

# Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 1221-1230

## 1221 Each With an Agenda

These two families were from Arizona and Nevada, but they had never had much of a relationship with the families of California. It was unclear why they suddenly came here.

Although they didn't know why the helmsman Anthony and Joel were here, Bruce wouldn't ignorantly turn them away since they had already come all the way here.

"Invite them in!" Bruce instructed.

Before long, Joel and Anthony brought their families' elite bodyguards into the reception hall.

Bruce stood up and said courteously, "Mr. Gillen, Mr. Cross, it's an honor to have you here!"

Although Bruce had long handed over the position of the Hales' helmsman to his grandson Connor, Connor was still too young, and the helmsmen who visited were both in their sixties. So Bruce showed them respect by greeting them personally.

Joel was a thin and petite elderly man with a sparse beard and slanted eyes. He was obviously someone to be trifled with.

Standing in the hall, he said mystifyingly, "Mr. Hale, save the formalities and pleasantries. We have already heard about it. The top families of California are facing a crisis, but you didn't even inform us. Are you looking down on us?"

Anthony, the chubby helmsman of the Cross family, said, "Mr. Gillen is right. We live so close to each other, but you didn't even inform us about such a major matter. If we didn't get the news by chance, I'm afraid the Hales would have been eradicated, and we wouldn't have even known about it!"

What these two people said was puzzling and harsh, as if they were close to the Hales. They actually thought that Bruce should tell them about the trouble the Hales encountered.

Connor was speechless, and he immediately wanted to say that the Crosses and the Gillens were in no place to meddle in their affairs.

On the other hand, Ethan stood up and said to them, "We are grateful for your goodwill in coming here, but we didn't contact you because we didn't want to implicate you."

He thought that since several top families of California were now facing the threat of the Hamiltons, they might be able to increase their chances of dealing with them if they could obtain the support of the two top families from neighboring states, whose helmsmen had come uninvited.

At this juncture, it was better not to offend them even though their tone wasn't pleasant.

Hearing what Ethan said, Joel and Anthony finally seemed satisfied.

"Don't worry. We live in neighboring states, so we should be considered friends. We've already heard about what happened to you, so we've specially brought our experts here to join forces with you. With so many families standing together, even if the Hamiltons really want to cause trouble for you, they might not dare to do anything!" Joel said firmly.

Anthony said, "Yes. Since you are in trouble, we obviously won't stand by and do nothing. Mr. Gillen and I brought our experts here with good intentions. As long as we stand strong together, even though the Hamiltons are a royal family branch, they will definitely be scrupulous facing so many of us!"

He wasn't lying. They had indeed brought about a hundred experts, who were now waiting outside.

Edmund and Ethan had brought their expert bodyguards as well. Including the hundred-odd experts of the Hales, there were around 400 experts present. It was a rather grand scene.

This was an extremely powerful force.

Edmund, sitting quietly on the couch, looked at Anthony and Joel coldly. After hearing what they said, he snorted coldly and mocked, "Hah, you two make it sound so nice!"

“Why would you be so kind as to help us? The Hamiltons must have gone to your families and threatened you to pledge allegiance to them too. You’re unwilling, so you’re here to seek an alliance with us, right?”

“Since you’re looking for allies, you should show us the proper attitude instead of acting self-important and condescending like you’re doing us a favor!”

As soon as Edmund said this, Joel and Anthony turned sullen.

They indeed had such plans in mind, but Edmund saw through them so quickly!

Joel narrowed his eyes and said with displeasure, “Mr. Cole, what do you mean? Mr. Cross and I brought our experts to your aid with kind intentions. However, not only are you not thanking us, but you’re even mocking us. Is that how the families of California treat your friends?”

Anthony touched his belly and said threateningly, “Exactly. We were kind enough to help you, but you’re maliciously suspecting us. How disappointing! Mr. Cole and Mr. Hale, if you don’t want our help, just say so. We won’t bother to worry about you! Once you get wiped out by the Hamiltons, you’ll regret it!”

Edmund didn’t buy it at all. “Don’t bother to play tricks in front of me! I’m much older than you two. Do you think I can’t see through your tricks?”

“If you want to form an alliance, do so properly. I can’t stand how you’re pretending to do us a favor. If you’re not happy, leave!”

Among everyone present, Edmund, who was in his seventies, was indeed the oldest and the most senior person. He had the confidence to challenge Joel and Anthony.

They were about to get into a heated argument, and tension arose in the reception hall.

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As the host, Bruce immediately stepped forward to stop them. "Everyone, please calm down. Don't fight!

"I know everyone is gathered here today in respect for my family and for the sake of handling the matter with the Hamiltons. In that case, let's not scatter our forces and unite to resolve the threat of the Hamiltons!

"The Hamiltons are a royal family branch, and they are far more powerful than us. If we don't stand as one, we might really end up having to give our businesses away to the Hamiltons. I believe none of us wants that, right?

"So, I suggest we sit down and talk things over calmly. Let's not fight, okay?"

Ethan chimed in, "You're right, Mr. Hale. Since everyone is here because of the Hamiltons' threat, we should each take a step back and unite to solve the problem first! Come, Mr. Gillen, Mr. Cross, please take a seat. Mr. Cole, please have a seat and a cup of tea!"

Under the meditation of Bruce and Ethan, the few of them calmed down.

After snorting coldly, Edmund no longer bothered to argue with Joel and Anthony. Since Edmund had exposed their purpose, the two of them no longer tried to justify themselves. They snorted coldly and sat down, stopping arguing over what just happened.

They were well aware that the biggest issue to deal with now was the threat the Hamiltons had given them.

As the helmsmen of the top families in their states, no one wanted to give away their businesses and succumb to others.

Besides, the Hamiltons were just a family from elsewhere. What right did they have to take over the businesses they had managed for years?

Thus, the most important thing now was for them to join forces and deal with the Hamiltons before deciding anything else.

Seeing everyone quiet, Bruce finally coughed twice and said, "Everyone should have already reached some common ground. In that case, let me say a few words!"

"Okay, Mr. Hale, please go ahead."

"Right, this is the Hale residence. Mr. Hale, please offer your advice!"

Joel and Anthony had changed their attitudes and spoke more politely.

They had been family helmsmen for years. Since Edmund had already exposed their purpose, there was no need for them to continue putting on airs and pretending.

Bruce glanced at Lucas and found that he didn't have any intention of speaking. So he knew that Lucas didn't want to get involved and had given him full authority to lead the discussion.

Thus, Bruce immediately took charge of the meeting and said, "I'll tell everyone what I think. Three days ago, the Hamiltons came to us and demanded that we pledge allegiance to them. We will never agree to that!"

"Of course, the Hamiltons are royals and far stronger than the eight top families of DC. We are no match for them at all. In fact, I think all our families are unable to rival them. Does everyone agree with this?"

Hearing Bruce's question, the helmsmen present all nodded quietly.

He was stating the obvious. They were facing a royal family branch that was far stronger than the eight top families. There were only nine such pinnacle families in the US. How could they compare to them?

"But the Hales can't just sit and wait. It would be shooting ourselves in the foot," Bruce said. "They all say that you can't beat a local tyrant. No matter how impressive the Hamiltons are, they are a family from elsewhere, and they don't have a strong foundation in California. If we join forces, it will be impossible for the Hamiltons to wipe out all of us."

"I think the Hamiltons want us to pledge allegiance because they want us to control and manage California for them, so they won't aggressively try to eliminate us. In that case, we have a chance to negotiate with them."

Joel frowned and asked in puzzlement. "Negotiate? You mean we're going to go negotiate with the Hamiltons?"

Bruce nodded. "Yes, it's impossible for us to fight head-on against a royal family branch like the Hamiltons. In that case, we have to think of another way to negotiate with them.

"If it's just one of our families, the Hamiltons won't be bothered at all. At worst, they'll get rid of one of us and find another family to replace us.

"But if we join forces and negotiate terms together, they will be more mindful. This is the confidence we have to negotiate with them.

"As long as we insist on the same terms, the Hamiltons won't be able to do anything to us."

After Bruce spoke, the others immediately showed thoughtful expressions.

What Bruce said really made sense. It was exactly what they wanted.

However...

After thinking about it, Joel said, "That's indeed a great solution, but what if the Hamiltons aren't willing to negotiate with us and insist on making us succumb by threatening to eradicate us?"

Everyone immediately fell silent.

This was the worst-case scenario, but none of them could guarantee that it wouldn't happen.

In fact, although they had gathered plenty of manpower and planned to suppress the Hamiltons' ambitions by outnumbering them, they were all well aware that it was just a means to deter the Hamiltons. They didn't really dare to get physical with them or kill Brett.

If they really went hard against the Hamiltons, they wouldn't beat them as local tyrants, but rather, they would be pitting themselves hard against a powerful opponent.

If they really hurt Brett or killed the experts of the Hamiltons, the Hamiltons would definitely see them as enemies and use the severest method to deal with them.

After all, the Hamiltons were royals, and even the eight top families of DC didn't dare to become enemies with them. They were really insignificant in the face of the Hamiltons.

Once the Hamiltons really planned to deal with them, they wouldn't get any time to consider at all. The Hamiltons would gather their forces and destroy them in less than a day.

Amid the silence, Edmund's voice was extremely clear. "Isn't it obvious? If the Hamiltons don't intend to let us off, then we can only fight them to the death!"

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1223 Surrendering is the Only Option

Edmund's vigorous and powerful voice made everyone's hearts shake.

However, not everyone agreed with his decision.

"That's absolutely impossible!" Joel was the first to step forward and voice his objection. "That's the Hamilton family, a royal family branch. Do you think it's some weak family? How can we fight against them? Hah, given the Coles' strength, you're just seeking death!"

"If you have a death wish, go ahead and kill yourselves. Don't drag us down with you!"

His words and tone were extremely rude.

Anthony looked at Edmund with disapproval and snorted coldly. "Yeah! Some people really think too highly of themselves! You think your family is very powerful, but you're nothing in the eyes of the Hamiltons! Fancy you thinking of fighting against the Hamiltons. With what? What a joke!"

In their opinion, the Hamiltons were not a family they could afford to provoke.

Joel and Anthony wouldn't have dared to go against the Hamiltons if it wasn't for the fact that they were unwilling to succumb to them and hand over the family businesses they had been managing for years. It also happened that the families in California had received the same threat, so they planned to join forces with them to negotiate with the Hamiltons.

In Joel and Anthony's opinion, fighting the Hamiltons to the death was incredibly foolish, and they would never do this.

Edmund had been in the military, where he had trained hard and developed a strong character. He had great tenacity and wouldn't easily succumb to others.

But the others clearly didn't have his courage.

Joel and Anthony weren't the only ones who didn't dare to make an enemy of the Hamiltons. Even Bruce and Ethan were contemplating hard.

Seeing the way they were behaving, Edmund snorted coldly. "Hmph, are you all that timid? Once the Hamiltons decide to show a tough attitude, I'll see what you do!

"Hah, I was wrong about all of you. You brought so many experts with you, so I thought you'd at least have the courage to fight against the Hamiltons. But I didn't expect you to be all cowards! You brought so many people here just to give yourselves a little more courage, didn't you? The truth is that they're useless, right?!"

Edmund's merciless mocking made a few people subconsciously look away.

Indeed, they had brought so many experts with them purely for the purpose of emboldening them rather than to deter the Hamiltons.

They would never fight against the Hamiltons, never in this life.

Knowing that Edmund was a tough nut to crack, Joel simply ignored him and instead turned to ask Bruce, "Mr. Hale, tell us how we should be dealing with the Hamiltons. Do we negotiate or get physical? We ultimately need a strategy."



Bruce mused but remained silent.

Ethan said, "I think if we can win against the Hamiltons, I will definitely agree to starting a war with them. But the problem is, even if the eight top families of DC join forces, they might not be a match for them. Even if we join forces, we won't be able to do much to the Hamiltons, right?"

"Although the Hamiltons only brought a few people, they're all top-tier experts far stronger than ours! Since we can never defeat them, do we have any other choice?"

Bruce subconsciously nodded.

Indeed, the Hamiltons' experts were all incredibly impressive. If they resorted to firearms, they might be able to defeat them, but it would definitely result in a lot of casualties. If the Hamiltons pursued the matter and retaliated, they might really have no way out.

Just as Ethan said, since there was no way they could defeat them, they didn't have a choice.

Edmund looked at the people in front of him with disappointment. "Hah, since you are too scared to fight against the Hamiltons, there's no point in discussing anymore! Just submit to the Hamiltons now and become their dogs. Why are you talking so much nonsense here?"

Joel yelled furiously, "Edmund Cole! Stop making sarcastic remarks! We are here to discuss a solution for the matter. Who said we're going to submit?"

Edmund refused to compromise. "What's there to discuss?! Isn't the matter obvious? None of you dare to fight against the Hamiltons, so what right and confidence do you have to negotiate with them?"

"You don't even have the courage to fall out with the Hamiltons. As long as the Hamiltons aren't stupid and have a slightly tough attitude, they will see that you're just a bunch of cowards. Then they won't bother to negotiate anything with you!"

"In that case, isn't your only choice surrendering to them and obeying their orders obediently? Am I wrong?"

Hearing this, the crowd fell silent again.

Although Edmund sounded harsh because he was furious, he was stating facts.

Since they didn't even have the courage to go against the Hamiltons, how could they negotiate with them?

It was just as ridiculous as someone who didn't dare to even pick up a rod saying that they would negotiate with robbers using knives. The robbers would definitely take it as a joke and ignore them.

What else could they do then?

Lucas remained sitting on the couch in the corner, watching everything in front of him quietly.

In his opinion, the Hamiltons were nothing to fear. But he wanted to know the attitudes and standpoints of Bruce, Edmund, Ethan, and the rest.

Only after knowing where they stood could he decide what to do next.

Seeing Bruce caught in a dilemma, Connor gritted his teeth and whispered, "Grandpa, at this juncture, you should ask Mr. Gray for his opinion!"

Brue suddenly trembled and finally realized that he had forgotten to ask Lucas for his opinion in his folly and confusion!

When Lucas first returned to Orange County, Bruce had already personally sensed how terrifying he was. On the day of his great-grandson's baby shower, Lucas had gotten soldiers to take away all the Hales and almost eradicated them.

Later, Lucas had given the Hales a chance to return, which Bruce had seized and offered all of his family's businesses to Lucas in exchange for the opportunity to work under him.

Of course, Bruce had made the right decision. Ever since the Hales pledged allegiance to Lucas, they had not only not declined, but they even became many times stronger than

before with the help of Lucas's influence. Now, they had even become a top family that was second only to the Coles in California.

Their achievements were all thanks to Lucas!

Now, Lucas was sitting in the corner of the hall, yet he was so muddled by the matter regarding the Hamiltons that he had forgotten to ask Lucas for his opinion. It was too inappropriate of him!

Joel's eyes were keen, and he noticed the sudden change in Bruce's expression after Connor said something to him. He couldn't help asking, "Mr. Hale, it seems like you have some ideas. Why don't you share them with us?"

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### 1224 The Third Option

All of a sudden, everyone turned to look at Bruce.

Without hesitating, Bruce walked straight over to Lucas, who was sitting in the corner, and bent forward respectfully. "Mr. Gray, you're the most honored patron of the Hales. Please decide how we should deal with the Hamiltons! We will follow your instructions!"

Connor quickly followed suit and stood in front of Lucas respectfully. "Mr. Gray, the Hales will obey your instructions!"

The two of them were extremely respectful to Lucas, and they clearly viewed him as their master. Their actions immediately made the others stunned speechless.

Edmund knew Lucas's true identity, so his reaction wasn't too bad, and he could roughly guess what the relationship between Lucas and the Hales was.

Ethan was astonished, wondering when Lucas and the Hales had such a close relationship. It seemed that Lucas was the true master of the Hales. It made Ethan rather uncomfortable.

As for Joel and Anthony, they were incredibly shocked.

It was their first time coming to the Hale residence, and they had barely interacted with the families in California in the past, so they didn't know who Lucas was.

Because they didn't know Lucas's identity and because they were too shocked, they looked at each other and couldn't say anything for a while.

When Lucas saw Bruce and Connor standing in front of him and asking for instructions, he nodded slightly.

When Bruce was thinking on his own about how to deal with the Hamiltons, Lucas had thought that Bruce had completely forgotten who the true master of the Hale family was and who had brought them to the success they enjoyed now.

If Bruce had really forgotten, then Lucas didn't need to help the Hales anymore.

But it seemed that Bruce and Connor weren't that foolish as to forget who had helped them.

Lucas said, "I think Mr. Cole is right. You should negotiate with the Hamiltons first. If it doesn't work out, just get physical."

Although he didn't mind fighting directly with the Hamiltons, they still had a high status in the US after all. If they could negotiate with the Hamiltons and get them to give up, it would be for the best.

Bruce had no doubts about Lucas's decision at all. He agreed right away.

"Yes, Mr. Gray. Since you have already spoken, the Hales will definitely do as you say. If the Hamiltons really refuse to drop their ambitions, we'll fight them to the death and force them away!"

Edmund smiled. "Haha, that's how it should be! How can we be so cowardly and allow the Hamiltons to bully us?"

Now, the two helmsmen had already decided to resort to force against the Hamiltons in the event that negotiations fell through.

Ethan looked at Bruce and Edmund, feeling extremely conflicted.

He didn't have much confidence in Lucas.

In the beginning, Ethan got close to Lucas and helped him entirely because Chad Kennedy, the chief butler of the Huttons of DC, had asked him to look out for Lucas and cooperate with him if possible.

But deep down, Ethan felt that the royals were a far more terrifying family than the eight top families of DC and far more powerful than the Huttons. They were just some wealthy families in California. How could they possibly have any chance in a confrontation with such a horrifying family?

Ethan really couldn't make up his mind. He clenched his fists tightly while his heart raced rapidly.

Seeing that Bruce and Edmund had chosen to follow Lucas's lead, Joel and Anthony immediately had a drastic change in expression.

Joel said with displeasure, "Mr. Hale, isn't your decision too frivolous?

"Who is this young man? Why are you obeying him after just hearing what he said? This matter concerns the future of your family, yet you're leaving it in the hands of a greenhorn. What a joke!"

Anthony narrowed his eyes as he glanced at Lucas with disdain and said coldly, "Yes, Mr. Hale. Your decision is too hasty! Moreover, your decision not only concerns the future of the Hales but also the direction of our alliance. One mistake will ruin the Hales and us too! Why should we leave such an important matter to a clueless, unknown young man?"

Bruce snapped angrily, "Shut up! Mr. Gray is the Hales' most honored patron, and he has every right to make decisions on our behalf. You people are in no place to criticize him!

"If you're upset, just leave. That way, you don't have to be afraid that we'll implicate you."

Hearing this, Joel and Anthony were stunned.

They never thought that Bruce, who had treated them with courtesy from the very beginning, would rebuke them so mercilessly for the sake of a young man.

They were the helmsmen of top families on par with the Hales. How could their statuses be inferior to the seemingly ordinary young man sitting here?

Edmund mocked too, "Exactly. Mr. Hale is right. If you're so afraid of dying, you should leave sooner so you won't be implicated by us.

"I think you weak cowards should just surrender to the Hamiltons as soon as possible and become their dogs!"

"You!" Joel was furious. "What are you saying? We came here to discuss a solution on how to deal with the Hamiltons. If we were really weaklings, why would we still be here?!"

Anthony chimed in, "Hah, you Californian helmsmen are really arrogant! We specially came here with good intentions to form an alliance to deal with the Hamiltons together. But I didn't expect your attitudes to be so horrendous. You don't take us seriously at all. In that case, I don't think there's a need for us to stay here any longer!"

Seeing that Anthony and Joel were furious, Ethan hurriedly stepped forward to smooth things over. "Everyone, please calm down!

"Now is the time for us to unite and think of a way to tide through this ordeal. We mustn't start internal strife and conflicts at this juncture!

"Given the current situation, it's impossible for any of our families to deal with the Hamiltons alone. We have to set everything else for now and focus on the problem at hand. Everyone, please do me a favor. At this time, we should work together and not fight against each other!"

Joel snorted coldly. "We aren't the ones who started it. It's because of Mr. Cole and Mr. Hale's problematic attitudes! I just told them not to treat this like child's play, and they lashed out at me instead. Why can't I be angry? What working together is there to speak of when they're giving us such attitudes?!"

Edmund sneered aggressively. "You're blaming us? Aren't you just cowardly? Since you don't even have the courage to wage a war with the Hamiltons, what's there to discuss? By acting that way, haven't you already chosen to surrender?"

Joel gave him the side-eye. "Is surrendering the only solution left if we don't fight? There's clearly a third option. Just because you haven't thought of it doesn't mean we haven't!"

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 1225

### 1225 Divided Opinions

"The third option?" Ethan asked doubtfully. "Mr. Gillen, if you have other ideas in mind, why don't you share them with us?"

Joel glanced at Edmund before saying, "Before that, I'd like to confirm something. Our five families have already agreed to have a good discussion with the Hamiltons. No one objects to this, right?"

Edmund, Bruce, Ethan, and Anthony nodded in agreement.

Although they were still deciding on whether or not to go to war with the Hamiltons, they didn't have any doubts about first negotiating with them.

Joel continued, "Okay, it seems that everyone has agreed to this issue. Let's continue talking about the situation.

"In my opinion, it will be best if we can reach an agreement with the Hamiltons and they give up the idea of controlling our families. But if they refuse to agree and greet us with a tough attitude, we don't have to fight them. We can each take a step back, and maybe we'll be able to resolve this problem."

Bruce asked in puzzlement, "Each take a step back? How so? Mr. Gillen, please explain it in detail."

Joel continued, "It's simple. None of us are willing to give away the businesses we've painstakingly built to the Hamiltons, and what the Hamiltons want is nothing more than to expand their development in California, Nevada, and Arizona. So I think we can let the Hamiltons come to our states to develop their forces and establish footholds. Meanwhile, we can also cooperate with them and provide them with some support.

"In that case, the Hamiltons will not only not become our enemies, but they will even likely become our allies. We can help the Hamiltons secure a footing in our three states, and the Hamiltons can also help us. This is the way to achieve a win-win solution.

"Isn't this option better than fighting the Hamiltons to the death?"

After Joel finished speaking, the people present had their eyes glisten.

Anthony was the first to stand up and express his support for Joel's plan. "Mr. Gillen is right! We should be striving for a win-win solution. If we support the Hamiltons to set up footholds in our three states and form an alliance with them, it will be greatly beneficial to our future development. In my opinion, this is the best option now!"

"Mm... I think Mr. Gillen's plan is good. Why don't we work in this direction when negotiating with the Hamiltons?" Ethan also thought it was a good idea. He wouldn't have to submit to the Hamiltons and give away his family's businesses or fight a tough battle. Moreover, he could possibly form an alliance with a powerful family like the Hamiltons. This was simply the best option.

"Bullshit!" Edmund objected without hesitation and sneered. "There's always been an old saying, indulging one's enemy is asking for trouble. How can we accept others meddling in our territories?"

"If you really support the Hamiltons to expand their forces in our three states, how could they possibly be satisfied with sharing control together with us?"

"Even if the Hamiltons agree to your plan, after they establish firm footholds here, within three months, they'll definitely encroach on our power little by little!"

"And you still want to achieve a win-win solution with them? Hah, the Hamiltons will only treat us as tools and a springboard to dominate our three states. They won't allow us to share the same status as them. What are you dreaming of here?"



Bruce nodded. "Indeed, the Hamiltons are too domineering. It's impossible to achieve a win-win situation with them. Therefore, we can't allow them to have a place to stand firm from the start!"

Edmund and Bruce made some sense.

The Hamiltons were far stronger than these families to begin with. Once they really secured a footing in the three states, they would naturally establish their sole hegemony. The other families would either have to pledge allegiance or vanish from here. There wasn't a third option.

Joel thought that he had come up with a brilliant idea and even despised Edmund and the rest over it, thinking that they were foolish. But now, he was criticized, so he snapped furiously, "Damn it! How do you know that the Hamiltons will really encroach on our power and annex us? Since you refuse to agree with my idea, does that mean, in your opinion, the only option we have is to go to war with the Hamiltons?"

"Hah, your plan is really courting death!"

Edmund said furiously, "Since you think we're courting death, then get lost, lest you say that we'll implicate you!"

"You!" Joel was furious, and it took him a great deal of effort to suppress his anger. Looking at Bruce, who was sitting in the middle, he said, "Mr. Hale, okay then, what do you think we should do?"

Bruce glanced at him before saying slowly but firmly, "Actually, I agree with Mr. Cole. We'll be inviting danger into our territories by letting the Hamiltons establish footholds in our states. It will inevitably lead to disaster. I don't care about what happens to Nevada and Arizona, but we can never let the Hamiltons set up a foothold here in California!"

Joel immediately looked gloomy.

Anthony sulked as well.

In fact, the two of them had come up with the idea of letting the Hamiltons set up footholds in the various states. They initially thought that the families of California would agree to it without hesitation, but they didn't expect them to object outright.

Among the five helmsmen present, only Joel and Anthony supported the third option, while Edmund and Bruce decided to go to war with the Hamiltons if negotiations fell through. Ethan was the only one who hadn't expressed his stand yet.

"Hah, I thought that since the Coles and the Hales are the top families in California, you should be knowledgeable people. But I didn't expect you to be so stubborn as to think of going head-on against the Hamiltons. I won't court death with you!

"Since we can't come to a consensus, there's no need for us to stay here any longer. Mr. Cross, it seems we've come to the wrong place. Let's go! I refuse to believe that we can't find any allies in the three states!"

Joel and Anthony stood up and turned around to leave.

When Ethan saw this, he immediately stopped them anxiously. "Hey, wait! Please stay. There's still room for discussion!"

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### 1226 Winning Over the Sawyers

Ethan blocked the door, preventing Joel and Anthony from leaving.

Joel stopped, but his face was still full of anger as he said, "Mr. Sawyer, you don't need to say anything else. Mr. Cross and I came all the way here with the intention of forming an alliance and resolving the problem together. But look at the way Mr. Hale and Mr. Cole are behaving. It's clear that they don't take us seriously! In that case, what else is there for us to say?"

"Hah, they actually want to go to war with the Hamiltons. They must be dreaming! The Hamiltons are so powerful that even the eight top families of DC don't dare to provoke them easily. We are just a bunch of small fries!

"Since we can't reach an agreement and the two of them insist on courting death, of course we can only leave to look for other allies! I don't believe that we can't find other families to form an alliance with in our three states!"

Anthony said, "We came here only to discuss with you because the Coles and the Hales are on par with us in terms of power and capabilities. But apart from them, there are also many other decent families in Arizona and Nevada! Why should we continue staying here and tolerating their insults and terrible attitudes?!"

Ethan hurriedly said, "Please calm down, you two. Having different opinions is a common matter. Let's sit down and talk things over calmly!"

Then Ethan looked at Edmund and Bruce and said, "Mr. Cole, Mr. Hale, don't be so hostile! We're all allies, and we're all doing this for the sake of our families. We can just talk things over nicely and come up with a plan.

"Actually, I think Mr. Gillen and Mr. Cross make a lot of sense. Going hard against the Hamiltons will do none of us any good. So I think we'd better agree to let them establish footholds in our states first. But we also have to keep an eye on their situation. In any case, we mustn't let the Hamiltons really dominate our territories.

"If the Hamiltons are really so greedy as to want to dominate our three states and annex our power, it won't be too late to fight them head-on then. What do you think?"

Bruce glanced at Ethan and shook his head. "If the Hamiltons really secure a footing here and control other wealthy families, what will be the use of the few of us joining forces against them?"

His words immediately left Ethan speechless.

Indeed, the Hamiltons weren't fools. If they really established footholds and took root here, it would be difficult to get rid of them in the future.

But the thought of going to war with a terrifying family like the Hamiltons made Ethan afraid. He didn't want to face such a situation at all. So he tried his best to convince Edmund and Bruce to compromise and give in to the Hamiltons for the time being.

Edmund saw through Ethan's thoughts and sneered. "Ethan Sawyer, you don't have to say anything else. If you're so scared of the Hamiltons and don't dare to fight them, go ahead and join Joel Gillen and Anthony Cross! It's up to you if you want to submit to the Hamiltons and become their dogs!

"Speaking of which, I didn't see you help Mr. Gray when he encountered a crisis in San Francisco! Later, when he became the overlord of California, you came running back to him! You're quite smart, huh? Hmph!

"Let me make things clear. If we really resolve the problem with the Hamiltons under Mr. Gray's lead this time, you can't be shameless and run back to try to get a slice of the pie, okay?"

Edmund was an extremely upright and straightforward person, and he hated two-faced fence sitters, so he looked down on Ethan.

If it wasn't for the fact that Ethan seemed to be on good terms with Lucas and had quickly developed into the third top family in California thanks to Lucas, Edmund would have ignored him.

Bruce said, "That's right. Ethan Sawyer, you can either fight against the Hamiltons with us or leave early since you're so afraid of facing revenge. Stop sitting on the fence. If you continue saving yourself during times of danger and then come running back to reap benefits when it's safe, I will look down on you too."

Edmund and Bruce spoke harshly and didn't bother saving Ethan any pride.

In fact, they had long been displeased with Ethan's behavior.

The moment Joel and Anthony came over today, Ethan had repeatedly spoken up for them. It was apparent that he just didn't want to offend the Hamiltons. Bruce and Edmund were very much dissatisfied with him.

Ethan turned pale and gloomy.

He knew that his behavior was indeed mercenary, but he felt that it was only human nature to want to avoid trouble.

But when Edmund and Bruce said that he was a shameless fence sitter, it made him extremely uncomfortable.

Frankly speaking, Ethan had indeed yet to make up his mind.

Although the Huttons wanted him to obey Lucas as much as possible, he didn't trust Lucas that much, nor did he want to bet the Sawyers' future on him.

Joel patted Ethan on the shoulder and guffawed. "Mr. Sawyer, I see it's hard on you too! How about this? Since the Coles and the Hales are alienating you and even mocking you, I think you should just leave California. You don't need to put up with the humiliation anymore!

"Just come to Nevada with your family to develop! I promise I'll turn you into the second most powerful family in Nevada once you come, and you don't have to suffer such insults either. What do you think?"

Anthony said with a smile, "I admire you very much too, Mr. Sawyer. If you'd like, Arizona will also welcome you to join us. You'll immediately become the second top family in Arizona!"

They weren't talking nonsense. After all, they were the helmsmen of the top families in Nevada and Arizona, and the Sawyers were second only to the Coles and the Hales in California. If he went elsewhere, he might really rise up a notch.

All of a sudden, Ethan began to waver.

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 1227

### 1227 A Strong Enemy Appears

Although most of the Sawyers' businesses were in California, it wouldn't be that difficult to relocate them or expand to another place.

Moreover, the Sawyers might be able to make greater achievements in another environment, especially with the strong support of the Gillens or the Crosses.

But after he thought about what the Hutton had said to him, his enthusiasm calmed down a little.

The Sawyers rose to power with the help of the Huttons and Chad Kennedy, the Hutton's chief butler, so Ethan didn't dare to go against the will of the Huttons.

If he really moved the Sawyers to Arizona or Nevada, it would mean that he gave up on Lucas.

Likewise, the Huttons would abandon him and the Sawyers.

The Huttons, one of the eight top families of DC, were naturally more powerful and helpful to the Sawyers than the Gillens and the Crosses.

So from this perspective, Ethan couldn't leave California and go against Lucas for now.

"Thank you for seeing my value, but the Sawyers have been rooted in Orange County for years, so it won't be easy for us to leave. Thank you for the offer, but I'll have to decline!" Ethan said with a smile.

Hearing Ethan decline their invitation, Joel and Anthony showed a trace of disappointment on their faces.

In fact, they didn't really want to win over Ethan and the Sawyers. They just wanted to teach Edmund and Bruce a lesson and watch them be embarrassed.

Unfortunately, their plan didn't work out.

Meanwhile, Edmund glanced at Ethan coldly with dissatisfaction hidden deep in his eyes.

At his age, he had seen everything there was to see, so he could tell at a glance that Ethan had really wavered and seriously contemplated moving out of California.

It made Edmund even more certain that Ethan was just a mercenary fence sitter who could betray them.

Lucas saw Ethan's wavering too.

But he didn't feel much about it.

Although Lucas had interacted a lot with Ethan, he knew that Ethan had approached him because of the Huttons.

Lucas might no longer hate the Huttons, but he didn't have a strong relationship with them either.

Thus, Lucas was very calm about Ethan's wavering and fickle attitude.

If Ethan really showed enough loyalty to Lucas, he wouldn't mind giving the Sawyers a hand.

Conversely, if Ethan only cared about his own interests, Lucas wouldn't value him or help him.

Simply put, Lucas wouldn't pay much attention to irrelevant people.

Ethan knew that he had left a terrible impression on Edmund and the others by hesitating just now, but he couldn't explain himself now. So he could only cough and try to play it off. "The Sawyers are from California, and since Mr. Cole and Mr. Hale have already come to a decision, we naturally have to stand with you.

"If the Hamiltons really refuse to give up, then... we'll just join forces to fight against them."

Ethan was well aware that since the Sawyers couldn't move away from California and develop elsewhere now, they had to stand together with the other families here and weather all storms as one.

Thus, no matter how reluctant he was to go against the Hamiltons, he didn't have a choice now.

The only thing that made him feel better was that the Coles and the Hales would face this together with him and that Lucas was here too. Perhaps the Huttons might give them some support on Lucas's account.

In this way, the three top families of California reached a decision. If the Hamiltons refused to drop the idea of controlling them, then they would unite to deal with the Hamiltons. If necessary, they wouldn't hesitate to fight against them.

"Hah, what a joke!" Joel sneered. "Looks like we made a wasted trip today. When you get destroyed by the Hamiltons and regret your decision, even if you come to us for help, we won't help you!"

"That's right. Since you don't know any better, don't come to us when you encounter a life-and-death crisis in the future!" Anthony also sneered.

They were both extremely displeased with the decisions of the three helmsmen, but they didn't have the right to oppose either.

They couldn't reach a consensus since they had different mindsets!

"Don't worry. We will never ask you for help! Please excuse yourselves!" Bruce stretched his arm toward the door of the hall and gestured for them to leave.

"Hmph, fine. It's not like we want to be here."

Joel and Anthony turned to leave.

However, at this moment, the butler of the Hales ran over with a pale face and stammered, "Mr. Hale, bad news! The Hamiltons are here!"

"What?!" Bruce and the others immediately rose from their seats in shock.

Before he could say anything else, they saw that two people had already reached the door and stepped straight in.

The young man in his thirties who had just entered narrowed his eyes and smiled. "What a coincidence. You helmsmen happen to all be here. That saves me the trouble of traveling too much and going to each of your homes."

The moment they saw him, the five helmsmen in the hall all looked as if they were facing a formidable enemy.

The slender young man in front of them was Brett Hamilton, a direct descendant of the Hamiltons, one of the royal family branches!



Behind him was an elderly man dressed in a long white coat and white pants. He was obviously a top expert of the Hamiltons.

Brett didn't seem to notice that the atmosphere in the hall had become extremely tense because of his arrival. He simply walked to Bruce as if there was no one else around and said with a relaxed expression, "Mr. Hale, how are you considering the proposal I gave you three days ago? I hope you'll give me a pleasing answer today."

Although he spoke relaxedly and casually and had brought only one expert with him, no one present dared to underestimate him in the slightest.

Reason being, the elderly man guarding him was exuding a fierce aura that made them too scared to even make eye contact with him.

After they heard Brett ask Bruce for his decision, the atmosphere became even heavier.

All of a sudden, the hall was dead silent.

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 1228

1228 Who is Trash?

Although Brett was asking Bruce, the other four helmsmen in the room tensed up upon hearing his question.

In particular, Joel and Anthony, who had failed to reach an agreement with the families of California, clenched their fists tightly with panic and horror all over their faces, clueless as to how they should deal with the issue later.

They had planned to come to California in advance in hopes of finding some allies to get a chance to speak in front of the Hamiltons.

But in the end, after they fell out with the three top families of California and before they had the chance to look for other families, the Hamiltons showed up, completely catching them off guard.

After his initial shock, Bruce quickly recovered.

They had just made up their minds, so he wasn't too flustered and uneasy facing Brett's question.

"Mr. Hamilton, you previously said that you wanted the Hales to pledge allegiance to your family, and my answer is..." Bruce took a deep breath. "Sorry, I'll have to decline."

At first, Brett was very composed and confident, but the answer stunned him.

"Are you rejecting me?" Brett questioned.

Although his expression soon became mellower, there was still an obvious trace of anger in his voice.

Clearly, Brett didn't expect the Hales to have the guts to turn him down.

Since Bruce had already said it once, he didn't mind repeating himself so that Brett could hear him clearly. "Yes, the Hales already have our own development roadmap, and we don't plan to pledge allegiance to the Hamiltons. I seek your understanding, Mr. Hamilton!"

The smile on Brett's face vanished completely.

He looked around at the other helmsmen in the room and suddenly sneered with a smirk. "Now that you are gathered here, you're not considering how to pledge allegiance to the Hamiltons, but rather, you're discussing how to go against us, right?"

As soon as he said this, the temperature in the room seemed to plunge.

Although Brett didn't lose his temper and was even smiling, everyone in the hall sensed a formidable aura coming from him.

This was the immense threat that only a descendant of a pinnacle family like a royal family could bring.

Although Brett was only in his thirties and decades younger than the helmsmen present, none of them dared to underestimate him because he represented the Hamiltons.

In this situation, they might end up offending Brett and the entire Hamilton family as a result.

Seeing that Brett seemed to misunderstand that they were in the same group, Joel hurriedly explained, "No, no, Mr. Hamilton. We absolutely don't dare to go against the Hamiltons!"

Anthony similarly put on a deferential smile and echoed, "Yes, Mr. Hamilton, please don't get the wrong idea. We're different from the rest here, and we definitely don't intend to go against the Hamiltons! The Hamiltons belong to the royal family and are at the summit of the country. Small families like ours can't compare to your family!"

Brett glanced at them and suddenly said, "Yes, small families like yours are like trash to us. We can easily destroy ants like you with the lift of a finger!"

"You people are pretty smart not to get up to any nonsense. Or else... hmph!"

Joel and Anthony subconsciously shuddered.

It was only now that they realized how afraid of the Hamiltons they were. Even though Brett didn't issue any threats and even only brought one person here, they didn't have the courage to look him in the eye at all.

Originally, Joel and Anthony had thought of joining forces with other families to obtain the opportunity to negotiate with the Hamiltons. But now, it seemed that they didn't even dare to speak to Brett. So what was there to negotiate?

If they accidentally angered Brett, they might end up in a worse plight than they would if they had pledged allegiance to the Hamiltons!

Unknowingly, they were already cowering. The Hamiltons were too strong, and they couldn't even raise the thought to defy them.

Ethan stood behind them without daring to say a single word.

Edmund narrowed his eyes and looked at Brett with disdain.

In Edmund's opinion, Brett was just throwing his weight around and behaving like a tyrant because of his family's power. He was worlds apart from Lucas, who was completely self-made and had attained success with his own abilities.

Noticing the disdain in Edmund's eyes, Brett looked at him and sneered. "What's wrong? Are you displeased with what I said?"

Edmund asked, "Are you saying that we're small fries that you can easily manipulate and control at will just because we're weaker than the Hamiltons?"

Brett said, "Am I wrong? The law of the jungle is the truth of the world!"

Edmund chuckled. "There are always people stronger and more powerful than you. Are the Hamiltons the strongest in the US or the world? There are definitely other families stronger than yours. Does that make your family a small fry or trash to them?"

His words instantly stifled the conceited smile on Brett's face.

Joel, Anthony, and the rest had an ominous feeling.

Edmund was really daring to have the guts to talk back to Brett like this!

They thought that Brett was definitely furious.

The truth was indeed so.

Brette had called them insignificant trash inferior to the Hamiltons, but the Hamiltons weren't the strongest in the world. In fact, the Hamiltons weren't even the top family among the nine royal family branches in the US, let alone the terrifying behemoths around the world.

Edmund had precisely used his words against him to make Brett contradict himself, rendering him speechless.

But the Hamiltons were a noble family, and now that Edmund, the helmsman of a trivial family they despised, actually called them trash, Brett and his family would never be able to tolerate it.

"You must have a death wish!" Brett's face was completely gloomy as he stared at Edmund with an intense murderous intent in his eyes.

The elderly man in white standing behind Brett suddenly exuded an aggressive aura that surged toward Edmund.

As long as Brett gave the order, he would immediately strike and kill Edmund.

The tension in the hall rose to its peak, and it felt as if death was imminent!

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 1229

### 1229 Qualifications to Be a Dog

There wasn't a single trace of fear on Edmund's face. Instead, he smiled mockingly. "What's wrong? Mr. Hamilton, are you embarrassed, so you want to take it out on me?"

If he was facing Brett alone, Edmund might restrain himself.

But Lucas was now sitting here. What was Edmund afraid of?

Joel and Anthony were astonished by Edmund's hostile tone, and they were afraid that Brett would be angered and vent his anger on them.

Before Brett said anything, Joel lashed out at Edmund, "Edmund Cole, you old fogey, you've got a foul mouth! I can tolerate you insulting me, but you actually have the audacity to speak like that to Mr. Hamilton. You really don't know what's good for you!"

Anthony quickly chimed in and hollered at Edmund furiously, "Yes! Edmund Cole, we chose not to hold it against you because of your age, but this doesn't mean we're afraid

of you! You actually spoke to Mr. Hamilton so rudely. Even if he forgives you, I won't forgive you!

"If you're tired of living, you can find a place to bury yourself. Don't be such an eyesore!"

While scolding him, they also took the chance to draw a line between him and themselves.

In order to avoid Brett thinking that they were in the same group as Edmund, Joel and Anthony hurriedly explained to him, "Mr. Hamilton, before you came, we've already fallen out with this old fogey! Both of us insisted on accepting the Hamiltons' proposal, but Edmund Cole and Bruce Hale, these two old fogeys, weren't willing and even said that they would go to war with the Hamiltons! Before you came, we already planned to sever ties with them.

"Now, this ignorant old fogey actually has the guts to offend you. Mr. Hamilton, as long as you say the word, we'll be at your beck and call and help you get rid of them!"

At this juncture, Joel and Anthony had already given up on the plan to negotiate. Just by looking at Brett's aura, they could tell that the Hamiltons would never be willing to merely establish a few footholds.

At the end of the day, what the Hamiltons wanted was to control these states completely.

In that case, they might as well follow Brett's wishes and pledge allegiance to the Hamiltons as soon as possible, especially in front of Edmund and Bruce, who were stubborn tough nuts to crack. Perhaps Brett would even value them for it.

Brett glanced at Joel and Anthony from the corner of his eye and asked with doubt and contempt, "You think you can destroy the Hales and the Coles alone?"

Joel gritted his teeth and said, "Actually, the Gillens and the Crosses have already realized that the Hales and the Coles are not to be trifled with and that they might oppose you. That's why we've arranged for enough people to lay an ambush outside. With one order from you, we will immediately gather all our people to take down the Hales!

"Afterward, the Gillens and the Crosses will join forces to deal with the Coles! This will be a small welcome gift from us!"

Joel and Anthony sounded extremely deferential.

After hearing this, Edmund and Bruce were furious.

These two uninvited guests indeed harbored evil intentions. At the beginning, they had kept claiming that they came here to help the Hales, the Coles, and the other families of California pull through the ordeal. They had even thought of making the Californian families owe them a huge favor through this matter. But after Edmund exposed them on the spot earlier, they stopped mentioning it.

But now, Joel and Anthony actually revealed that they had secretly ambushed many people outside and that they wanted to wipe out the Hales as proof of their allegiance to the Hamiltons. This made Bruce and Edmund furious and contemptuous at the same time.

Brett said with raised brows, "In that case, you're willing to be the Hamiltons' dogs and get rid of all obstacles for us?"

It wasn't nice being called dogs, especially since Brett sounded derisive and contemptuous when he said it. It was enough to make anyone with any self-respect feel ashamed and humiliated.

If others called them dogs, they would definitely lose their temper.

But the person who said this word was an esteemed scion of the Hamiltons, so they naturally didn't dare to say a word of rebuttal despite blushing with embarrassment.

Joel gritted his teeth, completely swallowed his pride, and flattered shamelessly, "Yes! As long as you're willing to accept us, the Gillens are willing to be your dogs and be at your beck and call, Mr. Hamilton!"

Anthony hurriedly said, "The same goes for the Crosses! As long as you issue an order, we will definitely do our best to fulfill it! We will do anything you say!"

The two of them were extremely subservient, utterly devoid of the mannerisms and dignity of helmsmen of wealthy and powerful families.

Seeing their disgraceful behavior, Edmund and Bruce were full of disdain.

On the other hand, Ethan was wavering while looking at the two distinct camps.

Although he had already agreed to stand with Edmund and Bruce just now, he began to waver again after seeing Brett's formidable aura and the way Joel and Anthony, who were domineering earlier, behaved in front of Brett.

Based on the current situation, the Hamiltons were clearly far stronger than them. Otherwise, Joel and Anthony wouldn't behave this way and choose to be Brett's dogs.

He wondered if the Sawyers could really survive if he chose to stand against the Hamiltons.

While Ethan was stuck in a dilemma and wondering if he should re-evaluate the situation and change his stand, Brett suddenly sneered.

"Hah, there are many people who want to be my dog, let alone so-called rich and powerful families like yours. Even in DC, there are countless people who flatter me. What makes you think I'd accept you?"

"You have to consider if you have the qualifications to be my dogs!"

Hearing this, Joel and Anthony had a drastic change of expression.

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 1230

### 1230 Surprising Outcome

Joel and Anthony had both abandoned their dignity and were willing to become Brett's dogs, yet Brett actually said that they weren't qualified to be his dogs.



Although what he said sounded extremely insulting, Joel and Anthony didn't feel humiliated. Instead, they were afraid.

If Brett even refused to let them be his dogs, what value would they have?

People of no value were worthless to the Hamiltons, and they would end up extremely miserable!

Joel and Anthony immediately knelt in front of Brett without hesitation.

"Mr. Hamilton! Although we are indeed insignificant compared to you, and we're just trash, we can still be of some use! As long as you say the word, we will do anything for you! Be it destroying the Hales and the Coles or dealing with other defiant families, we can definitely get the job done!

"Please give us a chance to perform, Mr. Hamilton!"

The two of them had no dignity at all as they knelt on the floor and begged Brett to reconsider them.

Brett smiled lightly. "Oh, is that so? Then I'll be kind and give you a chance to perform.

"Since the Hales have turned down my good intentions, get rid of them first. I want to see if you really have the ability. If you do a good job, I will naturally consider letting you help me handle some other matters.

"But if you can't even accomplish such a simple thing, it means that you're just blowing your trumpet. You should know very well what happens to useless good-for-nothings who are all bark and no bite!"

Joel's and Anthony's hearts skipped a beat, and their faces turned bitter.

Although they had said it themselves, they started feeling conflicted now that Brett really told them to destroy the Hales.

They had indeed brought many experts from Arizona and Nevada, but this was the Hales' base camp, and the Hales definitely wouldn't have fewer people than them.

Moreover, Edmund was here, and he had brought numerous people too. If they really got into a fight, Edmund would definitely stand on Bruce's side.

In that case, it would be difficult to decide who won.

Besides, there was also the Sawyers, who should be on the same side as the Coles and the Hales. Joel and Anthony were on their turf too, so they definitely wouldn't have a good time.

Not to mention taking down the Hales, they might even end up getting destroyed by the families of California.

Joel and Anthony just wanted to show their loyalty to Brett, but they didn't really plan to attack the Hales at this time!

Joel and Anthony were on the verge of tears, and they even felt as though they had shot themselves in the foot.

Seeing their hesitant expressions, Brett sneered. He knew that these two begging him on their knees were just bragging. They were actually just good-for-nothings.

Brett didn't take such good-for-nothings seriously.

On the contrary, the three helmsmen who didn't plan to succumb to the Hamiltons had quite the backbone and made Brett see them in a better light.

"How about this? Mr. Cole, Mr. Hale, and Mr. Sawyer, I'll give you another day. I hope you'll seriously consider what I said. If you're willing to submit to me, the Hamiltons will definitely not treat you badly.

"That's all I have to say. I will come back at this time tomorrow. I hope you will give me a satisfactory answer."

With that, Brett turned around and walked straight to the entrance of the hall. He actually didn't pursue the matter of Edmund, Bruce, and Ethan refusing to pledge allegiance to the Hamiltons. Instead, he gave them another day to consider and even promised to give them some benefits.

This treatment immediately stunned Joel and Anthony!

They had knelt without caring about their pride at all. They had tried their best to show their loyalty to Brett and had even been willing to be his dogs, but Brett didn't even pay attention to them.

However, Edmund and Bruce spoke rudely to Brett and even directly rejected him. But Brett actually took the initiative to show that he valued them. The drastic difference in attitude left them on the verge of vomiting blood.

Seeing Brett about to leave the Hale residence with his bodyguard, Bruce looked at Lucas and hurriedly said, "Mr. Hamilton, please wait a moment!

"You don't have to wait until tomorrow. The Hales have already decided not to pledge allegiance to the Hamiltons. Please forgive us!"

Lucas happened to make a rare appearance here today. Of course, Bruce hoped to use this opportunity to completely resolve the matter with the Hamiltons.

Even though Brett gave them until tomorrow, the answer would still be the same, so they obviously had to end this quickly.

They couldn't possibly wait until Brett brought his people here tomorrow. If Bruce asked Lucas to come over again, it would be wasting Lucas's time.

Edmund also stood up and said, "It's the same for the Coles. I've already made up my mind. Even if the Coles get destroyed, it's absolutely impossible for us to pledge allegiance to the Hamiltons!"

Ethan opened his mouth and looked at the two decisive people in front of him. For some reason, he was at a loss for words.

He should have stepped forward like Edmund and Bruce and resolutely rejected the Hamiltons' recruitment. But he couldn't bring himself to say anything when it was time for him to speak.

In the end, he still chickened out.

Brett stopped in his tracks, narrowed his eyes, looked at Edmund and Bruce, and suddenly smiled. "Oh, is that so? In that case, even if your families are destroyed because of this, you still won't pledge allegiance to the Hamiltons?"

Although he was still smiling, it was mirthless.

Cold murderous intent appeared deep in Brett's eyes.

Edmund and Bruce immediately felt a pressure that made their scalps tingle.

But they still nodded without hesitation and said firmly, "Yes!"

Brett laughed and said with a twisted smile, "Very good! Since you'd rather have your families destroyed than submit the Hamiltons, I'll fulfill your wishes! From tomorrow onward, the Coles and the Hales won't appear again!"

As soon as he said this, the elderly man behind him suddenly exuded a strong murderous aura while staring at Edmund and Bruce, making them shudder involuntarily.

Brett turned to look at Ethan, whose forehead was covered in cold sweat. "What about the Sawyers? Are you planning to make the same decision as them?"

Large droplets of sweat emerged from Ethan's face, and his back had long been drenched in cold sweat.

After hearing Brett's question, Ethan gritted his teeth and said, "I, Ethan Sawyer, am willing to lead the Sawyers to pledge allegiance to the Hamiltons!"