

Chapter 631: Selecting Gifts

The next day, Lucas went to the Stardust Corporation office building in the morning and handled some reports and documents before heading to the hospital with Cheyenne. Since William regained consciousness, his physical condition had improved greatly, and he was gradually recovering from the injuries he suffered because of the car accident.

In the afternoon, Lucas personally went to the kindergarten to pick Amelia up before sending her to her piano class. Lucas looked at Amelia and the group of children about the same age, watching them pressing their soft and tender fingers against the piano keys in the classroom.

Late afternoon the next day, just as Lucas was about to leave for the Coles', he suddenly smacked his head as he recalled that he seemed to have forgotten something very important.

Since he came to attend Alexis's birthday party, he had to prepare a birthday gift for her no matter what. Unfortunately, he had been in a rush, so it completely slipped his mind.

Moreover, he also planned to visit Edmund. Since it was his first time visiting the Coles, it wouldn't be appropriate to show up empty-handed.

Looks like I have to go and prepare some decent gifts! Lucas decided to drive to the famous Union Street in San Francisco.

It was a famous place for luxury items in San Francisco.

Although Lucas hadn't been here before, he had at least heard about it, and there were indeed plenty of fine antique pieces or luxury goods for sale here, though there might sometimes be counterfeits.

Cole Antiques was the most famous boutique antique store in San Francisco. But since Lucas wanted to pick out some gifts for the Coles, he couldn't possibly buy them from Cole Antiques and then give them to Edmund and Alexis.

He parked his black Jaguar in the parking lot along the street and started window shopping. When he came across an antique store named the Heavenly Pavilion, it immediately captured his attention.

First of all, the Heavenly Pavilion had a large floor area, with the first floor being more than three times the size of other ordinary stores. It was extremely grand, and there was a plaque with the words 'Heavenly Pavilion' engraved on it above the entrance. The calligraphy was beautiful and probably done by a master calligrapher.

Furthermore, the entire Heavenly Pavilion itself was a luxurious, antique-style building that had a total of five floors, with carved eaves and arches. It was magnificent and full of splendor.

The fact that it could occupy such a large space on Union Street, where every inch of land cost a hefty amount, proved that the owner of the store was wealthy enough and that the items sold here were definitely genuine treasures.

With this in mind, Lucas confidently strode toward the Heavenly Pavilion.

After entering, Lucas discovered that it was indeed worthy of being the largest and grandest antique store on the street. It might be an understatement to call it just an antique store. To Lucas, it was almost like an antique gallery.

In the middle of the hall, there were dozens of antique-style shelves arranged in a staggered manner. There were various antiques such as ceramics, sculptures, jade, and other ornaments displayed aptly on them.

There were also several famous paintings and calligraphy pieces hung on the walls all around him.

Lucas took a quick and casual glance at the items. He had seen lots of high-quality antiques before, and there were even plenty of antiques in his villa. He could tell at a glance that the many items in the hall on the first floor weren't just ordinary flashy ornaments worth only a few thousand dollars.

After he entered, a few uniformed staff standing near him in the hall, who were prepared to entertain customers, planned to serve him out of habit. But they unanimously stopped in their tracks when they saw him.

As salespeople, they had long developed sharp vision and experienced judgment. They were very knowledgeable in luxury goods and designer apparel.

Lucas was dressed in extremely plain, simple, and casual clothing, none of which were designer. They assumed that he was just a passerby who came in to browse antiques casually without any intention of purchasing. Therefore, it would be a waste of their efforts to entertain him. Based on the way Lucas dressed, they were certain that he wouldn't be able to afford anything from the Heavenly Pavilion.

They had encountered many such people before and knew that as long as they ignored them, they would naturally be conscious enough to leave out of their own accord.

Lucas planned to make some inquiries to a salesperson, but he noticed their indifferent faces. Some even secretly rolled their eyes.

At this moment, a young saleswoman walked up to Lucas with a polite smile and asked personably, “Hello, Sir, is there anything I can help you with? We have a large variety of items in the Heavenly Pavilion. What kind of items would you like to inquire about?”

Seeing her behavior, the few salespeople standing still nearby pursed their lips in disdain.

This young man is obviously penniless. The Heavenly Pavilion is an upscale store, and even the cheapest thing here costs over five grand. Each piece probably costs several times his monthly salary.

Only that fool who can’t receive proper customers would entertain such a lowly and useless passerby.

Lucas remained composed as he observed their expressions. He then said to the saleswoman in front of him, “I’d like to get two gifts. One is a birthday gift for a young woman in her twenties, and the other is for an elderly man in his seventies. However, I don’t know what gifts to get. Please recommend some items to me!”

He glanced at the nameplate of the saleswoman and saw the name ‘Jane’.

Jane smiled and nodded, then continued to ask, “Alright, Sir, may I ask what your price range is? Do the recipients have any special preferences?”

Her attitude was serious, and the questions she asked were professional, causing Lucas to have a good impression of her.

“I don’t know what special preferences they have. Just recommend some items to me. I’m expecting the value of each gift to be about a million dollars. Of course, you can recommend more expensive things if they’re more suitable. It doesn’t matter if the price is higher,” Lucas answered.

The price of both gifts would probably add up to two million dollars, which was definitely not a large sum of money to Lucas. But his relationship with Edmund and Alexis was worth more than that. Since they were a birthday gift and a gift for his first visit, he didn't want to come across as miserly or overly flashy.

After hearing what Lucas said, the few salespeople standing near them began to sneer.

Chapter 632: College Classmates

Who would believe that this shabbily dressed young man would really spend millions on two gifts?

They had received people who stepped into the store and pretended to be generous spenders, only to hem and haw for a long time while refusing to pay for the items the salespeople had painstakingly picked out for them. They would also escape under the pretext of going to the restroom. So they were certain that Lucas was one of those people.

Suddenly, a woman's voice full of surprise rang in Lucas's ears. "You... Are you Lucas Gray?"

Lucas turned his head and looked in the direction of the voice to see that the woman who called out to him was also wearing the standard uniform of the Heavenly Pavilion. Her face seemed slightly familiar to him, but he couldn't recall who she was.

But when he saw the nameplate pinned on her chest read 'Supervisor Kylie Reed', he remembered who she was—a classmate from college.

However, Lucas didn't have a deep impression of her.

When he was in college, he had to juggle work and studying all the time. Apart from attending class, he spent most of his extracurricular time working and was rarely in school.

On the other hand, Kylie seemed to be a popular figure in his major and was rather well-known in school. Even Lucas, who hadn't cared much about campus gossip, had heard some unsavory rumors about her.

There were rumors of her being a sugar baby, getting an abortion, and so on. In short, she didn't have a good reputation.

Apart from this, Lucas barely had any impression of her. Of course, even when they were classmates in college, they had almost never spoken to each other before, so it could be said that the two had nothing to do with each other at all.

He was actually rather surprised that Kylie could actually recognize him to be her former classmate.

"Haha, Lucas, it's really you! Speaking of which, we seemed to be classmates in college, right? In the blink of an eye, it's been six years since we graduated, and we haven't seen each other for a long time! Where are you working now? You can actually afford to shop here at the Heavenly Pavilion. You must be doing pretty well, huh?"

Although Kylie was smiling, her tone made Lucas feel particularly uncomfortable, especially when she added, "I remember that your family was struggling to make ends meet, right? When we were in college, you were the only one working alongside studying, and you'd head straight to your part-time jobs of distributing flyers and so on after class and during vacations. So, what happened? Did you strike it rich?"

Before Lucas could even speak, she continued to speak like she was bragging, "I'm nothing compared to you! It's been six years since we graduated, and I've only managed to become a lowly supervisor. I must be worlds apart from you, aren't I?"

While speaking, Kylie deliberately puffed up her chest, for fear that Lucas wouldn't notice her title printed on the nameplate on her chest.

Lucas was still a little surprised to run into his former classmate a moment ago. But now, he was full of disdain toward her and didn't have any intention of catching up with her at all.

Of course, anyone who wasn't blind would be able to tell from Kylie's attitude that she was just deliberately trying to provoke Lucas and showing off in front of him.

Lucas was amused by her behavior.

They had almost never interacted with each other in college, so he was curious as to why Kylie was showing him this inexplicable hostility out of nowhere.

"I'm just running a small business to maintain a livelihood. I can't be compared to you at all," Lucas said indifferently and detachedly.

As he expected, a blatant look of smugness appeared on Kylie's face as soon as she heard what he said.

"Lucas, don't get too conceited and have your nose up in the air now that you have some money! You probably still don't know that we sell only the finest products here in the Heavenly Pavilion, and even the most ordinary items in the hall on the first floor cost at least five thousand or so. As for the high-end items upstairs, they can easily reach hundreds of thousands and even millions!

"I suggest you... stop puffing yourself up at your own cost. Even if you want to get some gifts, you should visit other stores that offer cheaper things on Union Street!

"I'm not trying to be mean, but look at what you're wearing. I think you'd better save your money and spend it on some decent clothing instead! It's been several years since we graduated, and you're still dressed like this. Even we, your former classmates, feel embarrassed for you!"

Kylie's hostility began to get more and more obvious. And now, she was just short of pointing her finger at Lucas and ridiculing him for being a penniless loser and telling him to get lost from the Heavenly Pavilion.

Lucas was somewhat amused and bewildered.

He had barely even spoken a word to her in his four years of college. Why would she do this?

He couldn't be bothered with someone like Kylie and was about to casually say a few perfunctory words to her to get her to leave. But at this moment, two more people came into the store.

It was a man and a woman in their mid-twenties who seemed to be a couple. They were both decked out in luxury designer wear. The man was clad in a sharp Versace suit with an expensive Vacheron Constantin watch on his hand, and the woman was wearing the latest Chanel dress and holding a Givenchy lambskin clutch in her hand while strutting in on one of the latest pairs of shoes from Prada. They seemed affluent.

As soon as the salespeople saw the couple, their eyes immediately lit up, and they were eager to receive them. But when they saw Kylie, they were instantly smart enough to stop in their tracks.

Although these two distinguished customers were indeed wealthy, and the salespeople would be able to get quite a considerable commission by selling some items to them, Kylie was their supervisor, so it was impossible that they'd get such a good opportunity.

If they dared to snatch Kylie's potential clients insensitively, not only would they not get any commission, but she might even find a random excuse to dock their salary. Something like this had happened before, and the salespeople were long familiar with her overbearing tyranny.

With a bizarre triumphant smile on her face, Kylie mocked with contempt, “Lucas, if you want to continue to shop in the Heavenly Pavilion, then feel free to do so. But the items in this store don’t come cheap. You must be careful not to touch them! Otherwise, I’m afraid you won’t be able to afford to pay for one even if you exhaust all your money.”

Then she took two steps toward the door. Seemingly recalling something, she ordered Jane, the salesperson who was serving Lucas, “Jane, keep a close eye on the items in the store. If anything gets dropped, damaged, or stolen, I’ll hold you accountable!”

After saying this aggressively, Kylie turned around and walked toward the couple dressed in designer clothing from head to toe. With a fawning and deferential smile on her face, she greeted the two of them affectionately.

Upon seeing this scene, the other salespeople in the Heavenly Pavilion all looked at Lucas and Jane gloatingly.

Chapter 633: Two Precious Items

In today's society, where materialistic desires thrived, many people had long become mercenary and gotten used to judging and measuring others by their wealth.

If Lucas couldn't afford to buy the things in Heavenly Pavilion and ended up being deliberately humiliated, no one would take pity on him, and they would only think that he deserved it for bringing it upon himself.

But Lucas didn't take to heart these gloating gazes of mockery, though he now had a bad impression of the Heavenly Pavilion.

With such snobbish salespeople, the company culture of the Heavenly Pavilion was obviously extremely mercenary too.

Just as Lucas was about to turn around and leave, the saleswoman named Jane was still standing in front of him with a smile as though she hadn't heard Kylie's warning just now. Still as sincere as before, she asked, "Sir, you just said you wanted to buy two high-end gifts at an estimated price of a million dollars each, right?"

Lucas was a little surprised, but he nodded. "That's right. That's roughly my budget, but I don't mind paying a little more if the items are really superb."

Jane smiled. “Okay, understood. The items displayed on the first floor are relatively common, and the items within your estimated budget are on the fourth floor. I’ll take you up there to take a look now, alright?”

Her attitude was extremely easygoing and professional. Even though Lucas didn’t like the entire Heavenly Pavilion and even had the intention to leave, he couldn’t help being impressed by her sincerity that made him stay and take a look.

“Okay, lead the way,” Lucas said.

Watching Jane usher Lucas to the elevator for VIPs, which led directly to the high-end goods displayed upstairs, the few salespeople on the first floor all cast disdainful glances at them.

They thought, He’s obviously a penniless bumpkin. He probably can’t even afford the cheapest and most ordinary item in the store. Only that underperforming dimwit Jane would believe his nonsense and even take him to view the high-end items upstairs.

In the end, it’ll all just be a waste of effort. All she’ll end up doing is giving that loser a feast for his eyes without being able to sell anything.

They wouldn’t do such a troublesome but unrewarding thing!

Jane led Lucas up to the fourth floor, where the items of the highest value and best quality were.

Lucas took a casual glance at the items and found that they were indeed much better than the ordinary ones downstairs.

Jane walked to a display case full of high-grade emerald jewelry and pointed to a set of exquisitely crafted jewelry. “You mentioned that one of the gifts is for a girl in her twenties. This set of emerald jewelry is perfect. They are cut and carved exquisitely and are highly transparent. The color is bright, vibrant, and beautiful. It’s especially suitable for girls in their twenties.

“This set of jewelry was crafted exquisitely by a leading jeweler in the industry. The lines are perfect and smooth, making them seem ethereal. But this set is going to exceed your budget. It costs about 1.4 million dollars. What do you think?”

Jane looked at Lucas with some apprehension.

Its price had indeed exceeded the budget of one million that Lucas mentioned, so she was very nervous, for fear that he wouldn’t be able to accept it.

Although she was a trainee salesperson who had been working in the Heavenly Pavilion for more than two months, she would, for some reason, often get interrupted when she was trying to receive customers. So thus far, she hadn’t closed a single deal yet, let alone receive any commission or bonuses.

This time, the other salespeople snobbishly looked down on Lucas and weren’t willing to waste their time to entertain him just because they felt that he was dressed shabbily. This gave Jane the opportunity to serve him and introduce him to high-grade treasures.

In her opinion, although Lucas wasn’t clad in luxury designer clothing like most of their wealthy customers, whose affluence was apparent at a glance, she could vaguely sense from his calm temperament and dignified attitude that he was not as shabby as he seemed on the surface.

Even if Lucas couldn't afford the items she recommended, she had fulfilled her duty as a salesperson and recommended what she thought was appropriate to the customer, so her conscience was clear.

Lucas took a look at the set of emerald jewelry, which he thought was indeed beautiful and should be suitable for a young lady of Alexis's age.

But he didn't make up his mind immediately and instead said to Jane noncommittally, "Show me something suitable for an elderly man around seventy."

Seeing that she wasn't getting any feedback for her recommendation, Jane felt a little lost. But she soon readjusted her expression. She didn't try to hard-sell the item to Lucas and instead continued smiling as she led him to the other end of the hall near a row of display cases for high-grade items, in accordance with his request.

"Most of the items here are more suitable for elders, such as this whole ivory carved statuette, this emerald pendant, this two-hundred-year-old Breguet clock, and antique vases from the Yuan Dynasty, etc. Sir, which one would your elder prefer?"

Jane introduced the items enthusiastically while observing Lucas's expression to see which one he was interested in.

All of a sudden, Lucas pointed to a rather inconspicuous-looking string of Buddha beads in a separate display case. "What's the background of this?"

Surprised to hear his question, Jane answered, "This is... a string of Bodhi ancient wood beads carved from the essence of an ancient Bodhi tree bark, which has a history of thousands of years.

“Since the Bodhi tree was extremely old and grown in a field of valuable herbs, it has a refreshing medicinal scent mixed with notes of sandalwood. It is extremely rare, so the value of this string of Bodhi beads is also far from what ordinary Bodhi wood can compare to. Its price is 2.5 million dollars, so it’s a lot higher than your expected price range...”

“The price doesn’t matter. Please take it out and let me have a look at it,” Lucas interrupted.

When he saw the Bodhi beads just now, he could already sense an extremely antique and peaceful aura from it.

The faint scent of herbs and sandalwood Jane mentioned wafted up to his nose even though the beads were enclosed in the glass display case.

If he guessed correctly, this string of Bodhi beads was indeed very rare and had a significant effect on clearing the mind and prolonging life.

If it landed in the hands of someone who needed it or knew their stuff, its value would definitely be far beyond 2.5 million dollars.

“Sir... Sir, are you really planning to buy this string of Bodhi beads? We have strict rules in our store that disallows us from taking items out of display cases unless the customers are certain about buying them...” Jane looked at Lucas with some difficulty and said embarrassedly.

Chapter 634: Showing Prowess

There was nothing Jane could do about this rule.

In the past, there was a customer who had accidentally damaged a valuable treasure in the store but was unable to afford to compensate for it. Later on, the Heavenly Pavilion established a rule that stipulated that any violation of the rule by salespeople who took expensive items out of display cases without permission would lead to severe punishment.

Of course, it didn't mean that customers wouldn't be given the opportunity to take a closer look at the items. If the customers were really interested, the salespeople were allowed to invite them to the VIP reception room on the fifth floor to take a look after obtaining permission from a supervisor and making sure that the customers had the means to buy the items.

In another situation where the customers really wanted to buy the items directly, the salespeople were naturally allowed to take the items straight out of the display cases for the customers to take a look. But the customers would have to make payment immediately.

Jane quickly explained both scenarios to Lucas, who said without hesitation, "Let's settle the bill now then. I'll take the set of emerald jewelry you just showed me too."

He was in a hurry to go to the Cole residence for Alexis's birthday party, so naturally, he couldn't be bothered to spend all this time waiting for the application process.

“What?!” Jane was utterly shocked, and her mouth was slightly open. “Sir, did... did you just say that you want both the Bodhi beads and the emerald jewelry set? They cost four million in total!”

She remembered that his previous budget was around two million, which everyone already felt that he couldn’t afford. So she wondered if he could afford these items that cost about four million dollars.

She wasn’t worried that he was a liar who was just bragging. But rather, she just found it incredible and was afraid that he didn’t hear the prices clearly.

Lucas nodded with a calm expression. “Yes, I’ll take both of them and make the payment now.”

Jane immediately became excited. “Okay, okay, I’ll help you go through the procedures now!”

Even in the Heavenly Pavilion, which generated a high sales revenue every single day, a \$4 million transaction was considered shocking.

In particular, this was the first sale that Jane, a new trainee, had closed in the Heavenly Pavilion after working for such a long time. This order alone could bring Jane at least \$40,000 in commission, which was quite amazing.

Even the experienced salespeople, who were good at reading people, would take about six months to earn \$40,000 in commission.

Jane was so exhilarated that she grabbed the string of Bodhi beads Lucas wanted out of the display case and was about to hand it over to him when someone suddenly shouted from the side.

“Jane! What the hell are you doing? Hurry up and put it back!”

Jane was taken aback when she saw that Kylie had somehow come up to the fourth floor display area and was glowering at her in exasperation.

“Jane, you’ve been working here for more than two months. Don’t you even understand this rule? Who gave you permission to take out the items and show them to someone else? Even if I sell you away, we can’t afford to pay for any damage!” Kylie rebuked angrily.

Jane hurriedly explained, “Miss Reed, this gentleman here has decided to buy these two items, so I took them out to show him. It’s not a violation of the store rules!”

“Shut up! Stop arguing with me. How can a poor loser like him afford to buy the items in the Heavenly Pavilion’s Treasures Pavilion? Are you a stupid pig? You don’t even have the ability to make good judgment!” Kylie reprimanded.

Behind Kylie, a few salespeople who had followed her up to watch the fun began to sneer.

“Miss Reed, you’re right. This man obviously can’t afford to buy the things on the fourth floor. Yet Jane actually believed his words and showed him things worth more than a million. How daring!”

“That’s right! Besides, she didn’t even ask for permission from Miss Reed beforehand and just acted presumptuously. How unruly!”

“Hah, that’s why we say that she’s a dimwit. She’s been here for almost three months, right? Why is she still so silly, and why is her EQ so low? It’s no wonder that she hasn’t been able to close a single sale after working here for so long!”

“She’s just stupid! She keeps going against Miss Reed too. It seems that she will definitely be thrown out this time!”

...

Being humiliated and mocked by her colleagues, Jane felt disappointed and aggrieved.

Indeed, she had started working in the Heavenly Pavilion right after graduation and hadn't closed a single sale since then, but it wasn't her fault!

On her first day at work, she had been full of enthusiasm and was lucky enough to receive a low-profile whale who decided to buy an item worth \$500,000 without thinking about it at all.

At the time, Jane was overjoyed to clinch her first sale on the first day of work. But before she could process the order for the customer, Kylie used her identity as a supervisor to snatch the customer from her. Thus, Kylie naturally got the commission instead.

Jane didn't say anything. But when her second and third customers were also snatched by Kylie in the same way, she couldn't hold back any longer and said to her, "Miss Reed, this is my customer. I believe I can serve him well on my own."

From then on, Jane became a thorn in Kylie's side, and the latter would alienate and suppress her at every turn while secretly instructing the other salespeople to bully Jane.

She was just a trainee who had only started working in the Heavenly Pavilion for a few days, but Kylie was a supervisor. So the salespeople were naturally smart enough to be on Kylie's side, and it became their habit to bully Jane.

Thus, she had been unable to clinch any sales even when her training period was almost over. Lucas was her first customer, but Kylie was targeting him harshly.

Jane was indignant, and she felt a sense of empathy with Lucas, so she clenched her fingers and argued, “Miss Reed, I just said that this gentleman is indeed planning to buy these two items, and I was about to settle the payment for him. There is no violation of any rules of the store!”

Hearing Jane, who had always been bullied and oppressed by her, actually dared to ‘talk back’, Kylie immediately became even angrier.

“Are you deaf? Didn’t you hear what I just said? I already said that Lucas Gray is my former college classmate, and I know better than you what kind of person he is. The string of Bodhi beads you’re holding is priced at 2.5 million. Do you think he can afford to pay for it?

“If you don’t follow the rules yourself and have bad judgment, you will be breaking the rules of Heavenly Pavilion! If everyone acts like you and casually shows valuable items worth millions of dollars to customers and ends up losing or breaking them, I’ll see how you can compensate!

“You are dismissed! Go pack up your things immediately, settle the resignation procedures with HR, and get out of the Heavenly Pavilion!” Kylie commanded, exercising her rights as a supervisor and looking at Jane condescendingly as if she was a queen.

She then looked at Lucas, sneered, and mocked, “Lucas, don’t blame me for being unceremonious. You’re not fit to come to the Heavenly Pavilion with your current status at all. If you’re smart enough, leave now. Don’t make a fool of yourself here!”

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 635 – All Out

Chapter 635: All Out

After being mocked and criticized by Kylie repeatedly, Lucas couldn't help becoming furious.

He initially only felt that her mockery was rather bizarre, and he was confused as to why she was finding trouble with him for no reason. But since they used to be college classmates, he decided not to hold it against her. However, she seemed to treat him as a pushover and wouldn't stop until she trampled him to death.

Besides, Jane had merely handed the Bodhi beads to him upon his request as a customer. Yet Kylie dismissed her for 'violating the store rules', which was truly overboard and arrogant of her.

"Kylie, what do you know about me? Have we even spoken to each other before? On what grounds are you concluding that I can't afford the items in the Heavenly Pavilion?" Lucas said coldly with a dark expression. He was giving off a naturally domineering and inviolable aura, making Kylie's face stiffen. And she couldn't help feeling a sense of diffidence and weakness.

But she soon snapped back to her senses and was even more infuriated by the fact that she had actually been intimidated by Lucas for a moment. "You're just a penniless man who became Cheyenne Carter's live-in husband, which is why you can freeload off of her. You think I don't know about those distasteful matters of yours? You're just a freeloading piece of garbage who's dirtying the Heavenly Pavilion by stepping into this place!"

Kylie's words were extremely hostile. Especially when she said Cheyenne's name, her tone was full of hatred and envy.

Lucas instantly understood that her inexplicable hatred toward him probably stemmed from him being Cheyenne's husband.

But after giving it a casual thought, he immediately recalled that although Kylie had a bad reputation in school, she often boasted about being the campus belle, thinking that she could subdue countless boys because of her beauty.

But at the time, the person everyone in the school recognized to be the school belle was Cheyenne, not Kylie. Later on, Cheyenne was even lauded as the 'most beautiful woman in Orange County'. In the eyes of Kylie, Cheyenne was an existence who made her crazy with envy.

Seeing the twisted look of resentment and envy on Kylie's face, Lucas only felt that she was incredibly ridiculous.

When Lucas and Cheyenne were in college, they had never had any contact with Kylie. Moreover, after graduating for more than six years, they bumped into each other in San Francisco by chance, yet she came to him and barked at him like a mad dog, making him feel utterly repulsed.

"Miss Reed, how can you say that? Even if Mr. Gray is your former college classmate, he is now here as a customer of the Heavenly Pavilion. No matter what, you shouldn't speak so maliciously when speaking to customers."

As an outsider and a junior employee of the Heavenly Pavilion, Jane couldn't stand hearing Kylie's words at all. She said seriously, "Every single day, many customers come to the Heavenly Pavilion. Some people genuinely want to purchase something, but most people are here to browse without any intention of buying. But we can't chase customers out of the store just because we assume that they can't afford anything here."

"Besides, Mr. Gray has already said that he wants to buy these two items. How can you assume that he can't afford to pay for them? Won't it be clear whether or not

he can afford them when it's time to make the payment? Why do you have to be so overbearing and insult Mr. Gray so aggressively?

“Furthermore, I haven't violated any of the store rules, and you have no right to fire me without a valid reason!”

Jane went all out and blurted all the things she had wanted to say but had been suppressing all this while.

She knew that her actions today might completely anger Kylie and cause her to lose her job, but she had already been suppressed by Kylie enough. After nearly three months, she didn't manage to close a single deal at all. She even had to suffer bullying constantly. Instead of being branded as an incompetent employee and getting kicked out at the end of her probation period, she would rather just reveal all the things she wanted to say.

She would at most just quit. She was a university graduate, so how could she possibly starve to death just because of the loss of this job?

Jane's unusual behavior immediately made Kylie, who had always been arrogant and used to bossing others around, enraged.

She had always been the one to reprimand her subordinates, yet she was now being rebuked for her behavior by a salesperson in front of everyone, making Kylie feel embarrassed.

Anger surged from her heart, and she blew her top. She raised her hand to slap Jane and snapped, “Outrageous! Who do you think you are? How dare you try to teach me?”

Jane was completely caught off guard as she watched Kylie slap her. She was just an ordinary girl who led an ordinary life. Since she was a child, let alone being in

any fights, she had never even watched others fight. Facing such a brutal and tyrannical woman like Kylie, who got physical at every turn, she was immediately stunned. She froze in shock and even forgot to dodge!

Kylie's fingernails were long, and her slap was very hard. If this slap landed on Jane's face, it would be scratched!

Smack!

Just as Kylie was about to scratch Jane's face, Lucas suddenly raised his hand and grabbed Kylie's wrist, preventing her from continuing.

"You want to slap her just because you can't outargue her? Aren't you going overboard?" Lucas stared at Kylie's eyes coldly.

Only then did Jane return to her senses and see the sharp fingernails right in front of her and about to poke her face. She cried out in shock and hurriedly took two steps back away from Kylie. Only then did she feel relieved.

But she was also surprised. She didn't expect that Lucas, who seemed to be extraordinarily good-tempered, would help her stop Kylie from slapping her.

A trace of shock appeared on Kylie's ruthless face.

She remembered Lucas to be taciturn in college. Although he was good-looking, he was often ostracized and bullied because of his humble background. At the time, he would just suck it up and remain silent.

But Lucas, whom she thought was a wimpy good-for-nothing, actually dared to grab her hand and stop her!

“Lucas Gray, are you tired of living? You actually dared to grab my hand? If my husband finds out, he definitely won’t spare you!” Kylie hollered menacingly while trying her best to retract her hand.

Lucas sneered. “Do you think all men want to take advantage of you just because you’re a woman? You’re being too narcissistic!”

With that, he let go of her wrist as if he was throwing away something dirty.

“Ah!” Because Kylie had been struggling hard, she was thrown off balance. Moreover, she was wearing a pair of 12-centimeter tall stilettos, so she lost her balance and fell onto the floor on her butt.

Chapter 636: Husband or Father?

“Miss Reed!”

“Miss Reed, are you alright?”

Seeing this, the salespeople watching from the side immediately gathered around Kylie and showed her concern.

It wasn't that they were actually concerned about her or were trying to be affectionate on purpose. But rather, Kylie was the type who would think that anyone who didn't come up to show her concern had something against her. She would then torment those people.

They understood Kylie's temper and character like the back of their hand. Moreover, there was a person behind Kylie whom they couldn't afford to mess with...

After the crowd helped Kylie up, she didn't even care about the attentiveness and concern the people around her were showing. Instead, she glowered at Lucas viciously and said with a menacing expression, “Lucas Gray, how dare you lay a hand on me? In that case, I won't be polite to you either!”

Then she took out her phone and called someone. In a disgustingly coquettish voice, she complained, “Hubby, it's me! I'm on the fourth floor of the Heavenly Pavilion, and I got bullied! Hurry up and come here to seek justice for me~”

Seeing Kylie calling her husband, Jane immediately panicked because she knew who her husband was.

Although she and Lucas had met each other for the first time today, she no longer treated him as merely an insignificant customer, perhaps because both of them were yelled at and bullied by the same person. Besides, Lucas had even stopped Kylie from slapping her just now.

“Mr. Gray, you’d better hurry up and leave while you can! Kylie’s husband is the general manager of Heavenly Pavilion. He’s hot-tempered and extremely protective of his wife. He also has the power to command all the security guards in the Heavenly Pavilion. If he comes here to stand up for Kylie, you’ll be in hot soup. Even if you don’t die, you’ll definitely suffer! Hurry up and leave before he arrives, or else you won’t be able to leave later!” Jane urged softly and anxiously beside Lucas.

Seeing the genuinely worried look on her face, Lucas had a good impression of her, the only salesperson who had decided to serve him.

Generally, the other salespeople of the Heavenly Pavilion, as well as Kylie, a supervisor, had made him rather displeased. But he felt that Jane’s character wasn’t too bad.

However, Lucas was destined to let Jane’s kind reminder go to waste.

He didn’t even care about the Kingstons in San Francisco or the eight giants of DC. What could the mere general manager of an antique store do to him?

Leave? That definitely wasn’t something Lucas would do.

Seeing Lucas not moving, Jane thought that he still didn't realize how serious things were at this moment. She persuaded anxiously, "I'm telling the truth. Hurry up and leave, or else you will really suffer!"

Kylie, who had just hung up the phone, happened to hear this.

With a smug smile, she threw her head back and laughed. "Haha, you want to leave? Impossible!"

She turned around and instructed two salesmen beside her, "Go to the elevator and wait. Don't let him leave! Otherwise, I'll teach you a lesson!"

When the two young salesmen obediently went to the elevator door and stood there, Kylie turned to stare at Lucas triumphantly and sneered. "Let's see how you can leave! You just grabbed my arm and caused me to fall. I will never let you off easily!"

Jane retorted furiously, "Kylie, you know clearly what really happened just now. Why are you accusing him now? He didn't do anything to you at all. If you just want to vent your anger, take it out on me. Why do you have to act like this?"

Kylie snorted coldly. "Hmph, don't think I've forgotten about you. I still remember what you said to rebut me just now! You're just a small trainee who I can kick out at any time. What right do you have to be so proud in front of me?"

"Moreover, isn't this the first time you're meeting Lucas Gray today? Why are you speaking up for him? Do you think he can really afford to spend four million on the items of the Heavenly Pavilion? Is that why you're eagerly sucking up to him? Haha, what a joke!"

"I'm telling you, this man is just a good-for-nothing live-in husband mooching off his wife! Ah~ Could it be that you've also taken a liking to his face, so you want to

make him your boy toy? I'm afraid you're a step too late. He already has a wife. Unless you can replace his wife, you'll forever be his mistress!"

Kylie's words were getting more and more unbearable, making Jane, a fresh college graduate who had never even been in love, blush in humiliation.

"You... How can you say that? Mr. Gray and I just met for the first time today, and he is my customer. We're innocent, and there's nothing between us, unlike the nasty things you said! You... you are the..."

Jane didn't know how to curse, and the few sentences Kylie said had already made her blush. Even though it was true that Kylie was once the mistress of a married man, Jane couldn't bring herself to say it out loud.

Lucas narrowed his eyes.

Kylie was indeed going overboard by smearing a fresh college graduate who was only in her early twenties with such vicious words.

At this moment, the elevator door suddenly opened, and a balding middle-aged man in his forties or fifties with a beer belly walked over. He questioned boorishly, "You said someone bullied you. Who is it? Is he still here?"

Kylie immediately leaped into the arms of this middle-aged man with a beer belly aggrievedly and feebly and complained sobbingly, "Honey, it's him. He just grabbed my arm and pushed me to the floor. I'm in so much pain!"

While pouting, she pointed the long fingernail of her index finger at Lucas.

The few salespeople at the side seemed to be used to the scene before them as they remained silent. Only one of them had twitching lips and was vaguely expressing some emotion.

Lucas looked at the scene in front of him and found it unsightly. He snorted and burst into laughter.

“Kylie Reed, is this your husband or your father? Are you sure you didn’t address him with the wrong term?” Lucas asked, pretending to be puzzled.

As soon as he said this, the surroundings fell silent. Kylie, who was complaining coquettishly, froze right on the spot.

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 637 – Come With Me

Chapter 637: Come With Me

After a long time, Kylie finally understood what Lucas was driving at with his ridiculing remark. Her face, covered with thick foundation, was about to explode because of how exasperated she was!

“Lucas Gray, you bastard, how dare you mock him?!” She glared at Lucas as if she had the most unpleasant and distasteful side of her exposed. Even her voice became extremely sharp and shrill.

Even the chubby bald man with large ears turned over to glare at Lucas hostilely.

“Punk, who do you think you are? How dare you poke fun at me?” He squinted sinisterly, making his eyes look even smaller than the rest of his chubby face.

Lucas looked at the two of them embracing each other in an unsightly manner and gibed, “You two are a perfect match. The items sold in the Heavenly Pavilion aren’t bad. It’s just a pity that you two are here. It’s no wonder that you barely have any customers.”

Then Lucas looked at Jane beside him and said to her, “Your talent will only go to waste if you stay here. There’s no harm in quitting this job. Leave with me later, and I’ll give you a job way better than this. Your talent and competency won’t be trampled on by these tacky, vulgar, and repulsive people.”

Lucas didn’t decide this on a whim.

Through his brief contact with Jane just now, he could tell that, despite being a fresh graduate without much work experience, she was a woman of principle and wouldn’t let societal norms sway her. Even her horrid work environment in the

Heavenly Pavilion, due to Kylie abusing her authority as a supervisor, didn't dull her talent and nature.

Lucas now owned many companies. And seeing Jane, he felt a strong urge to nurture her because he felt that a capable and principled person like her would definitely have a better time working in any company he owned than staying here.

Lucas's words made Jane extremely surprised and touched.

Although she wasn't familiar with him and didn't even know if he was telling the truth or not, his words resonated with her thoughts.

She had also decided deep down that if she continued staying in the Heavenly Pavilion under the control of Kylie and the general manager, she would never be able to develop further and get ahead in life. In fact, even her values and views would be ruined here.

"Alright, thank you in advance, Mr. Gray!" Jane beamed with joy while facing Lucas.

After hearing their conversation, Kylie was about to hit the roof. The chubby middle-aged man next to her also seemed extremely displeased, and he hollered, "Dream on! Jane, don't forget that you're still an employee of the Heavenly Pavilion! Besides, did I say I would let you two leave?"

The elevator door opened, and more than ten strong and burly men clad in security uniforms walked straight to the middle-aged man. The leader of the guards stood in front and said respectfully, "Mr. Frey, I heard that someone is causing trouble here. Please give us your instructions!"

The chubby manager immediately pointed at Lucas smugly. "This is the troublemaker! Catch him, teach him a hard lesson, and throw him out! In the

future, the Heavenly Pavilion definitely won't allow this man to appear here again. Beat him up every single time he appears!"

When Frey said this, his expression was extraordinarily domineering, and it was as if he was the owner of the Heavenly Pavilion, or rather, the leader of the entire world.

"Yes, Mr. Frey!" The security guard leader immediately agreed and pointed at the ten or so bodyguards. "Did you hear what Mr. Frey said? Seize this punk immediately!"

"Stop it! I'll see which one of you dares to touch him!"

Just as one of the security guards was about to take action, a furious voice came from behind, and a figure hurriedly rushed over from the elevator.

The voice immediately drew the attention of all the people present.

A young wealthy scion around 27 or 28 years old and clad in an immaculate, high-end suit was storming toward them. He had two elite bodyguards who seemed intimidating and unapproachable following him from behind.

Frey shuddered, and a look of astonishment appeared on his face when he heard the voice. He pushed Kylie away from his arms and scurried toward the young man. With a fawning smile, he asked, "Mr. Parker, why are you suddenly here? Had I known earlier you'd be here, I would have gone downstairs to receive you..."

"Get lost!" the young man roared angrily and pushed Frey away before striding straight toward Lucas.

Then amid everyone's shocked gaze, the scion lowered his head, bent forward, and said to Lucas respectfully, "I'm sorry, Mr. Gray. I failed to take my subordinate in hand, and he ended up offending you. Please forgive me!"

This scene made everyone's jaw drop!

Not only were Jane and the other salespeople of the Heavenly Pavilion shocked, but even Kylie's eyes were wide open. Frey was full of disbelief, as if he was hallucinating.

A... noble scion actually behaved so respectfully and politely toward this shabbily dressed young man. He even sounded so sorry and deferential!

What a fantastical world!

Lucas was the only one who kept a straight face in the Heavenly Pavilion. He merely raised his eyebrows with a slight hint of surprise.

Reason being, the young man currently standing in front of him and apologizing to him with utmost respect was none other than Kenneth, the scion of the Parker family.

Recalling how Kenneth had coveted his wife, Cheyenne, when he was in LA and even went against him several times, Lucas felt amazed that Kenneth was now standing in front of him in fear, as if Lucas was going to punish him.

But it was a matter of course. After all, the Parkers had already pledged allegiance to Lucas, and the helmsman, Damon, had also become one of his most powerful subordinates. What more a junior like Kenneth?

What surprised Lucas was that Kenneth owned the Heavenly Pavilion.

Suddenly, a sharp and shrill voice that was getting uncontrollably louder because of extreme astonishment rang out beside them.

“Mr... Mr. Parker, are you... mistaken? Lucas Gray isn’t a big shot at all. He’s just a good-for-nothing freeloading off of his wife! I’m his former college classmate, and I can’t be clearer about what kind of a person he is. You must have mistaken him for someone else!

“Otherwise, Lucas Gray has deceived you by telling you that he’s some big shot. You mustn’t be fooled by him!” Kylie yelled hysterically, unable to control her expression and emotions. Lu-Lucas Gray is clearly just a good-for-nothing and a bottom feeder of society. Why would the chairman of the Heavenly Pavilion, the scion of the Parker family, be so respectful and polite toward a loser?

“Shut up!” Kenneth, whose face was terrified and panicked, immediately shouted in anger.

He turned his head to glare daggers at Kylie. “Who do you think you are to speak to me? How dare you slander and insult Mr. Gray? You deserve to die! Security, drag her out immediately! No matter what her previous position was, she’s now dismissed from the Heavenly Pavilion!”

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 638 – Expelled

Chapter 638: Expelled

Kenneth was incensed. He had happened to be in the vicinity to inspect the operations of his family businesses. But he suddenly received a report that the staff of the Heavenly Pavilion, one of his businesses, had gotten into a conflict with a customer.

Kenneth didn't take it seriously at first because it was just a trivial matter that didn't require his attention. But when he heard that the customer involved in the conflict was Lucas, he was frightened out of his wits!

He immediately dropped everything and hurried over, just a second before the Heavenly Pavilion's security guards were about to get physical with Lucas. He managed to stop them from stupidly offending Lucas just in the nick of time.

He, the esteemed scion of the Parker family, had no choice but to bow down and apologize to Lucas. Yet this silly woman actually had the audacity to jump out and insult Lucas in front of him. Isn't she afraid of further incurring his wrath?

Kylie's eyes widened in shock, and she spluttered in disbelief, "Mr... Mr. Parker, what did you say? You actually want to dismiss me? For a... wastrel like Lucas Gray? I've been a veteran employee of the Heavenly Pavilion for years!"

Seeing this, Frey hurriedly tried to speak up for Kylie. "Yeah, Mr. Parker. Kylie is a supervisor of the Heavenly Pavilion, and she has made a lot of contributions to the company over the years. She's been the top sales achiever every single year. If you dismiss her just like that, it... it will really be inappropriate!"

"Furthermore, we have a lot of regular customers. Kylie has top-notch managerial abilities and strong communication skills. If she's dismissed rashly, not only will

the other employees of the Heavenly Pavilion find it unjust, but I'm afraid that our regular customers will be affected and thus result in a great impact on our overall sales volume. Mr. Parker, please reconsider your decision carefully!"

As soon as Frey said this, many of the staff of the Heavenly Pavilion, including Jane, had indescribable expressions.

They had never seen any of Kylie's so-called superb work competency, managerial abilities, and communication skills, but they were certain that she was the top sales achiever. Reason being, she would abuse her authority as a supervisor and leverage on the power of her backer, Frey, to snatch away all the big spenders, claiming credit for their hard work and snatching their sales. She would often let them handle the sales with low transaction amounts of about a few thousand to tens of thousands. So it, of course, made her seem very competent.

Moreover, Frey's words made Kylie seem extremely important, as if the Heavenly Pavilion would collapse and slip into a major crisis without her, a mere supervisor. It was absolutely ridiculous.

But the staff didn't dare to reveal their emotions in front of Kylie and Frey.

Even Lucas didn't say much and merely stood calmly on the spot with raised brows, waiting to see how Kenneth would handle this matter.

However, Kenneth was extremely annoyed after hearing what Frey said.

"Hah, so, this supervisor named Kylie is an indispensable pillar in the Heavenly Pavilion, huh? Without her, the Heavenly Pavilion will fold and go bankrupt immediately because you're just an incompetent general manager. Is that what you mean?" Kenneth questioned furiously with a gloomy expression on her face.

Frey immediately broke out in a cold sweat and hurriedly defended himself, “No, no, Mr. Parker, that’s not what I mean...”

“Shut up!” Kenneth hollered, immediately interrupting him. “Don’t think I don’t know what exactly you have in mind. When I came in, this woman was nestled in your arms and calling you ‘Honey’. I know very well that you’re already almost fifty years old and a married man with children!

“I’m afraid this woman is about the same age as your daughter, isn’t she? Trust you to be able to embrace each other and address each other with such endearing terms. How revolting!

“I don’t care how you fool around and how many mistresses you have out there, but since you’ve brought your filthy affairs to the Heavenly Pavilion and dirtied this place, I can’t spare you!

“I just took over the Heavenly Pavilion not long ago, and I’ve yet to find time to deal with you scoundrels, but you’ve already offended Mr. Gray. In that case, you two get out now! There’s no room for people like you in the Heavenly Pavilion!”

With a look of disgust on his face, Kenneth ordered that both Frey and Kylie be expelled from the Heavenly Pavilion together.

Hearing this, Kylie and Frey felt as if they had suddenly been slapped twice. Their faces were stinging and burning, and they were full of disbelief.

Neither of them had expected that Kenneth, who had never personally managed the family’s affairs, to be so ruthless and unmerciful to them for the sake of Lucas!

Kylie had only worked in the Heavenly Pavilion for a few years, while Mr. Frey had already been an employee for more than ten years. It wouldn’t be an

exaggeration to call him a senior employee. Yet Kenneth actually dismissed him too for Lucas's sake.

When Kylie saw Kenneth's cold and solemn face, a sudden chill and wave of horror surged in her heart.

For the past year or two, she had been acting tyrannically at work by relying on her relationship with her backer, Frey. Not only did she get the position of a supervisor, which came with a high annual salary, but she also managed to get tens of thousands of dollars in commission from the sales she snatched from others.

Besides, she also had a high status, and everyone, including her superiors, would be extremely respectful toward her, afraid of offending her. It was as if they were facing Frey in person.

Kylie had always been an overly ambitious person who felt that she was beautiful. In addition, she was treated like a queen in the Heavenly Pavilion, causing her to become unbridled and capricious with her words and actions.

Kenneth's words were like a bucket of water pouring over her, snapping her back to reality. Without Frey and the Heavenly Pavilion, she was nothing!

She had long gotten used to living an extremely privileged life with her annual salary of hundreds of thousands. And she barely had to do anything in exchange for this. All she had to do was serve Frey, an old man about the same age as her father, and bully the people she disliked every single day. Life was really carefree and pleasant for her!

Once she really got fired, she wouldn't be able to earn even \$20,000 a year!

The expression on Frey's fat face was also changing incessantly.

All of a sudden, Frey got on his knees in front of Kenneth, completely disregarding his pride. He cried loudly, “Mr. Parker, I was wrong! But this is all Kylie Reed’s fault. I-I was just deceived by her!

“She told me that someone was deliberately causing trouble here. That’s why I brought security over to handle the issue! I... I had no intentions of targeting Mr. Gray! Please give me another chance to make up for my mistakes! I will definitely take care of this matter properly!”

Frey knelt on the ground with horror written all over his face.

Chapter 639: A Thorough Investigation

Frey was now truly terrified.

He had been with the Heavenly Pavilion for more than ten years and now had the position of general manager. He enjoyed glory, and his ambitions were all fulfilled.

The Heavenly Pavilion was the largest antique store on this street. With the excellent work conditions provided by the Parkers, the annual salary, including the overriding commissions drawn from his sales team easily, amounted to more than \$200,000. Coupled with the little tricks that he had resorted to in secret, he had managed to accumulate a considerable fortune for himself within just a few years.

If he got sacked, how could he possibly get a good job now that he was almost 50 years old?

Moreover, he would definitely get a bad rep for being dismissed and kicked out of the company. In particular, he had been working here for more than ten years, and the people in the industry basically all knew him. Once the news of him being fired by the Parkers spread, no business in the antique industry would dare to hire him.

In short, if Frey was fired from the Heavenly Pavilion, it would be over for him.

So even though he was old, he could only go all out and get on his knees to beg Kenneth while putting all the blame on Kylie.

Filled with disbelief, Kylie looked at the old man who had always treated her as a gem with great disappointment.

At this moment, Frey was obviously going to make her take the blame and completely abandon her!

“Hah, why should I keep an incompetent man like you whom women can manipulate at will in the Heavenly Pavilion?” Kenneth said coldly, not moved by Frey at all.

Frey’s face stiffened, feeling that he had shot himself in the foot by saying those words just now. He hurriedly changed his statement and begged, “Mr. Parker, I admit that I was muddled for a moment. But please forgive me this time for the sake that I have been working diligently in the Heavenly Pavilion for more than ten years. I ought to deserve credit for my hard work! Please don’t kick me out of the Heavenly Pavilion! I am already so old, and I’m just a couple of years away from retirement. Mr. Parker, please...”

Before he finished speaking, Kenneth was already annoyed with his incessant rattling and the fact that he kept throwing his weight around as a veteran employee. He directly interrupted, “Hmph, you still want to stay in the Heavenly Pavilion to retire? Okay, you don’t want to leave, huh? I’ve given you a chance, but since you don’t cherish it, don’t blame me for being nasty!”

He glared at Frey and took out his phone to call his assistant. “Go and investigate the general manager of the Heavenly Pavilion in San Francisco. I don’t know his name, but he has a fat face and large ears. Screen through all the company accounts that he has handled, as well as the economic activities he has participated in. If you find any irregularities or negligence in his duties or abuse of authority for personal gains, report to me immediately! If anyone dares to conceal any information, you know what to do!”

“Mr... Mr. Parker...” Frey immediately felt as if he had plunged into the ice cellar as he shuddered uncontrollably.

Although the Parkers were the owner of the Heavenly Pavilion, they didn't send their descendants to manage it directly. It could be said that all the financial activities of the Heavenly Pavilion had been handled by Frey in recent years. As long as the profit figures of his quarterly and annual reports tallied, the Parkers wouldn't intervene in the actual operation of the store.

In this situation where he was given great power without supervision, Frey's boldness and appetite got bigger and bigger. He even secretly did lots of terrible things.

Now, Kenneth was really going to send people to investigate him. Since it happened too suddenly, Frey simply didn't have time to deal with the aftermath.

As soon as he thought that things he had done might be exposed, Frey was drenched in sweat. He hurriedly said, "Mr. Parker, I-I know my mistakes now! I'll leave the Heavenly Pavilion immediately!"

Then he wanted to turn around and leave.

Now, he only wanted to get away and prayed that he would be lucky enough for the Parkers not to discover him. He obviously couldn't be bothered about the person who wanted to continue staying in the Heavenly Pavilion to make money.

"Hold it!" Kenneth yelled coldly to stop him. "You chose not to leave when I allowed you to do so earlier, and now you want to escape because you're afraid that you'll be implicated once the investigation results are out. When the investigation results are out, I'll let you leave if you're innocent!"

Kenneth initially didn't plan to pursue the matter against Frey.

He was the scion of the Parkers and in charge of many of the Parkers' companies, so he understood that being overly strict might not allow people to reap enough

benefits. He knew that many senior executives would make use of their jobs to reap some monetary gains for themselves, but he also knew that it was commonplace.

So at the beginning, he simply chose to dismiss Frey without looking into his behavior at work on account that Frey had indeed worked for the Heavenly Pavilion for more than ten years.

However, not only had Frey not been grateful for his graciousness, but he had even thrown his weight around using his experience and credit. Kenneth didn't want to indulge him any longer.

In particular, Frey and this silly woman had both offended Lucas! Even Kenneth didn't dare to be rude to Lucas. How could they have the audacity to offend Lucas?

Seeing how resolute Kenneth was and realizing that there was no room for discussion, Frey appeared desperate and full of regret.

When he saw Kylie sitting next to him, his remorse immediately turned into immense fury, spurring him to raise his hand to slap Kylie on the face.

Smack!

A bright red slap mark appeared on Kylie's face.

Frey grabbed Kylie's hair and whispered into her ear sinisterly, "You stupid woman, this is all your fault! If you hadn't made trouble with someone here and called me to help you by misleading me into thinking that someone was causing trouble here, things wouldn't have turned out like this. Idiot! I'm telling you, if something happens to me, you won't have it easy either! Whatever it is, anything that happens to me will happen to you too. Don't you forget!"

He was venting his anger and also giving her a warning.

Frey was telling Kylie that if Kenneth discovered his misdeeds, Kylie would also be implicated because she was his accomplice!

At this moment, Kylie was shivering incessantly.

After getting fired from the Heavenly Pavilion, she had indeed lost a great money-making job. But if the Parkers found out what she and Frey had done, she would probably have to go to jail for the rest of her life!

The thought of the consequences made Kylie so terrified that she was about to wet in her pants.

She immediately turned to face Lucas, knelt by his feet, and pleaded, “Lucas, no matter what, we’re former college classmates. Quickly help me beg for mercy from Mr. Parker! Otherwise, I’ll be in huge trouble. Hurry up and ask him to spare me!”

Seeing the drastic difference in Kylie’s attitude now and that of her arrogant self minutes ago, Lucas only found it ridiculous.

Chapter 640: Misappropriation of Large Funds

Lucas looked down at the panicked Kylie with a look of contempt and mockery on his face.

“Have you suddenly remembered that we’re former college classmates now that things have come to this? You shouldn’t have forgotten how you deliberately picked a fight with me previously and insulted me, your ‘former classmate’, huh? If you hadn’t looked for trouble with me, this incident wouldn’t have happened at all. Who are you to ask me to beg for mercy on your behalf?

“Moreover, even now, you’re still acting arrogant. Is this the attitude you should have when asking for help? You and I have nothing to do with each other in the first place, and there’s no reason for me to help someone hostile toward me for no reason. Get lost!”

Lucas immediately stopped Kylie from reaching over to grab his calf.

Only at this moment did Kylie realize that Lucas was no longer the taciturn person who would allow anyone to bully him whom she remembered.

But... but why?!

This bastard Lucas is obviously just a good-for-nothing!

Even if he married Cheyenne Carter as a live-in husband, he’ll forever be a good-for-nothing!

“Mr. Parker, do you know that Lucas Gray is really just a loser who has nothing to his name? Why do you have to protect him so much and even go so far as to kick

veteran employees like me and Mr. Frey out of the Heavenly Pavilion? I'm really indignant!"

The more Kylie thought about it, the angrier she got. She was overwhelmed by envy and anger, so much so that she actually began questioning Kenneth.

Kenneth narrowed his eyes slightly as a trace of killing intent flashed in his eyes.

He was the only scion of the great Parker family, and most people were respectful toward him. Since when had he ever been questioned by such a lowly woman?

In particular, her comments targeting Lucas were ridiculous, absurd, and silly.

If Lucas was really a useless and penniless man, would he have to be so cautious and on tenterhooks in front of him? Kenneth wasn't a fool.

This woman is an idiot. She doesn't even know to observe!

Kenneth naturally wouldn't reveal Lucas's true identity in front of Kylie and just sneered. "If you still want your tongue, you'd better shut up. If you dare to disrespect Mr. Gray and make me angry again, I can't guarantee what I will do!"

Kenneth had always been the most arrogant one among his circle. If not for Lucas's presence today, he would have long gotten rid of this stupid woman who dared to question him and lose her temper at him. But he didn't want Lucas to think that he was ruthless, and he wanted to cut her some slack because she was Lucas's former college classmate.

After hearing the cruel warning from Kenneth, Kylie shuddered and suddenly snapped back to her senses. I-I must have been muddled to have dared to question the scion of the Parker family loudly. I let my anger get the better of me!

After receiving Kenneth's warning, Kylie started to behave herself, not daring to say anything else.

Suddenly, Kenneth's phone rang. It was a call from his assistant.

"Mr. Parker, regarding the investigation about the general manager of the Heavenly Pavilion, we haven't done a thorough one yet, but we've discovered something extremely important that I need to report to you!" his assistant said solemnly over the phone.

"Speak!" Kenneth commanded tersely and pressed the speaker button to transmit the assistant's voice clearly to the ears of everyone present.

"We found out that just half a month ago, a sum of ten million dollars was suddenly transferred from the Heavenly Pavilion's account to a personal bank account belonging to Sean Frey. But the usage of this sum was not reflected in the financial statements!"

"Therefore, we have reasonable grounds to suspect that Sean Frey embezzled this large sum!"

As soon as the assistant said this, Frey's fat face turned pale. He collapsed helplessly on the floor, and large sweat droplets emerged from his forehead.

The other people around them were just as astonished.

Ten million dollars was by no means a small sum. In fact, it was a massive amount!

Most people struggled to save even a hundred thousand dollars after working hard all their lives, let alone ten million dollars. It was absolutely outrageous!

Even Kenneth was shocked, and his face immediately turned as dark as ink.

He had indeed guessed that Frey wouldn't abide by the rules, and he also knew that people in high positions would inevitably be greedy for some benefits. But Kenneth had never expected Frey to be so greedy as to have the guts to do a one-time transfer of 10 million dollars from the company account to his personal account!

The net annual profit reported by the Heavenly Pavilion in recent years was only about 15 million dollars at most, and this was on the basis that the store's top antiques were sold with the Parkers' prestige.

Frey had pocketed most of the Heavenly Pavilion's revenue in one bite. It was simply intolerable in Kenneth's opinion!

"Bastard, what else do you have to say now? How do you plan to explain to me about the ten million dollars?" Kenneth roared furiously.

Frey was trembling incessantly as he stammered an explanation, "Mr... Mr. Parker, the money, I-I just borrowed it for an... an emergency. I never planned to em-bezzle it!"

After hearing his argument, Kenneth laughed in anger. "You pocketed so much money without the permission of the company's senior management. Yet you're telling me that you borrowed it temporarily? Regardless of your reason or what you used it for, you were clearly misappropriating company funds!"

"If I hadn't sent my people to check it out, would you have hidden it from me and made up a reason on the report when the time came so that you could just pocket the money without anyone finding out? You bastard, you really came up with a great plan, huh?"

"Tell me, where is the ten million dollars now?"

Kenneth was really livid.

Frey's actions had not only damaged the Parkers' interests but also revealed their management issues.

Moreover, this matter was exposed in front of Lucas!

Now that the Parkers had already become Lucas's subordinates and were helping him manage the Solar Corporation in LA, as well as other businesses, the revelation of management flaws in a company under his management might arouse Lucas's displeasure. If his grandfather heard about his mismanagement, Kenneth might be abandoned for being incompetent!

The thought of this possibility made Kenneth feel a strong urge to kill this audacious dimwit, Sean Frey!