wealthy, and he graduated from an Ivy League college. He has even recently started his own company called Urban

Culture Co., and it's developing very well. Kenneth is a bona fide affluent CEO of every girl's dreams!

"Most importantly, Kenneth didn't establish his company with the help of his family. Just like you, he struck out on his own and became a successful entrepreneur at a young age. If you date each other, you'll definitely have a lot of common topics to talk about!"

After the introduction, Kenneth extended his hand in a gentlemanly manner and said with a smile, "Hello, Miss Carter. I've heard a lot about you. You really are so much more elegant and pretty than I imagined! It's a pleasure to meet you!"

Cheyenne didn't shake his hand and instead nodded at him before turning to ask Nikki, "Nikki, is he your boyfriend?"

Nikki immediately seemed embarrassed, and she glanced at Kenneth. With some envy and jealousy, she gibed, "I wish! But Kenneth doesn't fancy me! Only a beautiful woman like you is worthy of Kenneth."

She sounded extremely bitter and disgruntled. If she were as pretty as Cheyenne, she would have long tried to woo Kenneth instead of saying nonsense here.

But Cheyenne pretended not to catch what Nikki was driving at and instead wrapped her hands around Lucas's arm. "Honey, let's go in to greet Grandpa, Grandma, and my uncles and aunts."

Lucas nodded. "Okay."

A fleeting trace of displeasure quickly appeared on Kenneth's face.

Nikki hurriedly caught up with them and stopped them from entering.

"Cheyenne, all the people invited to the wedding are from our family, so you can go in. But for him..." Nikki pointed at Lucas. "He's an outsider! No one here wants to see him, so he won't be allowed inside, lest he becomes an eyesore to everyone and make us feel uncomfortable!"

Chapter 367: Coveting

Nikki's behavior made Cheyenne and Charlotte sulk.

Cheyenne had mentally prepared herself beforehand because she knew that Karen's relatives disliked Lucas, and Lucas had also said that he wouldn't care about their opinions of him. But she still felt that they were going overboard by saying such callous things in front of everyone and stopping Lucas from entering!

Next to them, Kenneth began smiling a little.

Cheyenne snapped furiously, "Nikki, Lucas is my husband, and you should show him some basic respect. We're all here to attend Dylan's wedding and give him our sincere blessings. Why won't you let him in?"

Nikki glanced at Lucas disdainfully and retorted, "I don't see him as family. He's just a good-for-nothing who freeloads off of others. We don't acknowledge him at all! When you two got married, Grandpa was infuriated. He didn't agree to your marriage at all, and he didn't even attend your wedding!"

"Frankly speaking, if this person has some self-awareness, he should have just divorced you. Yet he's clinging onto you stubbornly and refusing to let you go. How shameless of him!"

Nikki was extremely harsh with her words, and she didn't spare Lucas from any humiliation at all.

In her opinion, Lucas was just a good-for-nothing shamelessly clinging onto Cheyenne. Whenever Karen returned to her maiden home, she would complain about Lucas to her family and criticize him harshly, wishing he would die sooner.

But the last time Karen had tried to set Cheyenne up with someone, Lucas suddenly came running over and destroyed their marriage.

Thus Nikki was displeased with Lucas.

Cheyenne was extremely upset.

She and Lucas had indeed gotten married rather hastily, and they didn't have any feelings for each other at the time. It was all for the sake of covering up the scandal and stopping the rumors from spreading.

Besides, after learning that Lucas was just a penniless man, her grandfather was dead set against the marriage because he felt that it was very embarrassing.

But Cheyenne was a Carter after all, and Dominic Carter was the one who agreed to it. Even though Karen's father objected to it, there was nothing he could do. In fact, Karen's father didn't even attend the wedding or acknowledge Lucas as Cheyenne's husband.

Now that Cheyenne had already genuinely acknowledged Lucas as her husband, she naturally hoped that her family members could stop being prejudiced against him and sincerely accept him.

"Nikki, Lucas is my husband. Don't say that about him," Cheyenne said with a sullen expression.

Nikki was so exasperated that she stomped her feet and snapped, "Cheyenne, are you stupid? Or did this man bewitch you in some way? Why are you so biased toward him? You're already the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation, but this man still has nothing to his name. He's just a nobody!"

Nikki was furious, and she pointed at Kenneth beside her. "Look at Kenneth. He's one of the Parkers, who are one of the most powerful families in LA. In the future, he will take over the entire family. Besides, he's young, wealthy, and capable. Eligible bachelors like him are few and far between!"

"I'll tell you the truth. Grandpa has long agreed to letting you marry Kenneth, and his plan this time is for you two to spend time with each other. If possible, you two should settle on a date to get married. When the time comes, you'll be the esteemed Mrs. Parker and get to live in the lap of luxury. What can this good-for-nothing give you?"

"Lucas Gray, you'd better be more sensible and divorce my cousin as soon as possible. Don't get in the way of her potential marriage and happiness!"

Nikki said everything that her grandfather had instructed her to.

Lucas sneered inwardly.

From the moment Nikki pulled Cheyenne over and introduced her to Kenneth, he had already sensed that Nikki was up to something, but he didn't expect it really to be the case. Karen's maiden family wanted to break Lucas and Cheyenne up so that they could arrange for her to marry a rich man.

Charlotte had been suppressing her anger, but she could no longer contain it now. "Nikki, shut up! Lucas is my brother-in-law. You are not allowed to insult him like that! Also, Cheyenne has already gotten married a long time ago, so you don't have to try and matchmake her with another man! If you're so eager, get married yourself!"

"You!" Nikki was so furious that her face flushed red, especially because Charlotte had struck a sour note within her!

She wasn't as pretty as Cheyenne and Charlotte, so even though she had tried to attract and woo Kenneth, her efforts were all futile. Instead, she had to act as his wingman and matchmake him with another woman.

She had always wanted to marry a rich man, but she hadn't been able to win the heart of one!

Charlotte's words were like daggers to her heart.

Nikki subconsciously wanted to lose her temper and lash out at them. But when she thought of the fact that Charlotte was now the general manager of the famous Stardust

Corporation in Orange County, which was far more powerful than the Brilliance Corporation, she changed her mind.

Charlotte had already become someone whom she couldn't afford to provoke!

"Charlotte... H-how can you say that about me? I'm doing this for Cheyenne's sake! Besides, you clearly hated him as much as I do. Why are you acknowledging him as your brother-in-law?" Nikki asked aggrievedly.

Her words immediately reminded Charlotte of her 'disdainful past', where she used to look down on Lucas. This was something that she was really ashamed of!

But at the time, she was young and ignorant. When she saw how everyone detested Lucas and discriminated against him, she decided to follow suit. After having experienced so many things, Lucas was already an indispensable family member to Charlotte.

She wouldn't allow anyone to insult Lucas like that.

She would only ever acknowledge Lucas as her brother-in-law. In her opinion, Kenneth wasn't even qualified to be compared to Lucas!

"Anyway, Nikki, listen carefully. Lucas Gray is my brother-in-law. If you dare to insult him again, you'll get it from me! By the way, my brother-in-law isn't to be trifled with either. If you end up provoking him, don't blame me for not warning you beforehand!" Charlotte said coldly.

Cheyenne said with a cold and stern expression, "Nikki, I repeat. Lucas is my lawful husband, and I will never divorce him in this life! If you have any funny ideas in mind, you'd better drop them!"

With that, Cheyenne held Lucas's arm tightly and pulled Amelia with her other hand. "Come on. Let's go in and see Grandpa and Grandma. Don't bother about what they say."

Soon, the four of them entered.

Nikki, left outside the gate, looked at the scene in front of her in disbelief.

She thought that Cheyenne and Charlotte detested Lucas, but they actually rebuked her for his sake! *Why?! There must be something wrong with them!*

Nikki was indignant and disgruntled, while a gaze of determination appeared in Kenneth's eyes. "Hah, I've never failed to win the heart of a woman I fancy!"

Chapter 368: Tea Leaves Saga

When the Turners tried to get close to Kenneth and told him that there was a ravishing beauty in the family, Kenneth was indifferent because he thought that they were just exaggerating.

But now that he had met Cheyenne in person, he was indeed rather tempted because he finally saw how gorgeous she was.

But he didn't expect that she would ignore a dreamboat like him and insistently defend her husband, whom he thought was a freeloading good-for-nothing.

He wasn't bothered because he had gotten used to seeing women who liked throwing themselves at him, so a little challenge would be interesting!

Although he wouldn't marry a divorced woman, he wouldn't mind playing around with her for the sake of her beauty.

"Kenneth, don't worry. That man is just a good-for-nothing. My grandparents will never allow them to stay married. We'll soon be able to watch a good show!" Nikki said gloatingly.

Kenneth smiled. "Since there's going to be a good show, we can't miss it."

Then he took the lead to enter through the gate while Nikki tagged along behind him.

There were two almost identical villas inside.

The one on the left was occupied by Cheyenne's maternal grandparents, while the one on the right was occupied by Cheyenne's uncle.

Cheyenne's maternal grandparents had a total of three children, with the eldest being Cheyenne's mother, Karen; followed by Nikki's mother, Gretchen; and lastly, Cheyenne's uncle, Alex.

The groom-to-be was Alex's son, Dylan Turner.

The wedding was tomorrow, but many of the Turners lived in other states, so they had all arrived a day in advance so that they wouldn't miss the wedding.

At this moment, they were all chatting merrily in the farmhouse villa belonging to Cheyenne's maternal grandparents.

Cheyenne brought Lucas and Amelia into the villa, and as soon as they entered, the relatives immediately looked at them.

"Hey, it's Cheyenne!"

“Cheyenne, we haven’t seen each other in a few years. You’ve gotten prettier and prettier, just like your mother!”

“Quick, Cheyenne, Charlotte, and this adorable daughter of yours... Her name is Amelia, right? Quickly, come in and have a seat!”

...

Many of the relatives greeted them warmly while showering them with compliments.

After all, these relatives had already heard that both Cheyenne and Charlotte were really competent, as they had become the general managers of large corporations. So they were much more enthusiastic about greeting them than before.

But none of them paid any attention to Lucas, who was following them, as if he wasn’t present at all.

Cheyenne greeted all the elders in the room one by one. “Grandpa, Grandma, Aunt, Uncle...”

The few of them smiled and greeted Cheyenne and Charlotte with benevolent expressions.

But they similarly pretended not to notice Lucas’ presence and didn’t bother looking at him at all.

Cheyenne smiled bitterly in helplessness. Then she took the gifts from Lucas’s hand and distributed them one by one.

“Grandpa, Lucas knows you love coffee, so he specially bought you some superior-grade Civet coffee beans. He went to great lengths to get some. Please try them.” Cheyenne presented a bag of exquisitely packaged coffee beans to her grandfather.

“Grandma, Lucas knows you’re a devout Buddhist, so he has specially brought you a finely carved Buddha statue from Angkor Wat.” Cheyenne handed the Buddha statue placed in an exquisite sandalwood box to her grandmother.

“Uncle, this...”

...

Lucas had specially asked someone to prepare these gifts yesterday after learning that they were going to visit Cheyenne’s maternal grandparents. He had even deliberately asked Cheyenne about the hobbies and interests of her relatives.

Cheyenne handed Lucas's thoughtful gifts to the elders and even explained clearly that Lucas was the one who had prepared them in hopes that they would change their minds about him on account of the value of these gifts.

But after hearing that the gifts were prepared by Lucas, the faces of the elders, who had just received the gifts enthusiastically, immediately turned sullen. They even showed looks of great disgust.

The bizarre tension immediately made everyone in the living room fall silent.

Cheyenne bit her lower lip and looked at the elders in front of her nervously. Seeing how displeased they were, she subconsciously grabbed Lucas's hand.

"Haha!" Cheyenne's grandfather suddenly sneered and threw the bag of coffee beans into the garbage bin!

"Grandpa!" Cheyenne was immediately astonished that her grandfather threw away such an expensive bag of coffee beans!

Of course, Cheyenne was not feeling the pinch. But rather, her grandfather's behavior was a clear insult to Lucas!

"Cheyenne, did you get a random bag of lousy coffee beans to fool me because you think I'm old and can't distinguish between fine-grade and inferior coffee beans?" Cheyenne's grandfather, Eddie, said disappointedly with a look of exasperation.

"Grandpa, how am I fooling you?" Cheyenne said aggrievedly.

"Hah, you claimed that bag of coffee beans is Civet coffee beans, yet you say that you're not fooling me!" Eddie snorted with an austere expression, "Civet coffee is the most expensive coffee in the world. It is produced in rare amounts because the production process is very tedious. The highest price it has ever fetched is thirteen hundred dollars per kilogram!

"That bag of coffee beans you just gave me weighed at least several kilograms. How can a good-for-nothing like him who sponges off his wife afford to spend thousands of dollars on coffee beans?!"

"Yet you still have the cheek to say that you're not deceiving me with some lousy coffee beans?"

Eddie Turner was an avid coffee drinker and had done adequate research on expensive coffee types, so he was stating facts.

After hearing Eddie's analysis, many people in the living room looked at Lucas in disdain.

Hah, of all things, they tried to deceive Grandpa with coffee beans and claimed that they're of the best grade. Now they're getting exposed, huh?

Such an embarrassment!

Cheyenne was shocked too. Of course, she knew that Lucas definitely wouldn't have bought fake Civet coffee. She was shocked because Lucas had actually spent so much money on those coffee beans, which she originally thought were just ordinary store-bought coffee beans.

Seeing that her grandfather had tossed the coffee beans into the garbage bin like they were rubbish, even Cheyenne, who wasn't a coffee lover, felt immense heartache. "Grandpa, these are definitely genuine coffee beans!"

"Enough!" Eddie smacked the table and hollered furiously with a frown, "Cheyenne, stop speaking up for this man and deceiving me! Do you think everyone believes that he can afford to spend a few thousand dollars on coffee beans?"

The relatives sneered contemptuously.

They would have believed it if Lucas had brought a gift worth a few hundred dollars. But they would never believe that he could afford to spend a few thousand dollars on a gift!

"I believe that those coffee beans are real!" At this moment, someone suddenly stood out and said this sentence.

Everyone in the living room immediately looked over.

Chapter 369: Family of Bloodsuckers

The person who spoke was none other than William.

Everyone watched in shock as William walked forward and said seriously, "Eddie, I'm very sure that what Lucas gave you is definitely authentic Civet Coffee of the best quality. It absolutely isn't fake!"

William was naturally aware of Lucas's character and assets. Lucas had a few hundred million on hand, so how could he possibly give a fake gift?

The fact that William was also supporting Lucas immediately made Eddie fly into a rage.

Anyone could tell that Eddie threw the bag of coffee beans into the garbage bin because he disliked Lucas. Yet William was now standing against Eddie to defend Lucas.

Many of the relatives began to change their expressions.

At this moment, Charlotte stood out too and said with a look of determination, "I believe that those coffee beans are authentic too!"

The young Amelia didn't quite understand what was going on, so she simply held onto Lucas's hand tightly and said in a puerile voice, "Daddy never lies!"

"..."

Cheyenne, Charlotte, William, and Amelia all stood on Lucas's side because they believed that the coffee beans were authentic.

Eddie got even more infuriated and glowered at Karen.

Although he didn't say anything, it was obvious what he meant. "Keep an eye on your husband and daughters!"

Karen panicked and stood up to holler at William, "William Carter, what nonsense are you saying? No one will think you're a mute if you don't say anything!"

She turned to look at her daughters and berated, "All of you are helping an outsider. Have you forgotten that I'm your biological mother? Lucas is just a good-for-nothing. How can he afford to give my dad a gift that costs a few thousand dollars? It's obviously impossible! I wonder what he's done to bewitch you and make all of you stand up for him?!"

Karen criticized Lucas in front of everyone again.

Although Lucas was now living in the most luxurious villa in Pearl Lake in Orange County, Karen still thought that Ethan Sawyer had given the villa to Lucas as a thank-you gift for saving his life and that there was no way Lucas could have afforded it on his own!

Lucas and the rest were now living in a large and comfortable villa, but Karen was made to live in a shabby apartment with William, making her feel even more resentful toward Lucas. So she started cursing out loud with no regard as to what the occasion was and the fact that many relatives were watching from the side.

"Hmph, Lucas is a good-for-nothing who sits around waiting for death all day. How can he afford such an expensive gift? He's never bought a decent thing for me in the past few years even though I'm his mother-in-law, let alone give my parents any expensive gifts! He's just clinging onto my daughter now that he knows that both my daughters have become the general managers of large corporations! How shameless!"

"And you, William Carter, you're not any better! You've been idling at home and doing nothing for the past few decades. Now that we've finally raised our daughters to

adulthood, you chose to create some trouble and demand that I move out with you to live in poverty! You're so heartless! I'm really unlucky to have married you!"

Karen's cursing made many relatives of the Turners turn to look at Lucas and William with even more disdain and contempt.

"Tsk, tsk. These two men aren't decent human beings at all!"

"Hah, I've heard before that William isn't the biological son of Dominic Carter, so he's been sponging off the family for years. He even makes Karen provide for them!"

"Is that true? Poor Karen! I thought she'd get to live a good life after marrying!"

"Hah, I heard that the Carters are on the verge of bankruptcy and that they even kicked Karen, William, and their daughters out. Tsk, tsk! So ruthless!"

"In that case, they all rely on Aunt Karen to make ends meet, huh? Her son-in-law is the same. He sponges off Cheyenne. He really takes after his father-in-law!"

...

Everyone began gossiping and going more and more overboard. Not only did they make Lucas sound like a good-for-nothing, but they even made William seem like he was freeloading off Karen.

"All of you, shut up! Don't spout nonsense!" William suddenly roared furiously, giving the Turners and their relatives a great shock, and they immediately stopped talking.

In the hall, there was once again a peculiar silence.

The Turners and relatives all looked at William in shock and disbelief.

William and Karen had been married for around three decades. Apart from his ambitiousness in the beginning, he gradually became more and more incompetent in the later years. Not only did he obey Karen all the time, but he wouldn't retort even when Karen scolded him.

But William now hollered at her in front of all her family.

It was completely unlike his usual behavior!

After William yelled at her, Karen immediately felt ashamed because she felt that he made her look bad.

“William, how dare you? This is the Turners’ home. Why are you being so fierce to me in front of my parents?! Do you think I’m being too nice to you?” Karen immediately shouted at William furiously.

William pointed at Karen and yelled even louder, “Bitch, shut up!”

His words immediately stunned Karen on the spot.

She was about to throw a fit to regain her lost pride, but William beat her to it.

“I don’t know what Karen has said to you to make you look down on me and my son-in-law, but I’m going to make it clear to you today. Karen and I have been married for decades, but I’ve never spent a single cent of hers! I even let her bring all the betrothal gifts and money home after our wedding!

“You say that I live off the Turners’ money? Hah! Why don’t we calculate how much money you have taken away from the Carters?!”

“Come, let’s do the math. When Cheyenne and Lucas just got married six years ago, Cheyenne’s company, the Brilliance Corporation, had a bad reputation and faced countless crises. It was on the verge of closing down several times before. At the time, Alex Turner took his son, Dylan, to my home and asked for a loan. He said that he suffered heavy losses in investments and asked Karen to steal more than fifty thousand dollars from us. Later, she even made me accuse Lucas of being the one who stole the money!

“Five years ago, Dominic Carter took the Brilliance Corporation away from Cheyenne just after she gave birth to Amelia. Gretchen, when we were in need of money at the time, you said that your husband contracted a terminal illness and duped Cheyenne out of all her savings of more than forty thousand dollars. Afterward, you said it wasn’t enough and even made Karen transfer more money to you!

“These two villas were also bought with the money that Karen took from me and my daughters and secretly transferred to you!

“You took money from us several times. But just because I don’t want to say it out loud, it doesn’t mean that I don’t know! You call it a loan every single time, but have you ever returned a single cent? All of you are like bottomless pits that just keep taking money like nobody’s business! Now, you actually have the cheek to turn the tables and say that we rely on you to provide for us. Hah, this is hilarious! Karen Turner, have you ever asked your family to return me the money they took in the past few decades of our marriage?

“You people are just bloodsuckers who use your daughter to leech off of others. What right do you have to scold me and my son-in-law?”

William had probably been suppressing his anger for a long time and thus vented it all out now.

Karen's jaw dropped, and she was at a loss for words.

Meanwhile, the Turners all became gloomy.

Chapter 370: Stuck in a Dilemma

Karen had always thought that William wasn't aware of these things because she would often make up excuses and lie that the money had been misplaced or stolen.

But to her surprise, William remembered every single time it happened. She didn't expect him to expose everything now.

Cheyenne and Charlotte finally learned that Karen had made Lucas take the blame for the missing money and accused him of absconding with it just so she could take the money to her maiden family.

They also realized why Karen forced them to give her a large portion of their monthly salary but had never bought them anything nice...

It turned out that Karen had given all the money to her siblings and their children.

Cheyenne and Charlotte had extremely complicated emotions.

The atmosphere in the living room once again became exceptionally bizarre.

Alex, whom William had called out just now, stood up immediately and retorted, "William Carter, what nonsense are you saying?! We bought these two villas with our own money. It has nothing to do with Karen, much less you! Don't spout nonsense!

"When have I ever asked you and Karen for money? Six years ago? Nothing of the sort! Do you have any IOUs to prove that I took money from you?"

After saying this, Alex was confident and self-righteous.

He was certain that William couldn't produce any evidence at all! He was Karen's brother, so she would never make him sign an IOU whenever he took money from her!

Gretchen hurriedly chimed in, "William, don't malign me! I... I indeed borrowed some money from Cheyenne before, but I've never taken any money from Karen!"

Seeing that they were all refusing to admit it, William didn't continue speaking and instead turned to look at Karen. "Tell me in front of your family. Was anything I said just now untrue?!"

Karen looked around anxiously and tried to avoid the question. "Those things happened so many years ago. Who would remember?! I... I've long forgotten about them!"

"Mom, did you do those things or not?" Charlotte asked while biting her lips hard and staring into Karen's eyes.

Cheyenne's eyes were red too as she looked at her mother stubbornly and quietly.

The last time William and Karen had a tiff in the villa, he had once mentioned that Karen had secretly stolen the money meant for Cheyenne's and Charlotte's college tuition and gave it to her family.

At the time, they already found it unbelievable. But after hearing what William said today, they felt that it was harder to accept than what they had found out previously!

At a time when their family was in a difficult predicament and needed money the most, Karen nonetheless ignored their problems and gave all the money to her family. How could a mother do such a thing?

She kept taking money from her daughters and gave it all to her siblings, niece, and nephew. How could a mother do something like that to her children?

Cheyenne and Charlotte stared at Karen, waiting to hear her answer.

At this moment, Alex frantically urged, "Karen, quickly tell him that I've never taken a single cent from you!"

Gretchen immediately chimed in, "Yes, I didn't take a single cent from you either. You must clarify this and vouch for us!"

With a dark face, Eddie said in a deep voice, "Karen, you are my daughter. You have to think carefully before saying anything. If you dare to malign your younger brother and sister, I won't acknowledge you as my daughter from now on!"

Eddie was clearly threatening her.

As the head of the family, he was naturally aware if his other two children had ever taken money from Karen in the past few decades.

But if Karen admitted that she had indeed been constantly taking money from her husband and daughters and giving it to her siblings, that would mean that she had used this money to pay for the villas they were living in now, which would be a huge embarrassment to him!

The Turners were not the only ones present. There were many other relatives too. If word about it spread, they would definitely be deemed as bloodsuckers who lived off their son-in-law.

All the Turners, including Karen, would become huge laughing stocks!

So he would never let Karen admit to it!

Seeing this, Lucas sneered.

He had long known that Karen was a distasteful person who had no bottom line. But he never thought that she would go that far.

They had initially come here with the intention of bringing some wedding gifts to the newlyweds and other members of the family. Lucas wanted to do Cheyenne proud so that the Turners would know that she was not a laughing stock who had to be subject to the ridicule of others just because she had married a good-for-nothing. So he had specially chosen to buy expensive gifts for the Turners.

Unfortunately, his kindness wasn't appreciated. And in turn, the Turners even humiliated him. As a result, William even exposed all of Karen's and their misdeeds because he could no longer tolerate it any further.

But Lucas didn't have a good impression of Karen and the Turners. He felt that they had all brought it upon themselves.

Hearing what her siblings and father said, Karen seemed hesitant.

William Carter wanted her to tell the truth, but her family obviously wanted her to deny it.

She hesitated for only a brief moment before deciding to say what her family wanted her to.

At this moment, William said coldly, "You really should think clearly before you say anything. If you tell a single lie, we'll get a divorce immediately!"

Karen immediately closed her mouth! *No, I can't divorce William Carter!*

If she got a divorce now, she would be left with nothing, and she would no longer have a share of William's and her daughters' money, as well as Lucas's villa!

Besides, at her current age, it would be difficult for her to find another man to marry after divorcing William. She couldn't go back to her maiden home and live off her family either...

Once she got a divorce, she would really end up with nothing!

Karen began feeling extremely conflicted, as she was truly at a loss for what to do. *What should I say?*

If she admitted to the accusations and told the truth, she would definitely offend her parents, siblings, sister-in-law, and brother-in-law. She would also embarrass herself in front of all her relatives and end up being blamed for everything!

But if she denied it, William would divorce her... She would then end up with nothing!

In the hall, it was so quiet that even the sound of a pin dropping on the ground would be audible.

Everyone stared at Karen, waiting to hear her answer.

Chapter 371: Chaos in the Turners' Home

After being torn between the two options and contemplating for a long time, Karen finally spoke. She lowered her head and said, "Everything William said... is true! I've indeed given money to Alex and Gretchen on multiple occasions, but they were both facing great financial difficulties during those times. And... the money used to pay for these two villas also came from the Carters."

She spoke with great difficulty. Although her voice was very soft, it was dead silent in the living room, so everyone heard her words clearly.

Everyone in the living room got into a huge uproar.

Many of them were in disbelief and were all looking at the Turners with bizarre gazes.

It turns out they've really used the money their daughter got from her husband to pay for their house and feed their other children... That's outrageous!

Eddie, Alex, and Gretchen seemed visibly livid, wishing they could immediately strangle Karen to death!

They had clearly already warned her not to say anything about the truth, but she spilled the beans right in front of everyone. It was a huge shame to the entire family!

In fact, Cheyenne and Charlotte were the ones most upset by Karen's answer.

Tears welled up in Charlotte's reddened eyes as she rebuked in exasperation, "Mom, what exactly have you done? At the time, Cheyenne had just given birth to Amelia, and the Carters had taken away the company that she painstakingly established with her own efforts. We were struggling to make ends meet back then. Yet you secretly lent

others so much of our money behind our backs! No, wait, you didn't lend it to them. You gave it to them! What right did you have to do that?!

"I've always thought that you didn't care about me and Cheyenne since we were children because you only cared about yourself. But now, I've realized that you just didn't bother showing us any concern because you treat your siblings much better than us!

"I can't even bring myself to call you my mother now. I really wonder if Cheyenne and I are really your biological daughters. Are we even related to you by blood?!"

Karen's heart began ricocheting, and a tinge of panic instantly appeared on her face. She frantically said, "Charlotte, what nonsense are you saying? Of course you two are my biological daughters!

"It's not that I don't care about you two. Let me explain. When I gave the money to your uncle to build these two villas, your uncle and grandfather promised me that they would give one of them to you and Cheyenne. After your grandparents pass away, half of this property will belong to you and Cheyenne!"

As soon as Karen finished speaking, Alex stood up and hollered in fury, "Karen, who even made that promise to you? You've already gotten married. Who are you to come home and vie for the family's assets? Let me tell you. Every single inch of land and brick here belongs to the Turners. They have nothing to do with you!

"I'm the only son, so I will inherit all of Dad and Mom's assets! Even if I die, my son will inherit them. Your daughters will never get a single cent!

"Karen Turner, you'd better bear this in mind. Don't think about coveting anything that belongs to me! Also, I paid for all the costs of building these two villas. Since when did I take money from you? Don't spout nonsense!"

Alex was hopping mad. At this point, he no longer saw Karen as his sister but as an enemy who was out to snatch his assets!

Gretchen hurriedly chimed in too, "Exactly! Both of these villas belong to Alex. What do they have to do with you, Karen? Dad and Mom are still around, yet you're already thinking of sending your daughters to snatch the property away. Well, in that case, I can also say that I have a share in these two villas!"

"Stop it! All of you, shut up!" Eddie roared furiously as he stood up all of a sudden, his face as red as a tomato.

But immediately afterward, his body swayed back and forth as if he was about to lose his footing.

“Dad!”

“Dad!”

“Eddie!”

All the Turners hurriedly rushed forward to hold Eddie and help him to his chair while asking one another to bring his medicine over.

Alex pushed away Karen, who was holding Eddie, with all his might. He cursed, “It’s all your fault. Look how angry you’ve made Dad. God forbid anything happens to him. Otherwise, I won’t spare you guys!”

Then he glared at William viciously. “Same goes for you. Don’t think I’ll spare you!”

William frowned and really wanted to say something, but he could only fall silent after Lucas tugged his sleeve.

Eddie suffered from hypertension, and after getting agitated just now, he became dizzy and lost his balance. After being fed some medicine and getting some rest, he returned to normal.

But at this moment, he was no longer as energetic as he was just now. As he spoke, he even sounded rather lethargic, as if he had suddenly aged a few years.

Feeling extremely upset and guilty, Karen asked worriedly, “Dad, do you feel better now?”

Eddie glanced at her and gibed in displeasure, “I’m not dead yet. Why? Are you uncomfortable because you didn’t manage to drive me to my grave, so you’re thinking of making me angry again?”

Karen immediately felt extremely aggrieved.

For the sake of her parents and family, she had been trying every possible way to get money from the Carters over the past few decades to show some filial piety. Yet she ended up becoming a sinner whom everyone was upset with.

Now that even her father was blaming her, there was nothing she could do.

Looking at the scene in the hall, Nikki suddenly dashed toward Lucas furiously, pointed at him, and lashed out, “Lucas Gray, it’s all your fault, you good-for-nothing! If you hadn’t come to our place, we would have all been celebrating happily, and this wouldn’t have happened! Hurry up and get lost!”

Hearing this, Charlotte and Cheyenne both flew into a rage and were about to argue with Nikki, but Lucas reached out and pulled them both back.

“Forget it. Don’t go on anymore. You guys stay here while I go outside,” Lucas said softly.

“No, we are a family. If you leave, we’ll go with you,” Cheyenne said seriously.

Eddie happened to hear Cheyenne’s words, and he immediately pounded his thighs in misery. “Cheyenne, you’re my granddaughter, and I’ve watched you grow up since you were kids. Yet you now... If you leave this place today, it means you’re going to sever ties with us, right? You... you’re making me so upset!”

Cheyenne immediately seemed conflicted.

The reason she said she wanted to accompany Lucas out was that she wanted to stand by him and also wanted the Turners to respect Lucas.

But her grandfather was making it sound as though she was going to sever ties with him, even though she was just displeased with the way he and Alex were handling the matter. She had never thought of severing ties at all.

Seeing that Cheyenne was in a dilemma, Lucas said, “How about this? You, Charlotte, and Amelia stay here for the time being. After all, they’re your family members. William and I will go stay in a hotel and meet you at Dylan’s wedding tomorrow.”

Cheyenne nodded after thinking about it.

At this moment, Charlotte walked over and said with determination, “Lucas, Dad, I’ll go with you!”

Chapter 372: Making Guesses and Staying Vigilant

Charlotte had a righteous and vindictive character, and she hated those who liked harming others.

She now loathed the Turners and naturally didn’t want to continue staying here.

Lucas thought about it and said, “You’d better stay here.”

Before Charlotte could say anything, Lucas continued, “I know you won’t let your sister and Amelia be bullied by others, so I can put my mind at ease if you stay here.”

Charlotte was much feistier than Cheyenne.

In case something worrying happened, Cheyenne would more likely than not try her best to bear with it, but Charlotte would definitely retaliate and never let herself get bullied.

Seeing how serious Lucas was about entrusting Cheyenne and Amelia to her, Charlotte was really envious of Cheyenne for having such a caring husband who treated her so well.

“Okay. Don’t worry, Lucas. I’ll definitely protect Cheyenne and Amelia well. As long as I’m around, no one can bully her!” Charlotte solemnly promised.

Lucas squatted down, stroked Amelia’s head, and instructed, “Daddy has to leave for a while. You have to be good and listen to Mommy!”

After seeing Amelia nod sensibly, Lucas said to William, “William, let’s get going now.”

William nodded, and so the two of them calmly left the Turners’ home with various gazes cast on them.

Soon, Lucas drove to the city center in his Jaguar, together with William.

During the journey, William rolled down the windows to let some fresh air in and then said in bewilderment, “Had I known earlier, I would have stayed at home instead of coming here and getting provoked by them!”

Lucas smiled and comforted, “Just turn a deaf ear to their comments. Don’t let it get to you. Don’t bother arguing with them either, lest you get upset again.”

William said sullenly with frustration, “I know how detestable the Turners are, but I still feel really angry! Lucas, do you know that the Turners weren’t as obnoxious as they are now when the Carters were in their heyday back then? At the time, they were really enthusiastic and kind to us whenever we visited. They even showered us with compliments!

“When I started idling about in the Carters’ company later on and had a huge cut in my income, they became cold and indifferent toward me, but they would still try to be nice for the sake of getting more money from us.

“Unfortunately, after everything that the Carters have gone through, they’ve declined greatly, and we’ve been disowned too. So the Turners started looking down on me. You heard what they said about me just now. If I hadn’t lost my temper and retorted, they would have trampled all over me. They took my money yet have the cheek to say that I sponge off Karen. How infuriating!

“Hmph, this is the last time I’m ever going to visit the Turners. In the future, I will never come again even if they beg me!”

William was exasperated, and since Lucas was somewhat in the same boat as him, he saw Lucas as a confidant he could confide in and air his grievances to.

Lucas suddenly asked, "William, Karen and her family don't know that you're now the general manager of the Solar Corporation's Orange County branch, do they?"

If they knew, Karen and the Turners' attitude toward William would definitely not be that hostile and harsh.

William nodded. "Yes, I didn't tell her about it. Otherwise, she might get up to more nonsense again. She'll definitely urge me to give her more money so that she can give it to her family, or perhaps she'll accept bribes or something like that! Anyway, if we let her find out, she'll definitely cause jeopardy in the company."

At this point, William suddenly thought of something and instructed Lucas with a solemn expression, "Lucas, it's not that I'm deliberately badmouthing Karen, but she's really vile! She's capable of doing anything for money, so you must keep your guard up against her. Also, you mustn't let her return to your villa!"

Lucas was a bit surprised.

There seemed to be a hidden meaning in William's words.

Could Karen have done something terrible before?

But since William didn't explicitly say it, Lucas felt that it would be inappropriate to probe further. He answered seriously, "Okay, I will pay more attention."

Lucas continued to drive while his mind was filled with a whirlpool of questions.

If William has seen through Karen's character, why hasn't he divorced her yet?

Karen also seems to be very afraid of divorcing William.

When they had a fight in Lucas's villa previously, William had also threatened Karen with a divorce in order to force her to move out with him.

Today, William had similarly used divorce as a threat to force Karen to admit to her mistakes and tell the truth, which caused her to end up offending her parents and relatives.

Lucas believed that Karen definitely wasn't against the divorce because she still had feelings for William. Previously, she was completely unconcerned about William even when he had gotten severely injured or embroiled in other troublesome matters. She didn't seem to care about him at all.

Besides, Karen probably wasn't just worried that no one would provide for her after the divorce. After all, she had been married to William for so many years, so even if they got a divorce, she would still be entitled to a considerable amount of alimony.

In addition, she had two daughters, Cheyenne and Charlotte. Even if she divorced William, there was no way they would leave her in the lurch and would certainly help her pay her monthly expenses.

Unless...

Lucas suddenly thought of a possibility, but he soon dispelled it because he didn't dare to think about it further, nor was he willing to verify it.

If his conjecture was true, Cheyenne and Charlotte probably wouldn't be able to take the blow.

William rambled on and on incessantly while Lucas continued to drive and answer him at the same time.

After a long time, William suddenly said hesitantly, "Lucas, there's something that I've been keeping to myself for years because I haven't found someone I can trust enough to tell. I feel like letting you in on it now. Actually, Karen isn't..."

"William, watch out!"

Before William could finish speaking, Lucas suddenly interrupted while turning the steering wheel vigorously.

Bang!

There was a loud bang in front.

Lucas was driving on the inner lane of a four-lane divided highway. But a black Hummer suddenly sped over from the side and crashed into a red Maserati in front of it!

After steering the car the other way, Lucas floored the gas pedal and drove straight into the big Hummer!

"Lucas, you're crazy!"

In the passenger seat, William watched their car collide with the Hummer with his eyes wide open!

"Hold on to your seatbelt!" Lucas hollered loudly. Just as William subconsciously grabbed his seatbelt, the Hummer was right in front of them!

Bang!

The loud sound of a violent collision filled the air!

Chapter 373: Frightening Collision

William began to get dizzy from the strong inertia. But fortunately, the airbags in the car popped open in time, securely shielding them in the middle so that neither of them got hurt.

But the tall and sturdy Hummer was flung far by Lucas's Jaguar. The roof of the Hummer skid against the ground as it slid more than ten meters away.

William watched everything happen, completely dumbfounded. The Jaguar looked much smaller than the Hummer. William thought that Lucas was crashing into the Hummer in a suicide attempt and that he would certainly die. But to his surprise, both of them weren't injured while the Hummer was badly damaged. William wondered how the people in the Hummer were doing.

After being stunned for a moment, William immediately reacted. He frantically released the airbags and unbuckled his seat belt while saying in a panicky tone, "Lucas, quick, switch positions with me!"

Lucas immediately understood what William meant—he was trying to make himself seem like the driver who caused the accident and take full responsibility for it so that Lucas could be spared from being sanctioned by the law.

In case someone in the Hummer died, William would have to bear severe consequences.

Lucas felt extremely touched by William's action because he knew that William really treated him as his son-in-law, whose safety he would exchange the rest of his life for.

Lucas comforted him in a mellow voice, "William, don't worry. Everything will be fine."

William was so anxious that his forehead was covered in sweat. He said worriedly, "How can everything be fine? If the people in that Hummer die or end up sustaining severe injuries, I'll have to serve a long jail term! Anyway, I've already lived for decades, so I don't mind going to jail. But you're still young. You mustn't go to jail! Quick, switch places with me before it's too late!"

Seeing how panicky he was, Lucas could only comfort him. "William, I'll really be fine. Just trust me! Stay in the car and don't move. I'll go check out the situation."

Before William could say anything, Lucas opened the car door and got out.

“Hey, you... Lucas!” William couldn’t stop Lucas in time and could only watch him get out of the driver’s seat.

Lucas walked straight to the red Maserati and opened the door. Just as he expected, he saw a familiar face.

Lena was sitting inside the car, deathly pale. The car’s airbags had already inflated, so she wasn’t hurt, but she was visibly frightened and still shell-shocked.

As soon as she saw Lucas appear beside her, she immediately exclaimed in joy and surprise, “Lucas!”

He helped her open the car door and release the airbags. Only after getting out of the car did she heave a sigh of relief.

“Lucas, thank you so much. You’ve saved me again!” Lena thanked agitatedly.

Just now, the Hummer was speeding straight toward her Maserati at full speed, planning to smash her car against a large truck. If Lucas hadn’t collided into the Hummer and slammed it out of the way in time, Lena would have probably been stuck under the wheels of the big truck along with her Maserati!

Lucas raised his eyebrows. “Who exactly did you offend? You’ve encountered assassinations time and time again. Where are your bodyguards?”

Lena frowned. “I’m not sure. It could be some of my family’s enemies from Orange County who are lurking and going against us in secret. It could also be someone from LA. Since the news that the Sawyers and the Parkers were going to form a marriage alliance through me and Tristan got out, I’ve been facing lots of danger. People have been going against us, and I’m afraid they don’t want to see the alliance happen!

“As for my bodyguards who came with me to LA, they’re just a bunch of good-for-nothings!” Lena griped in displeasure.

As long as bodyguards failed to carry out their duties, they were considered useless bodyguards.

If it wasn’t for Lucas just now, she would have been dead by now.

At this moment, the doors of the overturned Hummer opened, and two burly men dressed in black climbed out of it with great difficulty. But they were now covered in blood and still bleeding from their heads, looking extremely disheveled.

After the two men came out and scanned the surroundings, they immediately walked directly toward Lena.

“Lucas, they’re still trying to kill me!” Lena subconsciously hid behind Lucas with lingering fear.

Lucas had saved her life several times, so she always saw him as a savior. She would feel safe only when hiding behind him.

“Don’t worry. They won’t be able to kill you,” Lucas said indifferently, his voice full of confidence, making her calm down.

“Punk, how dare you run into our car? Do you have a death wish?” a burly man in black threatened Lucas while walking toward him.

There was a large cut on his head that was still slowly bleeding, and he was full of unbearable pain and discomfort. It was all caused by Lucas, so he was bent on settling scores with him!

“We’ll get even with him later. We’d better complete the mission first!”

The other burly man in black had suffered less severe injuries and was much more rational. He said to Lena, “Miss Sawyer, please leave with us obediently. Otherwise, I can’t guarantee that we won’t harm you!”

Then they reached out to grab Lena aggressively.

But they didn’t manage to touch Lena because Lucas was standing right in front of them like a thick wall blocking them from her.

“Punk, if you don’t get out of the way, we’ll kill you!” the first burly man in black threatened.

Lucas sneered. “You can try!”

“Punk, you must have a death wish! Let’s finish him off first!” the other burly man said. He immediately pulled out a sharp dagger from his waist and stabbed at Lucas’s chest!

To Lucas, they were extremely slow, so he effortlessly knocked the two of them onto the ground within just three seconds.

Lucas kicked them so hard that they curled up on the ground, holding their stomachs. Bearing with the excruciating pain while staring at the composed Lucas, they finally realized that he seemed to be an impressive expert who was far stronger than them!

Lena secretly glanced at Lucas twice. Her heart was full of a sweet, warm, and fuzzy feeling, as well as a sense of pride. *He’s truly worthy of being the man I’m in love with. He’s so amazing!*

“Who sent you here? If you don’t come clean, I’ll make sure you regret having ever lived in this world!” Lucas stood in front of them, staring down at them condescendingly with a cold and merciless gaze.

Chapter 374: Driving a Lousy Car

Although these killers were engaged in the bloody business of assassinations, with Lucas coldly looking down at them, they immediately felt an intense chill surging from their heads to their toes.

But they wouldn’t let Lucas threaten them, so they gritted their teeth and said, “We won’t tell you. Even if we tell you, we’ll die! So if you have the guts to, just kill us now!”

Lucas narrowed his eyes.

In fact, he knew of more than a hundred ways to torture them and make them feel worse than death. But this matter concerned the Sawyers after all, so he couldn’t overstep his bounds and intervene.

“Miss Sawyer, are you alright?”

“It’s all our fault for coming too late!”

At this moment, two bodyguards hurried over with panicked looks on their faces.

Lena immediately rolled her eyes and shouted angrily, “Hmph, by the time you had the guts to come, I would have died long ago!”

Drenched in sweat, the two bodyguards immediately apologized profusely.

Lucas said, “Since your bodyguards are here, I’ll leave them to you.”

Lena nodded and instructed her bodyguards, “Did you hear? Tie up these two people on the ground immediately and take them back to the Sawyers for a proper interrogation! Remember, don’t let them die easily!”

The bodyguards looked at each other and said hesitantly, “But... our duty is to protect you, Miss Sawyer...”

“Protect my foot!” Lena flew into a rage and cursed at them. She said with annoyance, “Okay, you guys just hurry up and take those two people back with you. The most important thing to do now is to find out who the mastermind is! With Mr. Gray here, I will be fine. You two hurry up and go!”

“Yes, Miss Sawyer!” The bodyguards acknowledged her order and immediately kicked the two assassins on the ground before tying them up tightly and taking them away.

After the matter was resolved, Lena finally had time to ask Lucas why he was in LA too.

“We’re here to attend Cheyenne’s cousin’s wedding tomorrow,” Lucas explained briefly.

“Oh!” Lena looked at Lucas’s car. There was a large dent in the front end of the black Jaguar, and the headlights, hood, and bumper were all severely damaged. It looked like he wouldn’t be able to drive it anymore.

She said apologetically, “Sorry, your car got ruined because of me. I’ll go with you to get a new one. What kind of car do you like?”

Lucas shook his head. “No need for that. The engine is still intact. It just needs a little repair to be drivable again.”

His specially modified Jaguar was several times stronger in all aspects than ordinary unmodified cars of the same model. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have dared to crash it into the large and sturdy Hummer just now.

Sitting in the car, William saw that Lucas had finished settling the matter and was chatting with Lena, so he rolled down the window and greeted her.

Lena was Cheyenne’s best friend, so William naturally knew her.

“Uncle William, you’re here too!”

After the two greeted each other briefly and exchanged pleasantries for a while, Lucas said to Lena, “Where are you going? Let me take you there.”

Lena asked in surprise, “Are you sure your car is still drivable so badly damaged?”

“Just hop in, and you’ll know.” Lucas smiled and got back into the driver’s seat while Lena hurriedly got into the backseat.

The car soon started again. In the wee hours of the night, they traveled in the black Jaguar, which was now extremely eye-catching. Lucas first dropped William off at one of LA’s best five-star hotels before driving Lena to her destination.

But when Lucas arrived at Urban Culture Co., Lena’s destination, he found that it sounded very familiar.

Urban Culture was the enterprise founded by Kenneth Parker, whom Lucas had met at the Turners’ place earlier.

Since Kenneth was a Parker, Lucas reckoned that he was probably the brother of Tristan, who had always claimed to be Lena’s fiancé.

“Lena, you’re finally here!”

Speak of the devil. As soon as Lucas thought that Tristan might be Kenneth’s brother, Tristan appeared right in front of him.

Tristan was smiling brightly at Lena, but his face turned sullen the next second when he saw Lucas sitting in the driver’s seat.

“Lena, what are you doing with this punk?” Tristan questioned in displeasure.

Lena hated Tristan’s possessiveness and how he treated her like his property. She raised her head and snapped coldly, “It has nothing to do with you who I’m with!”

Tristan glared at Lucas in rage and resentment.

He had only met Lucas twice. But both times, he had suffered great losses because of him.

The first time was at The Loft restaurant, where Tristan had run into Lucas and Lena having a meal together. He initially planned to get his bodyguards to teach Lucas a lesson. But to his surprise, he was taught a hard lesson by Lucas instead. Not only did Lucas humiliate him by pinning him down against the ground, but he also caused his knees to hurt for a long time.

The second time was at the auction in Club Splendor, where Tristan colluded with the Owen brothers, Callum and Elijah, in a bid to chase Lucas out of the club. But afterward, Lucas took out a Black Diamond Card, which trumped them. Not only did he make Russell Duncan, who worked for the Kingstons, drive the three of them out of the auction venue, but he even caused them to be barred from all auctions hosted by Russell in the future.

After Tristan returned, his legs were almost broken by his father!

Enemies would be full of resentment toward each other when they met. What angered him further was the sight of his fiancée, Lena, in Lucas’s car!

“Punk, LA is the Parkers’ turf. Do you have a death wish by coming here?” Tristan roared furiously.

Lucas glanced at him indifferently and ignored him. He then said to Lena, “Go ahead and do your business. I’ll get going now. Call me if there’s anything.”

Lena nodded and then suddenly asked, “Do you... have time tonight? I’d like to treat you to dinner to thank you!”

Lucas thought about it and found that he really had nothing scheduled for the evening. So he nodded and agreed. "Okay, we'll contact each other later."

The two of them were talking like no one was watching, and neither of them was paying attention to Tristan.

Tristan was infuriated and kicked the front of Lucas's Jaguar. "Lucas Gray, get out of your lousy car! How could you have the cheek to drive such a shabby and tattered car out!!! You even asked my fiancée out for dinner right in front of me! How brazen of you! If you want to die, I'll fulfill your wish!"

Lucas glanced at Tristan coldly and barked coldly, "Get lost!"

No one had ever yelled at Tristan like this before, making him feel extremely humiliated. He lay down in front of the car and said, "If you have the guts, try driving over me!"

Boom! Boom!

The sound of the engine suddenly roared loud. Lucas started the engine with an indifferent expression and even floored the accelerator!

Chapter 375: Two Options

In an instant, Tristan's eyes widened, his face turned as pale as a sheet, and his heart started pounding vigorously!

He never thought that Lucas would actually dare to start the car and try to run him over with it!

His fear of death instantly overwhelmed everything. Tristan moved as fast as he could, which was the fastest he had ever been in the twenty-odd years of his life, and rolled away from the front of the car wretchedly.

By the time he was lying flat on the ground with his limbs weak, he finally realized that Lucas didn't really drive his car toward him.

He had threatened Lucas first but ended up in a pathetic state because he tried to dodge the car, causing him to make a fool of himself!

Tristan turned pale and sullen.

Lucas glanced at Tristan calmly with an indifferent gaze as if he was just looking at a tiny bug by the roadside. He then drove his Jaguar, which was badly damaged at the front, and left the building where Urban Culture Co. was situated inside.

Seeing the mess Tristan was in, Lena harrumphed disdainfully and turned around to enter Urban Culture Co.

Her purpose in coming to LA this time was to discuss a business deal with the Parkers.

Although her father, Ethan Sawyer, had been hoping for her to marry Tristan in order to forge closer ties between the Parkers and Sawyers, Lena didn't fancy Tristan at all, nor did she want to use her marriage as a bargaining chip. So she intended to try strengthening the ties between the families through a normal business cooperation.

Neither Lena nor Lucas bothered to give Tristan a hand and simply left him lying on the road, all disheveled and wretched. He immediately caught the attention of many.

They were at the entrance of the building where Urban Culture Co. was, and many passersby had all witnessed what happened. So they were all looking at him with derision and contempt.

Feeling extremely embarrassed, Tristan quickly got up and roared through gritted teeth, "Lucas Gray, you bastard, I won't let you off!"

At the thought that Damon, the helmsman of the Parkers, had warned him last night not to provoke Lucas again, he felt even more disgruntled.

After provoking Lucas at Club Splendor previously, he ended up getting chased out by Russell and caused the Parkers to be barred from all auctions that Russell was in charge of in the future. On the very same night, Tristan received a harsh beating from his father.

But that wasn't all. The day after the auction, he received the news that Liam had been killed right in front of the Kingstons.

Although there was no direct evidence, everyone guessed that Liam's death must have had something to do with Lucas.

Just a few days ago, the Parkers received news that the Wallaces had requested for a top expert from the Kingstons to help them avenge Liam. But both that expert and his apprentice ended up getting murdered on the same day.

Everything seemed to be vaguely related to Lucas.

Thus, Damon summoned Tristan last night and reprimanded him harshly before warning him not to go against Lucas or confront him again.

Tristan obeyed his grandfather's instructions. But when he saw Lucas again today, he was so angry that he couldn't control himself.

To make matters worse, he had just been humiliated by Lucas once more. No matter what, he couldn't stomach this at all!

At this moment, Tristan let his anger overwhelm him and long forgot his grandfather's warning. He took out his phone and immediately dialed a number. "Elijah, that punk who offended us at the Kingstons' auction in Orange County the other day is now in LA! Since he's on our turf, we can't let him get away. Let's get revenge!"

...

Lucas drove his badly damaged car on a familiar route to the Solar Corporation office building.

When Flynn got the news that Lucas had arrived in LA, he was greatly taken aback and hurriedly headed downstairs to receive Lucas personally. Then he brought Lucas to his office on the top floor.

"Lucas, when did you arrive in LA? Please forgive me for being unable to receive you personally!"

Flynn poured a glass of water and handed it to Lucas carefully with both hands while bending forward slightly in a respectful manner.

Lucas smiled relaxedly. "It's nothing much. My wife's cousin is getting married tomorrow, and he happens to live here, so I decided to drop by and take a look while I'm here."

Only then did Flynn heave a sigh of relief. He thought that Lucas came here for a surprise inspection and was afraid he might have done something inadequate to upset Lucas.

Although he had been working under Lucas for several months now, he would still feel nervous and scrupulous whenever he saw Lucas.

After all, when they first met, Lucas had made known to Flynn that he had discovered all of his wrongdoings after a thorough investigation, so Lucas had a hold on him. Flynn also subsequently realized how terrifying Lucas was after a few interactions with him.

"How are things going in LA? Are you still facing any difficulties?" Lucas asked.

Flynn hurriedly shook his head and reported gleefully, "I'm almost done organizing all of the businesses the Brookes left behind here in LA. I've also closed down all of the vice-related businesses, as well as those with heavy losses. The remaining ones have been integrated into the Solar Corporation and are now being operated as branch companies under the Solar Corporation to facilitate easier and convenient management.

“Now, the Solar Corporation is the largest enterprise in LA, and there’s no way the other families in this city can compare to us!

“But this is also thanks to Stanley Ray, whom you got to stay behind. In the beginning, there were still many families in LA coveting our companies, but Stanley did a great job in getting rid of them for me.”

Flynn’s voice was full of joy because he had finally successfully completed the task Lucas had given him, and he naturally wanted to claim credit now.

Lucas also understood what Flynn was thinking. After all, before he sent Flynn to LA to integrate the Brookes’ former businesses, he had already said that he would arrange for Flynn to take on more important tasks in the future if he could complete this one well.

Now, Flynn had indeed lived up to his expectations and handled the matters here in LA well.

So it was also time for Lucas to honor his promise.

“How long have you been working for me?” Lucas suddenly asked.

Flynn hurriedly replied, “It’s been a little over three months since you first returned to the Stardust Corporation.”

Lucas nodded. “I’m very satisfied with your performance during the past three months.”

As soon as Flynn smiled, he heard Lucas say, “However, three months isn’t enough for you to completely become my trusted aide.”

Flynn was shocked and hurriedly expressed his loyalty to Lucas. “Lucas, I have absolutely no other intentions apart from being loyal to you. Please believe in my sincerity!”

Lucas had clearly seen Flynn’s performance during this period of time. It wasn’t that he didn’t trust Flynn, but rather, he had a greater plan in mind. So he wouldn’t easily trust someone completely.

“Don’t panic yet. I’ll give you two options now.”

Lucas looked at Flynn and said seriously, “One, I’ll give you fifteen million dollars, and it’s up to you to do what you want with it, be it start your own business or whatsoever. In any case, what you do in the future will have nothing to do with me.

“Two, continue to work for me. But the tasks that I will be giving you may be very dangerous, and your life might even be at stake.

“You have two options. Make your choice!”

Chapter 376: Choice For The Future

When Lucas told him the first option and the sum of 15 million dollars, Flynn’s eyes only widened in surprise, but he didn’t seem very excited.

When Lucas revealed the second option, Flynn furrowed his brows a little, but he soon made up his mind without much hesitation and said firmly, “I choose the second option!”

Lucas raised a brow. “You still don’t know what I need you to do yet. Besides, I’ve already told you explicitly that the tasks might be very dangerous. Are you sure you still want to pick the second option?”

Flynn nodded seriously. “I’m very sure. I may get fifteen million dollars in cash and live comfortably for the rest of my life if I pick the first option, while the second option involves the possibility of great danger and is full of countless challenges, changes, and uncertainties. But I’d like to continue working for you and experience different sides of life, Lucas!”

Flynn was not being pretentious.

Lucas’s promise of a whopping 15 million dollars in cash was definitely a staggering amount for Flynn, who had worked as a general manager for a long time. Many people might never even earn one-tenth or even one-hundredth of this amount after working hard all their lives. Lucas’s offer was definitely considered generous.

But during the three months that he had been in contact with Lucas, he had witnessed Lucas’s strength and power, leaving him in awe and admiration.

It was only normal to look up to the strong, and Flynn hoped to stay by Lucas’s side so that he could get closer to him and learn more from him.

Besides, he believed that as long as he continued to work for Lucas, he would definitely make more than 15 million dollars in the future.

There were countless ways to make money, but there is only one Lucas Gray in this world. If he missed this opportunity, he would definitely regret it for the rest of his life!

Flynn had made his choice.

Lucas was a little surprised by Flynn’s answer, but at the same time, he was also satisfied with it. “You don’t have to be so eager about making your choice. I have some things to make clear to you.”

Lucas said indifferently, "I reckon you should know that the Stardust Corporation in Orange County now is not a complete entity on its own. It can be said that the Stardust Corporation is just the branch of a larger company. The true giants and important industries are still under the control of the Huttons of DC.

"The task I'm going to assign you is to infiltrate the headquarters of the Stardust Corporation in DC and act as a vanguard for me by getting rid of all the snitches and snakes."

A trace of excitement appeared in Flynn's eyes when he heard that Lucas wanted to send him to the Stardust Corporation's headquarters in DC.

Lucas continued, "I'm sure you have some understanding of my situation. I'll tell you straight. The Huttons have been trying to get me to return to the family to succeed their empire because of some issues. However, I didn't agree. There are some people in the Hutton family who think that my existence is a hindrance to them, so they will target me.

"As the general manager of the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch, whom I handpicked, you will inevitably be ostracized and targeted by them when you are transferred to the headquarters in DC. Your life might even be in danger.

"They may not dare to kill me, but they will very likely resort to some extreme means to deal with the people I send over.

"So if you choose this path, you will indeed be in great danger. I'm not trying to scare you, but I need you to be aware of the possible risks. You can answer me after you've thought it through clearly and decide which path you want to choose."

After Lucas finished speaking, he sipped some water quietly while waiting for Flynn to make his decision.

Although Lucas did want to send someone to take over the Stardust Corporation's headquarters, and Flynn was indeed a very suitable candidate, Lucas felt obliged to inform him of the possible dangers beforehand and let him consider carefully before deciding whether to go or not. Otherwise, Lucas would just be tricking him into tempting fate.

After all, most of the departments of the Stardust Corporation's headquarters in DC had been managed and controlled by the Huttons for years. Among them, there were many who didn't want Lucas to go back to DC, and the situation there might be even more dangerous than what he made it out to be.

After hearing Lucas's honest explanation of the possible dangers he might encounter, Flynn slipped into a somber dilemma.

Although he really wanted to continue working for Lucas and staying by his side, he also knew that it was very likely that he would lose his life because of it. So it was indeed an extremely difficult choice that he had to make.

After pondering quietly for a while, Flynn suddenly asked, "Lucas, I'd like to ask you a question. What do the Huttons mean to you?"

Lucas smiled. "They are existences that I will definitely destroy!"

His tone was brimming with strong confidence and certainty that he would emerge victorious. Moreover, he didn't seem to perceive it as a difficult task at all but only a small goal he could easily accomplish.

Flynn looked at Lucas in astonishment. The Huttons were one of the eight most powerful families in DC, and they were truly authoritative and wealthy enough to be considered behemoths that could affect the country's economic system.

But Lucas didn't seem to take them seriously at all, as he casually said that he would destroy them.

If someone else said this, Flynn would think that that person was just blowing their trumpet. But since Lucas was the one who said it, Flynn would never doubt the truth of his words in the slightest.

A great sense of pride arose in Flynn's heart as he declared loudly, "Lucas, I've decided I will choose the second path and go to the Stardust Corporation's headquarters in DC!"

Making this decision was a massive gamble for Flynn. If he lost, he would lose his life. But if he won, he would obtain things far beyond his imagination!

"Have you really thought it through?" Lucas asked.

"Yes, I have!" Flynn answered firmly.

Lucas smiled. "Alright, in that case, I'll give you ten days to prepare. Take care of everything here at the Solar Corporation and hand over your duties to someone you trust. After ten days, I will arrange for you to take over a position in Stardust Corporation's headquarters!"

"Also, I won't let you go there alone. When the time comes, I'll send Stanley to stay by your side and ensure your safety."

Flynn was immediately overjoyed. During his stint in LA, he had seen with his own eyes how terrifying Stanley was. If he had an absolute expert like Stanley to protect him, it would definitely be safer for him to stay at the headquarters.

“Yes. Thank you for grooming me, Lucas. I won’t let you down!” Flynn assured firmly.

Lucas nodded with a domineering aura. He said coldly, “However, I have to make things clear beforehand. If I find out that you dare to betray me, I’ll definitely deal with you. You know me. I have at least a hundred ways to make your life feel worse than death. So you’d better remember what I just said!”

Chapter 377: Lousy Tea Leaves

Lucas’s aura was not something that ordinary people could withstand.

Even Flynn, who had been working for Lucas for a long time, felt a sudden chill down his spine. He frantically lowered his head and said, “Lucas, don’t worry. I will let my actions do the talking!”

Lucas had merely given Flynn a hint. Seeing that he had caught it, Lucas stood up and walked toward the door. “In the next ten days, complete the handover of your duties in the Solar Corporation and take care of your remaining affairs. I’m leaving now.”

When he walked to the door, Lucas suddenly remembered that the front end of his Jaguar was badly damaged and deformed. Although it was still drivable, it was quite an eyesore that didn’t fit well with the scenery of the city.

“Get someone to send my car in for repairs and find me a temporary replacement car.” Lucas tossed the key of his Jaguar onto the table.

Flynn hurriedly took out a Porsche car key from his pocket and handed it to Lucas. “You can use my car for the time being! There are other cars available for use in the office’s garage. I’ll just use one of them.”

Without further ado, Lucas grabbed the Porsche car key and left the general manager’s office.

...

In the Turners’ farmhouse villa...

After Lucas and William left, Eddie called his children to his room and flew into a rage. He lashed out at Karen harshly because the confession she had made had put Alex and Gretchen to great shame in front of their relatives.

Of course, Eddie was just being biased toward Alex and Gretchen. He kept lamenting about how hard their lives were compared to hers, as she had been living in the lap of luxury after marrying into the Carter family. He also said that since Karen was the oldest child, she should help her younger siblings instead of asking them to return the money

they had borrowed from her. He also criticized Karen for turning her back against them and said that she was disregarding their familial ties by doing so.

In the end, Eddie decided that all the loans that Alex and Gretchen had taken from Karen were to be written off. In addition, the two villas, which Karen had contributed a large amount of money to build, would no longer have anything to do with her. Even after Eddie passed away, Karen and her daughters would not get a single cent of the inheritance.

Karen naturally felt extremely aggrieved, but they were her biological father and siblings after all. Besides, she had taken the initiative to give them that money. Now that Eddie had just had a hypertensive crisis, Karen didn't dare to argue with them at this moment because she was afraid of provoking Eddie to the point of collapse. Thus, she had no choice but to acquiesce.

Suddenly, Nikki ran in from outside and happily announced, "Grandpa, my paternal grandfather is here, and he's brought the helmsman of the Morgan family!"

All the Turners were astounded, and Eddie was overjoyed. He hurriedly said, "Quick, follow me outside to greet the honored guests!"

The two guests who arrived indeed had a higher status than the Turners.

The first was Nikki's paternal grandfather, Robert Heron, an entrepreneur in LA who had founded the Heron Corp more than two decades ago. It was now developing extremely well, and he had handed the company over to Nikki's father, Justin Heron, because he was advanced in his years.

This time, he had brought Sam Morgan, the helmsman of the Morgan family, with him. Although the Morgans were not a top family in LA, they were the top among the second-rate ones and were not to be belittled.

Sam and Robert met in the military when they were younger, and back in the day, they were comrades of the same squad. Sam had even saved Robert's life during one of the battles they fought. So they had been very close to each other over the years.

This time, Robert visited the Turners to congratulate them as Gretchen's father-in-law. On the other hand, Sam was just accompanying Robert.

Eddie immediately felt honored and flattered to have such distinguished guests over at his place to congratulate his grandson on his wedding.

He led the Turners to the door and personally welcomed the two distinguished guests to the living room of the villa.

Meanwhile, the Turners' relatives originally in the living room had the self-awareness to move to the other villa to make room for the distinguished guests.

"Congratulations, Eddie. Your grandson is getting married!"

"Yeah, congratulations, my dear in-law!"

After the two guests sat down on the large sofa in the living room, they both congratulated Eddie.

"Thank you, thank you. It's a blessing for my grandson to receive your well wishes!" Eddie hurriedly thanked them politely.

"Hahaha, we're all family. There's no need to be so polite!" Robert chuckled loudly.

Sam said amicably, "Robert and I have been close friends for decades, and his in-laws are mine too. It just so happens that he wanted to come over to your place today, so I decided to join him for the fun. Eddie, I hope you don't mind me coming uninvited!"

Eddie hurriedly said, "Why would I? I'm more than happy to have you here!"

After the few old men laughed and exchanged pleasantries, Sam ordered his bodyguard to bring over the wedding gifts he and Robert had prepared.

"We were planning to attend the wedding ceremony tomorrow, but an old friend we haven't seen for many years is coming to LA tomorrow, so we won't have time to attend it. So we decided to send the wedding gifts here in advance," Sam explained smilingly.

Robert chimed in, "That's right. The old friend that's coming over tomorrow is the former head of the military squad that we used to belong to. Sam and I are going to go meet him, so we'll have to miss the wedding!"

In fact, given their high status, Eddie wouldn't blame them for missing his grandson's wedding. Besides, the two of them had already come to give them some wedding gifts before the wedding, which was enough respect for the Turners!

Eddie was grinning widely from ear to ear as he politely told them it was okay.

"Hey, I smell tea. Where is this aroma coming from?" Sam suddenly sniffed and looked around curiously.

Eddie was instructing Nikki to pour some tea for Robert and Sam. When he heard what Same said, he said conceitedly, "Ah, it's some premium Silver Tips Imperial tea that I've specially bought. It tastes pretty good. Since you two like tea, please have some."

Sam shook his head. "No, I'm not referring to that. The aroma smells like Da Hong Pao."

As he spoke, he stood up and looked around, only to see the bag of tea leaves that had been tossed into the trash can near him.

"What are such fine tea leaves doing in the trash? What's going on here?" Sam asked in puzzlement.

Nikki said, "Mr. Morgan, those are just some lousy tea leaves that a good-for-nothing bought to fool my grandfather. He even claimed that it costs a few million dollars, but my grandfather exposed him immediately."

"What? Lousy tea leaves?" Sam widened his eyes in shock.

As soon as he smelled the aroma that seemed a little faint and far away, he knew at once that it was from premium tea leaves that were far better quality than the tea they were drinking now. Besides, the exquisite packaging was also proof that it was expensive and of superior grade. How could it be considered lousy?

Sam was in disbelief and confusion, so he simply reached out to grab the bag of tea leaves from the trash can!

Chapter 378: Incurable

Fortunately, the Turners were receiving guests today, so all the trash cans had been cleaned and lined with new plastic bags prior to their arrival. Thus, there was no other trash in the can other than the bag of tea leaves.

However, Sam's actions had really surprised everyone.

"Sam, what are you doing? That's dirty!" Robert was astonished by Sam's jaw-dropping actions because his old friend was a clean freak. Yet he actually picked something up from the trash, which was completely out of the ordinary.

"Didn't Nikki already say that it's just a bag of lousy tea leaves? Why did you pick them up to take a look?" Robert asked in bewilderment, unable to figure out the reason for Sam's actions.

Eddie hurriedly said, "Yeah, Mr. Morgan, you'd better put it back, lest it dirties your hand! This bag of tea leaves is a gift from my grandson-in-law, who's nothing but a freeloader. He even claimed that it was top-grade Da Hong Pao tea. Hah, he's just a penniless live-in husband who sponges off his wife. How can he possibly afford to buy such expensive tea leaves? He was just trying to fool me with some lousy goods!"

“Ah, the sight of this bag of lousy tea leaves really angers me. I don’t even want to talk about him. It’s such a misfortune of our family!” Eddie sighed.

Nikki hurriedly said, “Grandpa, why are you getting so worked up because of someone like him? Calm down. Don’t let your health be affected!”

Then she said to Sam, “Mr. Morgan, let me help you dispose of the tea leaves.”

Nikki reached out to grab the bag of tea leaves from Sam.

“Hold it!” Sam suddenly yelled and moved his hand away from Nikki’s hand. Instead of putting down the bag of tea leaves, he carefully opened the packaging and saw that the tea leaves had been packed into smaller bags.

When he unsealed the bag, the rich aroma of tea intensified.

Sam took several deep breaths, seemingly mesmerized. After a long time, he sighed and said, “Yes, yes, this is the aroma I was talking about!”

Everyone looked at Sam, dumbfounded by his bizarre and bewildering actions.

Is it possible that the helmsman of the prestigious Morgan family actually has a penchant for these lousy tea leaves?

Robert was puzzled too. “Sam, you’re quite particular when it comes to tea. Why are you...”

Sam placed the bag of tea leaves on the table reluctantly and suddenly said to Eddie, “Eddie, sell this bag of tea leaves to me. I’ll pay you a million dollars!”

“Huh??”

“What?!”

“A million dollars?! Sam, you must be out of your mind!”

Everyone exclaimed in astonishment.

Eddie’s gaze froze, and he couldn’t react at all.

Nikki hurriedly said, “Mr. Morgan, these are just some lousy tea leaves from a good-for-nothing. They aren’t worth much. Why are you offering such a high price for them?”

Robert nodded and agreed with his granddaughter. “Yeah, Robert. Even if you’re rich, you shouldn’t be splurging like this!”

After hearing the amount of \$1,000,000, Eddie received a great shock because \$1,000,000 for a bag of tea leaves was absurdly expensive to him!

If it were any other time, Eddie would have happily given the tea leaves to Sam for the sake of getting into his good books, even though he would feel the pinch.

Unfortunately, the bag of tea leaves was a gift from Lucas, which they insistently felt were tea leaves of inferior quality. He didn't dare to give it to Sam, for fear that it would be detrimental to his health, much less sell it to him at such a staggering price.

"Mr. Morgan, thank you for your offer, but these tea leaves are really not best-quality Da Hong Pao. They're just some shabby inferior goods that even I don't dare to drink. Please don't crack such a joke with me!"

Then Eddie walked straight to the table and picked up the bag of tea leaves, for fear that Sam would continue insisting that he sell the tea leaves to him. He then handed the bag to Nikki. "Nikki, quickly throw these tea leaves away. Just flush them down the sewer or something. Don't let anyone drink them by accident. The consequences will be dire if it leads to poisoning!"

"Yes, Grandpa!" Nikki answered in a clear voice. She picked up the bag of tea leaves and walked away.

"Hey, don't! Wait!" Sam stood up anxiously and wanted to stop Nikki, but being an old man in his late sixties, he was no match for Nikki, a young girl in her twenties, in terms of speed.

By the time he caught up to Nikki outside, she had already swiftly poured the tea leaves into the sewer and flushed them down with a basin of dirty water that had been used for washing vegetables. The small packages of tea leaves tumbled and vanished into the sewer immediately.

"Grandpa, Mr. Morgan, I've already flushed the tea leaves away. We no longer have to worry about accidentally drinking them and getting food poisoning!" Nikki said smilingly with a proud expression, seemingly trying to claim credit.

"You... you...!" Sam felt extremely frustrated and furious, so much that he almost blacked out. "You people are a bunch of dimwits! Do you know what you just flushed away? Those are top-quality Da Hong Pao tea leaves that are the best in the world! They can fetch prices that are even higher than a million dollars!"

"You refused to sell it to me, and now you've done this... You've ruined such a precious bag of excellent tea leaves! You people... are really going to be the death of me!"

Sam felt like his heart, spleen, lungs, and kidneys were beginning to ache. He didn't want to stay here for a minute longer, or he wouldn't be able to resist the urge to hit them!

He huffed and puffed twice before suddenly turning around to walk out of the gates.

"Sam, where are you going? Hey... Wait for me!" Robert was stunned for a moment, but he soon hurriedly chased after Sam.

The Turners were dumbfounded by the situation and unable to react for a long time. Stupefied, they stood rooted to the ground, confused as to why Sam lost his temper out of nowhere.

Sam was moving very quickly, and in the blink of an eye, he already left the courtyard and reached his car.

He pulled open the car door and suddenly turned around to look at Robert. "Robert, on account that we've been friends for decades, let me give you a piece of advice. Stay away from the Turners. They are hopelessly stupid!"

"Sam, what do you mean by that?" After all, he and the Turners were in-laws, and he was rather ashamed when Sam criticized the Turners.

Sam humphed coldly and said angrily, "Can't you tell yet? That bag of tea leaves was authentic! A person who can easily afford to spend millions on a bag of tea leaves was actually regarded as a good-for-nothing by the Turners. They even threw the bag away like it's trash. Don't you think they're hopelessly ignorant and stupid?"

"That's all I have to say. Just look out for yourself!"

Then Sam got into his car furiously and instructed his chauffeur to start driving away immediately.

By the time the Turners came out to chase after him, Sam's car was already long gone.

Chapter 379: Complete Mess

Robert stood rooted to the ground as he carefully recalled what Sam said.

Indeed, Sam is a tea connoisseur. Since he said those tea leaves are authentic, it should more likely than not be the case. Otherwise, he wouldn't have offered so much money for a lousy bag of tea leaves.

If the tea leaves are authentic, the young man who gifted them to Eddie shouldn't be an ordinary person. But both Eddie and Nikki called him a good-for-nothing who freeloads

off his wife, and they clearly sounded contemptuous just now. They even threw the tea leaves he gave Eddie into the trash. That just goes to show that they detest him a lot.

In that case, Sam is right. The Turners are indeed too ignorant and improvident.

Eddie walked toward Robert and looked at the car in the distance that had long left. He said in displeasure, "Robert, what's wrong with Mr. Morgan? I didn't offend him just now. I chose not to sell him those tea leaves because they're terrible and I was afraid that he might get food poisoning from them! Why did he suddenly storm off in a huff?"

While feeling displeased, Eddie also felt rather aggrieved.

He had already given up earning the one million dollars and just wanted to make sure that Sam wouldn't risk drinking something harmful to his body. Yet Sam didn't appreciate his thoughtfulness and instead got upset with him. *Even though he has a higher status than me, he shouldn't have lost his temper and snapped at me so unceremoniously.*

Robert let out a long sigh and looked at Eddie with a complicated expression. "Eddie, I'm afraid you've really made a wrong judgment this time."

"Wrong judgment? What do you mean?" Eddie asked in puzzlement.

Robert said with a strange expression, "Sam is a tea connoisseur. He has done due research into tea leaves and has a sharp sense of smell that allows him to accurately guess the grade and type of tea leaves just based on their aroma. The tea leaves you threw out and even instructed Nikki to flush down the sewer were genuine Da Hong Pao tea leaves of the finest quality. They are the best of the best, according to Sam.

"You really shouldn't have ruined those tea leaves just now!" Robert said helplessly.

At this moment, even he felt that the Turners were indeed very foolish.

The Turners assumed that that bag of beautifully packaged tea leaves was lousy and tossed it into the trash without even opening it.

The thought of those top-grade tea leaves worth millions being flushed into the sewer made even Robert, who didn't quite have a penchant for tea, find it a huge pity.

Sam, the tea connoisseur, would undeniably feel worse.

In particular, Sam had already offered to pay a high price for the tea leaves, but the Turners would actually rather flush them down the sewer than sell them to him. Anyone in Sam's place would be furious.

The Turners and their relatives started crowding over here and were all in disbelief after hearing what Robert said.

Eddie gaped a little with astonishment written all over his face, but he couldn't bring himself to say a single word.

At the time, he flew into a rage as soon as he heard that the tea leaves were a gift from Lucas. So he self-righteously assumed the tea leaves were fake and immediately tossed them into the trash.

Even though Robert just told him that those tea leaves were authentic, he was still apprehensive and in disbelief.

Nikki felt incredibly disgruntled when she thought of the fact that she was the one who had flushed those tea leaves down the sewer with her very own hands. It was akin to tearing apart a winning lottery ticket.

"Impossible! He's just a penniless good-for-nothing. How can he possibly be able to afford such an expensive bag of tea leaves? He must have been lying!" Nikki was frustrated and refused to believe it.

Smack!

To everyone's surprise, Robert slapped Nikki on her face! "Shut up! That was the judgment made by Mr. Morgan himself. Are you doubting the credibility of his words? Sam and I have been friends for decades, and it's not up to you to doubt him!"

"Grampa, you... you slapped me!" Nikki covered her face, feeling aggrieved and exasperated.

She thought she was an honored guest here. Yet her paternal grandfather slapped her mercilessly in front of everyone, making her feel extremely ashamed and embarrassed.

Nikki was so ashamed and angry that she covered her face and ran away while weeping.

"Hmph, the older you get, the more insensible you are!" Robert said indignantly. Ignoring his granddaughter, he said to Eddie, "Since we've delivered the gifts, I'll take my leave now, Eddie. I have something to do."

With that, Robert left in his car without waiting for Eddie to ask him to stay.

Eddie was dumbfounded for a long time, but he still couldn't recover from the shock as he continued to stand in the same spot.

The Turners used to be countryside villagers, and they basically had no family background or assets. They had even asked Karen for money to build these two villas that they were living in. Usually, they would rejoice for a long time whenever Karen gave them thousands of dollars.

If not for the fact that Eddie's youngest daughter, Gretchen, had married a wealthy husband, Robert and Sam wouldn't have bothered to come all the way here to visit them.

But just a few minutes ago, they actually flushed away a bag of tea leaves worth more than a million dollars into the sewer.

Eddie suddenly felt like he was in a dream, as he found it hard to come to terms with the reality that someone had offered so much money for some tea leaves.

Eddie thought of something and suddenly turned around to walk to the courtyard. He went up to Cheyenne, who was inside a room of the other villa, and asked anxiously, "Cheyenne, are the tea leaves you gave me just now really authentic?"

Cheyenne nodded firmly. "Lucas will never give counterfeit goods as gifts."

Although she didn't know anything about tea, she was very certain that Lucas would never try to fool anyone by passing counterfeit goods off as authentic, especially since it was a gift.

Eddie suddenly took two steps backward with a despondent expression, seemingly having suffered a huge blow.

He suddenly raised his head again to look at his wife and asked anxiously, "Where's that Buddha statue? The one Lucas gave you just now, where is it?"

Mrs. Turner pursed her lips. "Didn't you say it was fake? When I was throwing it away just now, the kids happened to see it, so they took it away and treated it as a toy."

"What?! How could you give that Buddha statue to the kids? Quick, hurry up and get it back!" Eddie urged anxiously and asked everyone present to help find the Buddha statue quickly.

Soon, a few of the Turners walked over fearfully with a few unlucky children.

"Eddie, these kids didn't know what the statue was worth, and they started smashing some walnuts against it for fun. In the end... it..." They couldn't bring themselves to continue and instead handed the jade fragments of the broken Buddha statue to Eddie with trembling hands.

“You...! Wastrels... a bunch of wastrels!” Eddie’s expression turned incredibly gloomy as he looked up in the sky to wail in agony before clutching his chest and falling backward.

“Dad! What’s wrong with you?”

“Uncle! Hang in there!”

“Grandpa, nothing must happen to you!”

...

All of a sudden, the Turners panicked and broke into chaos.

Chapter 380: Waiting To Take Advantage

Fortunately, Eddie just suffered a hypertensive crisis again because of getting too agitated, which made his blood pressure rise. After taking some blood pressure medication, his breathing slowly stabilized again.

But Eddie now looked visibly more haggard than before because he was as pale as a sheet and looked like he had aged several years all of a sudden. He had clearly suffered a massive blow.

After recovering from the attack, he looked at his children and grandchildren standing around him. He said with a despondent expression, “Cheyenne, come here and bring me back!”

He was extremely miserable and full of regret for what he had done. Lucas, Cheyenne, Charlotte, and William had all said that the tea leaves were authentic, yet he insisted that they were fake and refused to believe them!

The tea leaves worth more than a million dollars were flushed down the sewer just like that, while the Buddha statue, which he was certain was made of genuine jade, was smashed into bits. How could he not be heartbroken and grief-stricken?

After Cheyenne helped Eddie back to his room, Alex happened to return home and heard about the matter, leaving him in utter shock. He asked in disbelief, “How is this possible? How could the tea leaves and Buddha statue that Karen’s good-for-nothing son-in-law gave possibly be authentic?”

He could hardly believe it!

Gretchen slapped her thighs and said with great regret, “Exactly. Who would have thought that those tea leaves and the jade Buddha statue were authentic? I heard that those tea leaves were worth more than a million, and that Buddha statue must be a rare

and expensive item worth about the same. Yet they've been ruined! Otherwise, we would have struck a windfall!"

Gretchen's words made the Turners feel great heartache.

"But knew that Karen's son-in-law would be able to give such valuable gifts?"

"Yes, this just goes to show that Karen's life is getting better and better. The gifts her son-in-law gave her parents were worth so much money!"

"Exactly. Karen has always been beautiful since she was a child, and since she married into the Carter family, she has been living in luxury. What an enviable life! Now that she has such a capable son-in-law, her life will definitely get even better in the future!"

"Yes, both of Karen's daughters are so competent too. Not only are they pretty, but they've become the general managers of large corporations at such a young age. They're going to bring so much money home. Ah, so envious!"

...

Everyone in the Turner residence kept singing praises about Karen, and they were making it sound as though she was the most successful one in the family.

Karen modestly accepted the compliments, but deep down, she was incredibly smug and was enjoying the praises.

But when she heard these people praising Lucas, she felt extremely displeased.

In particular, the fact that Lucas had given her parents such expensive gifts, which he had never given her before even though she was his mother-in-law, made her extremely exasperated!

In fact, Karen really wronged Lucas.

Soon after Lucas returned some time ago, he had also given Karen lots of gifts, such as the top-grade diamond bracelet that James Wilson's wife, Sharon, had taken a liking to previously. It was worth several million dollars, but Karen simply treated it as an inferior good and even mocked Lucas about it.

Karen, like the Turners, were all improvident people who failed to recognize valuable items.

"Karen, Cheyenne's husband seems pretty good!"

“Yeah, he doesn’t seem to be as terrible and incompetent as you made him out to be. He gave us such expensive gifts, and most importantly, he’s willing to spend on your parents. He’s really quite a good son-in-law!”

A few of them started praising Lucas, and even Alex had a change of attitude. He said to Karen, “We’re about to have dinner soon, but William and Lucas left because we made them upset just now. Quickly, give him a call and ask them to come back!”

Feeling indignant, Karen deliberately hollered, “Lucas Gray isn’t as good as you make him out to be. You have no idea how sloven he is at home. He idles about all day and doesn’t even have a proper job. He’s just a freeloader! The tea leaves and Buddha statue he gave were bought with Cheyenne’s money!”

Of course, some people believed Karen, while some did not.

Cheyenne and Charlotte were now the general managers of major corporations. It would make sense that they had spent so much money on those gifts.

But some people thought that there was no way they could have earned so much money since they had only become general managers recently.

“Karen, don’t you keep demanding that Cheyenne divorces Lucas? Are they still going to get a divorce or not? If they are, I’d like to do some matchmaking!” one of Karen’s cousins said excitedly with anticipation.

Karen knew that the son of her cousin’s relative was still a bachelor, so she reckoned that her cousin was thinking of introducing Cheyenne to him. She rolled her eyes and said disdainfully, “Drop the idea. I don’t want my daughter to marry into your family and end up suffering!”

Karen’s cousin didn’t get angry and instead said smilingly, “Don’t worry. We know we’re not worthy of Cheyenne. I’m referring to Lucas. If you don’t want him to be your son-in-law anymore, I can set him up with someone. My husband’s niece happens to be single. I can introduce Lucas to her!”

A few more relatives were inspired by her words and hurriedly said, “Yes, I also know a girl in her twenties who’s a suitable candidate. It’ll be quite a good thing to set her up with Lucas!”

“My colleague’s daughter is almost thirty but still unmarried. My colleague and her husband are worried sick. They just hope for their daughter to marry a decent man. I think we can set them up! Anyway, Karen doesn’t want him to be her son-in-law anymore.”

Karen originally thought that Lucas was just a good-for-nothing whom no one wanted. But to her surprise, many of her relatives were trying to set him up with people they

knew. She was displeased that they were thinking of picking up the trash she left behind.

“Hmph, he’s just an incompetent good-for-nothing, but all of you are treating him like a gem. Hah, I’m really unimpressed! Fine. I don’t want him to be my son-in-law anyway. You guys can take him for all I care. You don’t have to inform me!” Karen rolled her eyes with contempt on her face.

“Mom, Aunt, what are you guys talking about?” Cheyenne walked out of Eddie’s room with a sullen expression.

Chapter 381: Old Man by the Road

But Karen’s cousin failed to notice the sullen expression on Cheyenne’s face and said excitedly, “Cheyenne, when are you going to divorce Lucas? If you get divorced, I’ll introduce my niece to him. Well, since your mom said that you guys don’t want him in your family anymore, let us have him. Don’t allow benefits to go to others!”

Cheyenne’s face became even more sullen, and she glanced at Karen furiously. She had already told Karen countless times that she would never divorce Lucas, so she couldn’t understand why Karen refused to listen and even told her relatives that they were going to get a divorce.

Considering that there were so many people present, Cheyenne suppressed her anger and tried her best to stay calm as she said, “Aunt, Mom is just kidding. Lucas is my husband, and we’re in a very loving relationship. We don’t have plans to get divorced!”

Karen’s cousin was instantly disappointed, and she lamented, “Huh? You aren’t getting a divorce? What a pity!”

Cheyenne was enraged. *Who in their right mind would blatantly express their hopes for a married couple to divorce so that she can matchmake her relative with someone else’s husband? What an oddball!*

Meanwhile, Lucas had already left the Solar Corporation and decided to head straight to the hotel he and William had agreed to check into because he had nothing else planned for the day.

While driving on a street with few pedestrians, Lucas suddenly discovered that the road ahead was blocked by a large group of people crowding around the roadside for some reason.

Lucas pulled over near the road and immediately heard the incessant sounds of discussion coming from outside the car.

“That man is so old and seems quite pitiful!”

“He does look very pitiful, but who dares to help him up? These days, who dares to do good deeds like helping the elderly up unless they have millions in the bank! If he ends up being a conman and accuses you of causing his injury, you won’t be able to afford the compensation even if you go bankrupt!”

“That’s right. There are so many con artists who pretend to be pitiful and vulnerable out there these days, but once you go lend them a helping hand, they’ll grab you tightly and refuse to let go. They’ll accuse you of knocking them over and causing them to get hurt, then insist that you compensate them for their medical expenses. When the time comes, you won’t be able to explain yourself clearly!”

“Exactly. We must refrain from touching the elderly on the streets these days! I was at a relative’s place the other day, and I saw an old man lying on the streets. A kind-hearted young man walked over to help him up, but the old man turned out to be a swindler. In the end, the poor young man had to compensate tens of thousands of dollars, and now, he and his family are still facing many people showing up at their door to scold them every day!”

“That’s right. It’s not that the elderly have become vile, but rather, the crooks have gotten old. Anyway, I don’t have the guts to go help him up. I’m too poor to afford the consequences!”

...

Lucas got a rough idea of what was happening and reckoned that an elderly man had probably collapsed onto the ground on the road ahead.

However, there were many bystanders crowding around him and watching, but none of them dared to go forward to help.

Lucas got out of his car without hesitation and squeezed his way through the crowd to get to the front. He saw a white-haired old man lying on the ground, his face deathly pale. He seemed to be having breathing difficulties, and his body was convulsing incessantly. He even made multiple attempts to reach his hand into his breast pocket, but they were all futile because his hand would slip down every single time.

Lucas was shocked, and he immediately dashed forward to rescue him.

He had spent many years in the army and could tell at a glance that the old man in front of him wasn’t a conman pretending to be distressed. But he was showing symptoms of a heart attack, and the situation was extremely urgent. If the old man wasn’t rescued in time, he would probably die before the ambulance arrived.

Seeing that the old man had tried to reach into his pocket several times, Lucas guessed that his emergency medication should be inside his pocket.

“Sir, hang in there!” Lucas muttered softly while reaching for the emergency medication in the pocket of the old man’s clothing.

At this moment, someone placed their hand on Lucas’s arm to stop him.

“Young man, take my advice. Don’t think you’re doing good by helping him! These days, kindness doesn’t necessarily beget kindness. This old man is probably pretending to be ill. Don’t get yourself into big trouble by trying to save others!” The person speaking was a middle-aged man in his forties who seemed to have been in a similar situation before.

“Let go!” Lucas yelled and then broke free from that middle-aged man’s grip. He then continued to reach his hand into the old man’s breast pocket.

The middle-aged man felt that Lucas was disregarding his kind intentions and couldn’t help snapping indignantly, “Hah, ignorant young man. I was kind enough to advise you, but you refuse to listen. Once you get swindled and end up going bankrupt trying to pay the compensation, you’ll regret your decision now!”

The others around also nodded one after another and chimed in, “Exactly. This man clearly doesn’t know any better. We’re persuading him out of kindness because we’re afraid that he might get cheated by a conman, but he isn’t grateful at all!”

“Hmph, if he gets scammed later, he totally deserves it. Well, he’ll only have himself to blame for choosing not to heed our advice!”

“There are too many self-righteous people like him in this world. That’s why there are so many con artists these days. If everyone minds their own business, those con artists won’t get the chance to cheat anyone, and they’ll gradually die out!”

“Yes! Let’s just wait and see how he regrets it later!”

...

Lucas ignored their remarks and simply reached into the old man’s pocket. Soon, he found a small and delicate vial labeled with the words ‘Enhanced Aspirin’.

Lucas poured two pills into the old man’s mouth and quickly grabbed a bottle of water from his car before coming over again to give the old man some water to wash the pills down. He then unbuttoned a few buttons below the collar of the old man’s shirt so that the old man could breathe properly while leaning against Lucas’s arm.

Immediately afterward, Lucas called the ambulance and explained the situation in detail to the dispatcher.

After a while, the old man's breathing gradually became calmer, and the tension on his face eased up. He was no longer as pale as before, and he even slowly opened his eyes.

Seeing that the old man had regained consciousness and his complexion had become much better, the bystanders finally realized that the old man on the ground didn't seem to be a conman and had really suffered a heart attack.

"He... seems to have really had a heart attack."

"Yeah, the old man's complexion is obviously better. He probably didn't use makeup to make himself look pale! Besides, he didn't grab the young man and insist that he compensate him either..."

"Damn it. He's actually really sick! We actually thought he was a conman... Fortunately, this young man rescued him. Otherwise, this old man would have really died!"

"Thank God!"

Seeing that the old man's face had eased up greatly and that he could even sit up by himself, Lucas let go of him and stood up.

He looked around at the bystanders and said loudly, "I understand that you don't dare to help others without consideration because you're worried about getting scammed. But in this world, crooks are a minority after all. Sometimes, the people we encounter might really be in need of help. There are many ways to prevent yourself from being cheated by others, such as taking pictures of the situation before giving help or asking the others around you to bear witness. An alternative would be to call 911 directly.

"If every one of us can do the same, we won't have to watch others suffer and die in agony."

Seeing that the people standing around were either deep in thought or coming to a sudden realization, Lucas left without saying anything else.

Chapter 382: Savior

He had already done everything he should, and the old man's condition had already stabilized too. He just had to wait for the ambulance to arrive.

A short while after Lucas left, a red Maserati pulled over at the roadside, and a young woman in her twenties opened the car door and frantically dashed out. While yelling 'Grandpa', she rushed toward the crowd and leaped toward the old man.

“Grandpa, are you alright? Your heart rate monitor app showed large fluctuations in your heart rate just now. I was so scared!” The young woman’s eyes were red, and she seemed on the verge of tears.

Her grandfather had a serious heart disease, so there would be people taking special care of him all the time. But today, he suddenly said that he wanted to go out to meet some old comrades in arms and thus walked around on the streets nearby. But he had a heart attack soon after he left.

The white-haired old man stroked the head of the young woman lovingly and comforted, “Don’t worry. I’m fine now. Actually, it’s all thanks to that young man who just saved me. Otherwise, I might have really died here.”

“Young man? A young man rescued you? Where is he?” the young woman hurriedly asked while looking around.

The onlookers quickly avoided eye contact with her somewhat embarrassedly. After all, they had all thought that the old man was a conman, so none of them had dared to go forward to help and almost watched him die in front of their eyes.

The white-haired old man sighed and said with regret, “That young man left after seeing that I was fine. Unfortunately, I didn’t even have time to ask him for his name.”

The young woman shifted her gaze onto the butler-like man who got out of the car together with her. “Uncle Alan, there should be surveillance cameras around here. Quickly find out who the young man who saved my grandfather is at all costs! Then prepare three million dollars in cash as a thank you gift for that kind Samaritan!”

After giving out instructions, the young woman turned around and stuck her tongue out at the white-haired old man. “Grandpa, there’s nothing wrong with this arrangement, right?”

The white-haired old man nodded in approval. “Well done. He saved my life. We really should find him and thank him properly!”

After hearing their conversation, the onlookers were all stunned!

They’re giving that young man three million dollars just because he saved the old man’s life? How generous of them!

Strictly speaking, Lucas hadn’t applied any special technique when rescuing the old man but had simply taken out the emergency medication from the pocket of the old man’s clothes. The onlookers felt that it was something that they could easily do!

Yet Lucas would be rewarded a handsome sum of money that they might not be able to earn in this lifetime by working hard for the rest of their lives. It was even easier than winning a lottery ticket!

At this moment, all the onlookers were chagrined and full of regret. If they had known earlier that the old man was so wealthy that he would casually give a reward of three million dollars, they would have rushed to save him just now.

Unfortunately, there was no medicine for regret in this world. Regardless of how much they regretted their passiveness, there was nothing they could do now!

But many people had made up their minds and decided that they would definitely take the gamble and step up to help people in need if they ever encountered such an unexpected situation again. In case they were lucky enough to rescue a tycoon like this old man, they would no longer have to slog their guts out for the rest of their lives!

The old man and his granddaughter were unaware of the changes in the mindsets of the onlookers.

As the young woman and the butler beside her helped the white-haired old man to the car to take him to the hospital for a thorough checkup, another luxury Audi sedan pulled over by the road.

The car doors opened, and two old men who similarly had white hair alighted.

The two old men were none other than Robert Heron and Sam Morgan, who had just left the Turner residence.

“Mr. Cole... are you okay? When you called us just now, you said that you were about to reach the restaurant we agreed to meet at. Robert and I waited for you for a long time, but you still didn't show up, so we got really worried that you might have had a mishap!” Sam looked around to see that the crowd hadn't dispersed yet and looked worriedly at the old man being held by his granddaughter.

The white-haired old man was Edmund Cole, the head of his family. He laughed twice and said smilingly, “What are you being so formal for? We're old friends. Just call me Edmund like before! Robert, Sam, it's been a long time since we last met, huh?”

“Haha, okay. Then we won't be formal with you, Edmund!”

Robert and Sam seemed really agitated, but they were much more relaxed than before.

After all, although the three of them were comrades in the same squad back in their military days, their statuses were now worlds apart. Since Edmund was still willing to care about their old ties, it was naturally best.

“Come, Alexis, greet Uncle Sam and Uncle Robert. They’re my old comrades who fought alongside me through thick and thin on the battlefield back then!”

“Hello, Uncle Sam, Uncle Robert,” the young woman named Alexis immediately greeted the two of them graciously.

“Hello!” Robert was excited, surprised, and flattered.

Strictly speaking, Sam was the one who was close to Edmund when they were in the same squad back in the day. Robert only became somewhat closer to the esteemed Edmund later because he was friends with Sam.

While the few old friends were reminiscing about the old times and catching up with each other, an ambulance arrived with the sirens ringing loudly.

“We just received a call that there’s a patient here who requires emergency rescue. Where is the patient now?” asked one of the first two paramedics who got out of the ambulance.

Alexis Cole hurriedly pulled Edmund and said, “Grandpa, you had a heart attack just now. You may have recovered from it, but we’d better get you to the hospital for a thorough check!”

Sam and Robert were shocked to hear this. “Edmund, what happened to you just now? Why did you get a sudden heart attack?”

Edmund waved his hand and said with a bitter smile, “Well, it’s an old ailment. I was walking over to meet you guys, but I suddenly had a heart attack along the way. Fortunately, a young man saved me. Otherwise, I’m afraid you two wouldn’t be able to see me anymore!”

Both of them were so frightened by what Edmund said that they broke out in cold sweat while feeling glad and thankful that a young man had saved Edmund. Otherwise, he would have died on the way to see the two of them. Even though they weren’t the cause of the heart attack, the Coles would probably put the blame on them!

“Fortunately, that kind Samaritan saved you. Otherwise, we wouldn’t have been able to live at ease for the rest of our lives. Actually, that young man is our benefactor too!” Sam said emotionally with lingering fears.

“Yeah, I wonder where that young man is now. We really have to thank him properly!” Robert said with a thankful expression while scanning the crowd.

Chapter 383: Scheme in the Hotel

Edmund sighed. "That young man left immediately after saving me. I'm afraid he did that exactly because he doesn't want me to thank him. But I have to thank him for saving my life! Just now, my granddaughter said that she would try to find him as soon as possible."

"Yes, that's the right thing to do! You must inform us once you find him so that we can thank him in person as well!" Sam and Robert hurriedly said.

Soon, Alexis helped Edmund get into the ambulance and sent him to the nearest hospital for a medical checkup. Sam and Robert were naturally still worried, so they drove behind the ambulance and followed it to the hospital. Edmund's bodyguard and butler tagged along at the back in Alexis's Maserati.

After the group left, the onlookers who were still crowding around this spot suddenly broke into a heated discussion.

"Damn it. That old man is clearly not an ordinary figure! I don't know who he is, but the two who arrived after him are from LA. One of them is the helmsman of the Morgans, while the other is the founder of the Heron Corp. They're both big shots with net worths of millions or even tens of millions of dollars!"

"Are they such bigwigs? I noticed that they were really respectful toward that old man. That old man is probably someone extraordinary, huh?"

"Duh? He casually decided to reward his life savior with a few million dollars. How could his identity possibly be simple?"

"Did you guys see the license plate of the Maserati his granddaughter drove? It belongs to San Francisco, and I even heard Mr. Sam Morgan calling him Mr. Cole. Could he be THAT Mr. Cole from San Francisco?"

"Oh my goodness. They're a prestigious and elite family in San Francisco. The other top families in our city are nothing compared to such a wealthy family!"

"Ahhh! So that old man on the ground just now is the family head of the Coles. I thought he was just a conman, so I didn't dare to go help him up! If I had saved him just now, I'd not only have an extra three million dollars in the bank, but I would have also formed connections with a top family from San Francisco! I really regret this!"

"Cut it out! We're all full of regret too, but just now, no one was aware of his identity, so who would dare to go up and help him? Ah, that young man really got lucky! I guess this is what you call kindness begets kindness!"

While everyone was green with envy toward Lucas, he still didn't know that he was about to receive a whopping sum of three million dollars.

Of course, even if he was aware, he wouldn't be bothered by it either because three million dollars really meant nothing to him now.

At this moment, Lucas arrived at the hotel he had booked and was about to go upstairs to look for William. But someone behind him suddenly said with a tone of surprise, "What a coincidence, Lucas. You're here too."

Lucas turned around to see Lena quickly striding toward him with a look of surprise on her face.

Lucas raised his brows. "Are you staying here too?"

When he drove William to the hotel just now, Lena happened to be in his car too. But he didn't hear her mentioning that she would be checking into this hotel too.

Holding onto a small suitcase, she said smilingly, "Yeah, my family's butler just gave the hotel booking details to me a short while ago. Only then did I realize that it happens to be this hotel too!"

Lucas didn't doubt Lena's words. After all, it was the Waldorf Hotel, the best five-star hotel in the city. It was only normal that the Sawyers' butler would arrange for her to stay here.

Lena suddenly asked, "Which room are you staying in?"

Lucas answered without any doubt, "1606."

Lena shoved her suitcase toward Lucas and said, "Please help me look after my stuff for a while. I suddenly remembered that I forgot to ask the front desk staff something!"

Then she turned around and ran toward the hotel's front desk.

"I want the nearest room to Room 1606!" Lena said as she whipped out her ID and membership card.

She didn't actually book a room at this hotel because the Sawyers initially intended for her to nurture her relationship with Tristan during her trip here this time. The Sawyers and Parkers were on very good terms, and Lena would seem a little distant if she chose to stay in a hotel instead.

But Lena didn't like Tristan at all, much less wanted to marry him. So she naturally wouldn't stay in the Parkers' home.

Soon, she got the room card of Room 1605.

Card in hand, Lena merrily returned to Lucas, overjoyed that her room was right next to his.

“What a coincidence. Mine’s 1605. It’s right next to yours!” Lena swung the room card in front of Lucas happily.

“Okay.”

Since they were staying on the same floor, Lucas decided to just help Lena wheel her suitcase to her room while walking her there.

“Lucas, it’s getting late. You haven’t had dinner, have you? Why don’t we have dinner together? I’ll treat you to a feast to thank you for helping out again today!” Lena suggested smilingly.

“My father-in-law should be in his room now. He probably hasn’t eaten either. Let’s ask him along,” Lucas said.

Lena then remembered that William was staying in the same hotel.

“Alright, go get Uncle William while I get ready. Let’s head down to the lobby in a bit!”

After Lucas entered his room, Lena immediately went back to her room and took out her phone to call someone.

“I want you to call William Carter, the general manager of the Solar Corporation’s Orange County branch, and ask him out to discuss a cooperation right now. Ask him to show up as soon as possible!”

“Yes, Miss Lena.” Although the person she called didn’t know why she gave him this order, he had to obey her because she was the heiress of the Sawyers.

Just as Lucas and William walked out of the room and were about to go to the lobby together, William’s phone started ringing.

“Hello, how are you? Ah, it’s me. Yes, yes, yes! What? Are you serious? Alright, I’ll head back to Orange County to meet you right now! See you later!”

After hanging up, William said to Lucas excitedly, “Lucas, I won’t have dinner with you tonight. An important client called and asked to meet me to discuss a business cooperation. If possible, the contract can be signed today. I have to head back to Orange County immediately!”

Lucas said, “It’s already dinnertime. Why don’t you have something to eat first?”

“No, it’s fine. The contract is more important. Orange County is about an hour’s drive from here. I have to rush there quickly!”

While returning to the room in a hurry to pack his things, William said, “Don’t worry about me. You guys go have dinner! I’ll get a cab at the entrance of the hotel. I’m leaving now!”

Then William dashed to the elevator and left in a flurry.

Lucas could only sigh helplessly.

At this moment, Lena walked out of her room. Pretending to be shocked, she asked, “Huh? Why did Uncle William leave all of a sudden? Isn’t he going to come along with us for dinner?”

Lucas shook his head. “Something cropped up, and he has to tend to it urgently. Since it’s just us two for dinner, let’s just eat in the hotel.”

Lena said with a smile, “Alright. The food served at the hotel’s restaurant is delicious too. I know a few superb dishes. I’ll recommend them to you later!”

While secretly feeling triumphant, she had a conflicted gaze in her eyes, but she soon smiled with determination. *I won’t easily let go of the man I want!*

Chapter 384: The Poolside

Soon, the two of them had dinner in the restaurant on the first floor of the hotel.

Lena was very talkative during dinner. She was a bubbly person in the first place, and since she was trying to attract Lucas, she was especially enthusiastic as she kept trying to find a good topic of conversation. In particular, she brought up lots of interesting memories she shared with Cheyenne in the past.

Lucas listened smilingly, and he would ask her a few questions in return from time to time. Dinner was rather pleasant and enjoyable.

After dinner, Lena suddenly said, “Lucas, do you have anything scheduled for later? There’s a beautiful open-air swimming pool on the roof of this hotel, and I really want to try swimming in it. But it’ll be too boring by myself. Can you come with me?”

She blinked her large eyes and looked at Lucas pleadingly, full of expectations.

Lucas didn’t mind, and since Lena didn’t want to go alone, he agreed with a nod. “Okay. I don’t have anything to do later anyway. I’ll accompany you then. I’ll just take it as some post-meal exercise to ease digestion.”

After Lucas agreed, Lena beamed with joy. "Lucas, you're the best!"

The Waldorf Hotel was the best five-star hotel in the city. Not only because it was the tallest building but also because of the large open-air swimming pool on the roof, which was an absolute highlight.

Admiring the spectacular skyline of the bustling city from the edge of a swimming pool at the highest point of the city while surrounded by buildings that were dozens of meters shorter was definitely an unforgettable experience.

Although it was the weekend, it wasn't a holiday after all. Besides, the rates of the Waldorf Hotel were rather expensive, so there weren't many guests in the hotel at the moment.

Apart from Lena and Lucas, there wasn't anyone else at the rooftop pool.

As soon as the two of them went upstairs, they saw changing rooms, bathrooms, and a plethora of swimsuits specially catered for the guests.

After changing into their swimsuits in the changing rooms, the two of them came to the poolside, clad in bath towels.

"The pool here is enormous, and the water is very clean, much better than regular swimming pools! Also, when you swim to the edge of the pool and look down later, you'll feel exhilarated. I'm sure you'll like it! There's also an artificial hot spring where we can go for a soak and a massage if you get tired later!"

Lena happily introduced the various facilities to Lucas while removing the white bath towel wrapped around her body. She then tossed it aside.

Lucas's eyes widened in shock!

The reason for his astonishment was that Lena was wearing a racy bikini made of extremely thin fabric that covered only her private areas, baring a large portion of her fair skin and svelte figure.

It wasn't that Lucas hadn't seen women before. Over the years, he had carried out many military missions that required him to go to some underground dens and sordid places to rescue many women who had either been forced to or voluntarily become prostitutes. Thus, Lucas had seen all sorts of women.

During the Kingstons' auction held in Club Splendor previously, the girls being auctioned off as commodities were also dressed in skimpy clothes.

But among all the beauties Lucas had seen before, Lena was definitely one of the best, be it in terms of looks or figure.

After taking a glance at Lena in her bikini, Lucas immediately turned his head away with a trace of uneasiness on his face.

Lena was the best friend of his wife, Cheyenne!

Now that Cheyenne wasn't around, there was definitely something very wrong about him and Lena swimming alone in the pool, especially since Lena was scantily clad.

"I suddenly remembered that I have some matters to handle. Go ahead and swim by yourself. I'll leave first."

Then Lucas immediately turned around to leave without hesitation.

"Hey, you... wait!"

In a moment of eagerness, Lena suddenly tripped, fell onto the floor, and then cried out in pain.

Hearing Lena's painful cry, Lucas naturally wouldn't ignore her and continue leaving. He stopped and turned around to see that Lena had fallen onto the floor and was clutching her ankle with pain written all over her face.

Lucas immediately walked toward her and asked softly with concern, "What's wrong? Did you sprain your ankle?"

Lena frowned as if she was forcing herself to bear with the pain. She said with great difficulty, "Uh, I walked too quickly just now and accidentally sprained it. Lucas, my ankle hurts, and I don't think I can walk anymore. Can you help me back to my room?"

Lucas agreed. "Alright."

He helped Lena up from the floor and was about to help her forward by holding her arm. But she suddenly winced in pain, probably because she had strained the injury in her ankle. Her body turned limp, and she fell into Lucas's arms.

They were both wearing swimwear that covered very little of their bodies, especially Lucas, who was wearing nothing but a pair of swimming trunks. When Lena fell into his arms, she pressed her body tightly against his.

Feeling the touch of her soft and delicate skin, Lucas instantly stiffened while his heart began beating rapidly.

But he soon held Lena by her shoulders and calmly helped her regain her balance while pulling away from her in an unnoticeable manner.

“Sit down on the chair and let me see your injury.” Lucas helped Lena sit down on a pool lounge chair at the side.

Lena’s eyes were instantly full of disappointment because Lucas pulled away less than a second after his warm and solid muscles came into contact with her body.

But she soon concealed her disappointment and said with a face full of agony, “What should I do? My ankle is so painful. It hurts as soon as I try to walk! It’s not broken, is it?”

Lucas squatted down on the ground and glanced at Lena’s ankle, which was only slightly red. There were no other abnormal signs.

Given Lucas’s years of experience in the army, he reckoned that Lena’s ankle should have just been slightly sprained. It was far from hurting to the extent of being unable to walk.

Of course, some girls might be more delicate and have lower pain tolerance, so it was understandable.

Lucas stood up and said, “Wait here while I go and get some medicine from the front desk.”

Five-star hotels like the Waldorf Hotel would usually provide common over-the-counter drugs and medication at the front desk.

Before Lena even said anything, Lucas turned around and left, soon vanishing as he entered the elevator.

Seeing that Lucas had left just like that, Lena felt so aggrieved that she was on the verge of tears. “Dimwit! Haven’t I made it obvious enough? Do you not get the hint, or are you deliberately turning me down?”

Chapter 385: Invitation to the Exhibition

Lena had deliberately picked the most revealing bikini that would best accentuate her figure just so that she could show off her beauty to Lucas. But he merely took a quick glance at her before turning away and claiming that he had to leave to handle something important.

She could only use the excuse of spraining her ankle to throw herself at him. But he soon pushed her away again.

Is he too gentlemanly, or does he just not fancy me at all?

If it was Cheyenne who sprained her ankle, he would have definitely carried her into her room...

Lena bit her lip tightly and thought with great indignation, *Why... why didn't I get to meet him first?*

Previously, a biker came speeding toward her on his motorcycle maniacally, and Lena thought that she would definitely die there and then. But Lucas suddenly appeared beside her like a knight in shining armor and carried her in his arms to rescue her from the assassination.

Since then, Lucas's appearance and the warmth of his embrace were deeply etched in Lena's mind.

She finally knew what it felt like to fall in love with someone.

But the person she fell in love with was already married to her best friend.

Lena had once wavered because she didn't want to be a homewrecker and ruin her best friend's marriage. So during this period of time, she might have repeatedly tried to get closer to Lucas and speak to him, but whenever she thought about her best friend, Cheyenne, she would hesitate and curb her feelings.

Today, she had once again faced an assassination, and she almost thought she was really going to die this time. When her car swerved to the side after the Hummer collided violently into it, her hopes of surviving were all dashed.

But Lucas once again appeared out of nowhere and rescued her from the dangerous situation while she was in despair!

Ah, this is probably fate! Lucas and I are fated with each other!

While she thought about it, her heart was full of sweetness and courage.

So she decided to be brave and go to the hotel Lucas booked while pretending like it was a coincidence. She even arranged for her room to be beside Lucas's so that she could be closer to him.

She then called the person in charge of the Sawyer Corporation to ask William out under the pretext of a business cooperation so that she could have some time alone with Lucas.

She even went out of her way to use the art of seduction and the ruse of being injured to win Lucas's sympathy. But in the end, she still didn't manage to make him stay.

Does Lucas really not have any feelings for me?

Did he manage to tell something just now? Will he hate me because of this?

What should I do next...

While various thoughts raced through Lena's mind, Lucas had already made his way to the roof again. He had changed back into his clothes and was holding onto a bottle of muscle spray.

"The receptionist said that this bottle of muscle spray is very effective for treating bruises, sprains, and injuries. Give it a try."

Then Lucas squatted down and sprayed some of it at Lena's ankle a few times.

Soon, she felt a cool sensation on her ankle.

"How is it?" Lucas asked.

Lena no longer dared to continue pretending she was badly injured, afraid that Lucas might be able to tell something. So she deliberately moved her ankle a few times before saying with a look of surprise, "It really works wonders! It doesn't hurt that much anymore!"

"Good to hear. Let's head downstairs then!" Lucas said smilingly.

Soon, Lucas walked Lena to her room and bade farewell to her at the door instead of entering her room. He then returned to his own room.

As soon as Lena entered her room, she buried herself under the duvet and even punched it several times, feeling embarrassed and chagrined about the failure of her plan today.

In the room next door, Lucas wasn't as calm as he seemed to be on the surface.

In particular, when he closed his eyes, he would subconsciously think of the moment he saw Lena dressed in a bikini and looking dazzling under the setting sun.

Lucas was a normal man, and he inevitably found it impossible to stay as calm and composed as usual when he saw Lena in the racy bikini.

Apart from the time he had unintentionally gotten intimate with Cheyenne while he wasn't in a clear state of mind more than six years ago, he had never engaged in any other intimate behavior in the past 28 years of his life.

In fact, Lucas owed it to his impressive willpower to have been able to push Lena away when she 'accidentally' fell into his arms and pressed her body against his just now.

What am I thinking? Lucas came back to his senses and shook his head hard to dispel these thoughts.

I wonder how Cheyenne is doing at the Turners' and whether or not they've deliberately made things difficult for her, he thought silently.

At this moment, in the Turners' large farmhouse villa in the suburbs of LA...

After the tea leaves saga, which caused her to be slapped by her grandfather Robert, Nikki dashed out of the house in anger.

But after staying outside for two hours, she returned to the Turners' again like nothing had happened, and she soon found Cheyenne.

"Cheyenne, there's going to be a large exhibition of antiques and treasures at the LA Arts Center this afternoon. I heard that the pieces include exotic treasures and antiques from all over the world. It's going to be so interesting! I happen to have two tickets. Come along with me!" Nikki held onto Cheyenne's arm affectionately and pleaded coquettishly.

Cheyenne didn't have much interest in these items, so she turned her down. "I don't know much about antiques and treasures, so it'd be a waste for me to attend. I think you'd better ask your friend to accompany you."

"Hey, Cheyenne, just come with me! My other friends are busy. Since you're free, just come with me, okay?" Nikki pleaded while shaking Cheyenne's arm, seeming as if she wouldn't let go until Cheyenne agreed.

Before Cheyenne could say anything, Charlotte came over from nearby and said coldly, "Nikki, why are you insistently asking my sister out again? What tricks do you have up your sleeve now?"

Charlotte didn't forget that Nikki had insulted Lucas several times in public today and had even tried to set Cheyenne up with another man.

To Charlotte, Lucas was not only her brother-in-law but also her life savior, her idol, and closest family member, so she would never allow anyone to insult Lucas. What Nikki did in the morning had already landed herself a spot on Charlotte's black list.

"How could I possibly have ulterior motives? I just thought of taking Cheyenne out for some fun because I'm afraid that she might get bored here. Charlotte, don't slander me!"

Nikki continued aggrievedly, “Charlotte, are you blaming me because I only asked Cheyenne out and not you? I can’t help it. I only have two tickets, so I can only invite one person! Why don’t I ask my friend to help me get an extra ticket for you?”

Nikki was making it sound as if Charlotte was deliberately picking on her simply because she didn’t invite Charlotte.

“Hmph, I don’t care about an antique exhibition. I’m not going!” Charlotte retorted coldly.

Cheyenne once again declined, “Amelia is about to wake up from her nap soon. I’m going to accompany her, so I’ll pass. You’d better ask someone else!”

A trace of displeasure appeared in Nikki’s eyes, but she quickly said, “Cheyenne, this is for your own good! If you miss this antique exhibition, you’ll definitely regret it because it concerns the development of the Brilliance Corporation!”

Chapter 386: Uninvited Guest

Hearing what Nikki said, Cheyenne raised her brows in puzzlement. “What does that antique exhibition have to do with the Brilliance Corporation?”

Nikki said with a smile, “Cheyenne, you’re now the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation. You should also want the company to develop well and expand the scope of the company’s business to LA, right?”

Cheyenne nodded. “That goes without saying. But what does this have to do with the antique exhibition?”

Nikki said proudly, “Of course it has something to do with the exhibition. In fact, it has a lot to do with it! The organizer of the antique exhibition in the LA Arts Center today is Edmund Cole, the head of the Coles, an extremely wealthy family from San Francisco. All the upper-middle-class families and enterprise owners in LA will definitely attend the exhibition this time to get closer to Edmund Cole and also to build some connections with other reputable figures!

“So Cheyenne, this is an excellent chance for you. It doesn’t matter if you’re not interested in the antique exhibition. Most importantly, you’ll get the opportunity to socialize with the members of other prestigious families and business owners in LA! As long as you communicate well with them, your company will definitely be able to expand well in LA!”

Nikki was indeed quite convincing, and her words hit the nail on the head.

Previously, Cheyenne hadn’t thought of expanding the Brilliance Corporation’s business to LA so quickly. But now that the golden opportunity was right in front of her, she

naturally couldn't miss it since she was the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation.

The fact that the organizer of the antique exhibition this time was the famous and esteemed Edmund Cole from San Francisco was especially significant.

"Nikki, are you sure that the antique exhibition is organized by the Coles?" Cheyenne asked expectantly.

Nikki took out two invitation cards and waved them in front of Cheyenne smilingly. "Cheyenne, take a good look. It's written clearly in black and white on these invitation cards that the organizer is Cole Antiques, one of the Coles' businesses. I'm not deceiving you!"

Given the name of the company, it was obvious that it belonged to the Coles.

After confirming it, Cheyenne agreed without hesitating further, "Okay, I'll go with you."

Seeing this, Charlotte said worriedly, "Cheyenne, do you really want to go? Lucas clearly asked me to stay by your side and protect you."

She didn't want Cheyenne to go out with Nikki.

To put it bluntly, Charlotte just didn't trust Nikki! She wasn't convinced that Nikki would be that nice to take Cheyenne out to expand her network of connections for the development of the Brilliance Corporation in LA.

Who knew what she was thinking? In any case, Charlotte felt that Nikki harbored ill intentions!

Nikki covered her mouth and laughed. "Protect? Cheyenne, you're making it sound as if I'm taking her to some dangerous place! Don't worry. We're just going to the arts center downtown so that Cheyenne can get to know more business partners in LA. How dangerous can it be? I promise I'll bring Cheyenne back safe and sound. Rest assured!"

Cheyenne patted Charlotte's hand and comforted, "Charlotte, don't worry. The exhibition is indeed a good opportunity for the Brilliance Corporation. Once I build some connections and get some opportunities, I'll be able to take the Brilliance Corporation to greater heights! I hope for the Brilliance Corporation to expand well."

Seeing how insistent Cheyenne was and knowing that Cheyenne would never give up any opportunities when the Brilliance Corporation was concerned, Charlotte decided not to stop her any further. She said helplessly, "Okay then. Go ahead, but be careful! I'll just stay here and keep Amelia company!"

"Okay. Thank you, Charlotte!" Cheyenne smiled.

After receiving Cheyenne's affirmative reply, Nikki took her hand eagerly and said with great excitement, "Let's go quickly then. The exhibition is going to start soon. We mustn't be late!"

While they were on their way, Nikki secretly texted someone: [Be right there!]

As soon as Cheyenne left the Turners' with Nikki, Charlotte immediately called Lucas. "Lucas, Nikki just convinced Cheyenne to go out with her to an antique exhibition at the LA Arts Center!"

Lucas knew that something was amiss and immediately said, "Alright, I'll go look for her now. Don't worry!"

He immediately hung up the phone and went straight to the hotel's underground parking lot.

Soon, Nikki and Cheyenne arrived at the entrance of the LA Arts Center.

As soon as they reached the entrance, they heard a familiar voice coming from the side. "Hello, beautiful ladies, you're here!"

The two turned around and saw the well-dressed Kenneth walking toward them.

Without the slightest trace of surprise on her face, Nikki pulled Cheyenne over to greet him. She said smilingly, "Hehe, Kenneth, you must have been waiting for a long time!"

Cheyenne's face turned sullen when she saw Kenneth and shook Nikki's hand off of hers. She said hostilely, "What's the meaning of this? Nikki, didn't you say that it was only going to be us two?"

This morning, Nikki had already made it clear that she wanted to set Cheyenne up with Kenneth. And now, it seemed that Kenneth had already agreed to meet Nikki, who had gone out of her way to convince Cheyenne to come here. Cheyenne immediately knew that she had been tricked by Nikki.

Nikki was afraid that Cheyenne would immediately leave and make her efforts go down the drain.

She hurriedly pulled Cheyenne and said innocently, "Ah, Cheyenne, I really didn't know that Kenneth would be here too! Don't misunderstand!"

"Besides, it's a good thing that Kenneth is here! He's one of the Parkers, a top family in LA. Everyone respects him! As long as he puts in a good word for you later and introduces you to some of his family's business partners, it will be much more convenient than trying to build connections on your own. Don't you agree, Cheyenne?"

Cheyenne felt really uncomfortable when she saw Kenneth and had never thought of seeking his help to get to know the prestigious figures of LA.

But it was a rare opportunity today, and she would be too reckless to just leave because of Kenneth's presence.

She decided that she would just treat him like he was nonexistent.

Thinking of this, Cheyenne suppressed her anger instead of leaving right away.

But she naturally wouldn't have a good attitude toward Kenneth.

"Cheyenne, you seem to dislike me. Have I offended you in some way?" Kenneth suddenly asked with a look of bewilderment, seeming gentlemanly and innocent.

Cheyenne frowned and chided in displeasure, "We don't know each other that well, Mr. Parker. Please call me Ms. Carter instead. Not just anyone can call me by my first name!"

Chapter 387: We Are One

In fact, she would only let Lucas address her affectionately.

And she would only let her close friends and family call her 'Cheyenne'.

Back then, Cheyenne hadn't accepted Lucas yet, but he wouldn't call her by her full name either because that would seem inappropriate.

Cheyenne felt extremely repulsed and disgusted when she heard Kenneth calling her by her first name and immediately chided him.

The refined and polite smile on Kenneth's face stiffened immediately, and he was full of anger.

I'm the scion of the Parkers and might very well become the next helmsman. Yet a woman just rebuked me so mercilessly.

A married wench at that!

Putting on airs in front of me? Who does she think she is?!

Kenneth found it difficult to maintain a warm and gentlemanly smile at this point.

Noticing Kenneth's displeasure, Nikki hurriedly said, "Cheyenne, what's wrong with you? Kenneth isn't an outsider anyway! Besides, let me tell you the truth. We actually received the invitations to this exhibition all thanks to Kenneth! Otherwise, we wouldn't have even been able to enter this exhibition hall today!"

After hearing Nikki trying to claim credit for Kenneth for the invitations, Cheyenne felt a strong urge to return the invitation card to Kenneth immediately.

She really didn't want to be involved with Kenneth in the slightest, let alone owe him any favors.

If it were anyone else, it wouldn't be too bad. But Kenneth harbored designs on her, so who knows what he would ask of her in return.

She thought that she would just give this exhibition a miss since there would be plenty of other chances in the future anyway.

Just as Cheyenne took out the invitation card and wanted to return it to Kenneth, she heard a familiar voice suddenly come from the side. "Honey!"

Upon hearing Lucas's voice, Cheyenne immediately turned around in surprise.

But she soon thought of Kenneth standing beside her and began to get a little nervous and afraid that Lucas would misunderstand.

Just this morning, Nikki had introduced Cheyenne to Kenneth right in front of Lucas. She even said that Eddie and his wife intended to let her marry Kenneth.

Now, Lucas had run into her and Kenneth.

Although she definitely didn't have any feelings for Kenneth, the fact that they were both at the same place could easily lead to a misunderstanding.

"Hubby, I..."

Just as Cheyenne was trying to explain to Lucas, Nikki immediately glared at Lucas and said hostilely, "What are you doing here, you good-for-nothing? Who said you could come here? Cheyenne, did you ask him to come here?"

Nikki was extremely displeased, and she even seemed to be questioning Lucas.

Lucas's appearance would certainly sabotage her and Kenneth's plan! She disliked Lucas in the first place, and now, she wished he would just vanish and get lost as far away as possible!

Lucas walked toward Cheyenne and said to her after glancing at Nikki coldly, "Cheyenne is my wife. What's wrong with me coming here with her? Who do you think you are? We don't need your permission to do anything. This is between my wife and me."

Lucas's attitude made Nikki incredibly enraged.

"Shut up! What are you? You're not worthy of speaking to me in such a manner!" Nikki rebuked aggressively and glared at Lucas in contempt. Then she turned her head to look at Cheyenne. "Cheyenne, aren't you going a bit too far? Kenneth went to great lengths to get us these invitations. Why did you get your good-for-nothing husband to come here too?"

"I told you that the antique exhibition today is organized by the Coles, a top family from San Francisco. All the prestigious families and enterprise owners in LA will be sending their representatives to attend the exhibition, and it's an extremely high-class gathering! Apart from embarrassing us and making others look down on us, what else can he do? You'd better tell him to get lost before it's too late!"

Nikki hated Lucas to begin with, and she had even gotten slapped by her own grandfather in public because of the tea leaves Lucas gave Eddie. She had yet to exact revenge on Lucas, but now, he had made an appearance, which would thwart her plans. So Nikki utterly detested Lucas and wished she could degrade him as much as possible.

"Enough!" Cheyenne was good-tempered, but after hearing Nikki's repeated insults and derogatory comments about Lucas, she couldn't help being furious.

"Lucas is my husband, and I made it clear this morning that I don't want to hear you insulting him again! Lucas and I are one. Humiliating him is humiliating me too!"

"I don't mind giving this exhibition a miss. You can have the invitation back!"

After lashing out at Nikki, Cheyenne stuffed the invitation card into her hand and turned around to hold Lucas's arm. She said in a gentle voice, "Hubby, let's leave!"

Lucas smiled.

He knew Cheyenne's character well. She had always been good-tempered and would rarely get angry.

But she actually lost her temper and scolded Nikki for his sake. Lucas felt extremely touched.

In particular, he felt a sweet and fuzzy feeling in his heart after hearing Cheyenne say 'We are one'.

He didn't get the wrong idea and misunderstand that Cheyenne was here for Kenneth's sake.

The only reason Cheyenne agreed to come to this exhibition was so that she could take the opportunity to socialize with the representatives of the prestigious families and enterprises in LA to boost the Brilliance Corporation's chances of expanding into LA.

But she was willing to give up this opportunity for him.

The look in Lucas's eyes became more and more affectionate as he gazed at Cheyenne.

Kenneth narrowed his eyes menacingly with a sullen expression. The more he looked at Lucas, the greater of an eyesore he found him to be!

On the other hand, the dumbfounded Nikki looked at Cheyenne, who was holding onto Lucas's arm, before looking down at the invitation card Cheyenne stuffed into her hand. She found it extremely bewildering.

She remembered that Cheyenne had always disliked Lucas, the 'good-for-nothing live-in son-in-law'. Yet Cheyenne actually didn't mind lashing out at her and even gave up the chance to establish greater connections for the Brilliance Corporation all for Lucas's sake. It didn't make sense to her at all!

But she didn't have the time to figure out what had happened between Cheyenne and Lucas. She only knew that Cheyenne was currently enraged, and if Cheyenne left now, her plan to set Cheyenne up with Kenneth would fall through!

After Nikki stole a glance at the sullen Kenneth, her heart trembled. She hurriedly grabbed Cheyenne's arm and swung it coquettishly. "Cheyenne, I was wrong. I won't yell at him again, okay? Please forgive me!"

"The opportunity today is extremely rare. Most importantly, the Coles are participating. If you miss this chance, you won't get a second one! Don't let your anger get to you and leave just like that! Think about your company. You have to stay for its sake!"

Cheyenne was about to shake off Nikki's hand when Lucas suddenly said, "Cheyenne, she's right. Since you have such a great opportunity, why give it up for no reason? Let's just go in and take a look!"

Chapter 388: Stopped at the Entrance

Upon hearing what Lucas said, Cheyenne immediately felt rather surprised.

But she soon understood what he meant.

Since Kenneth had given Cheyenne an invitation and the opportunity to socialize with the upper-class families and enterprises in LA, there was no reason for her to give it up for nothing.

Regardless of what Kenneth's motive was, Lucas was now by Cheyenne's side, so there was likely no way Kenneth could achieve his goal.

Having figured this out, Cheyenne stopped refusing. "Alright, let's go in and take a look then!"

Seeing Cheyenne finally agreeing, Nikki heaved a huge sigh of relief. At the very least, Kenneth couldn't blame her for being incompetent because she got Cheyenne to stay.

Although Kenneth was extremely displeased with Lucas's appearance, his eyes flashed, and he soon seemed excited.

Soon, they walked to the front door of the arts center and were about to enter, but two security guards stopped them at the entrance.

"Hello, Mr. Parker!" The security guards greeted Kenneth respectfully and said with a conflicted expression, "I'm so sorry, but there's an extremely important exhibition in our arts center today, so all guests must present their invitation to be granted entry. We know who you are, but it's our duty to check. We hope to seek your understanding!"

Kenneth smiled. "You don't have to apologize. You guys are doing a great job. Rules are meant to be followed, and since the guests today are all distinguished figures, the security has to be tight. Those without invitations must not be permitted entry!"

He praised the two security guards before cooperatively handing over the three invitation cards in his hand to them. At the same time, he deliberately glanced at Lucas.

The security guards carefully checked the invitation cards and confirmed that they were genuine. However, there were four people in front of them but only three invitation cards.

"Mr. Parker, I'm sorry, but you only have three invitation cards. It seems... you're missing one," one of the security guards said.

Kenneth smirked. "That's right. The invitation cards are for these two beautiful ladies and me. This other person has nothing to do with me."

The security guards immediately turned to look at Lucas and scrutinized him a little. The fact that they were tasked to guard such an important event and check the invitations meant that they weren't silly. Soon, they understood what Kenneth meant.

Although the rules were that people needed an invitation card to enter, they didn't necessarily have to be followed strictly. If a prestigious and esteemed person wanted to bring a few friends with them, it wasn't impossible to allow it.

But they could tell from what Kenneth said that he didn't want to let Lucas enter.

"Yes, Mr. Parker. These three invitations for you and the two beautiful ladies beside you are valid. Please come in!" One of the security guards smiled and gestured for them to enter the arts center.

The other security guard stood in front of Lucas with a hostile expression to stop him while questioning curtly, "Where's your invitation card?"

Nikki immediately gloated and giped with derision, "Hmph, the guests invited to the exhibition today are all wealthy and of noble status, unlike someone over here who doesn't have a single invitation card at all. He isn't fit to enter!"

Cheyenne's face turned sullen as she finally figured out that Kenneth had been waiting to humiliate Lucas at the entrance.

They were not locals of LA and only came to attend Cheyenne's cousin's wedding. They naturally couldn't have received invitations in advance. Even Cheyenne was granted entry only because of the invitation card Kenneth had given her. So Lucas certainly couldn't have an invitation card.

Cheyenne held Lucas's arm and said resolutely, "Forget it. I said that Lucas and I are one. Since he can't enter, I'll pass too."

Kenneth immediately sulked. *This woman really doesn't know any better!*

Feeling rather touched, Lucas suddenly said smilingly, "Cheyenne, just go ahead and enter with them first. Wait for me inside. I'll go in to look for you in a while!"

His gaze was full of certainty and confidence that made Cheyenne subconsciously trust him.

In fact, she would believe anything Lucas said.

"Alright, I'll wait for you inside then," Cheyenne said to Lucas with a gentle smile.

"Hmph, you really brag without thinking it through. Do you think it's that easy to get an invitation? How foolish!" Nikki sneered and said to the two security guards at the entrance, "Look carefully. This person doesn't have an invitation. If you let him sneak in later and he wreaks havoc inside, the Coles will be furious, and you'll be in trouble! Do you hear me?"

Nikki spoke in a commanding tone, and she was just short of asking the security guards to chase Lucas away.

The security guards hurriedly agreed, "Miss, please rest assured. We will definitely follow the rules strictly and not let just anyone in!"

Then they stood in front of Lucas to stop him like they were a wall, staring at him with hostile gazes.

"Let's go!" In high spirits, Kenneth stepped into the exhibition hall of the arts center.

With a triumphant smile, Nikki followed closely behind Kenneth and entered too.

Cheyenne was at the back of the group. She looked at Lucas worriedly. "I'll wait for you." She then entered the hall.

Soon, Lucas was the only one left in front of the main entrance of the arts center.

"Punk, why are you still standing at the door and blocking the way? If you don't have an invitation, you'd better get lost. Don't think you can bluff your way through and sneak in!"

At this moment, there was no one else at the entrance, and the two security guards began chasing Lucas away like he was garbage.

Lucas ignored them and simply looked down at the time on his watch.

"It should be here soon," he said calmly.

In the eyes of the security guards, Lucas was deliberately refusing to leave and just pretending to have an invitation so that he could loiter at the entrance.

"Damn it. Did you not hear what we said? We told you to get lost. With the two of us guarding here, don't even think about finding a chance to sneak in!"

"Hah, take a good look at yourself in the mirror. The guests of the exhibition today are all prestigious, and we've seen many like you who try to sneak in and build connections with those esteemed figures. You'd better give up before we teach you a lesson!"

The security guards began yelling at Lucas, and one of them even pulled out a baton from behind his waist, waved it in front of Lucas, and gave him a stern warning.

Without even blinking, Lucas said indifferently, "You two better behave yourselves and not do anything. My invitation card will be delivered to me shortly."

The security guard sneered. "Hmph, you? Quit playing tricks in front of us! Don't you understand English? Hurry up and get lost!"

Then the security guard raised the baton in his hand and tried to hit Lucas with it!

Chapter 389: Don't Have To Tag Along

Lucas's gaze was icy cold, but he didn't dodge or look away at all. Seeing the baton getting nearer and nearer to him, he even sneered.

The baton would definitely not land on his body because...

"Stop! Hurry up and stop!" someone suddenly hollered in the distance.

Although the distance was slightly far away, the owner of the voice was furious, so he was extremely loud. Like a thunderbolt, his voice immediately made the security guard freeze.

The two security guards subconsciously turned around, only to see a familiar figure charging toward them in exasperation.

"M-Mr. Davis?" The two security guards panicked and quickly straightened their backs while pressing their legs together as they bowed to the man in front of them respectfully.

The person who came was none other than Flynn, the general manager of the Solar Corporation.

He was also the general manager of this arts center!

Although the security guards had never seen the general manager in person, they had to memorize the basic information of the company's bosses and senior executives during their employee training program. Thus, they had naturally long remembered Flynn's appearance very clearly.

Flynn simply ignored the security guards. He sprinted over, pushed them away, stood in front of Lucas, and bowed to him respectfully. While panting heavily, he said, "I'm so sorry I'm late, Lucas. There was heavy traffic along the way. Sorry to have kept you waiting for such a long time! These two fools didn't hurt you just now, did they?"

While speaking, Flynn glared at the security guards furiously, wishing he could crush them into smithereens!

As soon as he got out of the car just now, he saw one of the security guards raise his baton at the entrance of the arts center and seemingly try to hit Lucas. Flynn received a huge fright!

After seeing how respectful and subservient Flynn was toward Lucas, the security guards already had an ominous hunch. And when they heard Flynn greeting Lucas

politely, they were scared soulless! *This young man definitely has an extraordinary identity. Yet we actually yelled at him and told him to get lost. We even almost hit him...*

The thought of the terrifying consequences that they were about to face made the security guards break out in cold sweat, and their legs began to tremble incessantly.

Although the antique exhibition today was organized by the Coles from San Francisco, the arts center rightfully belonged to the Solar Corporation. So the security officers were considered employees of the Solar Corporation.

Their job at the arts center was extremely lax, and they would only have to work a few days every month during exhibitions and events, but they would still be paid for an entire month. So their jobs could be considered relatively relaxed and stable.

But they had now offended someone who appeared to be their boss' client. It seemed that they might just lose their jobs soon!

The security guards were overwhelmed with regret. Before Flynn could say anything, they hurriedly apologized, "I'm sorry, Sir! We... we weren't aware of your identity. We're very sorry!"

Hearing this, Flynn became even more furious and cursed, "Even if you weren't aware of his identity, you shouldn't have insulted him and tried to hit him unrestrainedly. I never knew I had such snobbish employees like you!"

It was no wonder that Flynn was furious. He had just spoken to Lucas in the morning and informed him that he had already made arrangements for the matters in LA. All the companies under the Solar Corporation had been organized properly too.

But it had only been a few hours since he assured Lucas that everything was in order, and now, it was revealed that there were such stuck-up snobs who bullied others and destroyed the company's image working for the Solar Corporation. They had even behaved so rudely to Lucas!

This just went to show that there was a huge flaw in Flynn's management of the company.

He had clearly given orders to the executives to strictly enforce good behavioral standards for all employees, yet the security guards chose to act against the rules. Worse yet, they had offended Lucas. Flynn was furious!

"Drag these two people who deliberately ruined the company's image away. Beat them up and teach them a hard lesson! Break the arms of the one who dared to lay a finger on Mr. Gray!" Flynn commanded the two bodyguards behind him furiously.

The tall and muscular bodyguards immediately walked forward and tried to drag them away.

The security guards panicked, especially the one who had wanted to hit Lucas just now. He turned as pale as a sheet and frantically got on his knees to beg for mercy. "Mr. Davis, we may have been snobbish, but we definitely weren't trying to ruin the company's image! W-we know we're at fault. We won't dare to do it again! Please let us off!"

They were so frightened that their tears were mixed with snot, looking incredibly wretched.

Lucas shook his head and suddenly said, "Forget it. Just fire them."

Such mercenary small fries existed everywhere, and Lucas saw no need to get upset because of them.

Besides, the security guard didn't manage to hit him with the baton anyway, so it wasn't necessary to break his arms.

To put it bluntly, Lucas was just too lazy to get involved with such an insignificant nobody.

Seeing that Lucas didn't seem to be angry because of this matter, Flynn decided to let them off. "I'll spare you two this time on Mr. Gray's account! But we can't keep employees like you around in the Solar Corporation. Go tender your resignations yourselves!"

The two security guards managed to escape an ordeal. Compared to having their arms broken, being made to resign was considered a very light punishment. So they didn't dare to say anything else and immediately retreated.

Only after the two of them vanished did Flynn apologize to Lucas guiltily. "Lucas, the reason for this incident is my lack of proper supervision. I can't shirk this responsibility. Please punish me!"

Lucas shook his head and said indifferently, "You are the general manager of the corporation, and there are too many things for you to handle. There are more than ten thousand employees in the entire corporation, including those of the branch companies. You can't possibly know every single low-level employee, so you're naturally not to be blamed for this."

After hearing that Lucas didn't blame him, Flynn heaved a huge sigh of relief.

“But the presence of such people will ruin the company’s image. How about this? Set up an inspection department specifically responsible for spot-checking and regulating the work and discipline of employees in all departments of the company,” Lucas said.

“Yes, Lucas!” Flynn naturally agreed to it frantically.

“Where’s the thing I want?”

Flynn immediately took out a stack of gold-embossed invitation cards and handed them to Lucas. “Actually, this arts center belongs to you, so you don’t need an invitation to go in...

“In addition, the organizer of the antique exhibition, Edmund Cole, happens to be here now. Would you like to see him?”

Lucas pulled out one of the invitation cards from the stack Flynn was holding and said disinterestedly, “There’s no need to meet him. I have something to do here. You don’t have to come with me.”

Chapter 390: Ordinary Friends

Lucas walked straight into the exhibition hall of the arts center.

Although the Coles from San Francisco seemed to have an extremely high status in the eyes of the general public, they were just an ordinary family to Lucas, and he didn’t think it was necessary to try and get close to them.

After Lucas walked into the hall, Flynn gave it some thought and said to his secretary, James Denning, “Although Lucas wants to keep his identity a secret, I want you to go inside and keep an eye on the situation in case some ignorant fools offend him. If someone tries to make things hard for him, chase them out immediately!”

James had been working as Flynn’s secretary for a long time, so he naturally knew that Lucas was the actual boss and chairman of the corporation. He immediately acknowledged and followed Lucas into the arts center.

The hall had been decorated by the professionals the Coles hired and was now largely different from how it usually looked during most art exhibitions.

The large hall was divided into several areas where a large plethora of antiques was put on display.

Examples included antique paintings that dated back centuries, porcelain ornaments, gold and silverware, antique embroidery, and many other precious items.

Major changes had been made to the decor style of the hall for the sake of the exhibition. Various adjustments had also been made to the wallpaper, ceiling, and lighting to allow the visitors of the exhibition to be immersed in history.

The design was certainly ingenious. But it was the first day of the antique exhibition, so it wasn't open to the public yet. The invited guests present today were all members of the prestigious families and enterprises in LA, whose purpose of visiting wasn't for the antiques.

In the hall, there were entrepreneurs gathered in small groups chatting with each other. Although they were standing in front of the antiques and were seemingly interested in them, they were actually discussing business and cooperations.

In particular, those of higher statuses were surrounded by more people. It was extremely lively.

After Cheyenne followed Kenneth, a direct descendant of the Parkers, into the hall, he was soon surrounded by many people vying to greet him and get closer to him.

Kenneth was extremely familiar with such functions and knew exactly how to behave.

But when he started chatting with these people, no one paid any attention to Cheyenne at the back.

Many of them simply glanced at Cheyenne in amazement. But since they had never seen her before and she didn't have a male companion of a significant status with her, no one really paid attention to her.

During such functions where fame and interests were involved, most guests were wise enough to socialize only with those who were prestigious and had high statuses. They wouldn't bother paying attention to some nobodies, as they felt that it would be a waste of time and effort.

Of course, many of them thought that they might have the time and chance to 'toy' with the beautiful Cheyenne after the exhibition ended.

While chatting with people skilfully, Kenneth took a few glances at Cheyenne without any intention of introducing her to the people he was talking to.

Although Nikki had brought it up at the entrance when persuading Cheyenne to attend the antique exhibition together with him, he knew exactly what she was here for and wouldn't fulfill her wishes that easily. *At the very least, I must make Cheyenne Carter take the initiative to beg me for help. Only then will it be interesting.*

Kenneth deliberately ignored Cheyenne's presence, and Nikki naturally understood what he meant, so she stood beside Cheyenne and said smilingly, "Cheyenne, didn't

you say that you want to get to know some entrepreneurs of LA? I think you'd better ask Kenneth for help. He has a very wide network of connections in LA, and you'll get many contacts as long as he introduces you to them!"

Cheyenne glanced at Nikki and declined without hesitation, "That's unnecessary."

Kenneth had been harboring designs on Cheyenne in the first place. If she asked for his help, she wouldn't only owe him a favor again, but he might even take advantage and demand more from her.

She didn't want to get involved with someone like Kenneth.

Cheyenne remained standing quietly without taking the initiative to socialize with anyone. Instead, she looked at the entrance of the exhibition hall from time to time. Although Lucas had promised he would join her soon, she didn't know how those security guards would make things difficult for him and was unsure if he could come in.

After chatting with these people for a while, Kenneth realized that Cheyenne still hadn't lowered her pride to beg him for help, greatly displeasing him.

This woman really doesn't know any better!

Seems like I have to take the initiative to do something.

After chatting with the people around him for some time, Kenneth suddenly turned around and pretended like he had neglected Cheyenne. Feeling a great sense of superiority, he slowly walked toward her. "Ah, I saw many of my old friends just now, so I accidentally neglected you. Please don't take it to heart!"

Upon hearing what Kenneth said, all the people surrounding him just now glanced at Cheyenne curiously.

After saying this smilingly, Kenneth reached his hand out to put his arm around Cheyenne's shoulder.

In his opinion, Cheyenne wouldn't make him look bad by turning him down in front of so many people. As long as she still wanted him to introduce her to these people, she wouldn't dare to disobey him. So he thought that she could only obediently let him put his arm around her.

Hah, Lucas Gray is going to be infuriated if he dares to come in later!

Kenneth had a good plan in mind, but to his surprise, Cheyenne actually took a step back and avoided him!

Kenneth's outstretched hand froze in midair, and he immediately felt embarrassed and furious because everyone was watching him. *How dare this damn woman put me to shame like that?!*

There was a sudden silence in the air.

But someone soon laughed and tried to give him an out. "Mr. Parker, we've never met this beautiful lady before. Why don't you introduce her to us?"

Everyone looked at Cheyenne with amazement.

Such a stunning beauty like Cheyenne was rare, even to people like them from prestigious families!

Kenneth suppressed his anger and deliberately said ambiguously, "This is Miss Carter. She's my... ahem, a close friend of mine. She's rather shy, so please be accommodating."

His ambiguous words somewhat gave him an out, as it was an explanation as to why Cheyenne moved away from his arm away just now.

After hearing this, the large group of people around him even seemed to come to a sudden realization.

"Wow, so this beauty is your close friend, Mr. Parker!"

"Haha, she's indeed really pretty. Mr. Parker, is she the reason that you're still a bachelor now?"

"Even heroes can't resist a beautiful woman. Mr. Parker, you should be getting married soon, huh?"

...

Many people began to tease and flatter him.

Kenneth didn't deny it either. He merely smiled and chuckled along while glancing at Cheyenne provocatively.

Cheyenne's face turned slightly sulky, and when the commotion subsided, she suddenly said, "I'm sorry, everyone, please don't get the wrong idea. Mr. Parker and I are just ordinary friends."

Kenneth was stunned but not enraged. At the very least, Cheyenne admitted in public that they were friends, which was much better than treating him like a stranger like previously.

If they continued progressing, they might soon become an item. In Kenneth's opinion, it wasn't a tall order.

But before Kenneth could rejoice, Cheyenne added another sentence, which made his face turn sullen immediately.

Cheyenne said, "Please allow me to introduce myself. I'm Cheyenne Carter, the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation in Orange County. I came here today in hopes of befriending you. Please allow me the honor!"

Chapter 391: How Are You Going To Thank Me?

When Cheyenne declared that she was the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation, she immediately had the chance to socialize with them on equal grounds. In fact, she even aroused their interest because she was a rare beautiful female entrepreneur. So they surrounded her and began asking her questions.

Cheyenne didn't have stage fright either and instead chatted with the entrepreneurs of LA eloquently. Soon, they were engaged in jovial conversations.

Even the people who came over earlier because of Kenneth were soon attracted by Cheyenne and started gathering around her to socialize with her enthusiastically.

"Ah, so your company is in the apparel processing industry. The Brilliance Corporation has a large sales chain too. If you'd like, we can cooperate, Mr. Smith."

"Sure, I'm also very interested in the proposal you mentioned, Mr. Jones. Let's settle on a date to discuss this. How about tomorrow afternoon? Does that work for you?"

"Mr. Moore, thank you so much for your recognition. I'll immediately arrange for someone to come over and talk to you about the details of the contract. How does that sound?"

...

Cheyenne put her excellent negotiation skills to full use. Within a few short minutes, she caught the attention of many people, and some even expressed their willingness to cooperate with the Brilliance Corporation.

The area where Cheyenne was was extremely lively. Standing at the side, Kenneth was exceptionally gloomy at this point.

He initially wanted Cheyenne to beg him to introduce her to some potential business partners. But he didn't expect her to turn her situation around just by grasping a small opportunity. She was now chatting with these entrepreneurs merrily and completely ignored him!

If Kenneth didn't have to maintain his image in front of everyone, he would have reached out and pulled Cheyenne away.

At the side, Nikki didn't expect Cheyenne to be capable of clinching three potential contracts within just a few minutes. She was momentarily dumbfounded.

After glaring at her with a hostile gaze, Nikki finally snapped out of her trance and realized that she should quickly stop the situation from developing further. She hurriedly squeezed into the crowd and pulled Cheyenne away while chiding, "Ah, Cheyenne, even if you're a workaholic, you shouldn't be discussing business cooperations with others at such a time! It's the special antique exhibition hosted by the Coles today. If the Coles find out that you're just taking advantage of their exhibition to talk about work while ignoring these exhibits that required a great deal of effort to be put up for display here, they'll definitely be upset!"

As soon as Nikki said this, everyone else immediately realized something and was afraid that they would offend the Coles because of this, so they quickly gave excuses. "I'm so muddled. We should be enjoying the antique exhibition instead. Let's not talk about other matters now!"

"Yes, there are so many precious and exotic treasures here. I heard that many of them are rare items that the Coles specially brought over. We have to take a good look and appreciate them well so that this exhibition won't be in vain!"

"That's right! Let's discuss business another day!"

Everyone chuckled and left after giving some excuses.

Seeing this, Cheyenne naturally knew that it wouldn't be appropriate to keep them any longer. But most of her efforts had undoubtedly gone down the drain.

When Kenneth saw that the crowd had dispersed, he walked toward Cheyenne conceitedly and said with a smile, "Cheyenne, I've just done you a big favor, haven't I? I helped you get to know so many people, and you might even get to clinch several deals. Tell me, how are you going to thank me?"

Nikki quickly chimed in, "Yeah, if it wasn't for Kenneth, those people wouldn't have come over, and you couldn't have gotten to know them, let alone have the chance to potentially cooperate with them. Cheyenne, you really have to thank Kenneth! How about you treat him to dinner tonight?"

Cheyenne shot them a few cold glances before saying hostilely, "Mr. Parker, I remember that you didn't introduce a single one of them to me just now. All you did was stand by the side and watch. I was the one who took the initiative to approach them and clinched the potential cooperations on my own. It seems to have nothing to do with you. Why should I thank you?"

"I don't think it's necessary for us to have dinner together because I'll be having dinner with my husband. I'm not that close to you either. I think we shouldn't bother!"

Kenneth didn't expect Cheyenne to be so hostile to him. Regardless of how thick-skinned he might be, he was still speechless at this point.

Nikki opened her mouth and tried to find some evidence to prove that Kenneth did help Cheyenne, but it was to no avail because they had wanted Cheyenne to beg Kenneth, so they chose not to help her at all. Now, they were both at a loss for a response to Cheyenne.

After thinking about it, she finally found another excuse. She coughed twice and hurriedly said, "Cheyenne, you can't say that! Kenneth just didn't get the chance to speak before you started talking to them eagerly.

"Besides, you've only verbally agreed to cooperate with them and haven't signed a contract yet. The outcome is still undecided! Why don't you let Kenneth ask those entrepreneurs out tomorrow to discuss cooperation over dinner? With Kenneth around, I'm sure they'll sign contracts with you! Kenneth, what do you think?"

Kenneth nodded and said in a gentlemanly manner, "Sure, I'd be pleased to do Cheyenne a favor. Cheyenne, are you willing to let me help you?"

Cheyenne frowned.

She naturally wanted to cooperate with those entrepreneurs, but she knew that Kenneth wouldn't help her for nothing, and she really didn't want to have anything to do with him.

Just as Cheyenne was about to decline, she suddenly heard a familiar voice from behind.

"Cheyenne, since someone wants to help you and is willing to host a dinner, it'd be a waste if you didn't go. Just agree to it!" Lucas appeared beside them

"You're here!" A look of surprise appeared on Cheyenne's face, and she immediately walked toward Lucas. *Indeed, Lucas told me to wait for him inside, and he showed up as promised!*

After being surprised, Nikki immediately reached out and pointed her finger at Lucas while rebuking hostilely, "Lucas Gray?! You... How did you sneak in?"

Just now, Kenneth had instructed the security guards at the entrance that they weren't to let Lucas in no matter what. Thinking that Lucas couldn't have gotten an invitation card, she wondered how Lucas managed to sneak in.

Kenneth had an incredibly dark expression. He thought that it was impossible that Lucas could have produced an invitation card, nor did he think that Lucas had bribed those two security guards into letting him in.

The only possibility was that Lucas must have sneaked in from elsewhere. After all, there was more than one entrance into the arts center.

Kenneth narrowed his eyes and threatened, "I don't care how you sneaked in, but let me warn you. You'd better get lost immediately! This is an antique exhibition organized by the Coles, and not just any Tom, Dick, or Harry is fit to enter. If the Coles find out, you'll get it from them! When the time comes, don't blame me for not warning you!"

Chapter 392: Sinister Conspiracy

Cheyenne was a little worried.

Her initial purpose in attending the exhibition was to socialize and build connections with the entrepreneurs of LA to seek some opportunities for cooperation. But after hearing what Nikki just said, those entrepreneurs didn't dare to stay here and continue discussing cooperation. In that case, there was no point for her to continue staying any longer.

If Lucas really came in through some questionable means, it would really be better for them to leave on their own before the Coles found out.

"Hubby, why don't we just leave?" Cheyenne said.

Lucas said with a smile, "Since I've already gone through great difficulty to come in, I'll accompany you around here. Speaking of which, I haven't accompanied you to such an exhibition yet."

While speaking, he held onto Cheyenne's hand.

Cheyenne naturally wouldn't let go of him, but she felt a little shy because there were lots of people around them.

Kenneth stared at their hands, his eyes full of fury.

Seeing that her plan was going awry, Nikki hurriedly rebuked, "Lucas Gray, you good-for-nothing, how dare you stand here brazenly without an invitation? If you want to die, don't implicate us! What are you waiting for? Get lost!"

Lucas said coldly, "If you're afraid of being implicated, you'd better stay away from me! I'd be more than happy if you could tell others that you don't know us!"

Lucas wished that people with ulterior motives like Nikki and Kenneth would stay as far away from him as possible.

“What did you just say?! Bastard, listen up. If you don’t get lost now, I’ll immediately tell the Coles that you deliberately sneaked in to cause trouble!” Nikki threatened in anger.

Lucas wasn’t intimidated at all. He said indifferently, “Go ahead. When the Coles come looking for me, I’ll tell them that you brought me here. Well, you’re Cheyenne’s cousin, so you can’t shirk the responsibility.”

“You!” Nikki was furious.

She wanted to threaten Lucas with the Coles, but she didn’t expect Lucas to threaten her instead!

Kenneth suddenly interjected, “Forget it, Nikki. Don’t bother with someone like him.”

Nikki hurriedly said, “In case this bastard really sneaked in through some means, the Coles will definitely blame us too!”

Kenneth glanced at Lucas coldly and snorted. “Hmph, it’s fine. Everyone saw that we didn’t come in with him just now. Even if he gets caught by the Coles, it won’t have anything to do with us. Let’s go!”

Then he turned around and left.

He had indeed wanted to take this opportunity to spend more time with Cheyenne. But since Lucas appeared and got in his way, he didn’t have the chance to do so anymore.

It would just be a waste of time to stay any longer.

Only then did Nikki realize that Lucas was just trying to scare her. After glowering at him scornfully, she followed closely behind Kenneth and left as well.

After they left, Cheyenne finally turned to ask Lucas worriedly, “Speaking of which, how exactly did you come in? The Coles... aren’t going to discover anything, are they?”

She knew that Lucas didn’t have an invitation card, so she was worried that he had really sneaked in through some questionable means.

Lucas smiled. “Don’t worry. Do you remember who Flynn Davis is?”

Cheyenne nodded and answered, “Of course I do. He was the general manager of the Stardust Corporation. I went to meet him a few times regarding the cooperation with the Carters back then.”

Lucas chuckled. "Yes, but he's now the general manager of the Solar Corporation in LA, and this arts center we're in now belongs to the Solar Corporation. So it's a piece of cake for him to get an invitation card."

Cheyenne widened her eyes as she recalled that Lucas had informed her during their journey to LA yesterday morning that the entire Solar Corporation now belonged to him!

"Does that mean that this arts center belongs to you?" Cheyenne asked in shock.

The arts center was a large five-story convention hall that occupied an area of nearly 2,000 square meters. Most importantly, it was located in the center of LA, and the value of this building alone was immeasurable!

Lucas nodded. "Yes, but it's only a small part of the Solar Corporation. It's nothing much."

While being astonished, Cheyenne couldn't help rolling her eyes. *He's obviously humble-bragging to show off his wealth!*

But this also meant that what Lucas said was the truth. Since he was the true owner of this arts center, it was naturally normal for him to be granted access.

But Cheyenne didn't dare to imagine how wealthy Lucas really was!

After putting her mind at ease, she held onto his hand and started browsing the antiques on display in the exhibition leisurely.

On the other hand, after Kenneth and Nikki left, they went straight to another exhibition hall nearby.

"Kenneth, are you really going to let that bastard off and give up on my cousin just like that?" Nikki asked indignantly.

With a broody and sinister gaze in his eyes, Kenneth said, "She's in such a loving relationship with her husband, and they're walking through the exhibition hand in hand! Hmph, do you think I'd continue pestering her?"

Nikki sneered. "Who knows? Maybe that good-for-nothing relied on that trick to pester Cheyenne! But Kenneth, you're different from him. You're the scion of the Parkers. Besides, Cheyenne is a married woman and a mother of one. Strictly speaking, she's not worthy of you!"

Kenneth snorted coldly without saying anything.

Of course, he knew that Cheyenne wasn't good enough for him, and he didn't plan to marry her anyway. He merely wanted to bed her and toy with her because she was pretty.

But he didn't expect her to be so stubborn and resistant toward him, which infuriated him greatly.

Nikki understood what Kenneth meant. She looked around before whispering into Kenneth's ear, "Kenneth, if you just want to toy with her, I can help you come up with a good idea!"

Kenneth turned to look at Nikki before asking with raised brows, "Oh? Isn't she your cousin? Can you bear to let me toy with her as I please?"

Nikki said disdainfully, "Why not? I don't see her as my cousin at all. She's just a shameless bitch who's been notorious for a long time! She's deliberately putting on airs and pretending to be high and mighty just because she knows that you fancy her! She's just a horrible wench who got embroiled in a scandal with her good-for-nothing husband a long time ago. Not only is she a disgrace to the Carters, but she implicated us, her relatives, too! She's ruined our reputation! If it weren't for you, I wouldn't have bothered to care about someone like her!"

Kenneth could naturally tell from Nikki's words that she was jealous of Cheyenne and was just slandering her. But he didn't care at all and merely said with great interest, "In that case, if you can get her into my bed, I'll give you a luxurious BMW. How does that sound?"

Overjoyed, Nikki hurriedly agreed, "Thank you so much, Kenneth! Just wait while I send her to you tonight!"

Kenneth licked his lips. "Tonight? What do you plan to do?"

Nikki smiled cheekily and came up to Kenneth before whispering into his ear, "Didn't her husband agree to have dinner with us tonight out of his greed for a free meal? Why don't we..."

After whispering her plan to Kenneth, he beamed with joy too. "Sure, we'll do just that!"

Chapter 393: The Young Girl of the Cole Family

At this moment, Cheyenne was naturally unaware that her cousin and Kenneth had already conspired and hatched a plot to make her sleep with Kenneth.

She was standing beside Lucas and quietly admiring the plethora of valuable exhibits around them.

“Wow, the exhibits here are so exquisite and beautiful, as expected of treasures scoured by the Coles from San Francisco!” Cheyenne exclaimed with genuine amazement.

But Lucas said nonchalantly, “Actually, this exhibition is average. Of the exhibits here, some are authentic, but there are also some replicas being passed off as genuine. I wonder if the Coles have poor judgment or if they’ve deliberately brought these replicas to make up the numbers.”

“Huh? There are replicas? That can’t be true, can it?” Cheyenne asked in astonishment.

Lucas pointed to a three-legged cloisonné enameled copper cauldron from the Ming dynasty in front of them. “Take this enamelware for instance. It’s actually a flawed replica that was imitated very well.”

Lucas’s voice was not actually that loud, but as soon as he spoke, someone interjected furiously from the side, “Who’s spouting nonsense here? How dare you say that there are replicas in my family’s antique exhibition?!”

A young woman in her twenties was standing close by behind them, and she had clearly heard everything Lucas said. Besides, the fact that she said that it was her family’s antique exhibition made it easy to deduce that she was probably one of the Coles!

Lucas was just whispering to Cheyenne at first, but after hearing the young woman’s furious hollering, everyone else looked over at them.

In the distance, Kenneth and Nikki also seemed to be gloating. Seeing that Lucas already dug his own grave and offended a Cole, they hurriedly came over to see what was going on.

Lucas glanced at the livid young woman in front of him and said indifferently, “Why is it impossible for replicas to appear at the Coles’ antique exhibition?”

The young woman retorted coldly, “The Coles have always been known for never selling or exhibiting any replicas. There’s no way we would pass off replicas as genuine at the exhibition today just to make up the numbers! I will regard your words as an insult to the Cole family! You have just smeared and tarnished the reputation of our family, so you must apologize to us!”

If someone else were in Lucas’s shoes, they would very likely bow down and apologize immediately after hearing that they were speaking to a Cole. No one was willing to offend the Coles and get into a conflict with them.

But her identity meant nothing to Lucas.

Lucas merely narrowed his eyes and said indifferently, "It's not up to you to say if it's genuine or not. Are you trying to say that even replicas will turn into genuine antiques just because they belong to the Coles' exhibition?"

He was just having a private conversation with his wife, and moreover, he was stating facts. He didn't see the need to apologize just because someone popped up out of nowhere and accused him.

"You!" The young woman was fuming. Lucas was making it seem as if she was throwing her weight around just because she was a Cole!

"Lucas Gray, you call yourself a man? How can you bully a girl like that?" Kenneth stood beside the young woman and naturally targeted Lucas, acting as if he was standing up for justice.

Lucas glanced at him coldly and said hostilely, "When have I ever bullied her? If you're doing this just for the sake of sucking up to the Coles, you'd better come up with another reason. Don't get me involved!"

"If you're just looking for trouble, you don't have to drag the Coles in to back you up! It's really distasteful of you to be so sneaky about it!"

"You! You're just a good-for-nothing. How dare you say that about me?!" Kenneth flew into a rage. Not only was he furious at Lucas for putting him to shame in front of so many people, but he also felt that Lucas had seen through his thoughts and was thus feeling incredibly ashamed and enraged.

He wanted to lash out at Lucas. But if he did so in front of everyone, he would be stooping too low, which would affect his reputation as the esteemed scion of the Parker family.

Kenneth might have his concerns, but Nikki didn't. Besides, she couldn't tolerate the fact that Lucas had the audacity to speak to Kenneth in such a manner.

Nikki stepped forward and pointed at Lucas while cursing furiously, "Lucas Gray, who do you think you are? How dare you speak to Kenneth like that?! He's a direct descendant of the Parkers and will be succeeding his family's empire in the future. What about you? You're just a good-for-nothing who sponges off your wife!"

"Also, everyone needs an invitation to come in! You were stopped at the entrance by the security guards just now because you tried to force your way in without an invitation! How did you manage to sneak in? Don't you think you owe the Coles and everyone here an explanation?"

Nikki took the moral high ground and even pointed out that Lucas didn't have an invitation card, which immediately made everyone around look at Lucas with a frown on their faces.

The guests invited to the exhibition today were all wealthy people of significant statuses, and they were extremely honored and pleased to have received an invitation from the Coles.

But Lucas was dressed in extremely ordinary and shabby clothes, so they didn't think that he was from a wealthy family, especially after hearing Nikki call him a good-for-nothing. They thought, *What right does he have to come in and stand together with prestigious people like us?*

Many of them were immediately displeased.

Kenneth smiled smugly and said to the young woman of the Cole family, "Miss Cole, this person has very likely sneaked in to cause trouble at the exhibition! I suggest that you ask the guards to take him away immediately and investigate his identity!"

Kenneth thought that he was just giving her a kind reminder. But to his surprise, she glared at him and rebuked, "Are you teaching me what to do?"

Kenneth's face stiffened. *Why isn't this woman acting the way I thought she would? She's taking my kindness for granted.*

But she was a Cole, so he didn't dare to argue with her at all. Instead, he hurriedly said, "No, no, no, how could I? I just have good intentions and don't want someone with malicious thoughts to ruin the exhibition that the Coles have meticulously prepared! This person really doesn't have an invitation. I can testify to this!"

Nikki hurriedly raised her hand and said, "I can vouch for Kenneth too! About ten minutes ago, he tried to sneak in with us! He was stopped at the entrance only because Kenneth instructed the guards to do so!"

Seeing that these two people were nitpicking on Lucas and accusing him of having an ulterior motive for sneaking in without an invitation, the other people around them also looked at Lucas with hostile expressions.

Something became convincing when multiple people said the same thing.

Cheyenne began to panic a little, but she knew that Lucas wasn't willing to reveal his identity, so she naturally couldn't say that he was the owner of this arts center. He was definitely qualified to stand here no matter what.

Suddenly, Lucas sneered and said slowly, "Just half a month ago, the Kingstons held an auction in Orange County. At that auction, there was also a young man from the Parker

family who questioned someone else's right to attend the auction and even tried to chase that person away. But he ended up being thrown out by the auction organizer instead.

"Afterward, said Mr. Parker still wasn't convinced and continued to create trouble, but Russell Duncan, who hosted the auction on behalf of the Kingstons, declared on the spot that none of the Parkers were allowed to attend any auctions that he was in charge of in the future! He created trouble for nothing and caused the entire Parker family to be blacklisted by Russell Duncan! Mr. Parker, do you know who I'm talking about?"

As soon as Lucas said this, Kenneth's expression changed drastically!

Being blacklisted by Russell Duncan, who worked for the Kingstons, was an ultimate disgrace for the Parkers!

Besides, they didn't dare to argue with Russell precisely because he worked for the Kingstons. So they had no choice but to endure it and secretly cover up this embarrassing incident.

Yet Lucas exposed them in public!

All of a sudden, many inquisitive, curious, and gloating gazes were cast on Kenneth.

Kenneth's face was so sullen that he couldn't even bring himself to force a smile. He glared at Lucas furiously, wishing he could kill him with his gaze.

But Lucas pretended to be shocked, as if he didn't see how furious Kenneth was. "Mr. Parker, don't tell me you don't know that person. That troublemaker is Tristan Parker, and he's also from LA. He also coincidentally shares the same last name as you. Could he be from your family?"

Kenneth was livid, and he roared with a menacing expression, "Lucas Gray, you're deliberately provoking the Parkers! I won't let you off!"

Lucas sneered. "You're making it sound as if you'd let me off even if I stand here without doing anything! You've been the one looking to create trouble right from the start!"

"Fine, you've got some nerve! Let me tell you, just you wait. The Parkers will release their wrath on you!" Kenneth snapped furiously.

"Hmph, it's just the Parker family. What's the big deal?" Lucas said nonchalantly without taking the Parkers seriously at all.

Kenneth should have been even angrier, but all of a sudden, his heart was full of an inexplicable panic.

Generally, those who dared to disregard the Parkers were either too dense and ignorant to get a clear idea of the situation or simply fearless.

Given how Lucas had angered Kenneth to the point of being speechless multiple times, he definitely wasn't a fool...

Could Lucas Gray really have something to fall back on? The thought made Kenneth extremely anxious.

"Hmph, you... just you wait!" Kenneth could only issue yet another threat in the end.

Lucas glanced at him contemptuously without saying a single word. But he made Kenneth feel a hot and burning sensation in his face, as if he had been slapped.

At this moment, Kenneth saw the young woman of the Cole family who had just confronted Lucas but was now standing at the side like she was watching a show. He hurriedly said to her, "Miss Cole, as you can see, this punk is arrogant and has zero respect for anyone. Just now, he deliberately claimed that the items in this exhibition are replicas, but that's complete nonsense. He's just smearing the Coles and ruining their reputation! We must chase him out immediately!"

Kenneth was currently regretting his actions. Just now, Lucas was clearly already in trouble for offending the Coles. Yet he impatiently interjected to stand against Lucas, causing himself to end up being the target of discussion. Not only was he unable to do anything to this bastard Lucas, but he got humiliated and embarrassed unnecessarily!

Now that he had gotten the Coles involved, he had put the ball back in their court. He was eager to see if Lucas would continue being so arrogant in front of the Coles!

Kenneth devised a plan in his head to make Lucas face the Coles' wrath and suffer a loss.

But...

"Who do you think you are? How dare you point fingers and order me around? I'm not your servant!" the young woman of the Cole family chastised Kenneth mercilessly.

"Uh..." Kenneth was dumbfounded.

It... it was completely different from what he had imagined!

The surrounding people also seemed to realize that the young woman particularly disliked Kenneth... Including the previous time, she had already rebuked him twice.

Seeing Kenneth being scolded, his top defender, Nikki, immediately stood out and interjected righteously, "Miss Cole, you must have misunderstood Kenneth! He was just

putting forward a minor suggestion for the Coles. After all, this exhibition is organized by your family, and in case someone with an ulterior motive sneaks in to wreak havoc, your family will be the one to suffer!”

“Shut up!” the young woman interrupted Nikki hostilely. “Stop saying that it’s for the Coles’ sake. You think I can’t tell that you two clearly have a feud with this man, so you’re trying to use me to deal with him?! I, Alexis Cole, have always been open and aboveboard. I don’t like mixing matters together!

“Since he said that there are replicas in our exhibition, I’ll naturally ask him about it! But you two aren’t that kind either. The fact that you keep trying to incite me to chase him out just goes to show that there’s something very wrong with your moral character! I abhor you two!”

After giving them a piece of her mind, she exclaimed at the people behind her, “Where is security? Immediately kick these two people out of here. I don’t want to see them again!”

Nikki and Kenneth were dumbfounded. Neither of them expected that things would take such a sharp turn. They didn’t expect Alexis to chase the two of them out instead of Lucas! *Did we hear wrongly? Or is this world too fantastical?*

But when they saw the burly security guards walking straight toward them and seemingly about to throw them out, Kenneth and Nikki finally regained their senses and realized that Alexis was serious about driving them out!

He was the esteemed scion of the Parkers, whom many in LA tried to suck up to. No one dared to provoke him at all, yet he was getting chased out in front of so many people today.

This was an absolute insult!

If other people dared to do this to him, he would have used his family’s power and name to teach them a hard lesson. But the Parkers were nothing compared to the Coles, so he couldn’t refute Alexis at all.

The members of prestigious families and entrepreneurs of LA standing around them were all astonished. But they didn’t dare to utter a single word because Alexis was the one who gave the order.

Nikki stared at them in disbelief and yelled, “Miss Cole! Kenneth is the successor of the Parker family. Are you sure you want to throw us out?”

The hidden threat in her words immediately enraged Alexis.

“Hmph, it’s just the Parker family! He’s still just a scion now and not the helmsman yet. Even if the helmsman were right in front of me now, I’d tell him to get lost all the same! Don’t think you guys are that big of a deal. If you get on my nerves, I can easily destroy your family! Now, get lost!” Alexis sounded extremely domineering and even seemed to have a touch of arrogance.

Although she seemed to be only in her twenties and was much younger than everyone present, no one dared to question the truth of her words.

After all, it would be a piece of cake for a giant like the Coles to annihilate the Parkers!

Finding Alexis overly tyrannical and unreasonable, Nikki bit her lower lip. “Miss Cole, how can you...”

“Shut up!” Kenneth suddenly interrupted and rebuked before Nikki could finish speaking.

“Miss Cole, I’ll definitely make it up to you another day for offending you with my words today!” Kenneth maintained the last touch of his rationality and tried his best to make himself seem like a gentleman as he excused himself and turned around to leave.