

## Chapter 691: Meeting Again

After leaving the Heavenly Pavilion, Charlotte still felt amused by the scene just now. “Lucas, did you see it? Vanessa’s face was so ugly. I’ve never seen her so upset in the years we were best friends. It’s incredible!”

“Uh... You don’t feel bad that your former best friend ended up in such a plight, do you?” Lucas asked hesitantly.

Charlotte gave it some serious thought before saying casually, “At the beginning, I did feel a little sad. But after everything that’s happened today, I’ve completely seen Vanessa’s true colors. Now that I think about the things that happened in high school, I realize she probably never genuinely treated me as her friend!

“So, she’s merely shown her true colors now. I was never really her best friend before, and now, we have nothing to do with each other. I didn’t really lose anything. After thinking about it like this, I feel more relaxed!”

Charlotte waved her hand, seemingly throwing away the unpleasant memories of the past, and then suddenly laughed. “But speaking of which, she has a terrible character, and she’ll probably be very miserable in the future! She was the one who broke the vase, but Brian’s uncle paid for it. I reckon she’ll have to slog her guts out to pay it back!

“I hope she’ll learn her lesson and not revolve her life around finding a rich man to marry!

“Okay, let’s not talk about her anymore! Lucas, I’m a little hungry now. Let’s go eat something!” Charlotte said gleefully. She was indeed in a pleasant mood.

Lucas naturally agreed.

In the next half a day or so, the two of them had lunch, then proceeded to a few other popular attractions in San Francisco and bought some souvenirs along the way.

Before they knew it, it was already 4 p.m.

Lucas sent Charlotte to the entrance of the stadium, where they met in the morning.

The ordinary business exchange that Charlotte was attending would soon begin in about an hour.

“Your exchange starts and ends earlier than mine, so you can just head home after it ends. You don’t have to wait for me. Be careful,” Lucas said to Charlotte.

The Elite Business Exchange would begin at 8:30 p.m., and there was bound to be something big happening at this exchange, which was definitely targeting Lucas. Who knew when it would finish. So he could only get Charlotte to return to Orange County first.

“I see... Okay then!” Charlotte said with a bit of disappointment.

She had enjoyed herself strolling around with Lucas this afternoon. She had behaved like a little girl again, and she felt that the time she spent with Lucas was really pleasant.

Seeing Charlotte pulling a long face, Lucas found it hard to part ways with her. “Okay. We have time in the future. I’ll accompany you out again!”

“Really? Lucas, I’ll hold you to your word! When I look for you again during a day off, you can’t make excuses or go back on your word!” Charlotte immediately beamed with joy.

Then she waved her hand and ran off into the stadium.

She really still acts like a child! Lucas shook his head helplessly and turned around to walk toward the Walton Hotel across the street.

Although there were still nearly four hours before the Elite Business Exchange began, Lucas had to make some preparations since he knew that some people had ill intentions and were plotting against him at the exchange.

There were also a few people he had to meet in advance.

As soon as Lucas walked to the entrance of the Walton Hotel, two security guards walked over and stopped him politely. “Excuse me, Sir. Please show your invitation!”

Since the people coming to the Elite Business Exchange today were all distinguished guests with high statuses, the security check at the entrance was extremely strict.

Lucas casually took out his invitation card and handed it over.

After carefully checking and verifying the invitation card, the two security officers respectfully handed it back to Lucas with both hands. “Thank you for your cooperation, Mr. Gray. Please enter!”

Lucas nodded. As soon as he took a few steps into the Walton Hotel, a cold and solemn voice full of hostility came from the side. “Are you Lucas Gray?”

Lucas turned his head and saw a middle-aged man in his fifties with a squarish face staring at him interrogatively.

Standing beside him was a woman in her forties. Despite her age, she was quite attractive, and it was possible to tell that she must have been a great beauty during her younger days.

Lucas didn’t know either of them.

But there was someone that Lucas knew standing behind the two of them. It was Lance, the helmsman of the Kingstons.

The moment he saw Lance, he instantly guessed the identities of the middle-aged man and woman.

The middle-aged man with a squarish face should be one of the Smiths’ heirs and Roy’s father, Vince.

The middle-aged woman should be Marc’s biological mother, Wendy Smith.

Lucas had expected them to show up here.

There wasn't a single trace of surprise on his face, nor did he have any intention of exchanging pleasantries with them. He merely said indifferently, "Is there something wrong?"

Lucas's composure immediately made Vince frown slightly. An overwhelming aura emerged from his body, and his eyes had a terrifying murderous intent. "You killed my son, Roy. Why do you think I'm looking for you?"

Vince was indeed worthy of being a man who had been in a superior position in the Smith family for a long time. His aura was indeed terrifying.

If ordinary people were facing Vince, they would probably be too frightened to speak.

But the expression on Lucas's face remained unchanged, seemingly not sensing his aura at all. Vince narrowed his eyes and took this young man in front of him even more seriously.

Behind Vince was a martial arts expert with slightly bulging temples, exuding a domineering aura unique to martial art experts.

Lucas took a quick glance at him before looking away. A rare expert, indeed.

Lucas looked at Vince and said calmly, "I heard that you are the Smiths' most promising successor-to-be, so you shouldn't be a fool. You should be able to find out who killed your son.

“I don’t know who told you that your son died at my hands, but that person must have ulterior motives. As for whether you’re really foolish enough to have been deceived or if it’s because of some other reason, that’s all your own business. I don’t want to entertain you.”

Lucas glanced at Wendy with an ambiguous gaze and laughed with contempt before turning around to leave.

“Hold it!” Wendy shouted angrily.. The way Lucas looked at her as if he knew everything sent a chill down her spine.

## **Chapter 692: Exposing The Truth**

Roy had actually been killed by his biological aunt Wendy. So after she heard Lucas's ambiguous words, her expression changed in astonishment.

In particular, Lucas's suggestive gaze made her feel diffident because she had done something terrible that left her with a guilty conscience. Afraid of Vince suspecting her of being the culprit, Wendy had to call out to Lucas immediately.

If she remained silent and let Lucas leave, Vince would definitely suspect her!

Lucas stopped and said teasingly, "Mrs. Smith, why did you ask me to stop? Do you want to hear the details of the information I have? I thought you weren't willing to let others know what you've done, especially this person next to you!"

The moment Wendy heard this, her fingers immediately tightened, and her face was full of shock.

Vince frowned and glanced at Wendy.

He wasn't a fool, and he understood what Lucas meant. He knew Lucas was hinting to him that Roy's death had nothing to do with him but with his cousin Wendy.

What else is Wendy hiding from me?

Wendy's scalp tingled, and she immediately rebuked in anger, "Lucas Gray, what nonsense are you spouting? You're clearly the one who killed my nephew Roy. Are you still trying to deny it now? How ridiculous of you to blame it on someone else! If you know my identity, then you should know that I'm Roy's aunt!

Seeing Wendy refusing to admit it and still trying to accuse him of being the murderer, Lucas sneered and revealed the things Wendy was hiding. "Heh, so what if you're his aunt? Is he more important to you than your biological son and ex-husband?"

"You... you..." Wendy was so furious that she was at a loss for words.

At this moment, she really couldn't describe the shock within her.

Only a few people were aware of her relationship with Moses and the fact that Marc was their son. Even the Smiths and her husband's family had no idea. She was puzzled as to how Lucas managed to get this information.

She still didn't know that her uncontrolled expression of extreme shock caused a trace of gloominess to appear in Vince's eyes as he looked at her.

Lucas smiled faintly, "I'm sure you must be wondering how I know your secrets. After all, you must want to hide such a scandal from the Smiths, and not many people in this world should know it.

"Actually, it's very simple. You should still remember Eli, the expert you sent to assassinate me in order to avenge your son and ex-husband, right?



“At the time, Eli thought I would definitely die, so he told me everything so that I could die knowing the reason for my death!

“Although I let Eli off, you’re actually accusing me of killing Roy Smith. In that case, you must have gotten rid of Eli too, huh?”

Lucas’s words were like sharp daggers piercing directly into Wendy’s heart, ripping open the facade she was trying so hard to maintain.

Wendy suddenly panicked and broke out into cold sweat, feeling as if she had plunged into an ice cellar.

Vince’s face became extremely gloomy.

He had no idea that his cousin Wendy had had an affair with another man and even given birth to a child decades ago.

But what Lucas said was reasonable, and he knew Eli, so he reckoned that Lucas wasn’t making things up.

Could it be that Wendy killed Roy and put the blame on Lucas Gray to get me to take revenge, thereby allowing her to avenge her ex-husband and son?

As soon as he thought of this possibility, his eyes were full of fury.

Seeing that things were going awry, Wendy hurriedly yelled menacingly, “What nonsense are you saying? Do you think you can sow discord between me and Vince just by making up some stories?”

“Heh, you should know best whether I’m talking nonsense or not!” Lucas said coldly. Then he stopped looking at them and turned around to leave.

“Hold it!” A burly figure suddenly blocked Lucas’s path. It was an elite bodyguard following Vince.

Lucas frowned and shouted angrily, “Get lost!”

An invisible aura immediately emanated from Lucas!

The bodyguard’s face stiffened, and he took a step back as if he was facing a great enemy. Then he gritted his teeth to hold on and rebuked, “Punk, Mr. Vince hasn’t given you permission to leave. How dare you go?”

Lucas sneered and kicked the bodyguard in the chest without saying anything.

Bang!

Lucas’s kick sent the bodyguard, who weighed nearly a hundred kilograms and was extremely muscular, flying far away. After landing on the floor of the hotel lobby a dozen meters away, he opened his mouth and spat out a mouthful of blood.

“Mr. Smith, I’ve helped you teach your dog a lesson. You don’t mind, right?” Lucas smiled.

Vince’s face darkened.

The bodyguard had gone to stop Lucas and provoke him under his instructions. He wanted to test Lucas's skills and find out if he was really as powerful as Wendy had said.

But Lucas's kick immediately sent his bodyguard flying and crippled him.

Apart from the fact that Lucas was indeed rather powerful and good at fighting, there was no other information about his combat skills.

The middle-aged expert standing behind Vince whispered. "Mr. Smith, this punk isn't simple! I'm not fully confident I can subdue him!"

Vince's face became even gloomier.

Lucas smiled and turned around to walk away.

This time, no one dared to stop him.

As Vince watched Lucas's back disappear around the corner of the hotel, the anger in his eyes grew stronger and stronger. But he tried his best to restrain it.

This was what his character was like. He had to be fully prepared before killing his enemy in one shot!

Until then, he would endure it for a while. He could still tolerate it!

Besides, aside from avenging his son, he had a more important purpose for coming to San Francisco this time. His goal was to dominate the entire California market and get the Smiths to become the true ruler of the state of California!

However...

Vince suddenly looked at Wendy next to him and said coldly, “Wendy, you’d better tell me the truth honestly.”

## **Chapter 693: Pre-Exchange Interactions**

Wendy immediately tensed up in fear and hurriedly explained, “Vince, trust me. I really didn’t do it. That punk is just making things up to sow discord between us! Don’t fall for his trick!”

Vince looked at her for several seconds before slowly saying, “This had better be the case. If I find out you lied to me, you should know what will happen to you! Regardless of who killed my son, I will definitely make them pay the price in blood!”

A menacing and murderous aura erupted from him.

He was a strong contender for the next head of the Smith family, and he wouldn’t show any mercy to Wendy even though she was his cousin and the daughter of the current helmsman!

Vince snorted coldly and strode into the Walton Hotel. The expert behind him naturally followed closely behind.

Wendy and Lance were the only ones remaining at the hotel entrance.

Lance was almost scared to death when Lucas mentioned Wendy's ex-husband and son just now. If Vince found out that Wendy had had an affair with Moses and that Lance had also participated in killing Roy, the Kingstons would definitely be dead meat.

Wendy took a deep breath and warned Lance, "Mr. Kingston, I don't need to say much. You should know the consequences once this matter is exposed."

Lance shuddered and hurriedly said, "Yes! I know, Mrs. Smith. Please rest assured. My lips are sealed!"

This was not only about Wendy's life and death but also the Kingstons'. Now, the Kingstons and Wendy were on the same boat, and they could only insist on denying it.

The Walton Hotel was indeed worthy of being a fixed venue for holding the Elite Business Exchange. Everything was arranged well for the exchange.

Before the exchange officially started, there was a special reception room for the attendees of each of the major cities in California. Those from the same city would share a room.

After taking a quick glance, Lucas walked toward a reception room with the sign 'Orange County' on it.

"Lucas! You're finally here!"

Just as Lucas walked in, a voice of surprise came. Lena quickly walked over to him.

But perhaps because she recalled the embarrassing incident this morning, she had a dismayed expression, afraid that Lucas would dislike her.

Lucas said, “Regarding the matter this morning, I’ve already explained it to Charlotte. It’s just a misunderstanding, so you don’t need to be bothered by it anymore.”

Hearing the words ‘just a misunderstanding’, Lena felt as if she had been stabbed in the heart, but she couldn’t express it at all. She could only force an awkward smile on her face.

Lucas was puzzled. At this moment, a few more people walked over to greet Lucas.

“Lucas, you’re here!”

“Mr. Gray.”

“Mr. Gray, you’re here.”

These people were none other than Bruce and Ethan, as well as Connor and Lena’s sister, Yvette, behind them.

In the spacious reception room, there were the Sawyers and the Hales, whom Lucas was familiar with, as well as Frederick Taylor, the head of the Taylor family, and Darren Wallace, the young helmsman who had recently succeeded his position.

Behind them were the juniors of the Taylors and the Wallaces, but Lucas had no friendship with them.

In the reception room for the Orange County attendees, except for Lucas, everyone else was from the four top families of Orange County. After all, the invitations to the Elite Business Exchange were strictly for only top-tier families and forces.

After the Hales and the Sawyers greeted Lucas, he picked a random seat and sat down.

As soon as Lucas sat down, Frederick suddenly asked, “Mr. Gray, I wonder what your thoughts are about today’s Elite Business Exchange.”

Lucas smiled faintly. “Mr. Taylor, you must be joking. It’s my first time attending this exchange, so I’m just here to gain some knowledge and experience. Mr. Taylor, you should know more than me, right?”

Frederick narrowed his eyes. “Mr. Gray, let’s be frank with each other. I’ll get straight to the point! The Elite Business Exchange this time is extremely unusual! There’s definitely going to be a great difference between this exchange and the usual ones. I’m afraid it’s no longer going to be a peaceful exchange but a meeting to divide the pie and determine a new order!

“The pie that’s going to be divided belongs to the three top families of San Francisco, the Kingstons, the Coles, and the Walkers. The ones getting a share are the forces here in California!

“So, I think that if the major families of Orange County can’t stand together and unite against a common enemy, we will be powerful only in name!”

As soon as Frederick said this, everyone present was shocked.



After all, these words were too bold and unbelievable.

The Hales and Sawyers were fine. Apart from feeling surprised by Frederick's straightforward actions, they weren't too shocked about what he said. After all, they had already received a lot of useful information from Lucas, and they had long known that the Kingstons and the Smiths would be doing something during the Elite Business Exchange today.

Since the Taylors were backed by the powerful Peerless Martial Association, getting some insider information was definitely easy.

In comparison, Darren, the helmsman of the Wallaces, was completely uninvolved and the one most surprised.

"Mr. Taylor, what you said just now is too fearmongering," Darren said with disapproval.

"The top three families of San Francisco have been in power for a long time, but they've never shown such ambition in the past. It's not that they don't want to but that they're not capable enough!

"Even if these three top families are the strongest in California, the other powerful families are not pushovers either. Take LA for example. The Parkers are about to catch up to the top three families.

"The Coles, Kingstons, and Wallaces are probably not strong enough to take the entire pie for themselves!"

Actually, Darren made sense. But the problem was that with the interference of the Smiths from DC, other considerations had to be taken into account.

Frederick ignored Darren, who had insufficient information, and instead stared closely at Lucas, paying attention to his opinion.

Based on his previous dealings with Lucas, Frederick had long known that he wasn't an ordinary person.

The fact that the heads of the Hales and the Sawyers had personally stood up to greet Lucas respectfully as soon as he entered was enough to show that he must have a high status in their eyes.

Thus, he just needed to find out Lucas's attitude in order to find out the general attitudes of the Hales and the Sawyers.

As for the remaining Wallace family, they wouldn't matter.

Frederick looked at Lucas and asked cautiously, "Mr. Gray, what is your opinion?"

## **Chapter 694: Joining Forces**

Ethan pondered for a while before saying cautiously, “I think Mr. Taylor is right. We should really consider it thoroughly!

“The Watsons from San Jose should have hosted the Elite Business Exchange this time a month later, but they suddenly handed over the hosting right to the Kingstons without any official explanation. Something we’re unaware of must have happened.”

Frederick nodded. “That’s right. It’s precisely because I find it bizarre that I have a hunch that something will definitely happen at this Elite Business Exchange. That’s why I suggest that we, the forces of Orange County, unite together in order to prevent the worst-case scenarios from happening. Only then can we tide through any unexpected ordeals.”

Bruce didn’t say anything and just turned to look at Lucas.

His meaning was obvious. He would go along with Lucas’s opinion.

Thus, Frederick and a few others looked at Lucas and waited for his opinion.

Lucas fiddled with the teacup in his hand for a while and suddenly smiled indifferently. "Let's go with Mr. Taylor's idea then. Let us, the forces of Orange County, join forces to deal with all the unexpected situations."

In fact, even if Frederick didn't make this suggestion, the Hales and the Sawyers would all still stand on Lucas's side. Coupled with the Parkers from LA and the Coles from San Francisco, the power Lucas could gather was already large enough.

But since Frederick had a clear idea of the current situation and wanted to unite, Lucas would give him the chance to do so.

"Great. In that case, Mr. Gray and Mr. Taylor both agree with my idea. What about you, Mr. Hale?" Frederick asked with joy written all over his face.

Bruce nodded. "The Hales will follow Mr. Gray's lead. We agree."

The Wallaces were now the only ones who had yet to take a stand, but their opinion no longer mattered much now.

Seeing this, Darren hurriedly said, "The Wallaces naturally agree as well!"

What a joke. There were only four families from Orange County here. And since the other three families and Lucas had all reached a consensus, the Wallaces obviously wouldn't be able to gain a foothold in Orange County in the future if they took an opposing stand.

"Alright, since we've all reached an agreement, this matter is settled! We will stand together and cooperate to safeguard the interests of our families! If someone betrays us, he will be the common enemy of the other forces!" Frederick said with a cold and stern expression while taking a few more glances at Darren.

Darren immediately felt an urge to curse at Frederick. Is Frederick Taylor deliberately targeting me and giving me a warning?

But in terms of strength, the Wallaces were indeed no match for the three other major families. In particular, since he hadn't been the helmsman for long, there was a group of people among the Wallaces led by his brother, Bryant, who were against him. Thus, Darren really didn't have the courage to stand against Frederick.

“Hahahaha! I didn't expect that you people from Orange County would reach a consensus here. Do you really think that with just your four families, you'll be able to cope with everything that will happen at the Elite Business Exchange today?

“You are really too naive!”

At this moment, the door of the reception room meant for the forces of Orange County was suddenly pushed open from the outside, and two people entered with a look of disapproval on their faces.

The faces of the four helmsmen instantly became displeased.

No one wanted others to overhear their conversation while they were discussing an important matter, especially when the two people who entered seemed to be their enemies with conflicting interests.

One of the two people who entered was a middle-aged man. He was Reynold Watson, the head of the Watson family.

The other middle-aged man standing beside him was Phil Harold, the helmsman of another top-tier family in San Jose.

The person who just spoke in disapproval was Reynold.

“What do you mean, Mr. Watson? Eavesdropping on other people’s conversations isn’t something a gentleman should do!” Frederick said coldly with a sullen expression.

Reynold smiled. “Everyone, I don’t have any malicious intent. I just want to say that with merely the few of your Orange County families alone, it’s basically impossible for you to win. But if the Watsons and Harolds from San Jose join you, there might be a chance of winning.”

His words immediately surprised all the people from Orange County present.

The Watsons didn’t come to go against them but instead offered to join forces with them?

It was really bizarre!

Frederick narrowed his eyes. “Mr. Watson, please don’t say those words casually. If I remember correctly, the Elite Business Exchange was supposed to be hosted by the Watsons, but you suddenly transferred the hosting rights to the Kingstons.

“I’m sure you’ve already reached some agreement with the Kingstons or had an exchange of interests. Yet you’re now saying that you want to join forces with us to go against the Kingstons. Don’t you think you are contradicting yourself?”

Reynold smiled, but a trace of gloominess appeared on his face as he said indignantly, “The Elite Business Exchange is held only once every three years, and each time the organizers gain great benefits. Do you think that the Watsons would

give up such a great opportunity for nothing? Who would do such a foolish thing if they had a choice?”

The people of Orange County were all surprised to hear this.

Did the Watsons hand over the hosting rights to the Elite Business Exchange unwillingly?

Reynold gritted his teeth. “That’s right. The Kingstons threatened us and demanded that we hand over the hosting right of this Elite Business Exchange to them! Otherwise, they’d make our family decline and be removed from the list of top-tier families! If not for this, how could I have given up the hosting rights to the Kingstons?”

Phil chimed in from the side, “I can vouch for Mr. Watson. The day the Kingstons sent people to the Watson residence to demand the hosting right, I also happened to be present and witnessed this matter with my own eyes!”

With Phil’s testimony, the credibility of this matter indeed increased.

But all the helmsmen here were not greenhorns who had little life experience, and they wouldn’t believe Reynold’s sincerity and accept his and Phil’s offer to join forces based on his statement.

If they joined forces but got betrayed by the Watsons and Harolds, no one would be able to afford the consequences.

Reynold must have understood this because he took the initiative to offer some information. “I can give you an accurate piece of information.. When the Kingstons sent people to contact me, they mentioned one thing—the Smiths, one of

the eight great giants in DC, also sent someone to San Francisco. They intend to support the Kingstons at this Elite Business Exchange and make the Kingstons the overlord of California!”



## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 695 – Representing Orange County

### **Chapter 695: Representing Orange County**

As soon as the news came out, everyone except for Lucas, Bruce, and Frederick, who already knew about it, was astonished.

The eight great giants of DC were unchallengeable behemoths in the hearts of many people!

If the Smiths really decided to get involved with the situation in California, they would definitely be extremely tyrannical!

Ethan and Darren looked glum and somber.

Frederick narrowed his eyes. “Mr. Watson, since the Kingstons have even told you such a thing, then they must have promised you a lot of benefits in order to win you over, right?”

He was implying that since the Watsons had gotten a promise from the Kingstons, there was no need for them to form an alliance with them and go against the Kingstons.

It didn't make sense.

Reynold nodded and said without hiding anything, “Indeed, the Kingstons promised to support my family fully and help us become the second strongest family as long as we keep supporting the Kingstons when they become the true overlords of California!”

“In that case, why are you...” Darren looked confused.

As soon as he said a few words, Reynold interrupted him, “However, I just learned that we’re not the only ones the Kingstons gave that promise to. They also gave it to many other families! So this verbal promise of the Kingstons means nothing at all. How can I believe them?”

Reynold cursed and sneered.

Hearing this, everyone in the reception room was shocked.

The Kingstons’ action was clearly giving false hope and using it to draw in other top-tier families in California so that they would all side with the Kingstons.

They initially thought that this Elite Business Exchange was for the three giants of San Francisco to unite and divide the power of the other forces in California.

But it now seemed that the Kingstons had long colluded with the Smiths and secretly bribed many families in order to dominate all of California and become the Smiths’ official agent here.

In that case, wouldn’t the other families have to submit to the Kingstons and follow the orders of the Kingstons and the Smiths?

Reynold looked at everyone's expression and slowly said, "I, Reynold Watson, am not willing to watch my family, which I've singlehandedly developed, be reduced to a subordinate taking orders from others. I don't want to see the Kingstons becoming the overlord. I think all of you should think similarly to me, right?"

"We are all local families of California. If we join forces, the Kingstons might not be able to succeed just with the support of the Smiths! There's a saying about how you can't beat the local tyrant on his turf no matter how strong you are!"

"Now, what do you plan to do?"

After Reynold finished speaking, the entire reception room immediately fell silent.

Everyone looked at each other for a few moments before turning to look at Lucas.

Tap-tap. Lucas tapped his finger on the table before saying, "In that case, let's join hands."

His sudden words instantly attracted everyone's attention.

Reynold looked at Lucas but suddenly frowned and rebuked, "Who are you? We helmsmen are discussing something important. What right does a junior like you have to speak?"

He hadn't met Lucas before. Seeing how young he was, he thought he was an ill-mannered junior from one of the four major families of Orange County.

Lucas sat still without saying a word and merely looked at Reynold with a mirthless smile.

Bruce immediately stood up and chided with a stern look on his face, “Reynold, don’t be rude to Mr. Gray! He isn’t a junior of one of our families, but an honored guest officially invited to the Elite Business Exchange. Moreover, Mr. Gray can make decisions on behalf of the Hales!”

Reynold was surprised. He was from San Jose, so he only knew that Orange County was dominated by the four major families for a long time. He didn’t know when there had ever been a powerful Mr. Gray.

What Bruce said almost made Reynold laugh.

“How can the Hales follow the orders of a young man who’s an outsider? Mr. Hale, you’re not really muddled, are you?” Reynold said with contempt.

Ethan suddenly stood up and said austere, “Mr. Gray can also make decisions on behalf of the Sawyers! Mr. Watson, are you trying to say that I’m old and muddled too?”

Previously, when Lucas went to the Kingston residence to get Karen back and confronted them, Ethan had chosen to stand by and give up the opportunity to follow Lucas because he was afraid of the pressure from the Kingstons and the Huttons.

When he later learned that the Hales, the Parkers, and even Joe from Little Atlantis City had followed Lucas to San Francisco to stand on the side of Lucas, who gained the upper hand in the conflict, Ethan was full of regret.

At the same time, Ethan also felt some fear and nervousness.

He was the first person to offer an olive branch to Lucas. But because of this incident, Lucas probably already disapproved of him. He reckoned that the status of the Hales and Parkers had surpassed the Sawyers’ in Lucas’s heart.

So this time, he wouldn't miss the opportunity again, and he had to stand on Lucas's side firmly. Otherwise, he would never have the opportunity to approach Lucas again!

"Mr. Sawyer, what are you saying?"

Even Ethan had made his position clear and also openly said that Lucas could make decisions for the Sawyers too, shocking Reynold even more.

Frederick also slowly said, "That's right. Mr. Gray has a special status. He can make decisions on behalf of the forces of Orange County."

Both the Hales and the Sawyers would obey Lucas's instructions, and Lucas's own strength was not to be underestimated. So if he wanted to unite the forces of Orange County, Lucas was undoubtedly the most important person with the most decision-making power.

Darren hesitated for a moment before saying wisely, "Me too."

Although his words were somewhat ambiguous, at least they proved that he and the other major families of Orange County were indeed on the same side.

Seeing that the helmsmen of the four great families of Orange County all valued and respected a young man so greatly and even said that he could make decisions on behalf of all of Orange County, Reynold was shocked beyond belief. He even began to wonder what was wrong with the world.

"You... Isn't this too absurd? I'm afraid this young man isn't even thirty. Do you expect a greenhorn like him to represent all of Orange County? Hah, I have to say that you people from Orange County have lost the last of your backbones!"

Reynold felt that this matter was too ridiculous, and he didn't take Lucas seriously, so he sneered and mocked them.

“Reynold Watson, I've already warned you not to insult Mr. Gray again!” Bruce yelled furiously while glowering at Reynold.

Ethan stood up and said coldly, “Reynold Watson, if this is the attitude you have, you're not only insulting Mr. Gray but all of us from Orange County. There's no need for us to join forces with you. Hurry up and get lost!”

“You!” Reynold was enraged, and tension immediately arose in the room.

## **Chapter 696: Exchange Venus**

“Alright, stop arguing.” Frederick stood up to smooth things over.

“Mr. Watson, Mr. Gray is indeed part of our Orange County alliance. Please show him due respect as well. If you have really decided to work together with us, let’s officially settle on it and unite together at tonight’s exchange. Anyone who dares to betray the agreement or an ally will be our enemy!”

Reynold bit his lower lip before finally saying, “Okay, the Watsons have decided to join forces with you!”

Phil raised his eyebrows. “The Harolds as well.”

The four great families of Orange County and Lucas agreed to let the Watsons and the Harolds join the alliance.

Thus, the small alliance was officially established.

But when Reynold and Phil looked at Lucas, they had disdain in their eyes.

Because Lucas was too young and had suddenly appeared out of nowhere, they simply didn't believe that he was capable in any way.

Regarding this, Lucas naturally didn't bother to say much to them.

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At the same time, in the Kingstons' reception room...

Because the Kingstons were one of the top three wealthy families of San Francisco, they didn't have to share a reception room with other families, unlike the families of other cities. Instead, they had a spacious and luxurious reception room all to themselves.

At this moment, Vince and Wendy Smith were also in the reception room.

Vince took a sip of top-quality tea and asked slowly, "How are the preparations going?"

Lance hurriedly replied, "Mr. Smith, rest assured! I've already united most of the families in California. If anyone dares to disobey and cause trouble, my people are prepared to deal with them. There won't be any problems at the exchange tonight!"

Vince acknowledged without saying anything.

But in his heart, there was always a hidden worry that he couldn't erase.



Vince knew very well what was causing his worry.

It was the young man Lucas Gray.

For some reason, the thought of Lucas's domineering appearance at the entrance of the Walton Hotel just now made Vince extremely worried.

Lucas was a man he couldn't figure out.

But today's Elite Business Exchange was extremely important for Vince, and he couldn't afford any failure at all!

As long as he could successfully take the profitable pie that was California, he would definitely become the successor of the Smiths with this merit and no longer just a candidate!

At the same time, if he failed, he would definitely face the retaliation of many powerful families in California. At that time, he would probably also be attacked by the other members of the Smith family. He might even lose the position of helmsman from then on.

After all, because of the fierce and cruel competition going on in the Smith family, there were many eligible people for the position of family head, and they would never let go of such a good opportunity.

Moreover, he wasn't the only one who had come out. He came to California with the intention to dominate the market here, but other Smiths also went to other states to do something similar.

Once Vince failed, or succeeded later than someone else, he would be at great risk!

Thus, his plan at the Elite Business Exchange tonight had to succeed!

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Time passed quickly, and soon, it was 8 p.m.

Since the Elite Business Exchange would officially begin at 8:30 p.m., the venue, which was on the top floor of the Walton Hotel, was open for admission.

This time, a total of 69 top-tier families and forces from numerous cities in California were invited to the Elite Business Exchange. It could be said that all the top giants of California were present.

Some cities had more forces representing it, such as Orange County, which had five invitees representing it in total.

In some cities, there were very few invitees due to various reasons. For example, the Parkers were the only family from LA because the Brookes and Owens had been annihilated.

Of course, the helmsman of each family was allowed to bring a few family members and bodyguards with them. Thus, there were hundreds of people, and it was extremely lively.

Of course, the venue of the Elite Business Exchange was extremely spacious so that all the guests could enjoy the best treatment.

But even then, the venue became extraordinarily noisy and lively as people from various forces arrived one after another when the Elite Business Exchange was about to begin. It was extremely boisterous.

“Quick, look. That’s Damon Parker, the helmsman of the Parkers from LA!”

All of a sudden, a commotion sparked in the crowd. It turned out that Damon and his grandson Kenneth had arrived at the exchange venue.

Since the Parkers had taken over many of the Owens’ businesses with Lucas’s permission, they had become much stronger than before. Not only had they become the great hegemon of LA, but they had also become almost on par with the Coles, the Kingstons, and the Walkers of LA.

Thus, the Parkers’ appearance at the exchange immediately attracted the attention of countless people.

“Look over there. Edmund Cole, the helmsman of the Cole family, is here too!”

“And there, it’s Herman Walker, the helmsman of the Walkers!”

“Look! Lance Kingston, the helmsman of the Kingstons!”

When the helmsmen of the three top families of San Francisco showed up almost at the same time, the atmosphere in the venue reached its peak.

But many sharp-eyed people immediately noticed something different.

“Hey, look at the middle-aged man standing in front of the Kingstons’ helmsman! He seems to have a domineering aura, but he’s a new face. I’ve never seen him before!”

“He isn’t only standing in front of the Kingstons’ helmsman. Do you notice that Lance Kingston seems to be extremely respectful to this person, and he’s even bending over slightly!”

“Oh my god! Even Lance Kingston has to be so polite and respectful toward him. Just who is he?”

“Even Lance Kingston has to be so deferential. I’m guessing that the middle-aged man might be from one of the big families in DC!”

Suddenly, the already boisterous venue was full of countless speculative voices.

Lucas sat down on his seat and saw Vince, who was standing in front of Lance.

And at the same time, Vince seemed to sense Lucas’s gaze and turned around.

Their gazes collided in their air.

The stare-down lasted less than a second because Lucas had already turned his head away composedly, as if he had only taken a random glance at an insignificant person.

On the other hand, Vince narrowed his eyes and stared at Lucas as a murderous intent gradually appeared in his eyes.

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 697 – The Exchange Begins

### **Chapter 697: The Exchange Begins**

Vince glared at Lucas for a long time before looking away. Then he took the initiative to sit on the master seat at the front of the Elite Business Exchange venue.

Lance, the organizer of the exchange, sat at a position below Vince.

The seating order shocked many.

Apart from those families who had secretly joined the Kingstons and knew that the Smiths were attending the Elite Business Exchange, many other attendees were shocked. Not only were they guessing who this mysterious middle-aged man was, but they were also constantly speculating about his intentions.

It was almost 8:30 p.m. At this time, the bigwigs from the dozens of families in California had already taken their seats one after another.

In order to avoid confusion, the seats were arranged according to the city each family belonged to, and families from the same city generally sat together.

The people at the Orange County section were Lucas, the Sawyers, the Hales, the Taylors, and the Wallaces.

As for LA, there were even fewer representatives, with only Damon—the helmsman of the Parkers—his grandson Kenneth, and two other juniors from the Parkers.

Ding...

The moment the clock struck 8:30 p.m., the majestic sound of a bell filled the air in the venue. Everyone immediately stopped whispering and sat upright to look in front.

The Elite Business Exchange officially began!

As the organizer, Lance stood up and said loudly, “Hello, everyone. I am Lance Kingston. Thank you all for coming to this Elite Business Exchange!

“I’m sure everyone still has some doubts. After all, according to the previous process, the Exchange should be held in a month, and the organizer should have been the Watsons from San Jose. However, Mr. Watson thought that it would be better for the Kingstons to host it and thus gave me the rights to host the Elite Business Exchange.”

Lance sounded extremely domineering, and his words clarified the doubts about this Elite Business Exchange.

But only a very small number of people accepted this reason. Most people didn’t believe it.

After all, the Elite Business Exchange was held only once every three years, and the opportunity to host it was extremely rare. Moreover, the organizer would usually enjoy great glory and benefits every single time. The Watsons had gone

through great pains to finally obtain the hosting rights this time. How could they suddenly feel that the Kingstons were more suitable for hosting it and take the initiative to hand over the hosting rights?

Countless eyes shifted to Reynold, and there was a commotion in the venue.

“I didn’t expect the Watsons to take the initiative to hand over the hosting rights to the Kingstons. That’s such a shame! Since when did they have such a good relationship with the Kingstons?”

“Hah, I don’t believe the reason the Kingstons gave! Anyone in their right mind wouldn’t voluntarily give the hosting rights to someone else!”

“That’s right! From the way I see it, the Kingstons must have wanted the hosting rights. And since the Watsons couldn’t go against the Kingstons, they had no choice but to suck it up!”

“If I were Reynold Watson, I would vomit to death!”

...

Reynold, the center of discussion, was sitting quietly at the San Jose section while gritting his teeth. It was unclear what he was thinking.

Lance didn’t bother to care about what people were thinking. He just had to give an official reason.

“Next, I would like to introduce you to two distinguished guests from DC!” Lance moved his palm to Vince, who was sitting at the master seat. He respectfully introduced, “This is Mr. Vince Smith, the future heir to the Smith family, one of the eight great families of DC. His father is the brother of the current family head!”

Then he pointed to Wendy, who was sitting next to Vince. “She is also a distinguished guest from the Smiths, Mrs. Wendy Smith. Her father is now the head of the Smith family!

“Let’s welcome these two distinguished guests with the warmest applause!”

After speaking extremely enthusiastically, Lance took the lead in applauding.

The other people in the venue looked extremely shocked, but they subconsciously applauded too.

Many people had guessed that the mysterious middle-aged man had an extraordinary identity and was likely from one of the big families in DC. But they didn’t expect that he was actually a Smith!

Their identities were extremely esteemed!

The eight whales of DC were powerful figures to any wealthy family in California. Seeing a minor figure from these families was already considered a glorious matter, let alone two members from the Smiths’ direct family line.

Wendy was a woman and should have married, so even though she was the daughter of the Smiths’ family head, the shock she caused was still limited.

But Vince’s identity was even more impressive. As a promising candidate for the next family head of the Smiths, his sudden appearance at the Elite Business Exchange definitely had a greater meaning.



“Seems like the Elite Business Exchange isn’t going to be peaceful this time. I have a hunch that something big will definitely happen at today’s exchange!”

“Since the helmsman of the Kingstons and the two bigshots from the Smiths are on such good terms with each other, the trinity of the three whales of San Francisco might be completely broken after this exchange! The Walkers and the Coles are probably going to become sacrificial victims!”

“It’s hard to say. We’d better wait and observe!”

...

While the crowd was talking and speculating, many people carefully looked at the expressions of the Coles and the Walkers in hopes of finding some clues.

“However, before the exchange officially begins, I have a personal matter to handle. Please pardon me,” Lance suddenly said and then looked at someone from Orange County.

Many followed Lance’s line of sight and looked over, but they couldn’t tell who he was targetting.

“Bruce Hale, not long ago, you brought a large group of people to the Kingston residence to cause trouble. It seems that you haven’t given the Kingstons an explanation for this matter yet..” Lance narrowed his eyes and stared at Bruce Hale.

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 698 – Tyrannical Conditions

### Chapter 698: Tyrannical Conditions

Many people were shocked.

Back then, the matter ended with the Kingstons succumbing. Lance felt that it was extremely embarrassing, so he had immediately ordered everyone to keep their lips sealed about what had happened that day or face death.

Thus, apart from a very small number of local families in San Francisco, who had secretly found some clues after snooping around, the others weren't aware of this matter at all.

It was the first time that the big shots of the other cities heard about this matter.

In their opinion, the Kingstons were a top family in San Francisco, and they were definitely among the top three in California in terms of comprehensive strength. Besides, the Hales were just a top-tier family in Orange County and far inferior to the Kingstons.

Is Bruce Hale out of his mind? How dare he bring people with him to create trouble at the Kingstons'?

Despite being called out in public all of a sudden, Bruce remained sitting composedly with a straight face.

“Mr. Kingston, your words are too biased. Your family kidnapped someone from Orange County, and all I did was go to your place to ask you to hand her over. Why are you twisting facts and making it sound as if we’re the ones who started the trouble?”

“Are you trying to bully us just because you’re powerful?”

“I only have one thing to say. The Hales have never been afraid of anyone or been at the mercy of anyone!”

Bruce spoke in a righteous manner, without any fear of the powerful oppressiveness that Lance was exuding.

Lance narrowed his eyes and snorted coldly with a threatening look on his face.

“Mr. Hale, you’re really eloquent. But it’s an irrefutable fact that you brought people to my place and even injured many of my family’s bodyguards! The Hales must give the Kingstons an explanation!”

“I can give you two choices. One, immediately surrender and submit yourselves to the Kingstons. From now on, everything belonging to the Hales will belong to the Kingstons! Two, immediately break your arm and compensate my family with half of your family’s assets!”

As soon as Lance stated his conditions, it instantly sparked an uproar.

These two choices were actually both very tyrannical and unreasonable.

If he chose the first, it would be equivalent to giving the Hales’ empire away to the Kingstons. The Kingstons would be considered kind enough if they allowed the Hales to continue managing these businesses. But the Kingstons would more likely than not take away the Hales’ businesses and then make them leave with nothing, which was very toxic.

The second condition was not much different. The Hales would suffer immense damage if they gave half of their assets to the Kingstons. Not only would they lose their status as one of the four major families in Orange County, but their remaining assets might be divided up by other forces before they could even make a comeback.

The condition of asking Bruce to break his arm was just as bad. Bruce was in his seventies, and the heavy blow would leave him suffering for the rest of his life.

The Kingstons' demands were indeed rather overboard.

Many people thought so, but due to the Kingstons' power and status, no one questioned their sinister intentions.

Bruce sneered. "Hah, the Kingstons are obviously out to encroach on my family's assets. You're really shameless."

Lance was extremely adamant about it. "You should have thought about the consequences before taking people to my home, shouldn't you? I said it before. This is the price you have to pay for offending my family! Mr. Hale, have you thought about which option to choose?"

Bruce gritted his teeth and thought about it for a while before finally saying, "I choose..."

Everyone stared at Bruce with bated breath, wondering which choice he would make.

"To hell with that!" Bruce suddenly hollered. "Do you really think you're the king and you can do whatever you want? If you have what it takes, come at us. We will never give you our empire for nothing!"

Bruce seldom lost his temper easily, but he actually just cursed at the overbearing Lance, and he was even more aggressive than the Kingstons!

Since the Kingstons were coveting the Hales' assets, he might as well fall out with them!

Bruce's vigor and spirit made many of the attendees extremely surprised.

Someone even felt some admiration and respect for Bruce.

But there were even more people who felt that Bruce was shooting himself in the foot by challenging someone way above his league.

After all, the Hales' strength was worlds apart from the Kingstons'!

Lance's face turned sullen. He didn't expect Bruce to have the guts to confront him aggressively.

"Okay, since you don't know any better and have a death wish, I'll fulfill your wish!" Lance said coldly and then ordered the people behind him, "Bring Bruce Hale and his family out of here!"

With his command, around thirty tall bodyguards swarmed out from all around the venue and charged toward the Hales to surround them.

Many bursts of exclamations erupted in the venue.

No one had expected that the Kingstons would suddenly attack the Hales and send so many people to exact violence on the Hales.

Although they claimed that it was to ensure people's safety, most families could only bring a few bodyguards with them to the venue. How could they possibly defeat thirty people?

Vince and Wendy, who had been sitting in the master seat at the front, were nonchalant about it. They seemed to be leaving it entirely to the Kingstons to deal with while supporting them from behind.

Many people who felt that the Kingstons were being too arrogant and tyrannical or those who had friendly ties with the Hales suppressed their urge to stand up for the Hales and remained seated when they saw Vince and Wendy.

They would be in deep trouble if they offended the Kingstons and the Smiths.

But just as the Hales were about to be dragged away, a majestic and stern voice suddenly sounded. "Mr. Kingston, aren't you going overboard with this?"

The person who stood forth was Damon, the helmsman of the Parkers.

Lance frowned. "Damon Parker, do you plan to get involved in this mess?"

"This mess?" Damon sneered. "Since you remember that the Hales went to your place to cause a stir, I'm sure you haven't forgotten that the Parkers were present that day too, right, Mr. Kingston? I'm definitely getting involved in this mess!"

"I doubt you'd let the Parkers off after dealing with the Hales! Am I right, Mr. Kingston?"

He stared at Lance blatantly with his glistening eyes.

Tension suddenly arose in the venue!

## **Chapter 699: Killing Three Birds With One Stone**

Everyone in the venue was astonished.

Through the information Damon just revealed, everyone figured out that the Parkers and Hales had gone to confront the Kingstons together.

What was the reason then?

Bruce said it was because the Kingstons had abducted someone from Orange County, so they confronted the Kingstons to get them to hand over this person. But they had questions about who the person was and why the Parkers and the Hales had gone to the Kingstons' together.

There were too many strange points about this matter, and many people who didn't know the truth began to ask around to find out what had happened at the time.

But just as Damon said, the Kingstons would definitely not let the Parkers, who had offended them too, off the hook since they were now holding the Hales responsible for what had happened.

Unlike the Hales, the Parkers were now powerful enough to be almost on par with a top-tier family like the Kingstons. If two such powerful families went against each other, the consequences would be extremely different!

In that case, there would be a good show to watch.

Lance narrowed his eyes angrily and threatened, “Mr. Parker, I don’t seem to have said that I wanted to make things hard for your family. Are you planning to help this old fogey Bruce Hale and go against the Kingstons?”

Damon smirked indifferently. “If that’s what you think, sure. Anyway, it’s not the first time the Parkers have gone against the Kingstons, is it?”

“I’d also like to tell you something, Mr. Kingston. The Hales are friends with the Parkers, so if you want to harm the Hales, it’ll be equivalent to making an enemy of the Parkers!”

“The Parkers’ strength may indeed be slightly inferior to the Kingstons’, but we’re not afraid of you either!”

His words were tantamount to a direct war declaration.

Most of the other families in the venue looked at each other in shock and dismay. Aren’t things escalating... a little too quickly?

In merely a few sentences, things had escalated to the point where they were going toe-to-toe against each other and neither refused to give in!



Generally speaking, the more comparable the strength of the families, the more cautious they would be about being hostile to each other. Yet the Kingstons and the Parkers were almost about to get into a brawl at the slightest disagreement.

After all, they were at the Elite Business Exchange, and they couldn't issue threats and then pretend that nothing had happened, especially since there were so many wealthy families.

But once these two massively powerful families went to war, it might have a significant impact on the situation in all of California!

“Hah, this is the Elite Business Exchange held by the Kingstons. If anyone dares to create trouble here, don't blame me for being merciless!”

“Immediately kick the Hales out of the venue! If anyone resists, kill them without mercy!” Lance ordered coldly.

The bloodthirstiness in his voice made everyone else present shudder.

Kill without mercy... This means a complete fall out, right?

“Yes, Mr. Parker!” responded the tall and burly bodyguards of the Kingstons in unison. Then dozens of them immediately surrounded the Parkers.

Since the Kingstons were the host of the Elite Business Exchange today, they were responsible for all the security measures and personnel.

But the Kingstons actually wanted to kick both the Parkers and the Hales out because of a personal feud. The Kingstons definitely had an absolute advantage in numbers and were a combat force that no other family could resist.

Suddenly, many other families began to worry.

Why did this Elite Business Exchange seem like a facade for a treacherous plot?

The Kingstons had the hosting rights and a strong force of subordinates. If anyone got into a conflict of interests with them, wouldn't they be bullied and driven out without any dignity like the Hales and Parkers? Moreover, there would be nothing they could do.

“Lance Kingston, you're really getting more and more brazen! All the Kingstons are doing is helping to host the exchange this year. Do you really think you're the king and hold the power to control the life and death of others?” At this moment, another person came forward and scolded furiously with a frosty expression on his face.

“That's Edmund Cole, the head of the Coles of San Francisco! He actually stepped out too!”

“Wow! Are the Coles planning to go against the Kingstons as well?”

“Oh my god. These big shots are coming forward one after another. What kind of situation will this turn into? Three of the four most powerful families of California have already come forward, and the Parkers and Coles are standing against Lance Kingston. The Walkers are the only ones left who have yet to take a stand!”

“I said before that something major would definitely happen at today's exchange, and it really seems so! It's only been ten minutes since the exchange started, but there's already such a scene! Instead of an exchange, it's more like a battlefield!”

Edmund's appearance caused another commotion among the astounded crowd.

"Edmund Cole, this doesn't seem to be any of your business, right? Why are you standing up for them?" Lance glowered at Edmund.

But he actually felt extremely smug when he saw Edmund coming forward.

Indeed, Lance had deliberately lashed out at the Hales in order to show how arrogant and overbearing he was!

His goal was to force all the families related to Lucas to step forth and then drag Lucas out before getting rid of them in one fell swoop!

Now, with the Smiths as his backer, Lance became much more bold.

In his opinion, no matter how arrogant and good at fighting Lucas was, he was just a small fry who wouldn't survive for long in front of the formidable Vince, the future successor of the Smiths, as well as the experts around him.

Thus, Lance would not only be able to avenge his son and grandson, but he would also take revenge for Wendy and Vince and get rid of the forces against them. It was simply killing three birds with one stone!

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At the thought of the Kingstons becoming the hegemon of California, Lance stared at Lucas with a fiery gaze.

But Lucas's reaction made Lance somewhat bewildered.

Seeing that his allies, the Hales, the Parkers, and the Coles, had all come forward one after another and were facing a dangerous situation where they were almost going to war, Lucas remained calm and composed, as if what was happening in front of him had nothing to do with him at all.

Lucas was indeed a person who couldn't be seen through easily!

But it doesn't matter.. When I clip your wings and get rid of your helpers, let's see if you can still remain so calm! Lance thought with a cold and sinister look in his eyes.

## **Chapter 700: Treacherous and Unpredictable**

“Hah, Edmund Cole, do you also want to get involved? I’m now the host of this exchange, and I have the right to chase the Hales and the Parkers out for causing trouble! Do you have a problem with that?” Lance looked at Edmund with a look of arrogance.

Edmund said disdainfully, “Lance Kingston, aren’t you embarrassed to say that?! You know best just how you managed to obtain the hosting rights. Who would believe your bullshit?”

“Why did the Hales and the Parkers cause trouble at the exchange? Isn’t it because you provoked them first because of a personal feud?”

“I just can’t stand seeing such things! If you have the guts, target the Coles too and chase us out together!”

After all, Edmund had been in the army for many years. And when it came to being domineering and acting rouge, there were very few people who could match him. He angered Lance as soon as he spoke.

Lance really wanted to fall out with the Coles right now. He had long abhorred Edmund. The other day at the Kingstons’, Edmund had helped the Hales and the Parkers declare war on the Kingstons, eventually forcing him to give in. He decided that he would sooner or later get even with Edmund!

But the exchange just began, and he had yet to even declare the main purpose of the exchange today. So it was indeed not suitable to start a conflict with the Coles now.

When Lance thought of this, a smile suddenly appeared on his originally gloomy face. “Mr. Cole, you’re already so old. There isn’t a need to get so upset, is there?”

“I know you’re friends with Bruce Hale and Damon Parker, so you’d naturally want to speak up for them. But no matter what, the Kingstons are indeed hosting today’s exchange. Yet the Hales and the Parkers openly provoked the authority of the Kingstons. Why can’t I teach them a lesson and kick them out of the venue?”

“Edmund Cole, you’d better not be too nosy. If your family hosts an event in the future and my family keeps ordering you around and telling you what to do, would you be happy?” Lance said with a threatening tone of voice.

“Hah, you can try it!” Edmund didn’t take it to heart in the slightest, and he said decisively, “I just said that if anyone dares to lay a finger on the Hales and the Parkers, they’d better not blame me for being unceremonious!”

Then he took out his phone and made a call. “Split up into two groups. One group will go to the Walton Hotel, and the other will go to the Kingstons’ manor and surround it. Don’t let anyone enter or leave!”

Lance’s expression changed drastically!

In order to gain firm control of the venue, the Kingstons had already deployed most of their personnel. In addition to the fifty elite experts in the venue, there

were others spread around the vicinity of the Walton Hotel to prevent any unexpected situations.

But at the same time, the guards in the Kingstons' main residence were unprecedentedly empty because Lance simply didn't think that anyone would have the courage to attack the Kingstons' home at this juncture!

But Edmund didn't act according to Lance's expectations!

As someone who had dealt closely with Edmund for most of his life, Lance was very clear about Edmund's personality and knew that he had never been afraid to kill because of the numerous years he had spent on the battlefield a long time ago. He was definitely able to do what he said he would!

If he really wanted to do something to the rest of the Kingstons, there was no way he could stop it!

Just as Lance's expression changed drastically, another voice sounded. "You can start moving. Make sure to surround the Kingston residence within ten minutes and then act on my orders!"

This time, it was Damon who ordered the person on the other end of his phone.

He actually ordered his subordinates to surround the Kingston residence again!

Everyone was astounded!

Edmund could order his people to surround the Kingston residence because the Coles were a large family in San Francisco and could quickly gather manpower.

But Damon's family was a family from LA, yet he could also get people to surround the Kingston residence within ten minutes?

LA was quite a long drive from San Francisco.

Damon definitely couldn't have made this decision on the spur of the moment. This could only mean one thing—Damon had long anticipated that the Kingstons would deliberately target the Parkers at today's exchange. Thus, he made arrangements in advance so that all the Parkers' manpower had arrived in San Francisco and were ready to act at any time!

His ability to predict in advance left many in awe.

“Relay my orders. Everyone, get to the entrance of Walton Hotel within ten minutes and wait for my instructions!” Another domineering voice sounded.

This time, it was Bruce!

In an instant, the three big shots had issued orders one after another and openly went against Lance, thus sparking an uproar.

It was no longer a declaration of war but a preparation to start the war at any moment!

Lance's face was extremely gloomy.

He really wanted to blow things up by suppressing the Hales, the Parkers, and the rest before getting rid of them as well as Lucas.



But he had never expected that these families had already prepared and secretly arranged their people to head to San Francisco!

If the Kingston residence and the Walton Hotel were surrounded by the people of these three families, the Kingstons' previous arrangements would have no chance of winning. Besides, the Kingstons in the main residence would probably become hostages to be used against him!

For a moment, Lance felt that the current situation was beyond his control, so he had no choice but to look to Vince for help. He wanted to use the power of the Smiths to help him deal with the current situation.

But Vince remained sitting calmly in his seat, without even glancing at Lance, as if the matter had nothing to do with him.

"Mr. Smith, you..." Lance panicked and bent over to Vince's side to beg him again.

At this moment, an extremely loud and majestic voice filled the air in the venue. "Do you people not take the Walkers seriously anymore?"

Herman, the head of the Walkers, stood up with a cold and arrogant look on his face.

Everyone was shocked!