

Chapter 641: Refusing To Admit

Seeing that he couldn't deny it at all, Frey was frightened, especially after noticing the murderous gaze in Kenneth's eyes.

He hurriedly pulled Kylie over from the side and pointed at her. "Mr. Parker, this b*tch is to blame for everything! She told me that the stock market is booming now and that the stocks are all following a bullish trend. She told me that I'd be able to make a big profit immediately as long as I invested my money in some stocks. She also fooled me into secretly transferring money from the company's account to my own account to invest in the stock market. Once I made some money, I'd transfer the ten million back into the company's account, and there wouldn't be any problems anymore!

"But I was unlucky, and all my stocks plunged. On the first day I invested, I lost about a million! I... I wanted to recoup my losses and get my capital back so that I could return the money to the company. But I didn't expect to keep losing money for the next few days. I-I-I really had no choice!"

When Kenneth heard that this bastard had actually used the company's money to buy stocks, his face became even gloomier.

Everyone knew that investing in stocks was risky.

But this fool in front of him actually had the guts to buy stocks with the Heavenly Pavilion's funds and even ended up suffering a huge loss. He really felt a strong urge to skin Frey alive!

"Don't tell me that you've lost all ten million dollars on the stock market!"
Kenneth gnashed his teeth.

Frey hurriedly said, “No, I didn’t lose it all in stocks. After a few days of losing, my losses totaled more than four million dollars. I didn’t dare to continue speculating anymore, so I withdrew all the money. But only about five million is left...”

Toward the end, his voice gradually became softer, and he seemed really ashamed of this result.

Kenneth was so enraged that he was about to explode.

Within just a few days, he had lost more than four million dollars. Frey was an absolute dimwit!

Even the most idiotic people invested blindly, they wouldn’t suffer such huge losses.

Moreover, the money Frey lost was all funds belonging to the Heavenly Pavilion!

“... What about the rest of the money?” Kenneth desperately tried to control his urge to rip the man in front of him to pieces.

Frey immediately pointed at Kylie beside him. “This woman has the rest of the money! She told me that she has good channels and could help me recoup the five million dollars in the shortest possible time, so I transferred all the money to her!”

Everyone was staring at Frey’s finger and watching him shift it to Kylie’s body.

Seeing that things were going awry, Kylie hurriedly shirked all responsibility, “What nonsense are you saying? I didn’t know about this at all, and I never took five million dollars from you. Why are you putting the blame on me when you’re the one who made the mistakes? Let me tell you. I’m not a vulnerable woman that will put up with taking the rap!”

Frey flew into a rage. “How dare you deny it now that things have come to this? You’re the one who instigated me to embezzle the company’s money and told me that you had a way to make quick money. That’s why I transferred the remaining five million dollars to your account. Yet you’re trying to shirk responsibility now?!”

Kylie craned her neck, raised her head, and exclaimed, “I said, I don’t know about these things at all. Don’t try putting the blame on me!”

She took off the nameplate on her chest, threw it onto the floor, and said resentfully, “None of you try to accuse me! I’m quitting this job! None of you have the right to stop me!”

With that, she got up from the floor and wanted to walk toward the elevator.

“Hold it!”

With the loud shout, one of the bodyguards following Kenneth immediately stepped forward to stop Kylie.

Kenneth suppressed the anger within him and threatened through gritted teeth, “No one is going to leave until this matter has been clarified! If you dare to continue acting like a shrew or feign ignorance, I’ll have someone amputate both of your legs right here! If you don’t believe me, you can try it!”

If Lucas wasn’t still watching, he wouldn’t have only threatened Kylie.

As the scion of the Parker family, whom Damon had taken under his wing and nurtured for years, Kenneth wasn’t a fool.

If it was only a one-sided account by Frey, Kenneth would have wondered if he was deliberately framing a woman in order to draw attention away from himself and confuse the public.

But Kylie's anxiousness to leave clearly showed that she had a guilty conscience and revealed what she intended to hide.

Frey's embezzlement of \$10 million of the company's funds was definitely related to her!

When Kylie heard Kenneth's warning, her heart trembled, and she didn't dare to act rashly anymore.

Kylie, who had been a supervisor of the Heavenly Pavilion for a few years, was naturally well aware of Kenneth's identity.

Even in the early years, Kylie had once thought of seducing Kenneth and marrying him in order to climb her way up to fulfill her dreams of becoming rich.

But after hearing about some of the things he had done, she immediately swept away this delusion and felt genuine fear toward a powerful scion like Kenneth.

She was now very certain that if she didn't do what Kenneth wanted her to, she would definitely suffer a miserable fate worse than death!

But if she admitted to the things Frey accused her of, her outcome wouldn't be any better. Now, her only option was to deny it outrightly, as she was sure that Frey would never be able to produce any evidence!

"M-Mr. Parker, I've really been wronged! Sean Frey embezzled the funds out of his own accord. And now that he's been exposed, he wants to drag me down with him and take the blame for him. This is a false accusation! Mr. Parker, you must

believe me. I really had no idea what he did, and these things have nothing to do with me at all! I... If I had the five million dollars, I'd have absconded a long time ago. Why would I continue working in the Heavenly Pavilion?" Kylie denied firmly.

Staring at Kylie's familiar yet unfamiliar face, Frey said sneeringly, "Kylie Reed, do you actually think that you can deny it because I don't have any evidence? Haha, fortunately, I've always kept my guard against you, and I have never trusted you completely. Otherwise, I would have been stabbed in the back by you today!"

Frey suddenly took out his phone from his pocket and tapped on an audio file to play it.

When Kylie heard the recording of the familiar conversation, her face turned deathly pale!

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 642 – Three Recordings

Chapter 642: Three Recordings

An audio recording of a man and a woman transmitted smoothly from Frey's phone.

Anyone could tell that the voices belonged to Kylie and Frey.

“Honey, I’ve told you several times that the stock market is booming lately. I invested a hundred and fifty grand and made over a dozen grand within just half a month. But my capital is too small. If we have millions of dollars as capital, I guarantee that we will be able to earn at least a million within half a month! This is much more than what our jobs pay!

“Besides, the company’s money is lying around in the company’s account anyway, and it’d be a waste just to leave it there. We might as well withdraw it for us to make a good deal of money! Anyway, the company’s finances and accounts are now under your control, and you have no superior to supervise you. What are you afraid of?”

“But... in case the Parkers suddenly check the accounts...”

“Ugh, what are you afraid of!? I told you. We’re just going to transfer the money away temporarily. We’re not going to withdraw all of it anyway. We’ll just take about ten million. When we make a profit of about three million in the stock market, we will naturally return the money and tally the accounts. No one will find out!

“Besides, once we get the three million or so, it’ll be much faster for us to continue investing in stocks or do other investments. Don’t you agree?”

“Honey, what are you hesitating for? Nowadays, those who starve to death are the timid ones, and those who are courageous are living large. Just listen to me. I guarantee there won’t be any problems, so just wait to get rich!”

“Okay, I’ll listen to you and take a gamble!”

...

After the recording played, Frey glared at Kylie. “Now, what else do you have to say? You instigated me into embezzling company funds to speculate in the stock market. What other excuses do you have now that there’s concrete evidence?!”

“You... you actually recorded our conversation?!” Kylie blurted in astonishment.

She had thought that she had Frey, this chubby old man, all wrapped around her finger and within her control. But she hadn’t expected him to keep his guard up against her and even secretly recorded their conversation!

Now, the fact that she had instigated and encouraged Frey to use the company’s funds to speculate in the stock market was a nail in the coffin!

After a short period of panic, Kylie said, “Fine, I admit that I indeed told you about this before. But at the time, I was just thinking about it! The financial power of the Heavenly Pavilion lies in your hands, and you’re the one who put the massive sum of ten million into your private account. I didn’t force you to do it!

“Also, this money has been in your hands since the beginning, and I haven’t seen a single cent of it. Don’t say that you gave me the money! If you don’t believe me, show us the transfer records, and we’ll see who you transferred the five million to!”

Kylie was full of confidence and gusto when she said her last sentence.

Reason being, she indeed wasn’t the recipient of the funds transferred from Frey’s account. No matter what the foolish Frey said, she would never hand over this sum of money!

Frey looked at the smug expression on Kylie’s face and suddenly smiled. “Kylie Reed, are you trying to hold out hope until the very end before you face death? Fine. I’ll make you completely convinced, you vicious woman!”

Then Frey clicked on another voice recording on his phone.

Kylie's and Frey's familiar voices were in it too.

“Honey, you're just unlucky this time. That's just how the stock market is. There's nothing we can do about it! But fortunately, we still have more than five million, so it's not a complete loss. Don't be too vexed about it!”

“How can I not be vexed? I took ten million out of the company's account! Now that we only have five million left, there's no way I can make up for the deficit even if I use all the money I've saved over the years! If the Parkers investigate this, I'll be doomed!”

“Honey, don't worry. Hear me out. I have a friend who specializes in running some secretive dealings, such as money-lending and other stuff. If you give me the remaining five million, I can definitely help you earn ten million or even more within a month or two! Just trust me!”

The audio recording confirmed the authenticity of Frey's previous statement about Kylie instigating him to transfer the remaining five million dollars to her account.

Immediately afterward, Frey sneered and clicked on another audio recording without waiting for Kylie to say anything.

“Kylie, why doesn't this account number you gave me belong to your personal account?”

“Rest assured, Honey. This is my friend's account. You can just transfer the money straight to his account. Even if you transfer the five million to me, I'll still have to transfer it to him. Don't you think this extra step is redundant?”

“Okay then. I'll transfer the money to the account number you gave me!”

“Okay, Honey, just wait for a while. My friend is really impressive, and we’ll definitely be able to earn double of the capital you invested!”

...

By the time the recording ended, Kylie’s calm face had already shattered into countless pieces, and she was now as pale as a sheet.

She hadn’t expected Frey to record all three of these conversations!

Just how wary was he against me?!

Does he have any more incriminating voice recordings?

But she couldn’t be bothered to think of anything else now because the three voice recordings that Frey had played were enough to condemn her for her misdeeds and leave her with no means of rebuttal.

At this moment, the others present were appalled by their behavior.

On the one hand, they were shocked by their audacity to conspire and embezzle a massive sum of \$10 million from the company’s accounts to speculate on stocks while keeping their guards up against each other.

Moreover, while Kylie was addressing Frey with mushy and endearing terms, she had also come up with the idea of making Frey transfer the money to someone else’s account to shirk the responsibility. On the other hand, Frey was just as amazing. While being bewitched by Kylie and colluding with her, he had secretly left a backup plan for himself by recording their conversations.

The two of them were really compatible because they were equally dishonest!

Seeing how miserable Kylie was and how she was at a loss for words, Frey looked rather thrilled and resentful at the same time. “Bitch, you’re the cause of these matters. You want to push all the blame on me and escape just because you think I don’t have any evidence? Dream on!

“Now that there is concrete proof, can you continue to defend yourself? Let’s see what you have to say! I told you. Even if I go to hell, I will definitely drag you down with me too, you vicious wench! Haha!”

Frey laughed hysterically.

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 643 – Kenneth Shows His Goodwill

Chapter 643: Kenneth Shows His Goodwill

At this point, there was nothing Frey could say to defend himself. Besides, only five million of the massive sum of ten million dollars that he had embezzled was left, which was now in Kylie’s hands. Even if he added all his assets together, he wouldn’t be able to pay it back. Moreover, he knew that the Parkers would never let him off the hook.

In that case, he had to drag Kylie, this shameless woman who caused him to be reduced to such a state, down with him no matter what!

Kenneth was furious too.

But he looked at Lucas respectfully and asked, “Mr. Gray, what do you think is the best way to deal with this matter?”

It wasn't that he was indecisive. But rather, he was thinking about what Kylie said previously about her and Lucas being former college classmates. So he wondered if Lucas would show her some mercy on account that they used to be classmates.

Lucas was standing silently at the side and watching everything. But after hearing Kenneth's question, he said without even looking at him, "Do what needs to be done."

He was never friends with Kylie in the first place, and she was the one who had provoked him first. Now that it was revealed that she had done such a thing, Lucas was already kind enough not to kick her when she was down.

Hearing Lucas's answer, Kenneth immediately knew what to do.

He yelled at the group of security guards of the Heavenly Pavilion, who were cowering in a corner and pretending to be invisible. "Why are you cowering there? Are you waiting to be paid without doing any work? Immediately come here and send these two people to the police station. Tell the police what they did and make sure you file a report so that the police will investigate!"

Then Kenneth glanced at the staff in the store, who had peculiar expressions, and lectured them, "I don't want to see such a terrible thing happen again. Do you all understand what I mean?"

"Yes!"

"We got it, Mr. Parker!"

...

The security guards and salespeople immediately nodded profusely.

Soon, Frey and Kylie were sent to the police station. Since there was concrete evidence, the results of the investigation would probably be released soon, and it would be time for them to be sent to the place they should be.

But before Kylie was taken away, she turned around and stared at Lucas with an extremely complicated expression.

Even until now, she still didn't know why she ended up landing herself in prison when she had clearly only wanted to mock Lucas because she disliked him.

Lucas Gray is clearly a bottom feeder of society who makes less money in a year than I do in a month. He should feel ashamed in front of me forever, but why have things turned out like this?

On what grounds does he manage to make the scion of the Parkers treat him with so much respect and defend him? If not, I wouldn't have ended up in such a state!

But no matter how resentful she was, it was already too late.

After settling everything, Kenneth cautiously looked at Lucas and asked, "Mr. Gray, are you fine with the way I handled things?"

He hadn't forgotten the reason he had rushed to the Heavenly Pavilion was that he was afraid his subordinates would end up offending Lucas and upsetting him.

Lucas assented noncommittally before raising his wrist to look at the time.

It was almost half past six in the evening.

He had planned to pick up two decent gifts from the Heavenly Pavilion before going to Alexis's birthday party. But he had ended up running into Kylie out of nowhere, causing him to waste a ton of time.

Since he had already picked the gifts, he stopped delaying any further and said to Jane next to him, “Please wrap up the two gifts I’ve chosen. I’m in a hurry.”

Jane seemed to wake up from a dream as she hurriedly answered, “Yes! I’ll help you go through the procedures immediately!”

The scene just now had left the young Jane shell-shocked, not only because of how audacious and shameless Frey and Kylie were but also because of Lucas’s identity.

Even the scion of the family who owned the Heavenly Pavilion, Kenneth, was extremely polite and deferential toward Lucas, so much so that he even had to seek his opinion when handling the matter.

She wondered, Who... exactly is this man...

While thinking about this matter, Jane didn’t slow in her actions. She immediately proceeded to place the string of high-quality wooden Bodhi beads and the set of emerald jewelry inside exquisitely designed gift boxes.

At this moment, Kenneth finally understood why Lucas suddenly showed up in the Heavenly Pavilion. It turned out that he was here to pick out some gifts.

After realizing this, Kenneth immediately said, “Mr. Gray, so you came here to get some gifts. We have plenty of treasures in the Heavenly Pavilion. If there’s anything you like, just tell me! If you want, I’ll take you to go look at them now.”

Lucas said indifferently, “It’s alright. I’ve already picked two just now.”

The gifts were for Edmund and Alexis. In fact, the Coles ran an antique business, so even if Lucas gave them other antiques, they would probably find them similar. Besides, he was already friends with the Coles. So as long as the gifts were appropriate, he didn’t need to care about anything else.

While they were talking, Jane had already returned with two beautifully wrapped gift boxes. She handed them to Lucas and asked politely, “Mr. Gray, these two items cost a total of 3.8 million. Do you wish to pay by credit card or check?”

Before Lucas could say anything, Kenneth immediately got anxious and chided Jane, “What credit card? It’s just two items. We naturally can’t let Mr. Gray pay a single penny for them! Mr. Gray can take away any item he likes in the Heavenly Pavilion for free, let alone just two antiques! Bear this in mind!”

Hearing this, a look of astonishment once again appeared on Jane’s face.

The value of the gifts Lucas had selected were close to four million dollars. Yet Kenneth not only gave them to him for free, but he even said that Lucas could take anything he wanted from the Heavenly Pavilion for free in the future. The total value of the antiques in the store was at least a billion dollars!

Who exactly is this Mr. Gray, who’s dressed in plain and simple clothes...

Lucas wasn’t surprised by Kenneth’s act of giving him these expensive gifts.

Even though Lucas had intended to pay for the gifts with his own money if Kenneth hadn’t come, his relationship with the Parkers was now very different. If he had to spend his own money at a store belonging to the Parkers, it wouldn’t be him being polite, but rather, it would be putting the Parkers to shame.

Thus, Lucas didn’t stand on ceremony with Kenneth and gladly accepted his kind gesture.

“Alright, thank you very much then, Mr. Parker.” Lucas took the two gift boxes and smiled at Kenneth.

This immediately made Kenneth let out a huge sigh of relief.

This was enough to show that Lucas wasn't upset with him and the Parkers because of what had happened today, which was good!

“However, your general manager is no longer here, so shouldn't you consider appointing someone to replace him?”

Just before Lucas was about to turn around and leave, he suddenly gave this suggestion while looking at Jane in front of him.

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 644 – Smash The Car

Chapter 644: Smash The Car

Kenneth froze for a moment, but he soon understood what Lucas meant.

Although he came late and wasn't quite sure if there was any relationship between Lucas and Jane, he naturally wouldn't ignore Lucas's recommendation since he had already expressed his intention so clearly.

“Mr. Gray, you're right! I think... Miss Jane is quite a suitable candidate for the general manager of the Heavenly Pavilion. What do you think?” Kenneth asked, which was rather smart of him.

Lucas smiled lightly. “I believe you won't regret your decision today.”

Hearing this, Kenneth instantly felt relieved.

Regardless of why Lucas was impressed with Jane, a salesperson of the Heavenly Pavilion, to the extent that he directly recommended her to be the general manager of the Heavenly Pavilion, Kenneth was very confident in Lucas's judgment.

Kenneth immediately announced loudly, “From today onward, Jane is officially the general manager of the Heavenly Pavilion. She will be responsible for managing all the affairs within the Heavenly Pavilion. Remember, I've personally appointed her. If any of you have any objections or defy me behind my back, don't blame me for being impolite!”

None of the salespeople who were feeling sour about it dared to express their displeasure.

Kenneth was clearly supporting Jane, so who would dare to make things difficult for her? They still wanted to make a living in the Heavenly Pavilion!

Besides, Jane was young and had a good temper. Despite having been mocked by them over the last two months, she had never lost her temper. So they were positive that she'd make a better general manager than the lecherous Frey and overbearing Kylie.

The salespeople had no objection to his decision, except for two who became anxious because they used to bully Jane badly.

Meanwhile, Jane, the person in question, was dumbfounded.

She never imagined that she would turn from a new employee about to be sacked just a few minutes ago for offending her supervisor and underperforming in sales to the general manager of the Heavenly Pavilion in the blink of an eye.

It made her feel overwhelmed with surprise.

Confused and nervous, she looked at Lucas. "Mr. Gray, I..."

Lucas smiled lightly. "You're competent enough to take on this role. If you're still feeling uneasy about it, convince everyone with your abilities!"

"Yes, I will! Thank you very much, Mr. Gray! And thanks a lot, Mr. Parker! Thank you for the trust you've given me!" Jane turned to face Lucas and Kenneth with a confident smile on her face.

The matter here finally came to an end.

Lucas was in a rush to go to the Cole residence, so he didn't stay any longer and left with the gifts after saying goodbye.

Kenneth personally saw Lucas all the way to the entrance of the Heavenly Pavilion and let out a long sigh of relief when he saw Lucas leaving.

Ever since he saw Lucas's formidable behavior in LA, Kenneth had a deeper understanding of this man who, despite being around his own age, possessed power so terrifying and unfathomable that even his grandfather Damon was extremely cautious when facing him, let alone Kenneth himself.

When facing Lucas, Kenneth felt as if he was facing an extremely tall and lofty mountain range, so he subconsciously felt very nervous.

A breeze blew past, and a sudden chill passed through Kenneth's body. Only then did he notice that he had unknowingly broken out into cold sweat, coating a thin layer on his back and forehead.

"Mr. Parker, who was that... young man just now?" someone standing behind Kenneth asked.

Kenneth raised his hand to wipe a bead of sweat from his face and said with a complicated expression, "He is Lucas Gray, but no one knows exactly how terrifying his power is. You just need to remember one thing—don't ever provoke this man. Otherwise, you won't be able to afford the consequences!"

Seemingly having remembered something terrifying, Kenneth shuddered.

Seeing Kenneth's actions, the person who asked the question was astonished.

Since he could induce fear within Kenneth, the usually fearless scion of the Parkers, he definitely wasn't an existence that could be provoked!

At this moment, Lucas had already driven to the Coles' manor in his black Jaguar.

Due to the delay in the Heavenly Pavilion, Alexis's birthday party was about to begin by the time Lucas arrived.

At this juncture, most of the guests had already arrived, so Lucas could see that the extremely spacious parking lot outside the Coles' manor was basically full of all kinds of luxury cars. It seemed that most of the guests attending Alexis's birthday party were from prestigious families.

Lucas found an empty parking space and casually parked his Jaguar. He got out of his car carrying the two gift boxes in his hand and walked toward the entrance of the Coles' manor.

“Hey, kid, hold it right there!”

At this moment, someone yelled curtly behind Lucas. When he turned around, he saw a young man dressed in luxury goods and designer clothing from head to toe with red highlights in his bangs in front of his forehead. He was poking his head out of a Maserati sports car and glaring daggers at Lucas.

Lucas glanced at him and said indifferently, “Is there something wrong?”

“Punk, immediately move your car away! No parking here! This is my parking spot! With your lousy car worth only a hundred thousand, how can you be qualified to park here?”

The red-haired young man spoke in a bossy, overbearing, and arrogant tone, as if Lucas was just a servant of his family.

Lucas simply didn't bother paying attention to this scion who self-righteously thought that he was invincible and instead turned around to leave.

“Hey! Punk, I told you to stop! Didn't you hear me?!”

The red-haired young man shouted angrily several times. But Lucas turned a deaf ear to him and quickly went straight into the gate of the Coles' manor, vanishing out of sight.

The red-haired young man was about to explode with anger and immediately yelled at the two bodyguards in the car, “You two, go smash that punk's car! It's just a Jaguar. How dare he ignore me? No matter what, I'll teach that punk a lesson!”

“Yes, Mr. Nick!”

The two burly bodyguards in the car immediately took out tools like wrenches and crowbars from the toolbox, went forward, and smashed Lucas's Jaguar.

Bang!

The windshield and rearview mirrors were all smashed into pieces.

The initially smooth front hood had also been smashed uneven.

Almost in an instant, Lucas's black Jaguar was smashed to pieces beyond recognition!

Chapter 645: The Coles’ Banquet

At this moment, Lucas had already entered the Coles’ manor and was still unaware that his car had been smashed in the parking lot outside.

Even though Lucas didn’t have an invitation card with him, when the person in charge of receiving guests at the entrance saw him, he politely brought him to the main hall where Alexis’s birthday party was being held.

Lucas followed the usher all the way and scanned his surroundings in the Coles’ manor.

The Coles really lived up to their reputation as one of the top three wealthiest families in San Francisco. The entire manor covered a large area, and the interior was different from the usual European luxe decor preferred by many wealthy families. Instead, it had a simple but elegant decor style, with some decorative water features and pavilions interspersed between.

However, the main hall, where Alexis’s 20th birthday party was being held, was a detached modern European-style villa. After all, most of the guests Alexis invited to her party were young, so the Coles deliberately chose to hold the party here.

“The party is being held here this evening, Mr. Gray. Please come in!” the usher said as he opened the glass doors of the banquet hall respectfully.

Lucas nodded and entered.

At this moment, it was almost the start of the banquet, and most of the guests had already arrived, dressed in fancy clothes and holding various drinks while chatting with each other.

It was a typical scene of a gathering among the rich. Most people present were the heirs and heiresses of various top families, so they were all wealthy and noble.

But it did make sense since Alexis was the pampered heiress of the Coles, who had a high status and a large network of connections. Those who were qualified to attend were naturally also of comparable statuses.

Therefore, Lucas, who suddenly appeared at the birthday banquet hall, became an anomaly.

As soon as he entered, he immediately saw many pairs of eyes full of ambiguous gazes.

After all, among the wealthy scions and ladies present, Lucas was the only one wearing an extremely casual outfit, making him stick out like a sore thumb. He was just like a wild hen among a flock of eye-catching peacocks, unique and different from the rest.

But Lucas had always ignored these peculiar gazes that he would get for the way he dressed. He simply acted as though he didn't see them and sat down in the nearest corner.

He didn't come here with the intention of communicating with the children of wealthy families today. He was merely here to deliver the gifts because Alexis invited him to her birthday party.

Lucas wasn't interested in participating in anything else.

"Lucas Gray? You're here too?" a woman exclaimed in surprise near Lucas.

Lucas turned around and saw Lena, who was wearing a black halter bustier dress made of chiffon. She walked toward him smilingly.

“Lena, you’re here too.” Lucas was slightly surprised and greeted her.

“Haha, of course. Today is the birthday of Alexis, the princess of the Cole family. Although my family isn’t very close to the Coles, we should still come and show our support no matter what! Even many prestigious families in other cities in California are proud to receive an invitation to the party!”

Lena seemed to be in high spirits, as she was extremely chatty with Lucas.

“However, I’m still a bit surprised to meet you here. Given your character, I thought that you might not enjoy attending such banquets!”

Lena grabbed two cocktail glasses from the tray in the hands of a passing waiter and handed one to Lucas.

Lucas took it politely, but he merely held it in his hand without taking a sip. He said casually, “I happen to be friends with Mr. Edmund Cole and Alexis, so I’m just here to take a look.”

“That’s true. When we were in LA last time, I heard that you saved Mr. Cole. I was shocked!”

Lena suddenly blinked at Lucas and asked, “Do you think I’m pretty today?”

She was here to attend the birthday party today, and on such occasions, every woman attending wouldn’t be willing to let others outshine them. So Lena was dressed today in an elegant black dress that not only accentuated her voluptuous and alluring figure but also made her skin look incredibly fair. Moreover, she was a gorgeous beauty to begin with, and her exquisite outfit, as well as accessories, made her look even prettier.

Lena's beauty stood out from most of the other women present and was extremely eye-catching.

Lucas praised sincerely, "You're indeed very pretty today!"

"Haha, thanks!" Lena answered with a shy smile.

At this moment, the glass doors of the banquet hall opened again, and a tall and handsome young nobleman walked in from outside.

His appearance immediately caused a commotion because extraordinarily handsome men like him were rare even at such occasions, where heirs of noble families gathered.

"Wow, who's this handsome guy who just came in?"

"I know him! He's Connor Hale from Orange County. Although he's only thirty, he has officially become the head of the Hale family just a few days ago!"

"Really? He's already become the head of the Hale family at such a young age? He should be the youngest among the helmsman of first-tier families, right? I heard that the Hales are one of the four top families in Orange County and are extremely powerful! Has Connor Hale really become the head of his family?"

"Of course. Although he's young, he definitely isn't an ordinary person. Otherwise, Bruce Hale wouldn't have favored him and passed him the position of family head!"

"That's incredible. He became the helmsman of his family at such a young age, and the thing is, he's so handsome. He's just like the prince charming of my dreams! I'm starting to like him!"

“Hey, you’d better wake up. He’s already married, and his son was born not long ago. He even threw a full moon party for his son!”

These words made many nearby sigh, finding it a huge pity.

...

Connor attracted the attention of many women as soon as he entered due to his outstanding appearance.

But at the same time, many wealthy scions were staring at Connor, who was now officially the helmsman of a top-tier family. This point alone had already set him apart from others his age.

While countless people were staring at Connor, his eyes suddenly lit up, and he quickly strode toward Lucas.

Connor stood in front of Lucas, bent forward slightly, and said respectfully, “Mr. Gray, I didn’t expect you to be here too. If I had known earlier that you were coming, I would have gone to pick you up personally!”

This scene immediately caused many people to widen their eyes in bewilderment.

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 646 – Young Helmsman

Chapter 646: Young Helmsman

Connor was very respectful toward Lucas. In fact, he was even somewhat in awe of him.

Even though he had now become the actual helmsman of the Hale family, he didn't dare to be rude to Lucas at all.

During his son's full moon shower back then, Lucas had practically wiped out the Hales overnight with a single command. Later on, the dozens of Hales were spared also because of Lucas's power.

It could be said that Lucas had full control over the life and death of the Hales, so Connor was naturally afraid of a terrifying figure like him. In fact, he had even once broken out in cold sweat from being in the same car as Lucas.

But the Hales had now become subordinate to Lucas. In fact, everything the Hales had actually belonged to Lucas, which caused the drastic change in Connor's attitude. He no longer feared Lucas and instead genuinely submitted to him out of subservience to a superior.

Lucas looked at Connor and smiled lightly. "Yes, Alexis invited me, so I came to take a look."

Connor raised his head, and only then did he notice the beautiful woman beside Lucas. He smiled and said, "Miss Sawyer, you're here too."

Lena laughed and teased, "Now, I have to see you as the helmsman of the Hale family. You didn't see how much attention you got from all the beautiful women as soon as you entered! You're the youngest person to become the head of a first-tier

family in the last decade or so. I'm also about the same age as you, but now, I'm still just a vulnerable woman!"

She and Connor were both from families among the top four in Orange County, so they had interacted with each other rather often. They were also more familiar with each other than others.

Connor looked at Lucas, standing beside Lena, and said ambiguously, "How is that possible? Miss Sawyer, you and Mr. Gray are so close to each other. You will definitely be a successful person in the future, so who would dare to despise you?"

Lucas immediately realized that Connor had probably misunderstood the relationship between him and Lena. But when he saw Lena blushing with shame and embarrassment and then saw many people nearby secretly paying attention to them, he merely coughed gently without saying anything to explain.

Anyway, he knew that there was nothing between him and Lena, and this was enough. If he explained anything, it would make it seem like he was getting defensive from trying to cover it up.

Since Lucas didn't explain, all the more Lena wouldn't take the initiative to explain anything. In fact, she felt a sweet and fuzzy feeling after hearing that Connor had gotten the wrong idea about them.

How wonderful would it be if... Lucas and I were really in that kind of relationship?!

But after fantasizing, Lena acutely sensed something that shocked her.

Connor's attitude toward Lucas was really too good to be true. In fact, he was extremely respectful toward him.

Even when Connor was still just the esteemed scion of the Hale family, he wouldn't necessarily need to be so respectful and polite to Lucas, let alone now that he was the helmsman of the family.

Does this mean that Lucas has a higher status than Connor, the helmsman of the Hale family?

The three of them were just having a simple conversation here. But many other people in the hall could barely suppress their surprise.

Initially, when Lucas just entered, he had attracted many disdainful gazes from the other guests because his plain outfit made him stick out like a sore thumb.

Later on, the ravishing beauty Lena, who attracted the attention of most of the men in the room, took the initiative to walk up to Lucas to greet him. After her, Connor, who attracted most of the women in the room, did the same and even seemed to be extremely respectful toward him, leaving many puzzled.

Who exactly was this young man dressed shabbily?

Lucas casually glanced around the hall and saw a few people he knew, such as the two young people of the Wallace family, as well as Gisele and other Taylors. However, most here were rich children from San Francisco and other cities, so he didn't know them.

The moment Gisele saw Lucas, she subconsciously shrank, for fear that he would come over and create trouble for her.

The last time Lucas had confronted the Taylors and made Preston hand over Karen, he was really powerful and overbearing. Not only had he beaten all the bodyguards of the Taylors to the ground, but he had also killed the powerful expert of the Peerless Martial Association.

This made Gisele no longer dare to seek revenge against Lucas. Instead, she was now like a mouse seeing a cat, absolutely petrified.

But Gisele was overthinking things, as Lucas would never take a nobody like her seriously or be in the mood to find trouble with her. Well, unless she took the initiative to provoke him.

At this moment, a few men and women standing in the middle of the hall and chatting suddenly walked toward the corner where Lucas was.

“Lena, why did you come over here?”

The leader of these people was a wealthy heir of about twenty-seven years old, who was dressed fashionably in an expensive and decent suit. The red segment of hair hanging in front of his head was particularly eye-catching.

He then looked at Lucas and drawled in a light tone, “Hey, who’s this? I don’t think I’ve seen him before. Lena, won’t you introduce him to us?”

Despite asking for an introduction, he had his head raised high and his nose facing Lucas, clearly full of contempt toward him, whom he belittled.

Lena seemed to have a bad impression of this wealthy heir as she glanced at him and said indifferently, “This is my friend, and we’re here to talk. Mr. Walker, do you have an issue with this?”

The wealthy heir with red hair hanging in front of his forehead laughed. “Lena, I’m just asking. Why do you have to be so hostile to me?”

Looking at him, Lucas couldn’t help sighing.

The person who had called out to him and ordered him to give up his parking spot like a subordinate outside the Coles' manor just now was exactly this man.

But Lucas didn't know his identity just now. After hearing Lena say his last name, he reckoned that he should be one of the Walkers, who were on par with the Coles and the Kingstons.

Connor also frowned slightly.

He had never had any close ties with Nate Walker and merely knew of his existence. Nate seemed to be hostile to Lucas, or rather, despised Lucas.

The condescending expression he had on his face when he looked at Lucas made Connor's impression of him worsen, and he didn't want to pay attention to him at all.

"Hey, Connor Hale, can't you see that Mr. Walker is standing in front of you and speaking to you? How dare you not greet him. What do you mean by this?!" a square-faced young man following behind Nate shouted in displeasure.

Chapter 647: Who is He?

Connor glanced at the young man with the square face who had just spoken rudely. After giving it some thought, he finally recalled that the young man should be Dallas Watson.

The Watsons were initially only a small family in California who had somehow managed to get close to the Walkers of San Francisco. They then developed and rose to become a first-tier family.

This was why the Watsons had almost become subordinate to the Walkers while Dallas, the scion of the Watsons, often followed Nate Walker around like a lackey.

Connor couldn't be bothered to pay attention to a lackey of Nate, who was extremely hostile to Lucas, and sneered. "Who are you?"

Dallas froze for a moment before shouting in anger, "What did you say? You actually asked me who I am? You don't know who I am? I am Dallas Watson from San Jose!"

"Oh, I thought you were some incredible big shot. You're making it sound as if everyone should know who you are. It turns out you're just a Watson from San Jose," Connor said indifferently, but his words completely angered Dallas.

Before Dallas could lose his temper again, Connor continued, "Besides, you only belong to the younger generation of the Watsons, while I am the helmsman of the Hale family. You'd better watch your tone when you talk to me. Otherwise, don't blame me when I question your elders about the upbringing of their descendants."

As soon as Connor said this, the people around him were utterly shocked.

None of them expected Connor to be so hostile and relentless toward Dallas as to reprimand him for lacking manners right in front of everyone.

Even if the Watsons's strength was slightly inferior to that of the Hales, Dallas was following Nate!

As the saying went, to humiliate the protected was to humiliate the protector. Yet Connor reprimanded Dallas right in front of everyone, which was a blatant insult to Nate.

“Although Dallas was indeed a little hostile to Connor, they're actually about the same age, so it's really not necessary to be so particular about rules and status, is it?”

“Exactly. Dallas is Nate's follower no matter what. Connor Hale is being too harsh with him. He's clearly out to embarrass him by saying that!”

“I reckon Connor Hale has probably become way too arrogant because he became the helmsman of his family at such a young age. He doesn't even show any respect to the scion of the Walkers. He's really gone overboard!”

...

Many of Nate's friends, who were standing around them, as well as those eager to suck up to the Walkers, started rebuking Connor.

After hearing this, Dallas, who was already angered by Connor, became even more infuriated, as if he had been provoked.

“Connor Hale, you only got to become the helmsman of the Hale family merely because your grandfather is old. Do you really think you're that capable and impressive?”

“How dare you reprimand me here? Fine. I’m indeed just a junior of the Watsons now, and I don’t have as high a status as you, but this man standing here is Nate Walker, the scion of the Walkers. How dare you be so rude to him? You won’t even greet him. Aren’t you being too arrogant and cocky?”

Dallas immediately mentioned his backer, Nate Walker.

Connor then looked at Nate and pretended to be surprised. “Oh, I’m sorry. So, you’re Mr. Walker. I really didn’t recognize you just now. I’ve been too impolite. I’m sorry! But seriously, Dallas, since you’re so close to Mr. Walker, why didn’t you introduce us just now?”

Connor’s words were rather perfunctory, and anyone could tell that he did it on purpose. However, his expression was so serious that it made many riled up, but they couldn’t find any fault with him at all.

This made Nate, who had always thought highly of himself and was proud and arrogant, extremely gloomy.

“Connor, although you and I are about the same age, you probably no longer take us seriously since you’ve now become the helmsman of the Hale family at such a young age, huh?” Nate wanted to make Connor seem arrogant and conceited so that all the scions here would develop animosity against him.

Of course, Connor wouldn’t take the bait. He smiled and said, “Nah, Mr. Walker, there are many outstanding people among people our age, such as young talents like you. In fact, there are some whom I look up to and are far superior to me.”

He glanced in Lucas’s direction, took a half step back, and stood behind him.

Nate immediately frowned.

The young man in front of him, who was dressed extremely shabbily and looked incredibly out of place in this upscale party, seemed to have the ability to make Connor bow down to him despite already being the helmsman of his family.

Who exactly is this person?

Apart from a small number of good-for-nothings who really loafed around all day, most of them were good at reading people from their body language. Connor's actions were not particularly secretive, so they all noticed what he just did.

All of a sudden, many became interested in Lucas's identity.

Another voice suddenly sounded near them. "Mr. Gray, so you're here to attend Miss Cole's birthday party too. Had I known earlier, I should have accompanied you."

The person who spoke was none other than Kenneth Parker from LA.

He and Lucas had just met in the Heavenly Pavilion 20 minutes ago. Lucas had been there to buy some gifts, but Kenneth didn't expect that these gifts were for Alexis.

The people around them showed a trace of surprise again. "Isn't that Kenneth, the scion of the Parkers from LA? He's actually here too, and he seems to know that young man as well."

The Parkers had officially become the supreme hegemon of LA now, whose status and strength were even comparable to that of the Coles in San Francisco. With the rise of his family, Kenneth's status was also much higher than that of many other scions here.

This time, more eyes were cast on Lucas.

Lucas raised his eyebrows and looked at Kenneth, not expecting him to be here too.

Seeing how bewildered Lucas was, Kenneth took the initiative to explain, “Initially, my grandfather wanted to come personally. But when he heard that most of the guests were young people, he asked me to come instead, leaving the task to me.”

Lucas nodded without saying anything.

Indeed, most of the people in the hall were in their twenties, which was about the same age as him. There were very few elderly because Edmund clearly stated that he wouldn't be attending the party, and he hoped that the young people could have fun on their own.

This was also why many elderly chose not to come at all and simply sent their younger descendants.

After Kenneth came over, he consciously stood behind Lucas with an expression almost as respectful as Connor's.

This scene immediately made the numerous young people present even more curious about Lucas's identity.

Nate, standing opposite Lucas and the others, began frowning.

Chapter 648: Triggered By A Touch

Nate initially thought that Lucas was just a nobody from a poor family who was trying to mingle with them and join the party through connections because he was dressed in extremely plain and ordinary clothes. He reckoned that his outfit probably cost less than a hundred dollars in total. Compared to the large fleet of luxury cars in the parking lot, Lucas's Jaguar, which cost only about 80 grand, seemed extremely shabby too.

Yet such a shabby small fry had actually snatched Nate's parking space, making him extremely displeased. So he had immediately stopped Lucas from leaving and told him to move his lousy car away.

He didn't expect the man, whom he thought was penniless, would be so ignorant as to ignore him and disregard his presence. Nate lost his temper and instructed his bodyguards to smash Lucas's car to teach him a lesson.

But it was now revealed that Connor, the current helmsman of the Hale family, and Kenneth, the scion of the Parker, both actually knew Lucas and were extremely respectful toward him. This made Nate's heart skip a beat.

Could this young man actually be the scion of a wealthy family who usually keeps a low profile?

If it was someone from a wealthy family in California, he would still be inferior to him because no one in the state was on par with the top three families of San Francisco.

In that case, the only possibility was that Lucas was from another state. He thought that perhaps Lucas was the scion of a wealthy family in DC!

As soon as Nate thought of this possibility, an ominous feeling surged in his heart while a layer of cold sweat broke out on his back.

After all, he had just ordered his bodyguards to smash Lucas's car to pieces!

Nate began to panic and get a little flustered, but he nevertheless forced himself to seem calm as he asked, "It seems to be the first time I've seen you, buddy. Which family are you from?"

He thought he was hiding it well, as if he was just casually getting to know someone new, but the nervousness and worries deep in his eyes couldn't escape Lucas's eyes.

Although Lucas didn't know that Nate had smashed his car, he knew that Nate had quite a bit of scruples toward him and was thus pretentiously trying to find out his identity.

Lucas said composedly, "I'm not the son of some wealthy family. I'm just someone who doesn't have parents or a family to protect me. I can't be compared to you, Mr. Walker."

Lucas's mother had passed away because of an illness six years ago, and he had never acknowledged the man from the Hutton family, his so-called father, as his parent at all.

As long as the Huttons didn't create trouble for him every other day and tried to suppress him in every possible way so that he couldn't make a comeback, he would be thankful enough.

He would never get any protection or help from this family.

Of course, Lucas didn't consider himself a Hutton either. The Huttons were nothing but his enemies, and one day, he would return to the Huttons to take back everything that should rightfully belong to him and his mother. There was no other relationship between him and them beyond this.

Nate didn't believe Lucas's words.

If Lucas was really an orphan who didn't have a family to back him up, how could the prideful Connor and Kenneth possibly stand behind him and willingly show him so much respect?

Nate wasn't a fool. He felt that Lucas was definitely the scion of some top wealthy family and that he deliberately said those words in order to conceal his identity.

He naturally didn't believe it and wanted to ask a few more questions, but someone suddenly sneered beside him.

"Hah, you brat, given your status and background, how dare you attend Miss Cole's birthday party? Who gave you the guts? Also, what's up with your attitude when Mr. Walker is speaking to you?! How dare you speak to him so casually? It seems that you're indeed a bottom-feeder of society who needs to be taught a lesson!" Dallas rebuked while pointing at Lucas with a contemptuous expression.

The faces of the four people present immediately turned dark.

Connor, Kenneth, and Lena were all piqued.

“Dallas Watson, how dare you insult Mr. Gray? Apologize to Mr. Gray immediately!” Connor’s face turned sullen as he exuded the aura of a superior helmsman of a notable family, and a massive sense of oppression weighed down on Dallas.

“Yes. Do you think someone like you can humiliate Mr. Gray? Apologize to him immediately, or else the Parkers won’t let you and your family off!” Kenneth stared at Dallas with a gloomy expression.

Lucas was now the actual controller of the Hale family and the Parker family. Even they didn’t dare to offend him, and yet Dallas had the audacity to speak to him so rudely!

Besides, both of them knew that Lucas was definitely not a pushover. If he was angered, he would definitely put anyone to shame regardless of the occasion.

If Alexis’s party was ruined because of them, the Coles would likely be displeased too.

None of them wanted to see that scene.

Lena said indignantly, “I don’t think Lucas was being rude at all. Dallas, you’re just picking on him! Moreover, who are you to lecture Lucas? Lucas is a guest invited by the Coles, and since the Coles haven’t even said anything, who are you to disparage a guest?”

The three of them were all on Lucas’s side, and since they had a common enemy, they were all very united, making Dallas overwhelmed with fury.

Nate looked disgruntled too.

He had wanted to find out Lucas's identity by asking, but the dimwit Dallas suddenly interjected and made everything even worse than before.

He frowned and tried to make Dallas shut up, but Dallas was angered by what Connor, Kenneth, and Lena said. So he leveraged on his identity as Nate's friend and mocked them without hesitation.

“Connor Hale, Kenneth Parker, and Lena Sawyer, you don't actually have to lick Lucas Gray's boots. He's just a penniless punk who has nothing to his name and no family to support him. You people are the only ones who treat him as a gem. There must be something wrong with you!

“Look at his shabby clothes. It probably adds up to less than a hundred bucks. What kind of garbage is that? If not for the fact that today is the birthday party of Alexis, the Coles' little princess, I would have already taught him a lesson!

“And, Mr. Walker, look at them. None of them take you seriously at all. I really feel so aggrieved for you! This is absurd!”

After criticizing them, Dallas even deferentially complained about them to Nate like a dog, deliberately fanning the flames.

Nate's face was about to turn pale, but the foolish Dallas actually thought that he was mad at Lucas and Connor because of his instigation. He even smiled smugly.

The rest of the guests looked over and thought to themselves that they were in for a good show!

At this moment, the piano music in the banquet hall suddenly changed, and a commotion broke out among the crowd.

Someone exclaimed, “Look, our birthday girl is coming out!”

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 649 – The Coles

Chapter 649: The Coles

With the exclamation, everyone turned to look at the spiral staircase on the second floor. They saw Alexis, the star of today's party and the princess everyone adored.

She finally made her appearance!

Alexis was wearing a silvery-blue starry dress with a tight halter top cinched at the waist. Starting from her waist down, the rest of her dress began to look like stardust flowing down to the hem at the bottom, with the color of the fabric gradually turning from white to ocean blue. The ethereal design made the already youthful and beautiful Alexis look like a fairy that had descended on earth.

The numerous tiny diamonds at the hem of her dress were shimmering brightly under the light.

It was luxurious, graceful, ethereal, and refined.

She was Alexis, the host of the party and the birthday girl at the center of attention.

“Wow, she's gorgeous!”

“Her beauty is divine. She's really pretty!”

“I'm so attracted to her!”

All of a sudden, the banquet hall was full of exclamations of awe and admiration.

Many women began to praise Alexis genuinely from the bottom of their hearts, not to mention the wealthy scions in the banquet hall—their eyes were all glued onto her.

There was a middle-aged couple standing beside Alexis, and those familiar with the Coles knew that they were Alexis's father and mother, Clement Cole and Jennifer Lane.

Clement stood on the steps, looking at the crowd in the hall below, and said with a cordial smile, "It's my daughter's, Alexis's, twentieth birthday today. Thank you all for coming to join us in the celebration. I hope you enjoy yourselves tonight!"

Jennifer was dressed in a presentable lilac dress, looking exceptionally graceful and elegant. She said to the crowd with an amicable smile, "Most of you here are our old friends. Thank you all very much for coming to celebrate my daughter's birthday!"

"Uncle Clement and Aunt Jennifer, you're both too polite!"

"Haha, it's our honor to receive an invitation to the birthday party of the beautiful Miss Cole!"

...

In an instant, the atmosphere in the hall became extremely lively, and countless people greeted Clement and Jennifer. Of course, most of them were also praising Alexis, the star of the party.

Lucas naturally wouldn't do this. He simply stood in place quietly and shook the cocktail in his hand like a complete outsider.

But it was the first time he saw Alexis's parents, and based on first impressions, they seemed to be rather easygoing.

"They're Alexis's parents, right? How are they?" Lucas asked softly.

Since he and the Coles were fated to share some ties, and they would definitely have some dealings in the future, he should learn more about them, especially since Alexis's parents were also important people.

Only then did Connor realize that Lucas wasn't close to the Coles in the past and that this was his first time meeting Clement and Jennifer.

He inched closer to Lucas and explained softly, "Clement is Mr. Edmund Cole's only son, but he didn't inherit his father's character. I heard that he's pretty incompetent, and he once created a lot of trouble for the Coles because of his mistakes. Later on, Mr. Cole decided not to let him take over as helmsman. That's why he's still holding power now."

Standing beside Lucas, Kenneth also said softly, "Indeed, Clement Cole looks smart and shrewd, but many people criticize him for his incompetence. I heard my grandfather mention in the past that Mr. Cole used to say openly that the position of the helmsman of the Cole family will never be handed to Clement unless Mr. Cole passes away."

Lucas seemed surprised to hear what they said, and he couldn't help looking at Clement a few more times.

Based on appearance, he really couldn't tell that Clement was so incompetent.

But there are all sorts of strange things in this world, so it wasn't that surprising to him after all.

Lucas was more surprised by the fact that Clement was completely different from Edmund, who was righteous, good at socializing, powerful, strategic, and skillful, which was the very reason that he had managed to build his business empire from scratch and develop the Coles to what they were today.

Moreover, although Alexis was young, she was quirky, smart, and valiant, very much like Edmund.

Yet why was Alexis's father, Edmund's son, so incompetent?

"What about Alexis's mother?" Lucas asked.

Connor said, "I heard that Alexis's mother, Jennifer Lane, is a very capable person born to a notable family in DC. She's disciplined and proper. Now, she holds quite a significant amount of power in the Cole family, at least much greater than her husband.

"I've also heard that if it wasn't for her helping Clement with his affairs, Mr. Cole would have handed his position straight to Alexis."

This time, Lucas was really a little surprised.

He again looked at Jennifer, who was standing on the staircase steps on the second floor with a warm and amicable smile. "Is this woman that capable?"

Lena chimed in, "Aunt Jennifer is indeed very competent. She may seem gentle and nice, just like other wives of wealthy men, but she's not any less skillful than men. If not for her help, I'm afraid the whole world would have heard about how incompetent Clement Cole is by now."

“Yes, my grandfather often says the same. He said that if Clement Cole was as competent as his wife, the Coles might have become the largest hegemon in San Francisco, and the trinity of forces would no longer exist,” Kenneth added.

Hearing the comments made by Connor, Kenneth, and Lena, Lucas understood that Clement was probably an extremely incompetent person who only looked good on the surface.

All of a sudden, Lucas felt sorry for Edmund.

He hadn't had much contact with Edmund. But when they drank and chatted together in the Lion Restaurant, Lucas had already learned some of Edmund's past, including the fact that he had once fought in Calico during his younger days.

As far as Lucas knew about Edmund, he felt that Edmund wasn't a power-hungry person. So logically speaking, he could have handed over his position as family head to his descendants long ago and stayed at home to enjoy his retirement.

But Edmund was now in his seventies and suffered from serious heart disease. Yet he still hadn't passed on the position of family head to his only son. Instead, he was still running the family despite being old and sick.

Since his only son, Clement, was weak and incompetent, and Alexis was only 20 years old, which was way too young to take over for him, who could he hand his position to?

It wasn't that Edmund didn't want to pass the power to someone else. But rather, his son simply couldn't gain his trust!

At this moment, another commotion started in the hall. Lucas looked up to see a servant pushing an enormous and tall cake over.

It was time to deliver birthday wishes and to blow out the candles.

Chapter 650: Public Confession

The lights in the banquet hall dimmed, and amid the uniform and loud singing of the birthday song, Alexis put her hands together, made a wish, and then blew out the twenty birthday candles on the cake in one breath.

As the candles were blown out, the atmosphere in the entire birthday party instantly reached its climax. The sounds of joyful cheers and firecrackers filled the air, turning the hall into a sea of fun and bliss along with falling confetti.

Next, Alexis made the first cut on the tall birthday cake, after which someone took the knife from her and cut the cake into smaller slices. Each slice of cake was placed on an exquisite plate before being served to the guests.

Now, the highlight and main segment of the party was over. Next, it was time for Alexis's friends and relatives to present her with the gifts they brought.

Logically speaking, Alexis's elders and relatives should be the first to give their well wishes and gifts, followed by her friends and other guests.

But at this moment, Nate stepped forward in front of everyone and stood in front of Alexis. He suddenly got down on one knee and held up a small red velvet box in his hand.

The lid of the velvet box opened, revealing the dazzling diamond ring inside.

“Alexis, it's your birthday today, and I'd like to give you this diamond ring. It symbolizes my love and admiration for you, which is stronger than steel! I hope you will accept it!” Nate said with great devotion and affection.

The significance of a man giving a woman a diamond ring on one knee during such an occasion was self-explanatory.

Everyone was stunned for a moment, but they soon started cheering and applauding joyfully.

By doing this, Nate was obviously confessing his love to Alexis or even proposing to her!

No one expected that the scion of the Walkers would pull such a move and propose to the little princess of the Coles out of the blue!

“Oh my! Nate Walker actually suddenly proposed to Alexis Cole!”

“Are the Walkers and the Coles planning to become in-laws? Why haven’t I heard about this previously? Besides, isn’t there a conflict between them?”

“The past is the past. The situation has now changed, and the two families have decided to let their descendants marry each other. There’s nothing wrong with that! Besides, the Coles and the Walkers are among the three top families in San Francisco, so they’re definitely compatible. Furthermore, Nate is really handsome while Alexis is gorgeous. They’re practically a match made in heaven!”

“Ahhh, I’m so jealous! I’m feeling really sour! This is so romantic! If I were Alexis, I’d definitely take that ring and say yes to him immediately!”

“Tsk, Alexis is such a beautiful little princess, and Mr. Walker is going to marry her. Unfortunately, my status isn’t comparable to the Walkers’. Otherwise, I would have also proposed. Ugh!”

...

All of a sudden, the hall became incredibly lively. Some people were seriously considering the possible effects of the marriage between Alexis and Nate, while many were staring at them, green with envy.

But the cheering, whistling, and miscellaneous noise didn't last for long as the crowd gradually quieted down.

Reason being, anyone could see clearly that Alexis, who was just confessed to, didn't show the slightest trace of joy or shyness. Instead, she was extremely indifferent and in fact slightly piqued.

“Nate Walker, you and I aren't even friends. Aren't you being too presumptuous by suddenly giving me this gift?” Alexis said hostilely.

As soon as she finished speaking, the atmosphere in the room stagnated, and Nate's gentle and affectionate face also stiffened instantly.

He initially thought that by confessing to Alexis in front of everyone at her birthday party, she would definitely be touched and say yes to him immediately. He had assumed that she was a hopeless romantic, like the majority of young girls her age.

He thought that even if she didn't agree on the spot, she would at least give him some response. He would then find some people to convince her, and they could finally establish their relationship.

But Alexis actually didn't save him from any embarrassment even though they were in front of so many people.

Most of the people in the banquet hall were children from various wealthy families in California. Now that Alexis had blatantly rejected him in front of everyone, he felt that he would be too embarrassed to speak to them in the future.

But Alexis hadn't finished saying her piece. "Also, Nate, I seem to remember telling you before that I never want to see you again. I don't remember inviting you to my birthday party either. Why are you here? You owe me an explanation!"

Feeling even more ashamed and embarrassed, Nate hurriedly said, "Alexis, everything that happened previously was all just a misunderstanding! I really love you very much. Aren't you even willing to give me a chance?"

Alexis sneered and looked at Nate with disgust. "After something like that happened, how dare you call it a misunderstanding? Hah, you're really thick-skinned! Not everyone is fit to call my name. Stop disgusting me by calling my name!"

"Moreover, I've told you long ago that I don't want to see you again. Please get out of my sight now! Scram!"

Alexis's words were extremely stern and serious.

Everyone could tell that Alexis was not only hostile toward Nate, but she even seemed to hate him deeply. She didn't bother to save him from any embarrassment and instead told him to get out.

Nate's face became extremely sullen while the crowd around him stayed silent.

Alexis's father, Clement, standing at the side, frowned slightly while looking at the scene before him. He opened his mouth and seemed to want to say something, but Jennifer tugged his arm, so he tactfully kept quiet.

Nate said unwillingly, "Alexis, you have a huge misunderstanding about me. I really hope that you will stop being hostile to me. Can we have a good talk?"

He looked extremely sincere, like a misunderstood devoted lover.

But in Alexis's opinion, his expression was extremely repulsive and hypocritical.

Lucas raised his eyebrows and guessed that there must have been a severe conflict between them in the past, given Alexis's hostility toward Nate.

At this moment, Connor came close to Lucas and said softly, "As far as I know, Nate used to openly woo Alexis shortly after she turned eighteen. But something happened later, and she became very repulsed by him. She even said that she never wanted to see him again.

"Moreover, the Coles and the Walkers were at odds during that time, and they almost became irreconcilable enemies.

"Later, I heard that Nate's status in the Walker family declined greatly. Although he's a direct descendant of the Walkers, he isn't valued anymore. Many companies under his management were taken away from him and handed to other people. Nate was gradually marginalized, but since then, the Coles and the Walkers started communicating again."

After hearing the gossip and secrets from Connor, Lucas's mouth twitched involuntarily. "I couldn't tell that you were actually so well-informed about these matters."