

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 961 – Threats And Promises

Chapter 961: Threats and Promises Suddenly blocked, Cheyenne stopped with a look of displeasure.

As the most beautiful girl in Orange County, she had always hated people who got in her way to flirt with her.

Before she could say anything, the slovenly young man said to Cheyenne, “Hey gorgeous, let me introduce myself. I’m Will Donaldson, the manager of Crescent Entertainment in DC. I have beside me the chairman of Crescent Entertainment, Adam Piers!

“Crescent Entertainment is one of the largest entertainment companies in America, and we have discovered and promoted many of Hollywood’s biggest stars! Miss, you’re very attractive. Are you interested in joining us to develop your career as a celebrity?

“I can guarantee that once you sign with us, we’ll definitely promote you to become an internationally-renowned star! All eyes will be on you, and you’ll gain both fame and fortune!”

Cheyenne frowned and said without any interest, “I’m sorry, but I’m not interested in the entertainment industry. I still have something to do now, so please move aside.”

Despite feeling displeased, Cheyenne remained polite and wanted to walk away from them.

“Hey, Miss, don’t go!” The sloven young man immediately stepped forward to block Cheyenne. He said enthusiastically, “Miss, I really mean it. You’re very attractive, and your looks, figure, and aura fit the criteria for the artists we scout and train perfectly!

“If you join our company, we will definitely be able to make you a popular celebrity within three months. Given our ability, we’ll definitely be able to turn you into an A-list celebrity within six months, and within a year, you will be extremely famous in the US!

“By then, you will be getting million-dollar endorsement deals and casting calls. You’ll be able to earn hundreds of millions of dollars a year. This is a fantastic deal that doesn’t come by often!”

The slovenly young man tried his best to convince Cheyenne by describing to her extremely tempting and wonderful scenarios.

Most young and beautiful women would probably have long been tempted by the offer and agreed to the young man’s invitation to join Crescent Entertainment.

Adam smirked complacently with an extremely firm look on his face.

He and his sidekick, Will, had already used the same tactic to trick countless girls with dreams of achieving stardom and getting rich overnight into joining their entertainment company. He believed that the beautiful Cheyenne wouldn’t be able to resist the temptation either.

“I’m sorry. I’m really not interested in the entertainment industry. I’m in a hurry now, so please move aside!” Cheyenne’s face immediately turned sullen.

“Gorgeous, don’t be in such a hurry to turn us down! You may not know the background of Crescent Entertainment. I can tell you that Adam Piers, the man

beside me, is the chairman of Crescent Entertainment, and he's from one of the top eight families of DC. He holds great power and resources. As long as he's happy, he can easily make you become a top celebrity in the US!

"I can guarantee that we're definitely not lying to you!

"If you don't believe us, we can take you to Crescent Entertainment right now so that you can take a look at it in person. What do you think?"

Will was rattling on incessantly, trying his best to persuade Cheyenne. He even revealed Adam's identity.

He had done the same thing and succeeded countless times.

Adam Piers was indeed the heir of one of the top eight families in DC, and Crescent Entertainment was indeed his company. But they were not really trying to find potential celebrities to groom and promote. They were just using this as a reason to deceive the beautiful women they had set their sights on.

These girls who were deceived by Will into joining Crescent Entertainment would each sign a 20-year contract, which basically meant that they would be selling their wonderful youth to Crescent Entertainment.

All the girls signed to the company would become the playthings of Adam, regardless of whether they were willing or not.

Only those who were sensible enough to flatter him would be groomed as artists.

Those who didn't know any better would end up extremely miserable and even get dragged to the other entertainment joints owned by Adam to become the playthings of others.

Those who couldn't stand it and wanted to terminate the contract prematurely would have to pay a huge sum of tens of millions to compensate for the breach of contract. Most people absolutely wouldn't be able to afford it.

Therefore, from the moment they signed the contract, they had already fallen into an extremely terrifying trap, and they could only be at the mercy of Alex and his company for the rest of their lives.

Over the years, nearly a hundred beautiful girls had been tricked into joining Crescent Entertainment. And all of them had ended up getting ruined by Adam.

Now, Adam had set his sights on Cheyenne, and his eyes were full of satisfaction and determination to take possession of her.

Cheyenne was much prettier than all the women he had toyed with before, and he was full of desire for her.

"I've already said that I'm not interested in the entertainment industry. Please move aside!"

After being obstructed in all sorts of ways and having said so much, Cheyenne was about to lose her temper, even though she usually had a good temper.

Her grandfather, whom she had never met, had passed away, and she was in a terrible mood. But they kept getting in her way and refusing to let her leave. Anyone would be mad in her shoes.

If not for the fact that this was DC and that the young man in front of her was probably really one of the Piers, one of the eight most powerful families in DC, Cheyenne would have slapped him.

Seeing that Cheyenne was unmoved despite everything he said, Will felt annoyed and immediately threatened her, “Babe, it’s your honor that Adam has taken a liking to you. Don’t be stubborn and make us do this the hard way!”

If tempting her didn’t work, then they would have to do it by force. Anyway, it wasn’t like they hadn’t done this before.

Cheyenne was just a weak woman and alone here in DC for the first time. Facing the threat from these two men, she naturally felt frightened.

“What.. what do you want to do? This is DC. Are you going to kidnap me?”
Cheyenne’s face turned pale.

“Haha, so what if it’s DC? Babe, like I just said, this man next to me is Mr. Adam Piers. Dc is his turf, and he can do whatever he wants. Even if he took you away by force now, no one would dare to say a word. Do you believe me?” Will threatened with a look of menace.

“Will, mind your words. Don’t frighten this delicate beauty.” Adam, who had been standing next to him for a while, finally spoke up at this moment. He first reprimanded Will a little before turning to look at Cheyenne with a warm and graceful smile. “Beautiful, even if you’re not interested in being a celebrity, you’re indeed very outstanding, and you’ve attracted me. Why don’t we be friends?”

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 962 – No Need To Be Afraid

Chapter 962: No Need to Be Afraid

Although Adam seemed to have a gentle and harmless smile, Cheyenne wasn't a simple-minded and ignorant girl who had just stepped into society. She was a capable woman who had single-handedly founded the Brilliance Corporation and developed it into its current scale.

She could tell at a glance that Will and Adam were just staging an act where one of them played the good guy while the other played the bad guy.

Moreover, she didn't want to befriend the man in front of her who seemed to harbor designs on her.

"I don't know you, and I don't want to get to know you. We can forget about being friends! Please stop pestering me. If you continue to stop me, I will call airport security!" Cheyenne said coldly with a sullen look on her face.

"Hah, you're not showing me any respect at all!" The smile on Adam's face suddenly vanished, revealing a scowl as he stared at Cheyenne sinisterly.

No woman he had ever liked had ever been able to escape from his hands!

And the woman in front of him was so ignorant that Adam couldn't bother to keep up with the act anymore and directly revealed his true colors.

Will sneered with an arrogant look on his face. "Call security? Go ahead! Try it!"

"I'm not afraid to tell you straight that the Piers are a shareholder of this airport. You can try and see if anyone will dare to interfere."

Cheyenne immediately turned pale.

She looked around, and sure enough, there were two security guards in blue standing near them. They had obviously seen the conflict here, but they simply turned their heads away, as if they didn't see anything.

1

Lucas had yet to arrive, and she was all alone. Without being able to rely on the security guards for help, she really couldn't deal with these two scoundrels.

“Enough, beauty, come with us!” Adam said and winked at Will.

Will immediately understood. With a wicked smile, he stepped forward to grab Cheyenne's arm.

Even if they took Cheyenne away by force, no one would dare to interfere...

Smack!

Just as Will was about to grab Cheyenne, an arm suddenly appeared in front of him and grabbed his hand in time to stop him from touching Cheyenne.

Will was stunned, and he found that the person who grabbed his arm was a young man in his twenties!

“Where did you come from, punk? How dare you meddle with the Piers' affairs?” Will cursed as soon as he spoke.

Adam immediately frowned. “Who do you think you are? Are you trying to be the hero saving the damsel in distress? Hah, you really have a death wish! What are you waiting for? Hurry up and let go.”

Cheyenne was stunned. After getting a clear look at the person grabbing Will, she immediately had joy all over her face. “Honey, you’re here!”

The young man who grabbed Will’s arm was none other than Lucas!

After Will and Adam heard the way Cheyenne addressed him, their expressions immediately changed.

They didn’t expect that this woman they had taken a fancy to was already in a relationship with another man who had rushed over so quickly.

But they weren’t bothered by the fact that she was attached. Adam was determined to get any woman he wanted!

“Punk, is this your woman? I’ve already taken a liking to her. I’ll give you thirty grand to let her accompany me for a night. How about it?” Adam said to Lucas nonchalantly.

“Screw off!” Lucas narrowed his eyes, and a trace of killing intent instantly burst out of his eyes as he twisted Will’s arm and snapped it!

Snap!

Amid the crisp sounds of bones cracking, Will’s arm was twisted badly, and he immediately shrieked in misery.

Lucas would never let off the man who dared to covet and insult his woman!

“Punk, how dare you lay a finger on my person?!” Adam immediately hollered.

He was furious about the fact that someone dared to harm his subordinate in this DC airport!

After letting go of Will's arm, Lucas shifted his lethal gaze onto Adam.

Staring into Lucas's cold and merciless eyes, Adam suddenly felt an immense fear surge in his heart.

"I'm warning you. Don't mess around! I'm from the Pier family, one of the eight most powerful families in DC. If you dare to harm me, the Piers will never let you off!" Adam said sternly while pointing his finger at Lucas and retreating.

"The Piers? One of the eight top families in DC? So what?" Lucas sneered. "How dare you harbor designs on my woman? You're really audacious!"

Then Lucas stepped forward and ruthlessly slapped Adam's face!

Smack!

The slap sent Adam flying far!

"Honey! He's... from the Pier family!" Cheyenne instantly turned pale as she grabbed Lucas's hand nervously.

Just now, Will had brought up Adam's identity several times. So once she saw Lucas slapping Adam away, her heart immediately tightened.

Although she knew that Lucas had been in the army for a few years and was also the head of the Falcon Regiment in Calico, he had already left the army and had likely lost the protection provided by that identity.

Moreover, although Lucas was also a Hutton, he had long been kicked out of the family, and he no longer had any authority or status in the family.

In this regard, he couldn't compare to the scions of the eight top families.

It was especially so because they were now in DC, the turf controlled by these top families. Lucas's subordinates were all in California, so they wouldn't be able to be of any help.

Cheyenne was now most worried that Lucas would face the crazy revenge by the Piers. It would be terrible!

Lucas held Cheyenne's hand and comforted her softly, "It's alright. Don't worry!"

When Cheyenne saw Lucas's firm expression, her panicked heart slowly calmed down.

"Let's go!" Lucas said. He took Cheyenne's hand and walked out of the airport without even looking at Will and Adam, who were wailing on the floor.

At this moment, Adam, who had been sent flying by Lucas's slap, finally got up from the floor with great difficulty while covering his red and swollen cheek. He yelled furiously, "Stop... stop! Bastard, hold it right there!"

But Lucas and Cheyenne were both already far away and didn't want to pay attention to him.

"Bastard! Punk! How dare you ignore me and even hit me? I won't let you off!" Adam roared at the top of his lungs, his heart filled with burning fury.

But before he could instruct airport security to help him catch them, Lucas and Cheyenne were long gone.

The two were already inside the car and driving toward the Howard residence.

“Honey, will it really be okay? What if that person.... takes revenge against you?”
Cheyenne asked worriedly in the car.

Lucas smiled lightly. “Honey, there are some things I haven’t figured out how to tell you. But you just need to know that I don’t take the eight top families of DC seriously at all. They can’t pose a threat to me, and you don’t have to be afraid of them.”

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 963 – : The Piers’ Condolences

Chapter 963: The Piers’ Condolences

After Cheyenne heard what Lucas said, astonishment emerged on her face.

In almost everyone's eyes, the eight giants of DC were untouchable, yet Lucas could face them calmly and even disregard them.

Given Cheyenne's understanding of Lucas, she knew that he would never talk big, which was enough to show that he was even more powerful than the top eight families of DC!

Cheyenne suddenly found that her husband seemed to have become more mysterious.

"Where's Amelia?" Lucas suddenly asked, changing the topic.

Cheyenne said, "When I left this morning, she was still sleeping. But I've asked Dad and Charlotte to stay home with her today and buy her some delicious food."

Lucas shook his head and sighed. "Yeah, I broke my promise with her. I promised to take her out for a good meal today, but I couldn't go back today. I hope she won't blame me for not keeping my promise!"

Amelia was now over five years old, and she was extremely smart. Sometimes, the adults found it hard to deal with her!

"That depends on how you coax her when we get back home. Amelia is quite sensible, so she probably won't blame you," Cheyenne said.

On the way, Lucas also mentioned to Cheyenne some things that he didn't get to tell her over the phone yesterday. For example, the fact that Florence had become the new helmsman of the Howards.

Cheyenne was surprised, but Lucas didn't tell her the details or mention anything about the Peerless Martial Association. All he said to her was that Felix had acknowledged Florence's position as the helmsman before he died.

Cheyenne was silent for a moment.

Florence was her biological mother, but they had yet to reconcile.

Cheyenne couldn't even decide what kind of attitude she should treat Florence with.

But no matter what, Cheyenne had come to DC this time to attend Felix's funeral.

Felix was her grandfather, whom she had never met and had never spent time with before. She felt sad after learning of his death.

Moreover, Felix was Florence's father, so she reckoned that Florence must feel miserable...

Cheyenne gritted her teeth as she thought about it. For a while, she didn't know how she should face Florence.

Lucas stretched out his hand and squeezed Cheyenne's palm to comfort her silently.

About an hour later, the two arrived at the entrance of the Howards' manor in DC.

At this moment, there were numerous white wreaths at the entrance of the manor. They were clearly holding a funeral.

When Cheyenne saw this scene, her heart sank and felt even sadder.

Lucas took Cheyenne's hand and led her inside.

The funeral hall was in the first villa of the Howard residence.

When Cheyenne followed Lucas inside, Florence turned her head and immediately burst into tears the moment she saw Cheyenne. She hurried over and hugged Cheyenne tightly.

“Cheyenne! Cheyenne... It's all my fault! I... I'm not a good mother. I've really let you down...” Florence embraced Cheyenne tightly, as if she was hugging the last trace of warmth in this world. She was bawling so hard that she was running out of breath.

Ever since Florence was on the verge of death yesterday and figured out that the person she owed the most in her life was her daughter, she had desperately wanted to see Cheyenne.

After Felix suddenly passed away from a terminal illness, she was in an even more sorrowful mood.

1

She had always thought she hated her father for killing her lover and ruining her life completely. But the moment she learned of his death, she was still grief-stricken.

Her father was gone forever!

At that moment, Florence even felt some remorse.

Although Felix had died because of the sudden rupture of a cerebral artery, Florence knew that Felix might not have died if so many things hadn't happened yesterday and if she hadn't forced Felix to step down from his position.

The only blood relative she had left was her daughter!

Florence hugged Cheyenne tightly, not wanting to let go for a moment.

After the initial shock, Cheyenne looked at her mother, who was hugging her and weeping bitterly. She couldn't help feeling grief-stricken. She opened her arms and hugged her as tears streamed down her eyes too.

The other Howards felt a little sour when they saw Florence and Cheyenne crying in each other's arms, and the sounds of crying became louder in the hall.

But at this moment, a servant of the Howards suddenly came and said loudly, "Mr. Conrad Pier is here with his family to pay respects!"

It was normal for the other families in DC to come and pay their respects to the Howards since they were holding a funeral.

But upon hearing the name of the Piers' former helmsman, the Howards seemed surprised.

The former helmsman of the Piers, Conrad, was about the same age as Felix, and the two used to be old friends. But due to some conflicts, they grew distant from each other.

Moreover, Felix had been staying in the position of helmsman and had been in full control of the Howards, unlike Conrad, who had already handed over his position

to his son over a decade ago and stepped down from the pinnacle of power. He spent his time with his family and grandchildren afterward.

The Howards didn't expect that Conrad would suddenly come to the Howards' to offer his condolences in person.

Due to Conrad's noble status, the Howards sent two of their direct descendants to welcome him personally.

Soon, an old man with white hair wearing a black suit entered with the help of a junior.

Lucas glanced at Conrad before looking at the junior next to him with a trace of surprise, then he frowned.

It was because the junior helping him was Adam, who had tried to make a move on Cheyenne at the airport earlier.

It seemed that Adam had a high status in the Pier family, and he was highly likely to be Conrad's favored grandson. Otherwise, he wouldn't be supporting Conrad and standing next to him at the moment.

The expression on Cheyenne's face immediately changed the moment she saw Adam, and she subconsciously clutched Lucas's sleeve tightly.

She didn't expect that Adam would suddenly come to the Howard residence.

What if he pursued the matter at the airport and caused a commotion?

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 964 – : Marriage Agreement Before Death

Chapter 964: Marriage Agreement Before Death

Lucas could sense Cheyenne's nervousness, so he immediately held her hand and patted it to reassure her.

Since Lucas and Cheyenne were standing in the corner of the hall, they weren't very noticeable, and Adam failed to see them when he arrived.

With the support of his grandson Adam, Conrad slowly walked toward the casket at the front and let out a long sigh.

"Felix Howard, you old foggy, I told you a long time ago not to expect too much from your children and grandchildren. When you got older, you should have just handed over control to them, lest you have to exert yourself and tire yourself out thanklessly.

"But you didn't listen to my advice! Look how things turned out now. You're dead, and your daughter even forced you to retire. You ended up dying in anger. What was the point? You suffered a huge loss!

"Old foggy, I wouldn't be able to die in peace if I were you!" Conrad said painfully.

What he said immediately made all the Howards have a drastic change in expression!

Conrad's words were not any condolences to Felix but a direct slap to the face of Florence, the current head of the family!

He was clearly trying to say that Felix's death was entirely caused by Florence, who forced her father to step down from her current position. As a result of anger and anguish, he died. What he said simply shamed Florence without any mercy.

Florence's face immediately turned pale.

Although she also blamed herself because Felix probably wouldn't have passed away so soon if not for her, many matters had happened in the Howard residence yesterday. Besides, Felix was already 75 years old, and now that he had suddenly died from an illness, it indeed wasn't entirely her fault.

Florence was extremely devastated by Felix's death, and now that Conrad was accusing her, she felt as if her heart was being stabbed by a dagger.

But Florence gritted her teeth without saying anything on account that Conrad was the former head of the Pier family and her father's friend.

After paying respects, Conrad suddenly turned around, looked at the Howards, and said to Florence, "Apart from expressing my condolences, I have one more thing to do here."

Florence frowned but still asked politely, "Uncle Conrad, what's the matter?"

Conrad looked at her and suddenly smiled. "It's very simple. Before your father passed away, he agreed to an engagement with me. Although he's already passed away, I have to keep the promise. So the other thing I'm here for is to propose marriage!"

As soon as he said this, the Howards were shocked.

It was Felix's funeral, yet Conrad suddenly mentioned a marriage at this juncture.

It was too peculiar!

Besides, Connor said that it was a marriage that Felix had arranged with him before he died. But the Howards were utterly dumbstruck as they looked at each other and saw the confusion in each other's eyes. They had never heard of this before.

Florence glanced at him and frowned. "I've never heard my father mention this before. Uncle Conrad, what exactly are you referring to?"

For some reason, Florence had an ominous premonition.

"It's the marriage between you and my son Derek! I'm here today to propose marriage to you on behalf of my son!" Conrad said firmly with a determined look.

Boom!

Almost all the Howards were stupefied!

What... what kind of a joke was this?

Conrad was proposing to Florence?

But Florence was now the helmsman of the Howards. How could she marry into the Pier family?

Conrad had clearly come with hostile intentions!

Conrad first mentioned the engagement that none of them had heard about, and then he asked that Florence marry his son. It was ridiculous.

Now, Felix had already died, so he couldn't come forward to clarify if he had really agreed on the engagement with Conrad. They could only rely on Conrad's claims.

Besides, if Florence really married into the Pier family, what would happen to the Howards since she was the head of the family?

Would the Howards still be on par with the Piers?

Would the Howards then belong to the Piers?

All the Howards immediately turned to look at Florence.

Now, Florence was already their helmsman, and this matter concerned her marriage. Naturally, she had to be the one to decide how to handle this matter.

Florence was also shocked by what Conrad said.

But she was smart enough to understand Conrad's intentions immediately.

After pondering for several seconds, Florence gathered her emotions and closed her eyes before saying calmly, "Uncle Conrad, you must be joking. I married a long time ago, and I returned to my maiden family only after my husband passed away. I will never marry someone else now."

"In that case, you must be an unfilial daughter. You don't even want to fulfill your father's last wish?" Conrad said sternly with a cold expression.

As an experienced man who had been a family head for decades, he had always been dignified and austere. But now that he suddenly lost his temper, he was very imposing.

The Howards could all sense the intense pressure from Conrad.

Even Florence's heart skipped a beat.

But Florence was now the head of the Howards, and her every word and action represented the Howards. She naturally couldn't show her timidness toward Conrad, even though he was an elder.

"My father has already passed away. Uncle Conrad, do you have any evidence to prove that this is my father's last wish?"

"I can't marry into the Pier family just because of something you've said, right?"

Florence tried her best to speak calmly.

Frankly speaking, Conrad had been extremely hostile toward her as soon as he arrived. He had even accused her of being unfilial. Florence was trying her best not to hold it against him on account that Conrad was her father's friend and her elder.

But she would never agree to marry into the Pier family just because of a mere agreement that they made before Felix died!

Even if she wasn't the helmsman of the Howards, she would never marry a man she wasn't interested in!

After hearing Florence's rejection, Conrad immediately looked extremely gloomy. "Hah, are you suspecting that I'm making this up to deceive you?"

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 965 – Shifting Targets

Chapter 965: Shifting Targets

Conrad stared closely at Florence with his sharp, hawk-like eyes and said coldly, “No matter what, I am your elder and your father’s best friend. Do you think I’d deliberately deceive you about this?”

Florence’s face turned sullen, and she said firmly, “Uncle Conrad, in that case, I’ll tell you sincerely that my father has already passed away and I’m now the helmsman of the Howards. It’s up to me to decide my marriage. I don’t care whether you really came to an agreement with my father, but it’s all pointless now!

“Moreover, I make my own decisions on my own matters, and I call the shots in the Howards now!”

Florence’s blatant contradiction made Conrad’s wrinkled face even more gloomy.

“What if I insist that you marry into the Piers?!” Conrad narrowed his eyes and stared at Florence with a threatening gaze.

The rest of the Howards watched on without saying anything.

In fact, Conrad was already behaving very rudely.

It was extremely impolite and inappropriate to propose marriage at someone else’s funeral. Furthermore, Conrad had shown no respect to Florence, the head of the Howards.

The reason he wanted Florence to marry his son was obviously for profit.

The Howards and the Piers were both among the top eight families of DC, which meant that they were on par.

If someone had dared to speak to the Howards' helmsman like this in the past and even disregarded them, the Howards would definitely have been displeased and stepped forward to defend the helmsman.

But the new helmsman was Florence, who didn't rise to her position in a glorious manner. She and Lucas had forced Felix to step down, and many people were indignant about it. Moreover, she was a woman, and many people looked down on her in this chauvinistic family.

So even though Conrad was insulting and forcing Florence, none of the Howards stepped forward to stand up for her, for fear of offending the Piers.

"You have no evidence. Why should my mother be forced to marry your son?" A furious voice suddenly resounded in the funeral hall.

Cheyenne walked out and looked at Conrad with anger written all over her face.

She couldn't stand it anymore. No matter what, Florence was her biological mother, and she couldn't stand watching her mother being forced to marry someone!

Everyone turned to look at Cheyenne.

Seeing Cheyenne standing up for her and even saying the words 'my mother', Florence felt her chest tighten as her tears instantly flowed out.

This was the first time she heard Cheyenne acknowledge that she was her mother...

Moreover, when no Howard was willing to speak up for her, Cheyenne, the daughter she had never raised, was actually willing to stand in front of her to help her against the Piers' overbearing forcefulness.

If not for the current situation, Florence would have wanted to hug Cheyenne and cry.

But although Florence was very touched, she knew that Conrad wasn't a benevolent person. Now that Cheyenne was speaking up for her, she would probably get schemed against by the sinister Conrad.

So Florence immediately said to Cheyenne, "Cheyenne, stop talking!"

There was nothing but anxiety and concern on her face.

The Piers were obviously targeting her, and Florence didn't want to get Cheyenne involved.

But Adam, standing beside Conrad, finally discovered that the woman he had met at the airport was also in the funeral hall of the Howards. Moreover, the damn Lucas, who had the guts to hit him, was standing right next to her!

Tension was bound to arise when enemies met. The moment Adam saw Lucas, his eyes turned red in hatred. He clenched his fists, wishing he could immediately charge forward and beat Lucas to a pulp!

But he soon realized that this occasion wasn't suitable for a fight.

Adam's eyes glowed, and he immediately thought of a good idea for revenge. He inched close to Conrad's ear and started whispering something.

After Conrad heard what Adam said, surprise appeared in Conrad's eyes, and he turned to look at Cheyenne.

He felt that she was indeed a good woman.

To be honest, Conrad's purpose today was to get Florence to marry his son. Once the head of the Howards became his daughter-in-law, at least some of the Howards' massive fortune would probably belong to them.

But when he saw Florence's firm appearance, Conrad felt that it was probably impossible to force her to marry his son.

Moreover, if Florence really got married, the Howards would probably re-elect a new family head, which would defeat his purpose.

In that case, since this young woman was Florence's only daughter, there would also be huge benefits to the Piers marrying her.

Based on their interaction, Florence seemed to care about her very much.

In that case, getting hold of Cheyenne was akin to getting hold of Florence, the head of the Howard family. It was also equivalent to getting hold of the Howards.

In that case, having Cheyenne marry into the Pier family seemed to be more beneficial to them.

After figuring this out, Conrad suddenly asked Cheyenne, "Are you Florence's daughter? What's your name?"

A look of great interest appeared in his eyes.

No matter what, Conrad was the former head of one of the top eight families of DC, and he was deliberately making himself look more dignified and austere.

Facing Conrad, Cheyenne felt some fear.

It wasn't that she was timid, but rather, she was still too young and inexperienced. She couldn't compare to Conrad, who had lived for nearly eight decades.

Seeing Conrad shifting his interest to Cheyenne, Florence immediately became anxious and stood in front of Cheyenne."Uncle Conrad, on account that you're an elder, the Howards will naturally be willing to welcome you if you're here to give your condolences to my father. But if you have other plans in mind, pardon me for failing to serve you well!"

She had always been concerned about Conrad's status as an elder and didn't want to fall out with him. But given the way Conrad looked at Cheyenne, he clearly had ill intentions. Florence would never let the Piers covet her daughter!

Chapter 966: Overbearing

Conrad narrowed his eyes and suddenly said, “Since you’re not willing to remarry, you shouldn’t say no to other women of your family marrying into mine, right?”

“Unless you’re willing to sever all ties with the Piers and become enemies with us from now on!” he said half-threateningly.

To be honest, Florence really wanted to tell Conrad that she didn’t want to sacrifice any of the Howards’ women and get them to marry into other wealthy families because she had once been treated as a pawn of a marriage alliance between wealthy families and had suffered greatly for it.

But Florence couldn’t say these words so overbearingly now.

After all, she had just taken over as the head of the Howards, so her foundation was extremely unstable. Although Florence hated marriage alliances, this was a common practice among wealthy families.

Just as Conrad said, her rejection would mean that she completely offended the Piers.

Therefore, regardless of her reluctance, Florence could only grit her teeth and agree with a nod. “If there is a suitable candidate, I will not oppose a marriage between the Howards and the Piers.”

“Okay, since you’ve already said so, I won’t be polite with you!” Conrad seemed to know that Florence didn’t dare to oppose a marriage with the Piers. He immediately said, “The one standing next to me is my most valued grandson, and he just told me that he likes your daughter very much. In that case, let her marry him!”

.....

“Thank you very much, Grandpa!” Adam said loudly with joy written all over his face. At the same time, he turned to look at Cheyenne and Lucas with smugness in his eyes.

Hmph, punk, didn’t you dare to hit me and ruin things for me?

Then I’m going to snatch your woman right in front of you. Let’s see what you can do!

Anger and panic immediately appeared on Cheyenne’s face.

Next to her, Lucas’s face was completely gloomy.

“No!” Florence rejected resolutely. “I will never agree to that! My daughter is already married and has a child. She will never be a candidate for a marriage alliance!”

Conrad sneered self-righteously, “So what if she’s married? It’s not a big deal. It’s fine since my grandson likes her. Just tell her to get a divorce and remarry. The Piers won’t mind that she was once married.”

Florence was so furious that she was almost speechless.

She had already said that her daughter was married and had a child, so she couldn't marry Adam. But Conrad was being so coercive and aggressive, as if it was right for her daughter to get a divorce and marry his grandson.

Moreover, he was acting as if the Piers were being kind enough not to mind that Cheyenne had married before.

"Mr. Piers, I've made it very clear that my daughter is happily married, and she will never get a divorce to remarry your grandson! Just drop the idea!

"It's my father's funeral today. Please consider the friendship between you and my father in the past and don't keep making unreasonable demands at his funeral!

"Otherwise, it will make me suspect that you're here to create trouble deliberately instead of offering your condolences!"

At this moment, Florence no longer cared about Conrad's identity as an elder, and her tone was much colder than before.

What a joke. If Conrad wanted to bully her, she could still tolerate it. But now that he was targeting Cheyenne and trying to ruin her happiness, she definitely couldn't tolerate it!

The rest of the Howards didn't expect that Florence would suddenly be so aggressive, so much so that she was almost going toe-to-toe with Conrad.

Lucas had been standing by the side without speaking.

The reason he didn't speak up wasn't that he didn't want to care about Cheyenne's affairs but that he wanted to see how far Florence could go.

Although Lucas had already changed his opinion about Florence after the series of events that had happened last night, she was now the head of the Howards. If she didn't have the ability to uphold the family and resolve some provocations, it would be difficult for her to attain success even with Lucas's support.

But Florence was performing well so far, and Lucas was especially satisfied with the way she was defending Cheyenne.

In that case, Lucas didn't mind giving Florence a hand.

After hearing what Florence said, Conrad immediately flew into a rage and knocked his cane against the floor loudly. "How dare you speak to me like that and question my intentions? Even your father never spoke to me in such a tone. You disobedient and unfilial young woman, you're indeed very disrespectful! It seems I have to teach you a lesson for your father!"

Florence sneered without a single trace of fear. "I respect you because you're an elder, but don't think it's because I'm afraid of you!"

"You don't need to keep calling me unfilial. The Howards know better than you whether or not my father was angered by me, so you don't have to twist facts and make all these false allegations against me!"

"Although I'm a woman, my father personally appointed me as the helmsman of the family!"

"Mr. Pier, to put it bluntly, you're just someone my father knew when he was still alive. You're not even considered friends. I address you as Uncle Conrad only out of respect, but you have to get things straight. What right do you have to claim to be my elder and teach me a lesson on my father's behalf?"

Florence retorted hostilely, immediately angering Conrad.

“You... you! You’re pissing me off! Are you trying to ruin the relationship between the Howards and the Piers and become enemies with us?”

Conrad slammed his cane against the floor with all his might. He wanted to berate Florence for disobeying him, but she snubbed him with her words, causing his face to flush red in anger.

“The person who’s destroying the relationship between our two families and wants us to become enemies isn’t the Howards but the Piers!

“If you came to the Howards’ today with ill intentions to covet my family’s assets, please leave immediately!” Florence said unceremoniously.

From the moment Conrad entered the Howard residence, he had never respected her as the new head of the family. He had even tried to make her and Cheyenne marry into his family, so she stopped being polite to him!

“You... you b*tch, how dare you drive me away?” Conrad’s eyes widened, and he raised his cane, about to stab Florence.

He was furious.

Conrad initially thought that since Felix, the troublesome old fogey, had finally died and handed over his position to a woman, he wouldn’t have any troubles at the Howard residence. He didn’t take Florence seriously at all. He had come to the Howards’ today to take control of her and then the Howards.

But Conrad didn’t expect that Florence would dare to be so aggressive in front of him. Not only did she not let the Piers take advantage of her, but she even had the audacity to tell him to leave!

How dare this b*tch do that?!

Florence was incredibly infuriated to be called a b*tch in front of everyone by Conrad. But her upbringing made it impossible for her to call Conrad an 'old foggy' or hurl vulgarities at him in retaliation.

“Hmph, he’s just an old bastard throwing his weight around and taking advantage of the situation. You don’t have to tolerate him at all.” A cold voice suddenly resounded clearly in the funeral hall.

Chapter 967: Shaming In Public

After hearing this familiar and cold voice, the Howards subconsciously shuddered and looked at the person who spoke, Lucas.

After experiencing everything that happened last night, they now saw Lucas as an extremely terrifying existence.

After all, Lucas had used his own strength and managed to force Damien, the chief of the Peerless Martial Association's US headquarters, to retreat.

Even when Felix was alive, he couldn't do anything to Lucas. He could only watch Lucas hand over the position of the family head to Florence. All the Howards regarded Lucas as a fearsome beast.

Conrad, Adam, and the other Piers didn't know anything about Lucas and his background, nor how terrifying he was. Seeing a young man in his twenties step forward and call him an old bastard throwing his weight around and taking advantage of the situation, Conrad was immediately enraged.

"Punk, how dare you scold me?" Conrad stared straight at Lucas with fury written all over his face.

Even Florence, the current head of the Howards, didn't dare to scold him. He thought that Lucas must have a death wish.

Adam's eyes were full of maniacal hatred. He smirked and shouted at Lucas, "Hah, bastard, I've finally found you! My grandfather is the former helmsman of the Piers, one of the eight great families in DC, and my father is the current head of the family!

.....

"You've offended me and my grandfather, so you've greatly offended the Piers. Today, you'll have no choice but to die!"

Lucas glanced at Adam impatiently and said indifferently, "It seems that the beating I gave you previously was too light!

"Jordan, make him shut up!"

Jordan had long wanted to beat up Adam. As soon as he heard Lucas's order, he immediately rubbed his fingers and walked straight toward Adam.

"Wh-what do you want to do? I'm warning you. If you dare to lay a finger on me..."

Smack!

Before Adam could issue a threat, Jordan had already walked up to him and given him a hard slap on his face!

Before even the few bodyguards of the Piers standing behind Adam had time to react, Jordan had already sent Adam flying with his slap.

Thud!

By the time he landed on the floor, he had already been knocked unconscious.

The people present were all stunned.

The Howards weren't too bad. After all, they had already seen how overbearing and unreasonable Lucas and his subordinate Jordan were last night.

They weren't even afraid of the Howards' gunmen, and even the top experts of the Peerless Martial Association couldn't faze them. How could they possibly be afraid of Conrad and Adam, who had come here with just a few bodyguards?

At this moment, the Howards actually had a strange feeling.

It turned out that their family wasn't the only one that would be defeated by Lucas. Even the former head of the Piers could only watch as Jordan knocked his grandson out in front of him.

This scene was extremely unbelievable to Conrad.

"H-how dare you hit my grandson?"

Conrad's face was full of disbelief.

He had been in DC for many years, and ever since the Piers' status rose to become one of the top eight families in DC, no one had ever dared to be so arrogant in front of him, much less beat his grandson up and knock him out!

It was simply impossible for the Piers!

Jordan snorted coldly. "So what if I hit your grandson? Is he more noble than others? If it wasn't because you're old, I'd slap you to death!"

In Jordan's and Lucas's eyes, the top eight families of DC meant nothing at all!

Moreover, the Piers were simply courting death for daring to snatch Lucas's wife!

Thus, Jordan was telling the truth. If it wasn't because Conrad was over 70 years old, Jordan would have really slapped his face to see how thick-skinned he really was!

Conrad was so furious that he was trembling. As the former helmsman of the Piers, he had lived his entire life in DC and was always the one giving orders to threaten others. But today, he was actually insulted and humiliated by two young people so callously.

The man in front of him, who seemed to be a subordinate, actually had the audacity to say that he wanted to slap him!

Conrad had never had to suffer such humiliation in his life.

Menacing murderous intent appeared on Conrad's face as he ordered the bodyguards behind him, "Kill him immediately!"

The two bodyguards behind Conrad obeyed the order and immediately charged toward Jordan.

"Psht, trust a fool like you to have been the helmsman of the Piers for decades. It's a miracle that you haven't destroyed the Piers!"

Jordan sighed sneeringly. At this moment, the two bodyguards of the Piers had already charged in front of Jordan and raised their powerful fists, one aimed at Jordan's face and the other aimed at his stomach.

These bodyguards capable of protecting the former helmsman of the Piers naturally weren't ordinary people but experts that were rare to come by.

Before, Jordan would probably have to go through a tough fight to deal with these two experts.

But after the fights with the Peerless Martial Association's Dwayne and Hades last night, Jordan had already broken through his bottleneck, and his skills had already reached a higher level. Thus, it would be extremely easy for him to deal with the two top bodyguards.

As fast as lightning, Jordan grabbed the fist coming toward his face and twisted it relentlessly!

Snap!

Jordan directly broke the bodyguard's right hand with a hair-raising sound of bones cracking!

At the same time, one of Jordan's feet spun on the floor, and the other leg was so fast that only an afterimage could be seen as it kicked the other bodyguard's chest heavily.

Bang!

The other bodyguard's body instantly flew back five meters like a cannonball. He then fell hard onto the floor and laid motionlessly, his life and death unknown.

After dealing with this bodyguard, Jordan did the same thing and kicked the bodyguard with the broken hand. The bodyguard fainted on the spot from his serious injuries.

This scene immediately made Conrad's eyes widen in shock!

Conrad naturally knew how impressive his bodyguards were. It could be said that they were ranked among the top in the entire Piers family and even in the whole of DC.

But these two powerful bodyguards were actually instantly severely injured by the young man opposite him. They hadn't been able to resist at all and were now at their very last breath.

Where... exactly did this young man come from?!

What is the identity of the other young man who can give him orders?

At this moment, Conrad felt a chill in his heart, and his jaw dropped in shock as if he had seen a ghost in broad daylight.

The Howards had already seen how powerful Lucas and Jordan were last night. So seeing this scene in front of them, they only felt that it was to be expected. But Conrad was truly scared out of his wits and broke out in cold sweat.

Chapter 968: Throwing His Weight Around

Conrad came over to the Howard residence today without any intention of making a move directly, so he had only brought two bodyguards with him.

In his opinion, Felix would have been the only one a little difficult to handle. The rest of the Howards weren't too competent. Besides, the helmsman was now a woman, so there was nothing to worry about.

As long as he, the former helmsman of the Piers, exerted some pressure, Florence probably wouldn't be able to bear it and would only be able to yield to him and show weakness.

But he never expected that Florence would be uncharacteristically domineering and reject his request without hesitation.

This wasn't all. He didn't expect Florence's son-in-law's subordinate to have the guts to hit his grandson and bodyguards!

He had gone overboard!

"Who do you think you are? You're just a servant of the Howards. How dare you speak to me like that?!" Conrad hollered furiously.

“Hmph, what are you putting on airs in front of me for? You’re just an old bastard throwing your weight around because you’re old.” Jordan snorted coldly in disdain. With raised brows, he walked straight toward Conrad. “It seems that you’re very upset about me hitting your people, huh?”

.....

“But it’s pointless no matter how upset you are. This is the Howards’, and you’re in no place to bully others here.

“If I wasn’t worried that I would kill you with a slap, I would have hit you too!”

Then Jordan even deliberately shot Lucas a glance and asked, “Lucas, do you think I should throw this old man out?”

His words shocked everyone in the funeral hall.

The person standing in front of him was the former helmsman of the Piers. Why did Jordan and Lucas treat him as if he was an extremely ordinary person that could be manipulated at will?

Were they really not afraid of the Piers’ power and possible revenge?

But this thought only flashed past their minds for a moment. As long as they recalled what had happened in their home last night, they knew very well that Lucas didn’t take the Howards seriously at all, let alone the Piers, even though they were both among the top eight families of DC.

Who knew what kind of a background and power Lucas had, so much so that he didn’t even take the eight top families and the behemoth that was the Peerless Martial Association seriously.

Lucas didn't bother to pay attention to what these people were thinking. He just said to Jordan, "Mr. Piers is already so old. If you touch him lightly, his bones might come apart. He won't be able to take your blows. Just let him off on account that it's Mr. Howard's funeral today."

Jordan naturally took orders from Lucas. Since Lucas told him not to touch Conrad, it would be better for him not to do so, lest he accidentally kill him, which would lead to greater trouble.

"Old man, since Lucas wants to let you off, I'll let you off once. Count yourself lucky today. You'd better hurry back home and continue enjoying life, lest you die out there and face a terrible end!"

Jordan glanced at Conrad and laughed before turning around to stand behind Lucas.

Conrad was so enraged by what Jordan said that he was shaking. "You... you brats, how dare you insult me? I won't let you off! Neither will the Piers!"

"Who has the guts to anger my father here?!" An angry bellow suddenly came from outside the Howards' funeral hall, after which a line of thirty people suddenly barged in from outside and crowded the hall immediately.

The entire hall was full of people, including the ones already standing here in the first place.

"Wow! That's Derek, Conrad's eldest son and the current helmsman of the Piers!"

Someone from the Howards saw the middle-aged man walking at the front of the crowd and immediately exclaimed, "Oh my, Derek Piers is here too, and he actually brought so many people!"

The middle-aged man leading these thirty people to the Howards' funeral hall was Derek, the current helmsman of the Piers.

Moreover, they were all tall and burly men who were obviously not to be provoked, as they each had a fierce aura.

Logically speaking, every guest visiting the Howards would have someone come to notify them in advance. But now that Derek had led this large group of people to the Howards' funeral hall, it was clear that Derek's subordinates had defeated the Howards' people.

"Father, are you alright?" Derek first walked up to Conrad's side and greeted him.

He had entered just in time to hear Conrad's angry shout and know that someone was giving his father a hard time.

The next second, Derek looked around the Howards' funeral hall and asked loudly, "Who's the bastard who had the guts to anger my father? Come out here immediately!"

His shout was as loud as thunder, greatly frightening everyone.

Many of the Howards were so frightened by Derek's stern shout that they shuddered.

Jordan smirked and took a few steps forward. "What? Are you going to stand up for your old man? Why don't you ask him what immoral things he has done?"

"Oh, I almost forgot, that little bastard on the floor over there is your son, right? Your family is really something. Your old man is a bastard, and so is your grandson. As the helmsman, it seems like you're not much either!"

Derek was stunned for a moment and then immediately saw Adam lying in the corner of the funeral hall. A maniacal killing intent instantly on his face. “How dare you lay a hand on my son?!”

He glowered at Jordan with a cold and menacing gaze. “Also, you’re the one who angered my father just now, right?! It seems that you really don’t know what death is!”

As soon as he lost his temper, his thirty men immediately got ready, their aura shockingly frightening.

Florence naturally couldn’t let Derek’s people harm Jordan. She walked forward and asked, “Mr. Piers, it’s my father’s funeral today. What are you trying to do by suddenly bringing so many goons here?”

Derek looked at Florence and said contemptuously, “My father came here out of goodwill, but look at how you’re treating him! You let your subordinate spout nonsense and insult my father and me. Is this how you treat your guests?”

“Florence, although you’re now the head of the Howard family, you can’t be so ignorant of the rules. Once you marry me, I’ll have to teach you some rules!”

Chapter 969: Joint Pressure

After Florence heard Derek's self-righteous words, she immediately flew into a rage and sneered. "Mr. Piers, you're so oblivious and ignorant, just like your father! I'm now the head of the Howards. How can I possibly marry into the Piers, let alone obey the rules you teach me?! Don't mention those matters again. It's impossible!"

Derek made it sound as if Florence was definitely going to marry him, making Florence furious.

Derek felt disgraced to be relentlessly rejected by Florence.

He narrowed his eyes and said in a gloomy voice, "Florence Howard, don't take things too far! If your father hadn't come to an agreement with my father when he was still alive, do you think I'd marry a woman like you who forced her own father to die in order to take over as the head of your family?"

Florence said angrily, "What agreement with my father? None of the Howards are aware of it, and now that my father is gone, it's nothing but a one-sided claim from you and your father.

"Also, it's not up to you outsiders to judge if I forced my father to death or not!

“As I said before, if you’re here today to pay your respects to my father, I will treat you as guests. But if you’re here with the intention of provoking us, please leave the Howard residence immediately!

“People, come!” Florence issued an order, and dozens of the Howards’ subordinates immediately charged forward to surround the Piers. The vast majority of them were the bodyguards in black who only obeyed Florence.

Seeing the scene in front of him, Derek sneered. “Florence, have you decided to make an enemy of the Piers?”

Florence said coldly, “It’s not that the Howards want to make an enemy of the Piers, but rather, your family is provoking us and making an enemy of us!”

The rest of the Howards didn’t say anything and merely looked coldly at the Piers.

Although they didn’t have much loyalty and respect for Florence, the new head of the family, she was still one of them, and this was their residence. Yet the Piers brazenly brought such a large group of people over and even said such unpleasant things to Florence. It was clear disrespect for the Howards.

Derek glanced coldly at the Howards and deliberately tried to make them feel repulsed. “The helmsman of the Howards was driven to his grave by this woman in front of you. Are you willing to watch her remain unharmed and continue being the family head after what she has done?

“Are you Howards so spineless that you’re willing to let a woman rule your family?

One of the Howards couldn’t take it any longer and stood forth to say coldly, “Enough! This is the Howards’ business. You people are in no place to meddle

with our affairs! Florence is right. If you're sincere about sending your condolences, we'll welcome you!

“But if you're deliberately here to create trouble and think you can bully us just because Felix has passed away, you can get lost immediately!”

“Exactly, hurry up and get lost! Don't think we're pushovers!”

“It's Felix's funeral today. You're in no place to act unruly here! Get lost!”

“Scram!”

...

The Howards hollered together.

In fact, when Conrad started throwing his weight around just because he was old, the Howards had already been unable to tolerate it. Now that Florence was so domineering and they had someone to lead them, the rest of the Howards immediately united.

1

Regardless of how they usually fought in their family and whether or not they accepted Florence, they still had to be united at this moment and not let the Piers get away with their ulterior motives.

While the commotion was going on among the furious crowd, a high-pitched voice suddenly came from outside the funeral hall. “Haha, I didn't expect there to be such a lively scene going on in the Howards' today!”

With the sound of this voice, a middle-aged man walked into the Howards' funeral hall with more than ten tall and strong bodyguards following behind him.

When Florence saw the middle-aged man's face, she suddenly felt apprehensive again.

The person who just arrived was the helmsman of another family among the top eight families of DC, Rayson Williams!

Before Florence could greet Rayson, Derek looked at the latter and complained, "Hey Rayson, what took you so long? If you had come a little later, I would have been kicked out by the Howards!"

Rayson laughed loudly. "Derek, how is that possible? Even when the Howards' former helmsman was alive, he wouldn't have dared to treat you like that, not to mention that they're now led by a woman. They obviously wouldn't drive you away! Otherwise, we wouldn't stand for it!"

"Haha, you're right, Rayson! Now that both our families are here, will the Howards really try to chase us away? I doubt she has the courage!" Derek said with a smile on his face.

These two had obviously colluded and had agreed to come to the Howard residence together.

Moreover, maybe the Piers and the Williams had already decided to take advantage of the fact that the Howards had no leader after Felix's death to provoke the Howards and gain some benefits from them!

Florence wasn't a fool. She immediately understood the trick as her face turned pale.

If only the Piers had come to exert pressure, the Howards might not necessarily be afraid of them because they were of equal status and strength.

But the Piers had now colluded with the Williams. If these two families dealt with the Howards together, Florence would have no chance of winning!

The rest of the Howards also had indignant looks on their faces.

When Felix was still alive, the former helmsman of the Williams had always treated him as his brother. Derek, the current helmsman of the Piers, and Rayson, the current helmsman of the Williams, were both of a younger generation than Felix. Thus, they had always been polite to him.

But now that Felix had just passed away, and his corpse was still in the casket in the funeral hall, the Piers and the Williams were already eager to fall out with them. They ganged up with each other and came over to bully the Howards in a bid to reap benefits. It was absolutely hateful!

But now that the two families were ganging up to exert pressure on them, they couldn't deal with it at all!

Florence gritted her teeth. "What exactly do you want?"

Chapter 970: Never Retreat

Florence knew very well that the Howards were now facing an unfavorable situation.

The eight top families of DC had been around for a long time and had held power for years.

The reason there hadn't been any large-scale battles between the eight families and that they could maintain a delicate balance was due to the mutual control.

Once any family took the lead in launching a large-scale attack on another, they would very likely end up in a lose-lose situation and eventually be divided up by the other major families.

Thus, there had never been any large-scale conflicts among the eight top families over the years, though there had been some minor squabbles.

But things are different now. Once the Piers and the Williams really united and targeted the Howards, the Howards wouldn't stand a chance at winning. They would eventually end up having their assets seized and split among the Williams and the Piers!

The thought of that result made Florence's face extremely gloomy.

“Hah, what we want is very simple!

“My father had kind intentions and specially came to the Howards to propose marriage to you because of an agreement that Mr. Howard Sr. previously made with my father. Yet you openly rejected my father’s proposal. You must give the Piers an explanation!

“According to the agreement, you must marry me. There’s no room for negotiation on this!

“Also, my son was knocked unconscious by one of your subordinates, and he even injured two of my father’s closest bodyguards. You owe us an explanation for this matter too. Hand over that punk to me!

“If you complete these things, I won’t bother you, and I can quickly have my men withdraw too.”

Derek spoke with a sly smile while taking several glances at Florence.

Although Florence was now in her late forties, she had maintained herself well. She was beautiful and seemed to be in her thirties. He wouldn’t suffer a loss if he married her.

Florence was now the head of the Howards. Derek would feel a great sense of accomplishment if he could marry the head of the Howards and subdue her.

Besides, more importantly, as long as Florence married him, many of the Howards’ assets would basically fall into the Piers’ hands in the future. This was the greatest benefit.

Rayson smiled. “Derek is right. Since there’s an agreement, of course we should follow it! I’ve come over today personally to escort the Piers. If the Howards agree to the request, I naturally won’t make things hard for you.”

The helmsmen of both major families began to force Florence.

Now that Felix was dead, the Howards didn’t have an esteemed person to lead them and call the shots. This was an excellent opportunity for them to reap benefits.

The Williams were naturally not supporting the Piers for nothing in exchange. Derek had already promised him a lot of benefits. As long as Florence married Derek, the Piers would take out 40% of the things obtained from the Howards and share them with the Williams.

In their opinion, the Howards were like a fatty piece of meat that they could divide as they pleased.

Lucas watched coldly without speaking, and he didn’t have any intentions to step forward for now.

But he really despised the Piers and the Williams for taking advantage of the Howards’ situation to bully Florence.

This was actually the norm among the top families. They prioritized profits over everything else. In the face of interests, etiquette, integrity, friendship, and so on were nothing.

At this moment, Lucas was even thankful that he had left the Huttons together with his mother when he was a child. It had saved him from growing up in such a dirty and ruthless wealthy family.

If Lucas hadn't been kicked out of the Huttons, he probably wouldn't have fallen into a desperate situation and then joined the military to become worthy of the woman he loved.

Besides, if not for his experiences in the army, Lucas wouldn't have become who he was now, and he wouldn't have obtained power that was beyond the eight top families of DC with his own abilities.

It could be said that if he wanted to, the current Lucas would be able to exterminate families like the Piers and the Williams to get the Howards out of their current predicament with just one word.

But he didn't do so.

Reason being, Lucas wanted to see how shameless the Piers and the Williams could be and who else would come to the Howards besides these two families to get a slice of the pie.

If other parties got involved and wanted to seize the assets of the Howards, Lucas wouldn't mind taking care of them all together.

Thus, Lucas merely patted the anxious Cheyenne on her hand and gestured for her to rest assured and not act impulsively. Then he stood still without moving.

Florence was now extremely sorrowful.

She had just taken over as the head of the Howards for less than a day, yet they were now facing such a huge crisis of being attacked and forced by two major families.

At this moment, Florence even felt that she could somewhat understand Felix's previous cold-blooded and ruthless practices.

Was Father cold-blooded and heartless by nature? That's not necessarily true.

Florence could still remember clearly that she had once seen Felix smiling genuinely and showering her with fatherly love when she was a child.

But the more powerful a family was and the higher they were on the hierarchy, the more dangers they were likely to face. It was because their enemies were just as powerful, and a slight carelessness could lead to the possibility of death. Their family would also instantly fall from the peak and be crushed into pieces.

Therefore, in order to make their family even more powerful and prevent other families from suppressing them, it was necessary for them to continue obtaining more and more benefits so that they could become stronger and stronger.

Otherwise, they would end up in the Howards' current predicament—being forced to give in to other families.

What should they do now?

Do I really have to obey Derek and marry him to avoid the Howards' crisis?

No, no way!

Even if she gave in and was willing to marry Derek, the Piers would definitely not let the Howards off the hook!

“Like I said, I will never marry into the Piers!” Florence's eyes were full of determination as she refused again. Immediately afterward, she said, “Besides, your son brought that beating upon himself. Your father's bodyguards were also the ones who made a move first. I will never let you handle him!”

“If you think that I’m a pushover just because I’m a woman and came here to deal with the Howards today, you’re wrong!

“Even if your families unite and the Howards will never be able to defeat you, we can still make you suffer great damage!

“And if you’re not afraid of fighting to the death with the Howards and letting the other wealthy families reap some benefits, you can go ahead and try!”

Florence was not the kind to let others bully her. She had an extremely domineering aura now, which was not inferior to that of Derek and Rayson, the helmsmen of wealthy families.