

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 1031-1040

Sure enough, Rayson's heart instantly sank after hearing what Carlos said.

He had come here today to demand an explanation from the Stones. Carlos had clearly promised to marry Maddy to his son Cody, and they had agreed to get their marriage license today. Yet Carlos not only didn't send Maddy over but instead said that he would pick another female member of the family to marry his son.

What did he take Rayson and Cody for?

In his opinion, being able to marry his son was already the fortune of a second-class family like the Stones. Carlos was simply ignorant!

Thus, Rayson had planned to teach the Stones a hard lesson, take Maddy away, and force her to marry his son immediately.

But Rayson actually heard from Carlos that Maddy, whom he wanted to make his daughter-in-law, was actually close friends with Lucas!

Wh-what should I do now?

In that case, it seemed that his plan to take Maddy away by force and make her his daughter-in-law would fall through. Finding trouble with the Stones would be impossible too.

Rayson gritted his teeth and forced himself to smile. Just as he was about to give Carlos an out, Lucas glanced at him and asked coldly, "What does my close friendship with Maddy have to do with the Stones?"

Carlos instantly froze in shock. He didn't expect that Lucas, who was polite to him previously, wouldn't care about what he said and directly say that he had nothing to do with the Stones.

Seeing Rayson looking over hostilely, Carlos frantically asked, “Mr. Gray, when you were here at the Stones’ previously, you personally promised to keep the family safe and also to bring us to greater glory in the future! Have you forgotten?”

Lucas sneered. “I naturally remember what I said, but I also remember saying that I’ll protect the Stones on the condition that Maddy is part of the family!

“Now that Maddy has been kicked out of the Stones and severed all ties with you, she no longer has anything to do with the Stones. So what makes you think that I’d still protect you?”

Lucas’s words were extremely cold, as if they were a hammer pounding Carlos’s head ruthlessly!

Indeed, Maddy had already been kicked out of the family and no longer had anything to do with the Stones. But if Lucas refused to help them, what would happen to them?

After thinking about it for a long time, Carlos bit the bullet and said stubbornly, “Uh... I-I don’t care. Anyway, Maddy and Jordan are the ones who caused the trouble today, so they should be the ones to resolve it. It has nothing to do with the Stones!”

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Then he looked at Rayson and said, “Mr. William, you’ve already heard it yourself. Maddy indeed has nothing to do with the Stones anymore. If you want an explanation, go look for her. She’s right there!”

Carlos pointed to Maddy, for fear that Rayson would find the wrong person.

In his opinion, Lucas could leave the Stones alone, but he couldn’t leave Maddy and Jordan in the lurch!

Since they were the ones who caused the trouble, they should be the ones to deal with it!

When Lucas heard what Carlos said, anger surged in his heart, and he wanted to slap him.

Carlos was itching for a beating!

What Lucas said earlier was very clear. As long as Maddy was still related to the Stones, he would definitely protect them. If Carlos had a little more common sense, he would have been able to understand what Lucas meant.

Yet Carlos refused to swallow his pride and compromise to allow Maddy back into the family. He even pushed all the blame on her and told Rayson to take his anger out on her!

He wasn't acting like a father at all!

Maddy looked deeply at her father with immense disappointment in her eyes and a touch of self-mockery for herself.

She found it ridiculous that she actually felt some hope for her father!

Lucas sneered. "Carlos Stone, you're really stupid! If you say that the incident with the Bransons has to do with Maddy, then whatever. We'll take care of it on our own. But you're the one who provoked the Williams. It has nothing to do with Maddy!

"Even if the Williams want to deal with you, you should face their wrath and handle the matter yourself!"

Hearing this, the Stones immediately panicked.

Lucas made sense. Since Maddy had already been kicked out by the Stones and never agreed to marry Cody, Carlos was the one who caused the trouble. In that case, what were they supposed to do now that the Williams were coming after them?

“Carlos, hurry up and come up with a solution. What should we do?”

The Stones surrounded Carlos in panic.

Suddenly, a family member said, “Mr. Gray said that he won’t help us because Maddy is no longer related to us. But if she’s still one of us, he probably won’t leave us in the lurch, right?”

“Yes, that’s it! Carlos, you’d better hurry up and get Maddy to return to the family. Retract your previous orders!”

“Yes! Carlos, no matter what, Maddy is your daughter and our family member. At the time, we persuaded you not to drive her out, but you refused to listen. Now, the only solution is to get Maddy to return to the family!”

“As long as Maddy returns to the family, Mr. Gray will definitely help us. Carlos, hurry up and get Maddy to come back!”

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The Stones persuaded Carlos incessantly.

But after Maddy heard what these family members said, her heart was full of disappointment. Looking at their faces, for the first time, she found them shameless and disgusting.

When Carlos wanted to sever ties with her to protect the Stones, they all supported him and eagerly wanted her to sever ties with the Stones so that they wouldn’t be implicated.

Later, when she returned to the Stone residence, they had suggested tying her and sending her to the Bransons to let them deal with her or sending her to the Williams to marry the intellectually handicapped and violent Cody. Some even wanted to kill her so that she wouldn't have the chance to bring trouble to the family again.

But after learning that Maddy had two strong backers, Florence and Lucas, they immediately wanted her to return to the family.

The sudden change in attitude was entirely based on pros and cons. It had nothing to do with kinship.

Her family was terrifyingly heartless!

Looking at them, Maddy felt her heart bleed.

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Maddy closed her eyes, her heart filled with misery.

Jordan's heart ached. Holding onto Maddy's hand, he said with self-reproach, "I'm sorry, Maddy."

If he hadn't been too harsh and caused Mark to die, she wouldn't have encountered this situation.

Seeing how miserable she was, Jordan felt terrible.

Maddy forced a bitter smile. "No, Jordan, you don't need to apologize. On the contrary, I'm very grateful to you. If this didn't happen, I'm afraid I wouldn't have found out that my family members are such terrible people. They're not worth staying for!"

Jordan didn't say anything and simply held onto Maddy's hand, giving her silent reassurance.

No matter what the Stones were like, Jordan would always stand on Maddy's side and never turn his back on her!

Rayson remained silent. Although Lucas had already said that he had nothing to do with the Stones, he might be softhearted on Maddy's account.

Thus, he couldn't act against the Stones at this moment.

Meanwhile, Eric also looked gloomy and sullen.

He had long thought of capturing Jordan and killing him to avenge his son. But at the same time, Eric also wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to plunder the Stones. At the very least, he wanted to get enough benefits so that his son wouldn't have died in vain.

But Florence, the head of the Howards, had intervened to save Maddy and Jordan, followed by Lucas showing up out of nowhere and making even Rayson terrified. It made Eric not dare to act rashly.

Eric had always been a very cautious person. If he failed to take revenge but instead provoked a powerful enemy who was not to be trifled with, he and his family would suffer greatly!

Seeing that the two of them were silent, Florence smiled. “Mr. Branson, actually, I think the person who killed your son is Becky Sanders. If you want to avenge your son, just punish her, and we can put this matter to rest. What do you think?”

Florence’s words gave Eric an out.

She had obviously seen his hesitation and knew that he didn’t dare to confront Lucas. But because he had to take revenge for his son, he wasn’t willing to show any weakness. So she said this on purpose.

Eric’s heart was full of extremely complicated emotions. At the same time, he felt suffocated as he had to suppress his anger.

Of course he wanted to kill Becky, but he didn’t want to let Jordan, who had broken his son’s limbs, off the hook either.

But in the current situation, he had no choice but to let him go since Lucas and Florence were protecting him.

Just as Eric decided to suck it up, let Jordan off, and give up on seeking revenge for the time being, several more luxurious cars slowly pulled over outside the Stone residence.

Soon, another middle-aged man with a formidable aura slowly walked out of a Lincoln limousine.

Upon seeing this person's face, many people couldn't help exclaiming in shock, "Th-that's Derek Piers, helmsman of the Pier family!"

"The head of the Piers is actually here too!"

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The Stones exclaimed one after another. They were so agitated that they were on the verge of passing out.

They usually wouldn't have the opportunity to meet the esteemed helmsmen of the top eight families. Yet Florence, the helmsman of the Howards; Rayson, the helmsman of the Williams; Eric, the next helmsman of the Bransons; and even Derek, the helmsman of the Piers, had arrived!

The helmsmen of four of the eight top families were now at the Stone residence. Normally, the Stones could brag about this for years. But now, none of them dared to speak loudly because even the most foolish person knew that something was amiss.

Even the helmsmen of the other rich and powerful families were surprised.

As soon as Florence saw Derek, she frowned. She would never forget how Conrad had brought Derek and numerous bodyguards to collude with the Williams to force her to marry Derek at her father's funeral.

Now that Derek was here too, she was certain that nothing good would come out of it!

Rayson looked calm. Although he had given up the Piers as an ally under the coercion of Lucas and Jordan previously and almost destroyed the temporary alliance between the two families, he had always been thick-skinned. Thus, he could still act as if nothing had happened and greet Derek with a smile.



Eric felt apprehensive.

He wasn't sure why Derek suddenly appeared here and wondered if he was there to stop him.

In that case, the Bransons wouldn't be able to get any benefits today!

Derek suddenly looked at Eric and said with a smile, "Eric, as you have seen, Florence Howard wants you to give up on taking revenge and leave obediently. Don't be fooled by her!"

Hearing this, Eric breathed a sigh of relief. He realized that Derek wasn't here to target him. Instead, he was hostile to Florence and seemed to be on his side.

"Florence is scheming, cunning, vicious, and evil. For the sake of the position of helmsman, she even killed her own father and acts hypocritical everywhere. How disgusting! Eric, don't be frightened by her!

"If you leave now, Florence will become the Stones' benefactor and possibly even take away all their assets. At that time, you would have lost your son for nothing. Not only would you have failed to seek justice for him, but you would have been used by her. Wouldn't that be a huge loss for you?"

Derek's remarks were all attacking Florence and provoking conflict between her and Eric.

Florence flew into a rage. "Derek Piers, you despicable scum! Stop lying and slandering me!

"All the Howards know that my father died of illness. You're in no place to spout nonsense and slander me here!

“At my father’s funeral, you insulted the Howards and wanted to force me to marry you. I didn’t let you succeed, so you made that up to ruin my reputation, huh? How shameless!

“Also, don’t forget that nearly thirty top experts of your family are now working for me. If you want to provoke the Howards, go ahead and try!”

Florence wasn’t a pushover, and she retorted vehemently.

Previously, the Howards had wanted to take advantage of Felix’s death to bully them. However, not only had they failed to gain any benefits, but they had even suffered a huge loss. Nearly thirty experts they had trained for years had defected to the Howards.

The Howards and the Piers were originally on par in various aspects. But since then, the Piers clearly lagged behind the Howards in terms of combat forces.

Thus, Florence’s words were both a warning and a threat to Der

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Derek narrowed his eyes and stared at Florence for a long time before saying, “Hmph, they’re just some useless good-for-nothings. Since the Howards like picking up garbage, you can take them. Do you think I’d be scared of your family just because of this?”

“Haha!” Florence laughed with contempt. “So, it turns out that you think the Piers’ experts are garbage, huh? You have a really special hobby of bringing garbage around with you!”

Then Florence deliberately looked mockingly at the twenty or so experts behind Derek.

Derek was the current helmsman of the Piers, so his safety was naturally of paramount importance. Whenever he went out, he would bring numerous experts with him. Moreover, this time, he was at the Stone residence to confront Florence. Thus, he had naturally brought plenty of people with him.

In particular, there were several strong and burly men standing behind him, each of them as muscular as Muay Thai experts.

They were top experts whom Derek had spent a lot of money to hire from abroad recently. After all, the Piers had lost a great amount of combat power after the incident at the Howards’ previously. Thus, he had to replenish them quickly.

These muscular and burly men were the new subordinates of the Piers.

Eric looked at Derek and then at Florence. A smart person like him could immediately tell that there was a deep feud between them. But this was favorable for him.

Choked speechless by what Florence said, Derek snorted coldly and stopped arguing with her. He turned to look at Rayson. “Mr. Williams, you suffered such humiliation at the Howard residence the other day. Are you going to forget it just like that?”

Damn it! This old fogey is trying to drag me into this! Rayson cursed angrily in his heart. He immediately understood Derek’s intentions.

But he was scared of Jordan and Lucas. Even if Derek wanted to join him in an alliance again, he didn't want it.

Thus, Rayson deliberately pretended to look confused and asked in puzzlement, "Mr. Piers, what are you saying? Why can't I understand you?"

In fact, after Rayson was forced to kneel at the Howard residence and suffered something so humiliating for the first time in his life, he was incredibly upset. As soon as he returned to the Williams residence, he immediately ordered someone to investigate Lucas and Jordan.

In the beginning, he thought that they had simple identities. But later, he found that there was a six-year gap in the information about Lucas. It was as if he had vanished from the world for six years and suddenly returned afterward.

Rayson was extremely puzzled and ordered his men to dig out information about Lucas during those few years, but to no avail.

Later, a friend of Rayson who specialized in intelligence work reminded him that someone as powerful as Lucas who suddenly disappeared for several years most likely had a special identity. It was better not to investigate him, let alone go against him.

Rayson was so terrified that he broke out in cold sweat. Since then, he was full of scruples toward Lucas. He simply pretended that he hadn't been forced to kneel and apologize to Lucas.

Anyway, only their three families knew about what had happened that day. No one should deliberately spread the news about the matter that day, unless they wanted to become enemies of the Williams!

Afterward, Derek had called Rayson several times, wanting to join forces with him to deal with the Howards and Lucas.

But after heeding his friend's warning, Rayson obviously wouldn't dare to continue being an enemy of Lucas. Thus, he completely ignored Derek's intentions.

It was the same this time.

As soon as Rayson spoke, Derek immediately understood that Rayson was feigning ignorance and refusing to stand on his side to go against Florence.

Derek sneered. "Mr. Williams, less than a month has passed since that incident. Are you that forgetful? Have you forgotten that you were forced to kneel to apologize and beg for forgiveness at the Howards'?"

"It's okay if you've forgotten. I've already had someone record the way you looked kneeling that day. Do you believe that I'll immediately get people to publish it online so that everyone can appreciate the sight of the Williams' helmsman on his knees begging for forgiveness?"

"How dare you?!" Rayson's expression instantly changed.

He never expected that Derek had recorded the scene of him kneeling and admitting to his mistakes at the Howard residence!

If Derek really posted this video online, not only would Rayson be humiliated, but the Williams would also become the laughing stock of DC!

Derek obviously wanted to threaten him with this matter!

Seeing how furious Rayson was, Derek smiled conceitedly and then softened his tone to persuade, "Rayson, why are you doing this? You've suffered so much that even I feel upset for you. You're the head of the Williams, one of the eight top families in DC, yet two young punks bullied you. Do you think that's right?"

“Now, Eric’s son was also killed by Jordan. Naturally, he wants to seek justice for his son, and the Piers also intend to stand on the Bransons’ side. What we’re facing is only the weak and negligible Stone family and the Howard family.

“Now we’re two against one. Mr. Williams, if you join us, we’ll form a strong and united front of three top families against them! Wouldn’t this be a perfect opportunity for revenge?”

“Mr. Williams, you have to think this through properly. This is a rare opportunity. If you miss his chance, can you bear to endure the humiliation forever?”

Derek stimulated Rayson step by step, wanting to convince him to stand on their side.

If three of the top eight families united, they would form a terrifying force that was almost enough to sweep through all of DC!

His persuasion was really tempting.

Just as Derek said, although Rayson had already made up his mind to give up on taking revenge against Lucas, he couldn’t possibly just forget the humiliation he had suffered and pretend that nothing had happened. But he was just forcing himself not to think about it as much as possible because he didn’t dare to take revenge against Lucas.

Now, Derek was really giving him a tempting opportunity for revenge.

If the Bransons, the Piers, and the Williams united, would he still have to be afraid of Lucas?

At this moment, Rayson’s heart was pounding vigorously!

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The current situation made Florence the most uneasy.

She came to the Stone residence this time because she had heard a report that something unfavorable had happened to Jordan and Maddy and that the Bransons were coming to confront them.

Florence knew that Jordan and Lucas were very close to each other. Thus, she had rushed over with her subordinates to protect Jordan and Maddy in order to leave a good impression on Lucas so that she could have the chance to make up with Cheyenne. At the same time, she also wanted to repay Lucas for helping her before.

But Florence didn't expect things to become so complicated later. Not only did Rayson Williams come, but Derek Piers did as well.

If the Williams, the Piers, and the Bransons really united, the Howards wouldn't be able to deal with them even if they gave it their all.

Carlos and the Stones turned as pale as a sheet. Even though they were on the Stones' territory, they weren't qualified to speak in this situation.

Maddy and Jordan stood quietly next to each other, looking calm and composed.

Both of them knew Lucas's true identity. Let alone three, even if all eight of the top families joined forces against Lucas, they would be no match for him at all. They would only end up being destroyed!

Without saying a word, Lucas just looked on expressionlessly, as if he was an outsider who had no idea that the helmsmen opposite him were discussing forming an alliance against him.

In fact, it didn't matter to Lucas whether Rayson agreed to the alliance or not. The only thing that mattered to him was whether he would add the Williams to the list of people he would deal with in the future.

Eric's eyes darted around. One moment, he looked at Derek and Rayson, and the other, he looked at the expressionless Lucas standing nearby.

Based on the conversation just now, Eric learned that both the Piers and the Williams had suffered great losses at the Howard residence. The Howards had taken away more than 20 experts from the Piers, and Rayson had even been forced to kneel and apologize to someone at the Howard residence!

In comparison, Rayson's matter was clearly more shocking.

He could have never expected this of Rayson, the esteemed helmsman of the Williams family. What kind of person could force him to kneel and apologize?

Seeing the obvious scruples and fears on Rayson's face when he faced Lucas, he wondered if Lucas was the person who had forced Rayson.

At this moment, a storm was brewing in Eric's heart.

He subconsciously looked at Lucas a few times to get some clues from his expression, but Lucas seemed too calm for him to be able to see anything.

But this was what made it even more problematic.

If he was just an ordinary person, how could he still remain so calm at this time?

Lucas's expressionless face simply showed that he was too confident and completely fearless!

Eric felt apprehensive and curious about Lucas's identity.



Rayson bit his lip and pondered for a long time without speaking.

Just as Derek was getting anxious while waiting and about to ask him again, Rayson finally raised his head and said slowly, “Derek, I can’t stop you from courting death, but I have a word of advice for you. You’re not qualified to fight with Mr. Gray!”

Derek’s expression immediately stiffed!

He froze for a moment before saying in disbelief, “Rayson, are... are you out of your mind? You’re actually speaking up for Lucas Gray?!”

He found it really hard to believe. It was Lucas’s subordinate Jordan who had forced Rayson to kneel and admit his mistakes to Lucas. So by right, Rayson should hate Lucas and want to kill him immediately!

Now that he proposed an opportunity to form an alliance with him to deal with Lucas, Rayson should have agreed without hesitation.

But Rayson actually now said that he was courting death and that he wasn’t qualified to fight with Lucas.

Was there something wrong with Rayson?

Rayson had already made up his mind to stand on Lucas’s side, so he naturally would no longer be friendly with Derek. He said coldly, “So what if I’m speaking up for Mr. Gray? I’m just stating facts. You’ll only be courting death if you think that you and your family can go against Mr. Gray!”

Then he stepped forward and said loudly, “No matter who wants to deal with Mr. Gray, they’ll become enemies of the Williams!”

Boom!

Rayson's words were like a thunderstorm striking everyone in the head!

Not only was Rayson refusing to be an enemy of Lucas, but he was even standing on Lucas's side and didn't hesitate to have all the Williams stand on Lucas's side too!

Derek had clearly said that Rayson had suffered a huge loss because of Lucas. Why did things suddenly turn out this way?

The Stones stood rooted to the ground, dumbfounded and speechless.

At the same time, a strong feeling of regret filled the hearts of the Stones.

In fact, all of the Stones had already witnessed how strong Jordan was a month ago and knew that Lucas was a powerful big shot who didn't even take the Smiths seriously.

But under the prestige and threat of the Bransons, they all thought that Lucas wouldn't be a match for the Bransons. In order to convince the Bransons not to hold them responsible, they had even driven Maddy out of the family and threatened to capture Jordan and deliver him to the Bransons.

But Maddy and Jordan were not only under the protection of Florence, the head of the Howards, but even Rayson, the head of the Williams, was obviously standing on Lucas's side!

If the Stones hadn't kicked Maddy out of the family, they would be under the protection of the Howards and the Williams now!

Given the strength of the Stones, they would be able to remain carefree with these two backers!

At this moment, Carlos's heart was full of dismay, regret, and panic.

In order to please the Williams so that they would help the Stones tide through their ordeal, he had even given up his daughter Maddy and wanted her to marry Rayson's intellectually challenged and violent son.

But Maddy's friend Lucas actually managed to get Rayson to take his side and be polite to him in every way.

The drastic difference and regret made Carlos want to slap himself!

Derek glowered at Rayson gloomily with anger written all over his face.

"Rayson Williams! You're too shameless? Not only are you not taking revenge against Lucas Gray for forcing you to kneel down, but you're even defending him and acting like his lapdog? You're such an embarrassment to our eight families!"

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Rayson was enraged and bellowed, "Derek Piers, stop barking like a mad dog! So what if I'm standing on Mr. Gray's side? Since you want to court death, I can't be bothered to stop you. But after losing dozens of your experts to Howards, you can't even defeat the Howards now, and you're even less qualified to make a scene in front of me!

"If you want to go to war with my family, bring it on!"

Derek was hopping mad. "Rayson Williams, stop being arrogant in front of me! As soon as I put the video of you kneeling and begging for mercy on the Internet, you won't dare to be so arrogant anymore!"

He originally thought that Rayson would be daunted by what he said since it concerned his reputation and the Williams'.

But to his surprise, Rayson merely sneered. “Derek, just keep pretending! During that situation, you were scared out of your wits after Mr. Gray dealt with your people. How could you have secretly recorded it?”

When he first heard Derek’s threat, Rayson was startled, thinking that Derek had really recorded a video of the greatest humiliation of his life as blackmail against him. But he had just thought it through clearly and recalled that Lucas was present that day, and Derek’s subordinates had either been knocked out by Jordan or taken away by the Howards. How could he have secretly recorded a video?

This was indeed the case. Derek didn’t have any video of Rayson apologizing on his knees. It was just a lie that he made up to fool him.

Having been exposed by Rayson, Derek’s expression stiffened, and he could only grit his teeth in anger and curse, “Old fox!”

At this moment, Florence smiled and said, “Derek, you’ve been talking about joining forces with the Bransons to fight me from the start, but did Mr. Branson agree? I’m afraid that this is all your own wishful thinking, right?”

From the moment Rayson rejected Derek’s invitation to join forces and made it clear that he was on Lucas’s side, Florence felt a great sense of relief and also noticed the change in emotions on Eric’s face.

Due to the change in situation, Eric’s expression had changed erratically for a long time. Florence could tell that he planned to take a step back, so she deliberately spelled it out loud.

Eric frowned. Rayson suddenly defected to Lucas, causing him to feel a strong sense of crisis and a terrible premonition. He had been thinking about what Lucas’s identity was and why Rayson was so afraid of him. He contemplated if he should continue cooperating with Derek to go against Lucas.

In the end, as soon as he revealed a tinge of fear, Florence immediately exposed him, causing him to be extremely displeased.

As expected, Derek immediately looked at Eric and asked in a deep voice, “Eric, you’re not afraid of Lucas and the Howards, are you? Your son died at their hands. Are you really going to take it lying down?”

Eric gritted his teeth and said with hostility, “I have my own play for this. You don’t need to say more!”

Derek’s heart immediately sank.

Eric’s attitude had obviously changed. It seemed like he wanted to back down.

At this moment, a black BMW slowly pulled over in front of the Stone residence.

Everyone turned to look at the car.

The Stones were already numb at this moment. Who came this time?

The car door opened, and a middle-aged man in his forties stepped out from the passenger seat.

Soon, a badly bruised young man was escorted out by two men who looked like bodyguards, and they were walking behind the middle-aged man.

Everyone watched with puzzlement as the middle-aged man walked toward Lucas and said respectfully, “Lucas, I’ve done everything you asked me to do. I’ve found the person, and I’m waiting for your decision!”

The middle-aged man who came was none other than Flynn Davis, the general manager of Stardust Corporation!

But no one expected that Flynn was also one of Lucas's men, and he was so respectful to Lucas!

When Derek saw the young man escorted over by Flynn's bodyguards, his expression changed drastically! How did Lucas's man find him? This shouldn't be possible!

The others looked puzzled, wondering what Flynn meant by bringing this young man here.

While everyone was confused, Flynn had already walked up to the young man and warned coldly, "Now, tell us everything you know and what you've done honestly! Otherwise, I'll make sure you die miserably!"

This young man had already been taught a lesson earlier. So as soon as he heard what Flynn said, horror appeared on his face, and he frantically said, "I-I'll tell you everything! Please don't kill me! He got me to do it! He told me to kill Mark Branson in secret so that no one could tell!"

The young man suddenly pointed at someone among the crowd.

The person he pointed at was Derek!

Everyone was shocked!

Eric's expression changed greatly as he rushed forward and grabbed the young man by his collar. "What did you say? Say it again! How did my son die?"

He had always thought that his son Mark had died of pain after Jordan broke his limbs. But this young man explained that he was the one who had killed his son!

Eric's anger was imaginable.

The others were also stunned. They didn't expect that there was more behind Mark's death.

Jordan sneered and realized something. "I've always found it strange. I clearly controlled myself and only broke Mark Branson's bones. There were no fatal injuries, so how did he suddenly die? It turns out someone has secretly done something!"

Jordan looked at Lucas gratefully.

Lucas obviously also felt that there was something unusual about Mark's death, which was why he had instructed Flynn to investigate and find out the true murderer!

Florence looked at Derek and snickered. "Derek, this is an interesting game you're playing to sow discord! You almost got away with it!"

Derek's face was incomparably gloomy, and large beads of cold sweat appeared on his face.

This young man was indeed the henchman he had ordered to kill Mark to frame Jordan. Only in this way would the Bransons form a feud with Jordan and Lucas. In that case, the Piers would have an invisible ally.

But Derek never thought that Lucas would send someone to capture his henchman and expose his plot on the spot!

Eric picked up the young man by his collar and gave him a hard slap. Then he glared at Derek and snapped, "Damn it! Derek, how are you going to explain this to me? Ahh!"

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Seeing that the situation wasn't good, Derek hurriedly said, "Uh, Eric, don't be fooled by these people! I swear I didn't send anyone to kill your son. I don't know the man you're holding at all! Since they brought him here, he's obviously in cahoots with them and trying to frame me so that you'll hate me!"

Eric couldn't tell who was lying, so he could only squeeze the neck of the young man in his hand and roar, "Say it! Tell me honestly how my son died?!"

Afraid that Eric would really strangle him to death, the young man explained frantically, "Mr... Mr. Piers instructed me to do it! I've always worked for the Piers, and just after noon today, he told me that there was a man with broken limbs at the mall, and he immediately wanted me to pretend to be a member of the rescue team so that I could kill him silently!

"I haven't touched the two hundred thousand Mr. Piers told his butler to give me! I swear I'm telling the truth! I'm not lying at all!"

Derek shouted in panic, "Stop spouting nonsense and slandering me! I don't know you, and I've never seen you before. How could I have possibly instructed you to kill someone?"

"Furthermore, as the head of the esteemed Pier family, if I really wanted to kill someone, I would instruct my subordinates to relay the orders. How could I have done it myself? I don't know who instructed you to deal with me, but you'd better think it over carefully. If you dare to slander me, I'll definitely skin you alive and make sure your entire family dies horribly!"

Derek hollered furiously, refusing to admit that this young man had anything to do with him. In particular, his last sentence had an intense threat.

Sure enough, after hearing what Derek said, the young man shuddered and didn't dare to say anything else.

Eric said coldly, "Don't worry. As long as you tell the truth, the Bransons will protect your family. No one will be able to hurt them!"



In fact, now that things had already come to this, Derek had already made a judgment that there was something fishy about his son's death. He was certain that Derek had instructed this young man to kill his son!

1

The young man gritted his teeth and said, "What I just said was the truth! Mr. Branson, given your abilities, it should be easy for you to find out if I've worked for the Piers!

"Moreover, I can tell you very clearly that I received two hundred thousand in my account at around one-thirty this afternoon, and your son's death was at about one-fifty! I remember it very clearly!

"You can run and check and find out these things! It was Derek Branson who made me do it, and I hope you'll spare my family on account that I've told you the truth. They don't know anything!"

1

The young man gave a clear account of all the things he had done, and there was a definite timeline from the moment he received the money to when he killed Mark. So it was unlikely that someone had bribed him after Mark's to frame Derek.

"Derek, now that the evidence is conclusive, what else do you have to say?" Eric glowered at Derek, his eyes burning with fury.

He never imagined that just a few minutes ago, Derek was still telling him not to forget that his son had been murdered and that he mustn't let Jordan, the Howards, and Lucas off the hook.

But the facts now showed that the person who really killed his son was none other than Derek!

He had deliberately set things up to frame Jordan and falsely say that he wanted to help Eric take revenge so that he could use him to deal with his enemy!

How vicious and evil!

Derek couldn't find a suitable reason to get himself out of trouble, so he could only deny it vehemently. "I really didn't do it. This punk made it all up. Eric, you have to believe me!"

He was full of hatred. He had already carried out his plan successfully, and he was so close to uniting three top families. But a sudden change had occurred, and the murderer had been exposed. As a result, his plans went up in smoke, and he ended up offending the Bransons!

Florence took a deep look at Lucas with heartfelt admiration in her eyes.

She initially thought that she would come over and be able to resolve Maddy and Jordan's matter. But she didn't expect the Williams and the Piers to get involved too. If Lucas wasn't present, the Bransons, the Piers, and the Williams would have formed an alliance and put the Howards in a dangerous situation.

Moreover, Lucas had secretly sent someone to investigate Mark's death and found the real murderer, exposing Derek's plot and turning the situation around!

Meanwhile, Rayson looked at Lucas in astonishment, finding it impressive that he had turned the situation around without much effort.

At this time, Rayson's heart was full of joy. Fortunately, after some hesitation, he had chosen to stand on Lucas's side instead of joining Derek. Facts proved that he had made the right choice!

Seeing that things were going awry and escalating out of control, Derek felt vexed and flustered.

“Hmph, I came with good intentions to help the Bransons seek justice. However, I didn’t expect that not only would you be ungrateful, but you’re even doubting me even though I’ve been framed! In that case, I have nothing more to say. Goodbye!” Derek said angrily and turned around to leave.

“Stop. Did I say that you could leave?” Lucas’s cold and indifferent voice suddenly sounded behind him.

Derek’s body froze in shock.

He planned to ignore Lucas and just walk away. But for some reason, a chill surged in his heart when he recalled what had happened at the Howard residence previously. His feet felt as if they were stuck to the ground, and he didn’t dare to move at all.

Previously, Dereck and his father had brought more than thirty elite bodyguards to the Howard residence. Four of them had been severely injured, while the rest had their joints disconnected by Jordan. Eventually, they later joined the Howard family.

Although he had brought more than twenty people this time and a few top experts he had hired from abroad at a high price, he wasn’t confident when facing Lucas.

“Wh-what do you want?” Derek stared at Lucas with clenched fists.

Lucas said coldly, “You secretly killed Eric Branson’s son, but that’s between you and the Bransons. I don’t care about this. But you owe me an explanation for framing my friend Jordan for it! Furthermore, you repeatedly slandered my mother-in-law for killing her father to take over his position. You’d better explain yourself, or else you can forget about stepping foot outside the Stone residence today!”

What Lucas said immediately shocked everyone present.

What he said at first was understandable, but they were confused by what he meant by his mother-in-law killing her father.

The only person accused of killing her father was Florence, the new helmsman of the Howards. Could it be that Florence was Lucas's mother-in-law?!

All of a sudden, Eric, Derek, Rayson, Carlos, and the Stones were stunned.

They had no idea that Lucas and Florence had such a relationship!

Even Florence froze for a moment before returning to her senses and realizing that Lucas had actually acknowledged that she was his mother-in-law!

At this moment, a wave of emotions surged in Florence's heart, making her feel a strong urge to cry on the spot.

She wondered if Lucas's acknowledgment meant that she and Cheyenne would reconcile soon.

Derek's eyes bulged, and he shouted angrily, "Since when did I slander Florence Howard? How is it wrong that I said she killed her father to take over his position?"

"Did you see it with your own eyes?" Lucas asked.

"Hmph, this news came from the Howards themselves. Why would they slander her?" Derek insisted.

Lucas sneered. "So, your claim is entirely based on hearsay, and you don't have any evidence at all. You're just falsely accusing my mother-in-law! If I say that I heard you killed your mother, what would you do? Or is that the Piers' upbringing?"

Last time, Derek had also brought a large group of people and deliberately caused trouble at the Howard residence to take advantage of Felix's death to bully the Howards and force Florence to marry into the Piers.

That time, Derek and his father kept calling Florence a vicious wench who killed her father to take over his position.

Lucas didn't bother much with the Piers previously and had only detained the twenty-odd experts as punishment before releasing Derek and his father.

But today, Florence took the initiative to rush to the Howard residence to help Maddy and Jordan. So Lucas acknowledged her favor and her identity as his mother-in-law.

Since this was the case, Lucas would never let anyone defame Florence and tarnish her reputation. If Cheyenne really wanted to reconcile with her, he wouldn't stop her, but he wouldn't let her be criticized for having a mother accused of killing her father for his position.

Moreover, Derek had deliberately killed someone and tried to frame Jordan. He had even wanted to unite with the Bransons and the Williams to deal with them. He had already offended Lucas several times, so Lucas naturally wouldn't let him off the hook easily.

"Punk, you're really sharp-tongued! I can't be bothered with you, but you'd better behave!" Derek had an ominous premonition and just quickly wanted to leave.

"Teach him a lesson!" Lucas said calmly.

Jordan immediately rushed out and stood in front of Derek, blocking him from leaving.

The next second...

Smack!

Smack!

Two loud slaps immediately resounded throughout the courtyard of the Stone residence!

Everyone stared at the scene in front of them with their mouths wide open in shock, looking at Jordan's hand in the air and the bright red slap marks on Derek's face!

Derek, the helmsman of one of the eight top families of DC, was actually slapped twice by Jordan!

In particular, the Stones' mouths were so wide open that they could fit eggs inside.

They knew that Jordan was Maddy's fiancé, but they never thought that he would have the courage to slap Derek twice in public!

The Stones were practically about to faint!

"You... you bastard, how dare you hit me?" Derek was stupefied by the loud slaps. When he regained his senses, he was furious and glowered at Jordan like he wanted to kill him.

"So what if I hit you? You deserve it!"

Smack!

Jordan sneered, raised his hand, and slapped Derek on the face again. "You slandered me and framed me. Don't you deserve to be beaten up?"

"Punk, I won't let you..."

Smack!

Before Derek could finish speaking, Jordan slapped his face again. “You killed someone and framed me for it. Don’t you deserve to be beaten up?”

“You...”

Smack!

“You tried to use someone else to harm Lucas. Don’t you deserve to be beaten up?”

Smack!

“You’re unrepentant and keep issuing threats. Don’t you deserve to be beaten up?”

Smack!

Smack!

Smack!

...

Jordan slapped Derek’s face relentlessly. Before long, Derek’s cheeks were red and swollen, and he couldn’t even speak. Blood was even dropping from the corners of his mouth.

Everyone watched on, dumbfounded.

As the head of the Piers, Derek was actually being slapped on his face so hard that it was as swollen as a pig’s head.

Even the elite bodyguards Derek had brought with him were stunned.

They didn't expect that there would be someone so fierce and bold in DC as to slap Derek's face in public!

At this moment, the people Derek brought finally reacted, and their expressions changed drastically. The few tall and muscular experts and the bodyguards of the Piers all charged toward Jordan.

The twenty or so people rushed toward Jordan together. Among them, there were many who were twice as muscular as Jordan. The scene was extremely shocking!

Many people exclaimed and quickly stepped back, afraid that they might be implicated.

But while Eric was backing up, he subconsciously glanced at Lucas.

Lucas still looked very calm, and he wasn't the slightest bit worried or nervous.

Isn't Lucas Gray worried at all that something might happen to Jordan? Or does he have enough confidence in Jordan and believes that he won't be defeated by the siege of more than twenty people in front of him?

Who exactly is Lucas Gray?

“Ah!”

“Waahhh!”

“Pfft!”

“Ah!”



...

While Eric was absent-minded for a bit, several miserable shrieks and yells resounded.

Eric turned around abruptly, only to see Jordan kicking away the people rushing at him one by one.

These people flew into the air like sandbags and fell heavily to the ground.

Even the five muscular men weren't spared from the ruthless treatment. They couldn't fight back at all.

This scene was really astonishing!

If he hadn't seen it with his own eyes, Eric would have found it hard to believe that the lean Jordan could subdue the twenty-odd experts of Derek within just a few seconds!

### Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 1038

Not only was Eric, who witnessed Jordan's fighting ability for the first time, shocked, but even the others who had long known how powerful Jordan was were shocked by the scene in front of them.

In just a few seconds, Jordan had already defeated the twenty-odd experts that Derek had brought. How powerful was he?

The person most shocked was Derek, who was standing in the middle with a dazed expression on his swollen face.

He came to the Stone residence this time with the remaining elite experts of the Piers and several powerful men he had hired from abroad at a high price. At first, he was full of confidence.

Originally, he thought that he could use his newly acquired combat forces to deal with Jordan and Lucas and take revenge for the humiliation he had suffered at the Howard residence last time. But he never imagined that Jordan would defeat them before they could even touch him.

Derek's calves began to shiver.

Meanwhile, Rayson felt astonished but also extremely fortunate.

Fortunately, he had made a wise choice and didn't get involved with Derek. Otherwise, the Williams' experts would have been among the people on the ground and unable to get up.

And Derek being slapped until his face was red and swollen was so terrifying that Rayson didn't even dare to think about it.

This scene made the Stones feel immense regret.

In particular, Carlos was so regretful that he was on the verge of tears.

Jordan could actually teach the head of the Piers a hard lesson, slap his face swollen, and even knock out the Piers' experts within a few moments. But he was his former son-in-law!

If he hadn't driven Maddy out of the family and lost such an impressive son-in-law as Jordan, even the eight top families of DC likely wouldn't dare to provoke them easily.

Unfortunately, he had ruined this favorable position himself!

Suddenly, Jordan looked at Lucas and asked, "Lucas, should we just kill him?"

Hearing this, everyone fell into shock again!

Derek, the head of the Piers, was now so lowly that he was just like an ordinary person to Lucas and Jordan!

They could kill the head of one of the eight most powerful families in DC without even batting an eyelid!

Most importantly, everyone here could see that Jordan wasn't blowing his trumpet. He and Lucas really didn't care about Derek's life and could really kill him whenever they wanted!

Thud!

Derek's legs went limp, and he knelt on the ground!

This scene shocked everyone once again and rendered them speechless!

Before Lucas even decided whether to kill Derek or not, Derek already couldn't withstand the overwhelming pressure and knelt!

"M-Mr. Gray, it was my mistake. I... I will never dare to frame anyone or slander your mother-in-law again. I will never dare to offend you again!

"I... I just hope you can spare me and let me off this time! In the future, I promise I will never cause trouble for you again!"

Derek spoke with great difficulty. He was now kneeling on the ground spinelessly, his face as swollen as a pig's head.

Boom!

Derek's actions and words caused the surrounding people to widen their mouths in disbelief!

The eight top families of the US were esteemed and respected by everyone. Usually, only others would kneel and apologize to them, never the other way around. It was practically impossible to see this sight!

Apart from Rayson, who had had the same experience previously, the rest couldn't even imagine this scene at all.

Everyone's eyes focused on Lucas.

Now, it depended on whether Lucas wanted to spare Derek or not.

Lucas looked at Derek, who was kneeling in front of him, and sneered with disdain. "You've offended my mother-in-law several times. You have to ask her if she wants to let you off!"

Florence was stunned again, and excitement surged in her heart.

Lucas gave her the right to decide Derek's fate so that she could get back at Derek and establish her prestige.

After today, the other top families would definitely not dare to despise or insult her again!

Florence was extremely excited because she knew that this was a special gift from Lucas!

Derek's face became even gloomier, but at this point, he no longer had a choice because all his subordinates had been defeated.

"M-Ms. Howard, it's all my fault for spouting nonsense and slandering you without even knowing the truth! Please... please forgive me. I won't dare to do it again!"

Kneeling on the ground in fear, Derek turned to Florence and spoke with a face full of humiliation. He even slapped his face twice.

He was absolutely terrified.

Right now, all of his subordinates had been wiped out, and he was all alone and outnumbered. He couldn't even run out of the Stone residence. If he couldn't obtain Florence's forgiveness now, Lucas might really kill him!

The more respectful and powerful people were, the more afraid of death they were.

It was the same for Derek. He would rather kneel in front of Florence spinelessly and beg her for forgiveness, even though he hated her guts!

Seeing Derek's current appearance, Florence felt extremely relieved.

She couldn't help glancing at Lucas, only to find that he didn't give her any signals. So she immediately knew that he was giving her full authority to handle it.

Honestly, given Derek's repeated insults to Florence and his attempts to force her to marry into the Piers, she wished she could kill him.

But no matter what, the Piers were also one of the eight top families in DC. If she really killed Derek, Conrad, the Piers' former helmsman, would definitely not let the matter rest, and he would surely form a death feud with the Howards.

If the two families were at odds, Florence wouldn't actually be too afraid. But she was worried that the Piers would scheme against Lucas and Cheyenne. If something untoward happened to them, she definitely wouldn't be able to bear it!

“Since you already know your wrongdoings, remember what you said today! If you dare to do it again, I won’t spare you. What are you waiting for? Get lost!” Florence shouted angrily.

Derek was overjoyed. As long as Florence was willing to spare his life, he didn’t care about anything else!

Derek said, “Thank you, Ms. Howard. I’ll definitely remember your words and won’t create trouble for you again!”

Then Derek got up from the ground in a panic, as if he had been spared from the death penalty. He scurried toward the gate and couldn’t even bother about the bodyguards and experts lying on the ground.

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 1039

Everyone watched Derek flee in panic, their mood extremely complicated.

They all knew that the Piers had been utterly humiliated in front of Lucas. If word about today’s incident spread, Derek and the Piers would become a laughing stock in the eyes of the people of DC.

Rayson couldn’t help raising his hand to wipe the cold sweat on his forehead, feeling thankful for the hundredth time that he hadn’t chosen the wrong path.

Otherwise, he would probably have to suffer the humiliating act of kneeling and begging for mercy twice!

While Derek fled in panic, Florence glanced at Eric and said with a smile, “Mr. Branson, the truth of the matter has come to light now, and the true murderer of your son is the Piers. So, shouldn’t you leave with your men now?”

Eric pursed his lips. Given the current situation, even if Jordan had really killed his son, he wouldn’t dare to seek revenge against Jordan.

What Florence said undoubtedly gave Eric an excellent out. He immediately said, “Since it’s all a misunderstanding, I naturally won’t settle scores with the innocent people here. It’s all Derek Piers’ fault, so I’ll go to the Piers’ right now and get him to give me an explanation!

“Goodbye, everyone!”

Florence smiled. “In that case, goodbye, Mr. Branson.”

Eric took one last glance at Lucas and left with the Bransons without hesitation. He didn’t even mention anything about holding Jordan responsible for breaking his son’s limbs.

After the Bransons left, Rayson also walked up to Lucas and said very politely, “Mr. Gray, if you have no further instructions, shall I leave too?”

Rayson had initially come to confront the Stones because Maddy had refused to marry his son, Cody. After everything that happened, he didn’t dare to mention it anymore. He also made up his mind that the Williams were not to mention this matter or provoke Lucas again!

Lucas glanced at Rayson and unexpectedly smiled. “Mr. Williams, it must have been hard on you today. From now on, the Stardust Corporation will need your help.”

Although Rayson was an extremely shameless fencesitter prone to changing his stand, he was timid, cautious, and good at judging the situation. So he knew what was most beneficial to him.

Thus, as long as Lucas still had the ability to deter Rayson, he would never be afraid of getting betrayed, making it easier for Lucas to control him.

Lucas's actions surprised Rayson. He never expected that Lucas would not only spare him from responsibility but also hint at a cooperation with him, showing him goodwill!

“That would be wonderful! Mr. Gray, don't worry. From now on, the Williams will be the firmest and most reliable partner of the Stardust Corporation in DC. I'll immediately go back and have someone prepare the cooperation proposal!” Rayson said with excitement written all over his face.

“In that case, thank you, Mr. Williams. When I have time in the future, I'll invite you out for a meal!” Lucas smiled.

“Haha, well said, well said! Goodbye, Mr. Gray, Ms. Howard!” Rayson bade them farewell and left with his people.

At this time, Florence came over and said with a complicated expression, “Lu... Mr. Gray, I wanted to help today. But in the end, I failed to do anything and instead received another favor from you. I'm really grateful.”

Although Lucas had previously acknowledged that Florence was his mother-in-law in front of everyone, she didn't dare to assume this identity in front of Lucas and instead remained very polite and respectful toward him.

Lucas looked up at her and said lightly, “You don't have to be so formal with me. Just call me Lucas.”

Florence's heart trembled in excitement.

Once upon a time, Florence could address Lucas by his name and even treat him rudely because she didn't take him seriously back then.



But as Lucas gradually revealed his abilities and strength, followed by the various incidents that took place afterward, Florence realized just how terrifyingly powerful her son-in-law was.

Thus, Florence was extremely cautious when speaking to Lucas, for fear that she would anger him.

But now, Lucas took the initiative to ask her to address him by his name. It seemed that he was no longer bothered about their unhappy past and intended to accept her as his mother-in-law.

“Okay!” Florence said excitedly, and even her eyes were red.

Seeing her so excited, Lucas sighed slightly.

Honestly, Florence simply wasn't qualified to be a mother, given her previous actions. His impression of her before was terrible. But after experiencing so many events, she had changed drastically.

If Florence had really changed her ways and could become a qualified mother, Lucas wouldn't stop Cheyenne from reconciling with her.

With tears in her eyes, Florence left in satisfaction.

With the departure of the Piers, the Bransons, and the Howards, only the Stones were left.

At this moment, the Stones were all apprehensive as they secretly sized up Lucas and the others, unsure of what would happen to them next.

But Lucas didn't look at them and instead looked at Maddy and asked with raised brows, “Maddy, shall we go?”

Maddy nodded and then looked at Carlos and said calmly, “We’ve already settled today’s issue. Just as I promised, the Stones weren’t implicated.

“But from now on, I will no longer have anything to do with the Stones. No matter what happens to you in the future, I won’t get involved!”

Then Maddy took Jordan’s hand and turned around to leave.

“W-wait!”

Seeing Maddy about to leave, Carlos couldn’t hold back any longer and immediately called out to her. “Maddy, I know it was my fault previously. I... I shouldn’t have let anger get the better of me and kicked you out of the family. I really know my mistakes!

“I also now know that I really have no ability to be the Stones’ helmsman. So I’ll hand the position over to you now! As long as you’re willing to return to the Stones, I will immediately pass the position of helmsman over to you. And I will never take matters into my own hands again!”

Although Carlos felt extremely ashamed, he still said this.

After what had happened today, Carlos was really full of regret.

He originally thought that his daughter had caused a disaster for the Stones, so he had severed ties with her in a fit of anger and expelled her from the family.

But it turned out that Maddy’s social connections were so powerful. Not only did she have a godmother like Florence and a powerful fiancé like Jordan, but she was even close friends with Lucas, whom even the heads of the eight top families in DC didn’t dare to offend.

If Maddy returned to the Stones, she would definitely bring them to greater glory with her connections, and no one would dare to bully the Stones again!

As such, Carlos was willing to hand over his position as helmsman to Maddy!

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 1040

After hearing what Carlos said, the Stones also spoke up. “Yes, Maddy, just return to the family. Carlos only spoke in anger previously. You two are father and daughter. There’s no feud that you can’t resolve!”

“That’s right! Maddy, quickly come back to the family. You carry the blood of the Stones, and no matter what, you’re one of us! Please forgive Carlos!”

“Maddy, the Stones need you, and you need the Stones too, don’t you? Just stay with us, and we can take it that nothing has happened. When you come back, you will be the next helmsman!”

...

The Stones persuaded her one after another.

But they had forgotten that Geoffrey, the former helmsman, had once wanted to hand over the position of helmsman to Maddy. Since she had turned it down then, she wouldn’t accept it now.

Besides, after seeing their shifting attitudes today, Maddy couldn’t stand their coldbloodedness and heartlessness, as well as how they only cared about pros and cons.

Maddy felt that she didn’t have the ability to return home and plan for the interests of these people so that they could lead a better life!

“You don’t have to say anymore!”

“That’s not what you said earlier when you thought I brought disaster to the family! At the time, did it occur to any of you that I’m a family member of yours?”

“In fact, before this, you even wanted to tie me up and hand me over to the Bransons or force me to marry Cody Williams!”

“If I didn’t have anyone to help me and was just a woman with nothing, would you still let me return to the family? I’m afraid you would have asked me to apologize with my death, lest I implicate you.”

Maddy looked at her former family members contemptuously. “So, stop acting like you care about and not your own interests! From now on, I will have nothing to do with the Stones!”

With that, Maddy took Jordan’s hand and left the Stone residence with Lucas, not looking back at all.

The Stones were red with embarrassment.

But when they saw that Maddy had really left and had no intention of returning, they panicked again.

“No, Carlos, you can’t just let Maddy go! If she doesn’t return to the Stones, what will happen to us?”

“Yeah, Carlos, Maddy is your daughter. If you beg for mercy, she might relent and agree to come back!”

“Maddy has such powerful connections now. Not only is she the goddaughter of Florence, the helmsman of the Howards, one of the eight top families of DC, but her fiancé and Lucas Gray don’t have simple identities either. If Maddy comes home, the Stones might become one of the top families!”

“Carlos, no matter what, you have to get Maddy to return. Otherwise, the Stones will lose a rare opportunity to ascend to greater heights!”

...

The Stones surrounded Carlos and kept talking. They could only see the benefits that Maddy could bring to the Stones now. Many of them had even thought of how the Stones could become one of the eight top families in DC in the future.

Carlos shut his eyes tightly and suddenly shouted, “Shut up!”

Everyone was shocked and immediately shut their mouths.

Carlos looked at the people surrounding him and suddenly felt an unprecedented sense of fatigue and misery.

No matter what, Maddy was Carlos’s daughter, who he had raised for nearly thirty years. He did feel some affection for her, but he had no choice but to kick her out in order to save the family.

But it was because he didn’t know that Maddy had such powerful connections.

If he had known, he wouldn’t have chosen to do this!

So now, Carlos could only bitterly accept the fact that Maddy hated him.

Furthermore, Carlos understood Maddy’s personality. She was as stubborn as her grandfather. He knew that she would never agree to return to the Stones even if he begged her.

At this moment, a member of the Stones suddenly thought of something and hurriedly said, “Carlos, Maddy has always been close to Geoffrey. If we can persuade him to come back and then convince him to persuade her, she’ll definitely give in!”

Seemingly enlightened, Carlos's eyes immediately lit up. "Yes! Maddy has always been close to her grandfather since she was a child. If Father comes back, he'll definitely be able to convince her!"

The other members nodded in agreement. "Yes, Uncle Geoffrey is most concerned about the development of the family. I'm sure if he knows that we have an opportunity to soar to glory now, he'll definitely come back! As long as we can convince him, we can convince Maddy!"

"But... Geoffrey... where is he now?" a Stone suddenly asked.

After hearing this question, all the Stones fell into a deafening silence.

They all knew that Geoffrey had left the Stones, but none of them had bothered to find out where he went.

At this moment, immense guilt welled up in Carlos's heart, and he wished he could slap himself.

His father, Geoffrey, was already 73 years old this year. Yet he had left his family in disappointment, while Carlos, his only son, showed no concern at all. He didn't even send someone to escort Geoffrey. So now, he didn't know where Geoffrey went!

He was a failure of a son!

"Send people to look for him immediately! No matter what, we must find his whereabouts!" Carlos roared with clenched fists.

With his order, all the Stones took action and began to search all over DC for Geoffrey's whereabouts.

...

At this moment, in a small courtyard of a house on the outskirts of DC, far away from the bustling city...

Geoffrey, whom the Stones were searching high and low in the city for, was sitting in this small courtyard and focused on tending to a small vegetable garden.

There wasn't the slightest tinge of sadness on his face, only a sense of relief, as if a huge burden had finally been lifted.

"Indeed, I should have come here a long time ago."

After tidying up the small vegetable garden, Geoffrey wiped away the sweat on his forehead, feeling satisfied and relaxed.

This feeling was something he had never felt since he became the helmsman of the Stones decades ago.

"Grandpa, I'm here to see you!"

A clear voice suddenly came from outside the small courtyard, followed by a smiling face appearing in front of Geoffrey.