1251 Superior Treatment

Jensen himself was a very talented martial artist who wasn't any inferior to ordinary experts.

But as he watched Lucas walking toward him while exuding extreme pressure, he felt a horrific sense of fear that made him unable to even muster the intention to fight against Lucas.

Although Lucas was only 27 or 28 years old, his martial arts skills were indeed beyond Jensen's expectations!

Even Moses, the bodyguard whom Jensen had always trusted, had been defeated by Lucas in one move and even had his fist crushed and crippled. Lucas was clearly a powerhouse that Jensen wasn't capable of dealing with.

Seeing this scene, Jim and Anton had a trace of regret in their eyes.

If they had known how powerful Lucas was, that he didn't fear the Hamiltons at all, and could even make Jensen show fear, they wouldn't have remained sitting quietly and turned down the olive branch Lucas had extended to them.

They truly regretted their decision.

Ethan was rejoicing.

He had been conflicted just now, but fortunately, he had made the right choice to stand on Lucas's side.

At this moment, Ethan was full of admiration for Lucas.

In fact, ever since he got to know Lucas more than half a year ago, Lucas had never failed before and would always remain calm no matter how strong his enemies were. In the end, he would surely find a way to deal with them and get rid of the troubles.

While rejoicing, Ethan also made up his mind that he would never waver again, regardless of what happened in the future. He had to stand on Lucas's side at all times, or else, he would regret it!

Seeing Lucas, who reeked of the metallic odor of the blood that stained his clothes, Brett was so shocked that he turned deathly pale.

But at this moment, he had to step forward to say something. Otherwise, Lucas might really harm his father!

"Lucas, wait a minute!" Brett hurriedly stepped forward and looked at Lucas earnestly. "Lucas, what just happened is a misunderstanding! My father doesn't have any ill intentions toward you. He really admires your talent, and he's sincere about recruiting you, but he's a little hot-tempered and overly eager. Sometimes, the things he says aren't what he has in mind. That's what led to the misunderstanding!"

Jensen frantically nodded and apologized to Lucas. "That's right! Mr. Gray, I was too muddled just now. I just really want you to join the Hamiltons because I admire your talent. I had no other intentions. Ah, I tend to ruin things with my fiery temper. I'm sorry!

"But I know now that you're so talented that I'm not capable of recruiting you. I will drop the idea now.

"Perhaps only my father is qualified to invite you. How about this? On behalf of my father, I formally invite you to be a guest elder of the Hamiltons. You won't have to bother with the family's miscellaneous affairs. You just need to come forward to help us during critical moments.

"Apart from critical moments, we won't interfere with your whereabouts and actions. You can even use our name to manage your businesses, and your salary will be two hundred million dollars a year. What do you think, Mr. Gray?"

In other words, Lucas could almost completely ignore the Hamiltons' affairs and only need to show up during major events. His actions wouldn't be restrained at all, and he basically had the freedom to do whatever he wanted.

Moreover, the Hamiltons were a royal family branch who had surpassed most families in the US, so what major event could trouble them? Perhaps it would only occur once every few years.

This meant that Lucas almost wouldn't have to do anything for a few years.

Furthermore, Lucas could make full use of the Hamiltons' resources and the identity of their guest elder. He would even be paid 200 million dollars a year for doing practically nothing.

The others in the private room looked at Lucas, green with envy.

If they were given such a wonderful offer, they would definitely agree without hesitating for a single second!

They would be fools not to agree!

Jensen thought so too. He believed that Lucas wouldn't turn down such an attractive offer.

But he was destined to be disappointed. Lucas merely glanced at him with contempt in his eyes.

Jensen's heart tensed up, and he almost thought that Lucas had seen through his intentions.

He gritted his teeth and said, "If you're still not satisfied with this salary, I can increase it to four hundred million dollars!"

After a momentary pause, he continued, "Four hundred million dollars a year should be the world's highest salary for this work. Even the top expert of the family doesn't get that much.

"Mr. Gray, I've already expressed my sincerity. As long as you agree, I can even pay you four hundred million in advance!"

His offer left everyone else present shocked and jealous.

Lucas would have an annual salary of 400 million dollars for a job that barely required doing anything, and he could even borrow the power of the Hamiltons to develop his own businesses. This excellent offer made them incredibly jealous!

Fortunately, Bruce, Edmund, Ethan, and the others knew how extraordinarily powerful Lucas was, so they could understand why the Hamiltons were giving Lucas such an attractive offer and didn't feel too jealous about it.

Others would likely be mad with jealousy and wish that they could replace Lucas immediately.

After hearing Jensen's offer, Brett subconsciously glanced at him in astonishment.

Even the strongest powerhouse of the Hamiltons only received an annual salary of 200 million dollars, which was already excellent. What right did Lucas have to draw a 400 million dollar annual salary?

Besides, they needed the approval of the helmsman to give Lucas such a high salary. Even though Jensen was the helmsman's favored son, he didn't have the right to agree on the family's behalf.

But the next moment, Brett realized that his father didn't have to implement his offer. He just wanted to lead Lucas on and calm him down first.

Brett smiled and said to Lucas, "Lucas, my father's conditions are very sincere, and this treatment is a unique offer that doesn't come by easily. You're going to be paid twice what our top expert gets! What else are you considering, Lucas?"

Hearing their painstaking persuasion, Lucas, who had been listening calmly, suddenly smirked and sneered coldly. "Are you two having a good time trying to trick me? Do you take me for a fool?"

The expressions on Jensen's and Brett's faces immediately froze.

1252 Seeing Through Everything

"Ahem, you must be mistaken, buddy." Brett coughed twice before quickly explaining, "Why would we try to trick you? My father is truly sincere about inviting you to be our guest elder. If you don't believe me, you can come home with us, and we'll sign a contract with you. We aren't lying!"

Lucas glanced at Brett indifferently. "Who are you to call me your buddy?"

Brett's forced smile immediately stiffened.

His remark was like a slap in Brett's face.

When he called Lucas 'buddy', he had swallowed his pride to get closer to him.

Brett was a direct descendant of the Hamiltons, and he even had the chance to become the leader of all the royal family branches in the future. If it wasn't for the sake of making Lucas less hostile and getting closer to him, there was no need for him to lower his status and call Lucas his buddy.

But now that Lucas was so insensible that he openly said he wasn't worthy of calling him his buddy, Brett was on the verge of losing his temper.

Lucas Gray is way too arrogant and conceited!

But right now, for the sake of achieving their goal, Brett could only force himself to suppress his anger and say stiffly, "You... you're right, Mr. Gray. We're indeed not close enough to be buddies. It was too sudden of me."

Seeing him swallowing his pride and anger, Lucas found it extremely ridiculous.

Brett was putting on the airs of a wealthy scion while looking as if he was enduring humiliation. His acting skills were worlds apart from Jensens'.

Lucas couldn't be bothered to continue watching Jensen and Brett put on an act anymore. He said directly, "We're all smart people. Don't treat others as fools."

He glanced at Jensen and sneered. "As far as I know, you're only the third son of the Hamiltons' helmsman. But in fact, you don't have much real power. Do you think you have the right to invite me to be your family's guest elder for an annual salary of four hundred million dollars?

"Four hundred million dollars a year isn't a small sum. In your family, you need your elders' or the helmsman's approval to issue any salary above thirty million dollars, right?

"So, you're just giving me an empty promise and trying to make me work for the Hamiltons. Aren't you treating me as a fool then?"

Jensen's and Brett's eyes widened in shock. They didn't expect Lucas to be so clear about some of the Hamiltons' rules!

Jensen subconsciously opened his mouth to find an excuse to explain himself.

But Lucas didn't give him the chance. "Don't think I can't tell what your intentions are!

"Since I don't believe you, you want me to go to your home to sign a contract? Hah, if I really believed you and went to the Hamiltons' with you, I would probably be ambushed by your family, and it would be hard for me to leave.

"At that time, I would be stuck in your home base and be like a lamb to the slaughter. Isn't that so?

"According to your plan, if I'm sensible enough, I should submit to your family and slog my guts out for you. Only in this way can I survive. If I'm not sensible and still reject your offer, what awaits me will be your family's siege. Then you'll get rid of me, a pawn you can't make use of, right?

"Of course, if I refuse to return to the Hamiltons' with you, you can also say that you have expressed enough sincerity to get me to lower my guard so that you can call more experts from your family to besiege me, right?"

Lucas's analysis made Jensen's and Brett's expressions change drastically.

They never thought that Lucas would see through their intentions!

Jensen and Brett were instantly caught in an awkward situation.

If anyone else had seen through their plan, Jensen would definitely kill them.

But Lucas was so powerful that even Jensen's bodyguard, Moses, had been easily defeated by him. Lucas had effortlessly crushed Moses's hand with his bare hand, so Jensen definitely didn't have the guts to fight against Lucas now.

On the contrary, he now felt a sense of fear toward Lucas.

If Lucas really became angry by what he said and suddenly decided to kill them, they would have no way to resist.

Countless thoughts flashed through Jensen's mind as his expression kept changing rapidly.

Almost two seconds later, Jensen had already come to a decision. "Mr. Gray, we absolutely don't dare to do that. Besides, I've already decided to give up California and stay away from now on. I will leave California tonight."

Jensen immediately became much more respectful, and he even promised, "Please rest assured, Mr. Gray. The Hamiltons will never send people to harm you. I can guarantee this!"

Brett glanced at his father and lowered his head quietly, clearly with the same idea in mind.

Lucas glanced at them and said coldly, "Okay, I'll spare your lives today then. Get lost!"

Jensen and Brett immediately heaved a sigh of relief and hurriedly left.

The two bodyguards by their sides, Mateo and Moses, who had his hand crippled by Lucas, hurriedly left with them.

Now, only Lucas and the top five helmsmen in California were in the room.

Bruce and Edmund were on Lucas's side, and Ethan had wisely chosen to stand on his side this time.

Jim Sullivan and Anton Holmes were the only helmsmen left.

After exchanging glances, Jim and Anton suddenly fell to their knees with a thud in front of Lucas. "Mr. Gray, we... we were wrong, and we'd like to follow you now too. Please give us your approval!"

Lucas didn't even look at them.

He was planning to develop in DC, and the people he would be bringing with him were all those loyal to him. As for others, they weren't within his consideration at all.

Lucas glanced at Ethan, who was standing at the side nervously, and said indifferently, "From now on, the Sawyers will be the top family in California."

1253 Informing the Family

Ethan quickly raised his head and looked at Lucas, his eyes full of surprise. Does he mean he'll support the Sawyers and help us become the top family in California?

But before Ethan could rejoice, he immediately saw the cold expression on Lucas's face.

Bruce and Edmund, standing at the side, didn't show the slightest trace of surprise on their faces. Instead, they grinned with anticipation.

Ethan's spirits, which had just jumped for joy, were instantly dampened.

Lucas wasn't going to support the Sawyers, but rather, he planned to give them up!

From now on, the Sawyers would go from the third top family in California to the top family. However, it wasn't that the Sawyers would develop further but because Lucas planned to take the top two families, the Hales and the Coles, away with him from California!

At this moment, Ethan felt that he had completely lost something, and his heart was full of bitterness.

Even though he was about to become the helmsman of the top family in California, it didn't make him feel any happy at all.

On the other hand, Bruce's and Edmund's moods were the complete opposite of Ethan's.

Lucas's words meant that he would be taking the Hales and the Coles with him to develop in DC.

The thought of what the Parkers, who had gone to DC in advance, had achieved with Lucas's help caused Bruce and Edmund to be extremely envious.

Just half a year ago, the Parkers were just one of the three top families in LA, and they didn't even rank among the top 20 in California.

Later, the Parkers became the top family in LA, and now, they were the strongest force in DC, next to the nine royal family branches and eight top families. It was all thanks to Lucas!

Now that the Hales and the Coles had the opportunity to follow Lucas to DC, they would definitely become a top family on par with the Parkers!

Thinking of his scene, Bruce and Edmund felt excited and full of zeal, wishing they could immediately follow Lucas to DC and perform to their fullest potential.

. . .

Meanwhile, Jensen and Brett had already left the Grandeur Hotel and were sitting in a car on their way to their accommodations in Orange County.

Extremely indignant, Brett asked, "Dad, are we just going to give in to Lucas Gray, give up California, and leave?"

Conquering California was an important aspect of the Hamiltons' plans, and they had already taken over various states around California. This failure would have a huge adverse impact on their plans.

Moreover, if they left now, it would seem like they were driven out of California by Lucas. Brett couldn't take this lying down no matter what.

Jensen said with displeasure, "What should we do then? Are we supposed to stay here and court death here instead of leaving?"

Lucas wasn't a saint, and he had terrifying martial arts skills. There was no way they could gain any benefit from Lucas.

Before completely angering Lucas and fighting him to the death, they could only leave California for now and then think of another plan.

Brett knew that leaving California was the most rational choice now, but he still felt extremely upset.

Moreover, there was another important reason.

Brett punched the seat and asked indignantly, "Dad, we still haven't found Angus yet. If we leave now, how are we supposed to find him?"

At the mention of his youngest son, grief appeared in Jensen's eyes.

He said slowly, "I have a feeling that Angus has already been killed."

"No, I don't believe it!" Brett immediately rejected this speculation. "I refuse to believe that he's really dead! He... he's a scion of the Hamiltons and my brother. Who would dare to harm him or even kill him?

"Besides, even if he's dead, we have to see his corpse. We haven't found his corpse, so there's no evidence he's dead. I refuse to believe that he's dead!

"Unless..." Brett suddenly thought of a possibility, and his eyes turned bloodshot. "Unless the culprit is Lucas Gray! Right, I know. Angus's disappearance must have something to do with Lucas Gray! He's so arrogant and the strongest person in California. If anyone really dares to harm Angus, it must be Lucas Gray!"

"Shut up!" Jensen hollered immediately, "Brett, you're not allowed to say that! That is only your baseless conjecture. If you let Lucas Gray hear that, he definitely won't let us leave California in one piece! So no matter what you want to say, you have to hold it in!"

Brett said angrily, "Dad! Why do we have to be so afraid of him? He has already left the four territories, and he's all by himself now. Even if he's good at martial arts, and he's stronger than Moses, we still have several experts who are more powerful than Moses. They can deal with Lucas Gray!

"If not, we can just gather all the top experts of the Hamiltons. Lucas Gray definitely won't be a match for them! He'll be helpless!

"Dad, why don't we send a message to the family right now and ask Grandpa to send all the top experts here!? I refuse to believe that Lucas Gray can do anything to us with so many experts guarding us!

"Moreover, we can take this opportunity to send more people to look for Angus. No matter what, we can't just give up!"

Brett sounded extremely earnest.

Jensen looked hesitant.

He had always been a domineering person, and apart from a few people in the world, he had never succumbed to anyone.

If possible, he naturally wouldn't be willing to give in to Lucas, who was even younger than his son. Even more so, he didn't want to give up on searching for his youngest son and leave California down and out.

No matter what, Angus had gone missing in California, and the only way to search for him now was to stay in California.

If he left California, it would mean giving up on Angus, and they might never find him again.

Moreover, Jensen still had a strong feeling that Angus might still be alive and waiting for him to save him somewhere.

If he left California, he would be leaving Angus to die.

Even if Angus had really encountered a mishap, Jensen would never let the murderer off!

1254 Finding Traces

Seeing that Jensen was deep in thought and seemed to be tempted by what he said, Brett quickly followed up and persuaded further, "Dad, no matter what, even if Angus is really dead, we must find his corpse and take him back to the Hamiltons. We can't let him die in a foreign land. Furthermore, we have to find out who the murderer is! We can't let them off!"

Hearing this, Jensen finally made up his mind. "I won't take this lying down! I won't let off anyone who dares to harm my son!

"But we can't act recklessly now. I'll call your grandfather to explain and arrange for stronger powerhouses to come over. It's also time to let your grandpa know about Angus."

Brett was overjoyed. Once his grandfather knew about this, he would definitely send more of the family's experts. When the time came, they would be able to defeat Lucas, find out where Angus was, and avenge Angus!

Since Jensen had already made up his mind, he didn't delay for a moment and immediately took out his phone to make a call.

"Father, there's something I need to report to you. Here's the thing. Angus has been missing for two days in Orange County, and we haven't been able to find him. I highly suspect that he has been murdered!"

What Jensen said instantly made the temperature on the other end of the call plummet.

"What happened? Tell me the details immediately!" the Hamiltons' helmsman ordered.

Jensen told his father what had happened in California, as well as their speculations.

The Hamiltons' helmsman was instantly furious. "That punk is too audacious! How dare he harm a descendant of the Hamiltons? He even dared to threaten you. He's courting death!"

"Father, that punk named Lucas Gray is really quite something. Although he's young, his martial arts skills are impeccable. Even Moses, my bodyguard of decades, wasn't a match for him. That punk crippled one of his hands, and he might be handicapped forever."

Jensen explained with a sullen expression, "If not for this, I wouldn't have been so scrupulous of a greenhorn like him. I was afraid he would harm Brett and me. That's why I called you for help."

The helmsman snorted coldly and said furiously, "How dare he?! My son and grandson aren't people that any Tom, Dick, and Harry can harm!

"How about this? I'll get Linus to bring some people to Orange County to help you. I'll also send more manpower there. No matter what, we have to find Angus, even if we have to scour through Orange County!"

"Yes, that's great!" Jensen was overjoyed and immediately agreed.

Linus, whom his father mentioned over the phone, was not an ordinary person but a top powerhouse who ranked third in terms of martial arts skills in the entire Hamilton family. He was second only to the two top experts who followed the helmsman.

It could be said that Linus was the strongest combat force that the helmsman could dispatch now.

Moses, whose hand had been crushed by Lucas, was roughly only sixth in terms of combat power.

Although the difference in their ranks didn't seem that much, their actual combat power was worlds apart.

During the martial arts tournament the Hamiltons held a year ago, Linus had defeated Moses within three moves. He had held Moses's neck tightly with one hand and won effortlessly.

Moses was no match for Lucas, but Jensen believed that Linus could definitely kill Lucas within ten moves!

After a moment of silence, the Hamiltons' helmsman's voice came from the phone speaker. "Jensen, as you said, Lucas Gray might be from the military, and he was very likely a high-ranked officer close to one of the four supreme commanders. We must take this information seriously.

"I know you want to kill him right now to prevent future troubles, but I must warn you that if you can't kill him in one go, don't be rash, lest you bring calamity upon yourself. Do you understand what I mean?"

Jensen nodded. "Father, you're right. I will keep this in mind, and I won't act rashly!"

Given his understanding of Lucas, if he really took action but failed to kill Lucas quickly, Lucas definitely wouldn't let the Hamiltons off!

Thus, even if Linus really came to Orange County, he couldn't act rashly!

"Okay, as long as you know. I'll get Linus to head over right away. Inform me if anything happens!" the helmsman of the Hamiltons said in a deep voice.

"Yes, Father!" Jensen immediately agreed.

When his reinforcements arrived, he had to act carefully and kill Lucas without anyone knowing to be at ease.

. . .

Meanwhile, Lucas ignored Jim and Anton, who wanted to submit to him, and left the Grandeur Hotel.

Bruce and Edmund followed closely behind him.

Lucas frowned, looked at them, and asked, "Have you cleared all traces of Angus Hamilton?"

It was indeed a tough job to clear all the traces. A slight mistake might let the cat out of the bag.

For example, Lucas had ordered Bruce to clean up all traces of Angus's death in Orange County and especially all clues in Lotte Entertainment City. Bruce naturally ordered his subordinates to remain tight-lipped, get rid of all the surveillance footage, and so on.

But Orange County was huge, and it was hard to guarantee that those who had seen Angus wouldn't say a word.

Bruce wanted to assure Lucas that he had taken care of everything, but he knew that there was nothing 100% certain in the world.

After some thought, Bruce said hesitantly, "I've already instructed my people to take care of everything and clean up all traces. There shouldn't be any mistakes, but... if there are passersby in Orange County who have seen Angus in the club, they might be able to search along the clues and find something..."

As the saying goes, Man proposes, God disposes.

Anyway, they had already done everything they could.

If something still went wrong, and the Hamiltons found some clues, it couldn't be blamed on Bruce.

Lucas didn't criticize Bruce and just said calmly, "As long as you've done your best, it's enough. If we really get exposed, then it's God's will."

It seemed that there was really such a thing as God's will. Sometimes, the more you dreaded something, the more likely it was to happen.

. . .

As soon as Jensen and Brett returned to the hotel they were staying, Brett received a call from one of his subordinates.

"Mr. Brett, good news! We've finally found some traces of Mr. Angus! Someone saw him in Lotte Entertainment City after lunch the day before yesterday!

"And according to our investigation, the surveillance cameras there and its vicinity happened to be faulty that day. There must be something fishy about this!"

1255 Getting Ready to Leave

"What did you say? You've found traces of Angus?" Brett immediately asked loudly while standing up in surprise.

Jensen looked over to hear where his son was.

On the other end, the subordinate said, "Yes, Mr. Brett. After an in-depth investigation, we finally found out from some passersby that Mr. Angus went to Lotte Entertainment City in the afternoon that day because he saw two beautiful women at the entrance and followed them in.

"The passersby had a strong impression because those two women were so beautiful. Otherwise, we wouldn't have been able to find out where Mr. Angus went.

"What's more, the surveillance footage in Lotte Entertainment City is all gone, and our people couldn't retrieve any. There must be something fishy! Mr. Brett, what do you say we should do now?"

Brett's eyes were red. He was already certain that something had happened to Angus in Lotte Entertainment City, and it must have had something to do with the two beautiful women.

He was well aware of what his brother was like. Angus was a lustful playboy who had been romantically involved with multiple women in DC. He also had a penchant for beautiful women and had even forced women to leave with him in the past. There had even been deaths on several occasions.

But due to the Hamiltons' power and authority, all these matters had been settled, and Angus had gotten away scot-free, so he had never reflected on himself and changed.

"Since you've finally found some clues, investigate everything properly! You must get to the bottom of this!" Brett ordered coldly.

"Angus has always had high standards. Since those two women were so beautiful, they should be prominent figures in Orange County. Search for the names and photos of the beautiful women in Orange County and then ask around to find out who they are. Once you get all the information, report back to me!"

"Yes, Mr. Brett! We'll definitely investigate this matter thoroughly!" the subordinate answered immediately.

After hanging up, Brett looked at Jensen excitedly. "Dad, our efforts have paid off! We've finally gotten some clues about Angus! It seems we'll be able to find him soon!"

Jensen was excited, but he also felt worried.

It had already been two days. Was Angus really still alive?

He kept feeling that Angus was most likely dead. Even if they found those two women, he probably wouldn't be able to see his son again.

. . .

Lucas was naturally still unaware of this.

After leaving the Grandeur Hotel, he returned to his villa in Pearl Lake.

As soon as he entered, Amelia leaped toward him and wrapped her arms around his neck, refusing to let go for a long time.

It had been a long time since she saw Lucas, so she was particularly clingy to him whenever she saw him the past couple of days.

Especially after knowing that her parents had made up, she was now beaming with joy.

"Daddy, it would be great if you stayed home every day. Then I'd get to see you every day!" Amelia said, reluctant to let him go.

Lucas smiled. "Amelia, we're moving to DC soon, and we'll have a new house. When the time comes, we won't have to be apart anymore, and you'll get to see me every day!"

"Wow! Yay! We're moving to a new house!" Amelia was so elated that she leaped up and wriggled in Lucas's arms.

But she soon frowned and seemed troubled. "But if we move, what's going to happen to my best friend, Hailey? I'll be sad if I don't get to see her again."

Amelia was stuck in a rare dilemma, and her brows were furrowed tightly as she worried seriously about her trouble.

The adults laughed, but they didn't tease Amelia about her friendship.

During dinner, Lucas looked at William and asked, "William, how's the handover at the Solar Corporation doing?"

William was now managing the Solar Corporation's Orange County branch, and he would be following Lucas to DC too, so Lucas was concerned about his progress.

William smiled heartily. "Don't worry. I have already arranged everything. I can leave at any time, but..."

He hesitated and didn't finish his sentence.

Lucas immediately asked, "But what? Is the company facing a tough issue?"

"No, it's not that." William waved his hands and hesitated for a moment before saying, "There's nothing wrong at the company. But there are some changes in my mindset. I do want to follow everyone to DC to develop, but I know my capabilities.

"To be honest, I've wasted many years of my life, and I didn't learn much about managing a company. I could only secure a foothold in the Solar Corporation because of your appointment and help.

"I've thought about it. If I follow you to DC, I'm afraid I won't be of any help to a big company like the Stardust Corporation. I... I'm really sorry."

Lucas said, "William, don't say that. Besides, we're moving to DC as a family.

Don't you want to come with us? Do you want to stay in Orange County instead?"

William sighed and looked at the puerile Amelia. "No, I'll still go to DC with you, but once we're there, I won't be working anymore. I'll just stay home and accompany Amelia!

"Since you and Cheyenne will both be busy with your careers, I'll look after Amelia."

Caught between laughter and tears, Lucas said, "William, you're only in your fifties. Are you sure you want to retire so soon? There's no need for this!

"If you're worried that you might not be able to help at the company, please don't think that way. Although you haven't managed the Solar Corporation for long, I've seen your abilities, and I know you won't be a burden to me."

Although William wasn't very talented, he had certain management abilities and wasn't the type to mess around.

Thus, Lucas didn't think that William would be a burden to him, and he didn't want William to feel too pressured.

Of course, it was up to William if he wanted to work at the Stardust Corporation.

If he really wanted to stay home, live as a retiree, and accompany Amelia, Lucas naturally wouldn't object.

1256 Linus of the Hamiltons

William thought for a moment and said, "Forget it. You have a lot of talent at your company now. I won't join in the fun. You young people will be busy with work, so I'll just stay home and accompany Amelia."

Seeing that he had already decided, Lucas stopped persuading him and said with a smile, "Okay, since you've made your decision, we'll go with it. It's fine as long as you're happy."

William breathed a sigh of relief and smiled happily.

With such a filial daughter and son-in-law and an adorable granddaughter by his side, he felt that life was really worthwhile.

Even though Cheyenne wasn't his biological daughter, in his eyes, she was no different from his own.

The few of them were busy preparing to move to DC.

. . .

The following morning, a plane flew from DC and landed at Orange County International Airport.

Jensen and Brett had been waiting at an airport terminal for a while. When they saw an elderly man with a white beard and hair, clad in a white long-sleeved shirt and pants, their eyes glowed with excitement, and they hurriedly went over to greet him.

From several meters away, Jensen bent forward slightly and called out, "Elder Linus!"

Although Jensen was one of the helmsman's sons and highly valued in the family, he didn't dare to put on airs in front of this elder.

This elderly man in white was none other than Linus, the third-ranked powerhouse of the Hamiltons.

Linus had been with the helmsman for years and had gone through countless trials and tribulations with the Hamiltons. He had made great contributions to the family and deserved great credit.

Moreover, Jensen had been striving for the position of helmsman, so he was naturally very respectful to an expert like Linus. He has been trying his best to get close to Linus in order to have him protect and assist him well in the future.

Thus, Jensen was extremely respectful toward Linus.

At the side, Brett quickly bowed to Linus. "Elder Linus, welcome!"

"Mr. Jensen, Mr. Brett, I've kept you waiting." Linus bent forward slightly with a reserved smile, making him look cold and unfriendly.

He knew what Jensen was thinking, but he was loyal only to the Hamilton family, and it didn't matter to him who the helmsman was. So he simply turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to Jensen currying favor with him.

"Mr. Jensen, the helmsman has instructed me to come here and assist you, so feel free to give me any instructions," Linus said to Jensen without going out of his way to be polite. When Jensen heard this, a look of resentment appeared in his eyes. He took a deep breath before saying, "Elder Linus, I should be aware that my son Angus has disappeared in Orange County. This matter is related to a young man named Lucas Gray, but his martial arts skills are impeccable, and even Moses is no match for him!

"So, I hope you can help me find out more about him. It would be best if you could kill him!"

Jensen was now full of murderous intent toward Lucas.

After the call from Brett's subordinate last night and finding out that Angus had gone to a club named Lotte Entertainment City and that two beautiful women were involved, Jensen had immediately sent people to find out their identities.

Last night, they had already found out that the two beautiful women Angus had pestered and forcefully dragged into his room were Cheyenne Carter and Charlotte Carter.

But one of them was Lucas's wife, and the other was his sister-in-law.

In that case, Jensen could already conclude that Angus's death was absolutely related to Lucas!

The truth was obvious. Angus must have developed lustful thoughts when he saw the two young and beautiful women, but it turned out that they were closely related to Lucas.

Moreover, Lucas was the overlord of California, so it wasn't difficult to understand why Angus suddenly vanished from Orange County without a single trace.

As for White Claw, Angus's bodyguard, Lucas must have killed him too.

Given Lucas's combat power, there was no need to doubt this at all.

Yet Lucas acted like nothing had happened when facing him previously. Even when Brett visited him in person at his company, Lucas didn't reveal anything.

If they hadn't coincidentally found some clues from passersby, Angus's death might just become a secret forever, and he would have really vanished into thin air.

As soon as Linus heard what Jensen said, his expression immediately became grim.

Of course he knew who Moses was. Moses ranked sixth among the powerhouses of the Hamiltons. Although he was inferior to Linus, he was still a top expert that very few could rival. Even the strongest powerhouses around the helmsmen of the eight top families of DC might not be a match for him.

But the fact that Lucas had defeated even Moses made Linus cautious, and he knew he couldn't belittle him.

"Mr. Jensen, Lucas Gray should only be in his twenties. Is he really so powerful that even Moses is no match for him?" Linus asked with puzzlement.

Jensen nodded and said sadly, "Yes, I saw it with my own eyes. In merely one exchange of blows, Lucas Gray crushed Moses's hand and completely crippled it. He's not receiving treatment in the hospital."

Linus couldn't help feeling more worried and scrupulous toward Lucas.

If Moses had lost after a tough battle, Linus would be surprised, but he wouldn't be too shocked. After all, there are many talents in the world, and it wasn't impossible for there to be some outstanding young talents.

But the fact Lucas had crippled Moses's hand in one move in almost an instant kill contained a lot of information for him to process.

"Mr. Jensen, please tell me more about Lucas Gray in detail," Linus said seriously.

So while driving from the airport, Jensen and Brett told Linus everything they had investigated, as well as their conjectures about Lucas's identity.

Previously, they had thought that Lucas was a powerhouse from one of the four territories and should be close to one of the four supreme commanders. But after speaking with Lucas, they narrowed the scope to the eastern and southern territories.

But regardless of where Lucas was from, they couldn't underestimate his identity.

After pondering, Linus said, "I can probe his skills first, but it will be difficult for me to kill him like you want, Mr. Jensen."

1257 Probe

"The commanders of the eastern territory and southern territory are not to be trifled with, especially the commander of the southern territory, the captain of the Falcon Regiment. He's very domineering and protective of his subordinates. If Lucas Gray is really his former subordinate, and we hurt him, I'm afraid even the Hamiltons won't be able to resist his wrath."

Jensen's heart sank.

Indeed, this was what they were concerned about before.

Even though Lucas had left the military and was no longer a subordinate of one of the four commanders, it was normal for people to be protective of their comrades. In case they angered a supreme commander, there would be massive trouble.

"Elder Linus, what do you think we should do now?" Jensen asked respectfully.

After carefully thinking about it, Linus said, "I think we'd better think this through and plan carefully, lest we provoke someone we can't afford to provoke."

Jensen's eyes were bloodshot, and he said unwillingly, "But the evidence shows that Angus was really harmed by Lucas Gray. Am I supposed to just let him off?

"If we can't kill Lucas Gray and avenge Angus, I will never be at peace!"

Brett was just as unwilling. He had been very close to Angus, and now that Angus had undoubtedly been killed by Lucas, he obviously couldn't tolerate it. Was he supposed to not avenge his brother and not kill the culprit?

They were the Hamiltons, an esteemed US royal family branch. How could they possibly lower themselves and avoid Lucas out of fear?

Linus glanced at them and said calmly, "Mr. Jensen, with all due respect, if Mr. Angus has really encountered a mishap, there's no way we can revive him even if you kill Lucas Gray now.

"The most important thing now is not revenge but securing your status in the family and striving to become the next helmsman. Isn't that so? In this critical moment, you should stabilize yourself and not cause trouble for the family by provoking a supreme commander for the sake of revenge.

"They say it's never too late for revenge. It won't be too late for you to settle scores with Lucas Gray after you become the helmsman."

What Linus said was like a bucket of cold water pouring over the angry and indignant Jensen, immediately calming him down.

Indeed, Linus was right. Even if they killed Lucas now, it wouldn't bring Angus back to life.

Instead of creating trouble for the family because of this matter, thereby causing him to fall out of contention for the position of the Hamiltons' helmsman, he should bear with it for now and let Lucas live a few more days before settling scores with him in the future!

After calming down, Jensen immediately bowed to Linus, "Thank you for the reminder, Elder Linus. I'm truly grateful!"

Linus moved aside slightly and said with a smile, "Don't stand on ceremony with me, Mr. Jensen. I didn't say anything worthy of your gratitude."

Jensen understood what Linus meant. Linus had always been a neutral party in the family, but he had given Jensen a huge favor by giving him a reminder. However, he couldn't let their conversation spread, lest he put Linus on the spot.

"Yes, I understand. I won't forget your kindness in the future, Elder Linus!" Jensen said sincerely.

Linus smiled. "Although I don't think we can kill him now, we can still probe Lucas. I'll go meet him later."

Jensen said gratefully, "Okay, thank you so much, Elder Linus!"

Then he gave Linus some information about Lucas, such as his address, photos, and so on.

"Alright, I got it. I won't go back to the hotel with you. We'll talk again after I meet Lucas Gray. Mr. Jensen, Mr. Brett, you two head back first!"

Linus was extremely interested in Lucas. After getting information about him, he asked the driver to pull over and proceeded to look for Lucas.

Jensen didn't stop him and bid goodbye to him respectfully.

After watching Linus leave, Brett finally said, "Dad, do we really have to bear with it and let Lucas Gray stay alive for longer? He killed Angus. I really want to kill him right now to avenge Angus!"

Jensen patted his son on the shoulder. "Brett, calm down. Don't be impatient. I feel the same as you do, and I wish I could kill Lucas Gray immediately to make him pay for Angus's life.

"But if we can't tolerate this, we will incur greater trouble. Your grandfather is getting old, and it's time for us to pick the next helmsman. We mustn't be reckless now, lest we miss the opportunity.

"Don't worry. Once I become the next helmsman and take over the entire family, I will be able to deploy all the Hamiltons' elites and kill Lucas Gray! I'll make sure he dies miserably to atone for his sins!"

Brett naturally knew that his father made sense.

Indeed, they didn't have to rush to take revenge. The most important thing now was to make sure Jensen became the next helmsman.

Under this premise, they could postpone everything else.

But he would absolutely capture Lucas one day and kill him with his own hands to avenge Angus!

. . .

At 10 a.m., in the chairman's office of the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch...

Lucas was sitting in the office with a large stack of documents on the large desk in front of him.

They were all important documents that he, the chairman, needed to sign.

After all, he would soon be leaving Orange County and going to DC to develop. Although the Orange County branch would be staying, there were many business and administrative issues for Lucas to handle, especially since there would be a major personnel shift.

But while Lucas was carefully going through the documents, he suddenly felt a sense of crisis and a strange aura.

He put down the pen in his hand, walked to the window with a frown, and peered below.

From more than a dozen floors above ground, the traffic and pedestrians on the streets looked minuscule.

But among the bustling crowd, Lucas accurately spotted an old man standing opposite the Stardust Corporation building.

It was a man in his sixties with a white beard and hair, clad in a white shirt and pants. He wasn't actually that inconspicuous at first glance.

But Lucas had his eyes firmly fixed on him.

It was Linus, the old man who had gotten out of Jensen's car not long ago!

Based on the information that Jensen had given him, Linus arrived at the entrance of the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch office and was still contemplating how he should probe Lucas.

At this moment, he seemed to feel a strange gaze on him. He raised his head and looked up.

When Linus looked into the pair of calm eyes on the top floor of the Stardust Corporation building, his heart immediately skipped a beat, and all the hair on his body stood on end!

1258 Unprovokable

Linus's purpose here was to probe Lucas's details.

So when he saw the calm eyes on the top floor of the building and the owner of the eyes, he immediately knew that it was Lucas!

However, he had now arrived near Lucas's vicinity and was actually still a distance away from him, yet Lucas had already discovered him and had his eyes locked on him.

What a terrifying perception!

Even an expert like Linus was flabbergasted!

At this moment, Linus deemed Lucas much more dangerous than he had thought, and he was now full of scruples toward him.

The next moment, a calm and indifferent voice suddenly rang in Linus's ears. "Are you here to look for me?"

After being shocked, Linus suddenly turned around, only to see that Lucas, who was just on the top floor of the Stardust Corporation office building moments ago, had appeared behind him!

His speed was incredible, and he was just like a phantom!

The astonishment within Linus was indescribable.

"I was just passing by." Linus clenched his fist tightly and forced himself to smile. "Sir, you're really powerful. I'm enlightened."

Lucas smiled faintly. "Sir, you're already advanced in age, so you should stay at home. Gaining knowledge isn't as important as your life, or you might end up in a horrible plight. What do you think, Sir?"

Linus's pupils suddenly constricted. He had naturally understood what Lucas meant.

If someone else dared to threaten him so audaciously, Linus definitely wouldn't take it lying down. But facing Lucas and his peculiar skills, even Linus, the third top powerhouse of the Hamiltons, couldn't help feeling worried and uncertain.

"You're right. I'm old, so I should stay at home." Linus nodded and turned around to leave without hesitation.

Watching Linus disappear among the crowd, Lucas slowly narrowed his eyes.

Linus's aura was formidable. Of course, this didn't mean that he was intimidating. On the contrary, when walking on the streets, he looked just like an ordinary old man.

But he exuded the aura unique to top experts, which was like a special magnetic field.

The more skilled in martial arts someone was, the more they could sense the aura exuded by martial arts practitioners.

This was why Lucas, despite standing on the top floor of the Stardust Corporation, which was more than a dozen floors above ground, could still sense the unique aura exuded by Linus and locate him precisely.

Just by looking at Linus's white attire, which was unique to the experts of the Hamiltons, Lucas knew that he was a powerhouse sent by the Hamiltons, who was far more powerful than White Claw, Mateo, and Moses.

But even this powerful expert was no match for Lucas.

Lucas had seen that there was no murderous intent in Linus's eyes, so he merely gave a warning. Otherwise, he wouldn't have let him go so easily.

"I hope the Hamiltons won't continue behaving foolishly. Otherwise, don't blame me," Lucas murmured before disappearing right on the spot and returning to his office.

Meanwhile, Linus stayed tense until he reached a crossroad and turned a corner. When he could no longer feel the scorching gaze behind him, he heaved a sigh of relief.

"This young man must not be provoked!" Linus wiped away the cold sweat on his forehead with deep fear in his eyes.

. . .

On another side, in the hotel room where Jensen was staying...

In the spacious presidential suite, Jensen and Brett were sitting on the couch with their brows furrowed, staring at the phone on the coffee table and sometimes looking at the door, waiting for news.

"Dad, do you think Elder Linus has met Lucas Gray?" Brett asked worriedly.

Jensen seemed distracted, but he said, "There shouldn't be anything to worry about. Anyway, Lucas Gray definitely won't be a match for Elder Linus. My only

worry now is whether Elder Linus will accidentally kill Lucas Gray by mistake and provoke a supreme commander."

After some thought, Brett said, "If Elder Linus really kills Lucas Gray, I'll instruct my subordinates to clean up the traces well. In any case, we can't let Lucas Gray's death pose a threat to your fight for the position of helmsman!"

Suddenly, the door of the room opened, and a figure in white entered. "You're overthinking. Lucas Gray is extremely strong. I'm no match for him at all."

Jensen and Brett immediately stood up.

They instinctively wanted to go forward to greet Linus, but after they processed what he said, their expressions changed drastically.

"Elder Linus, what... what are you saying? Even you're no match for Lucas Gray?" Brett looked at Linus in panic, only to see that Linus's clothes were neat and his hair was still neatly combed. There were no traces of a fight at all.

"Did... did you fight Lucas Gray?" Brett asked anxiously.

Jensen looked at Linus doubtfully.

Linus shook his head with a bitter smile and sighed. "No, but I know he's much stronger than I am. I'm no match for him at all. If we had really fought, I might not have been able to come back in one piece to see you."

These words made Jensen and Brett feel extremely shocked and horrified.

"In any case, Mr. Jensen, that young man Lucas Gray is not on the same level as us at all. Please refrain from provoking him as far as possible in the future. Otherwise,

you'll definitely suffer!" Linus said earnestly. "That's all I have to say. I'm returning to the Hamilton residence now."

With that, Linus bowed slightly and turned around to leave without waiting for Jensen and Brett to persuade him to stay.

He had come to Orange County to help deal with Lucas under the orders of the Hamiltons' helmsman.

Since he now knew that he was no match for Lucas at all, there was no point in staying here any longer.

What Linus said left Jensen and Brett in complete disbelief.

They didn't expect the third most powerful expert of the Hamiltons to say that he and Lucas weren't on that same level and that they shouldn't provoke him.

In that case, things became a lot more serious.

After Linus left, Brett frowned for a long time before finally saying, "Brett, it seems that we can't stay in Orange County for long. We should head home immediately!"

At this point, they could basically forget about taking revenge on Lucas or taking California away from him.

Staying alive was their greatest concern now.

Last night, Lucas had already warned them to leave Orange County immediately. However, not only did they not leave, but they even asked the family to send Linus over.

They didn't know if Lucas was angry now and whether he would come and confront them, but Jensen knew that they had to leave Orange County right now!

The two of them were in a hurry and soon left Orange County International Airport with their subordinates half an hour later.

By the time the plane took off, Lucas had already received the news.

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 1259

1259 Lena Asks to Meet

Bruce and the others sighed in relief after hearing the news.

Because he was worried that the Hamiltons might take revenge and send lots of experts to suppress them, he hadn't slept well for the past few days.

Now that he learned that Brett, Jensen, and their subordinates had left Orange County, he finally felt relieved.

"Lucas, that's great news. The Hamiltons have really left!" Bruce exclaimed excitedly.

Lucas wasn't surprised. When he saw the Hamiltons' powerhouse leaving after receiving his warning, he guessed that they would choose to avoid him for now.

But he couldn't let his guard down just because of this.

After all, Angus had indeed died under his command, and the Hamiltons definitely wouldn't forget such deep hatred. Lucas just didn't know when they would come for him again.

He wasn't afraid of the Hamiltons, but he wasn't alone now. He had his family, friends, career, and company, which was continuously expanding. The Hamiltons would definitely be able to get a hold on him somehow.

It looks like I should work on becoming more powerful and recruiting more experts. Lucas decided.

Soon, it was lunchtime.

Lucas put down the documents in his hand. Just as he walked out of the Stardust Corporation office building, he suddenly heard a familiar voice call out to him.

"Lucas!"

Lucas turned around and saw Lena walking toward him, all smiles. He couldn't help looking a little sullen.

"What are you doing here?" Lucas asked coldly, expressionless.

He was now rather displeased with Lena.

In the beginning, Lucas had a good impression of Lena and took care of her as much as possible because she was Cheyenne's best friend.

But after the incident in the hotel in DC, his impression of Lena was completely ruined.

Flynn had already found out that Lena was the one who had hired someone to take those photos in the hotel and sent them to Cheyenne.

Although Lena thought that she had done a good job of being secretive by hiring someone to take the photos and using a different phone number to send them, there were still traces that could be found. Besides, Lena wasn't an expert at this, so she didn't clean up the traces well, and it was a piece of cake to check.

To be honest, Lucas was furious when he found out that Lena was the culprit behind everything.

After all, Cheyenne had always genuinely treated Lena as her best friend. Yet Lena openly tried to snatch her husband and sowed discord between Cheyenne and Lucas, which Lucas couldn't tolerate at all.

If it wasn't because Lena and Cheyenne had been friends for a long time, Lucas would have never let her off the hook.

In addition, Lena's father, Ethan, had also once betrayed Lucas, though he chose to stand on Lucas's side in the end. Even so, his betrayal of Lucas was an indelible fact. Thus, Lucas had a very bad impression of Ethan and Lena.

Lucas was already being kind enough to them by choosing to ignore them.

But he didn't expect Lena to come looking for him at this moment.

Lucas's indifferent attitude seemed to hurt Lena a little.

She smiled and said, "It's only been a few days since we last met. Why have you become so distant, Lucas? We're good friends, right? Have you forgotten that I sent you back to your hotel room to rest when you got drunk in DC?"

Hearing that Lena had the audacity to mention the incident at the hotel, Lucas sneered inwardly while looking at Lena with an even colder gaze.

"I haven't forgotten, and I never will forget," Lucas said mysteriously. He asked coldly, "So, why are you here?"

Lena giggled. "Since I helped you, shouldn't you treat me to a meal in return?"

Lucas wanted to refuse at first, but after giving it some thought, he agreed. "Sure, what would you like to have?"

Hearing Lucas agree, Lena immediately beamed with joy. "I've heard that the Parkers' Restaurant is very popular lately. Let's go there!"

This restaurant was founded by the Parkers decades ago, and it recently rose to fame after its sister restaurant, the Parker's Hampton Restaurant in DC, became famous. They soon became Instagram hot spots, and now, there were sister restaurants in many major cities. Naturally, Orange County had one too.

"Sure, the Parkers' Restaurant it is." Lucas immediately agreed and drove to the restaurant with Lena.

He wanted to ask Lena why she did such a thing to Cheyenne, her best friend of over a decade.

Upon arriving at the restaurant, they ordered a sumptuous 4-course meal.

Lena was extremely enthusiastic, and she kept talking to Lucas and pouring him drinks from time to time.

But when she was about to pour him some wine again, he moved the wine glass to the side and said coldly, "Alcohol leads to mistakes. I won't drink anymore, lest I get into trouble again."

Realizing the ambiguous meaning in what Lucas said, Lena felt her heart skip a beat, afraid that he had already discovered something.

But she quietly looked up and breathed a sigh of relief when she found that his expression hadn't changed much. She thought that she was just being paranoid.

She was positive that she had done that matter so secretively that Lucas definitely wouldn't find out!

But she didn't dare to go overboard and cut down on the talking.

After they finished the meal, Lena hesitated for a moment but eventually said, "Lucas, actually... I want to ask you to help my family, but I don't know how to begin."

Lucas knew why she had come to find him.

Without saying a word, he poured himself a glass of water and sipped it, as if he hadn't heard what she said.

Feeling a little awkward and uncertain about what Lucas was thinking, Lena said, "Lucas, it's actually a very simple matter. I hope you can give the Sawyers a chance and take us with you to DC."

It was just as he expected.

Lucas smiled coldly. "Your dad, Ethan Sawyer, asked you to find me, didn't he?"

With a look of embarrassment, Lena said, "My dad told me about what happened a couple of days ago. Actually, I think my dad's very fickle-minded, timid, and easily intimidated too.

"But it's not his fault... Our family doesn't have a strong foundation, and we can't take huge risks. That's why my dad's so hesitant and cautious about everything.

"Of course, he didn't intend to betray you, and it's not that he doesn't trust you either. It's just how he is. So Lucas, can you not hold it against him and give our family another chance?"

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 1260

1260 I Love You

Lucas looked at Lena indifferently without even batting an eyelid and said directly, "No."

"Why?" Lena's eyes widened in surprise. She didn't expect Lucas to reject her plea for help.

Lucas said coldly, "The fact that the Sawyers can become the top family of California is already a result of my kindness. Don't push it."

Lena's face instantly turned pale, and her hand holding her glass of red wine trembled, causing several drops of wine to spill onto the snowy-white tablecloth.

"Then, can't you give the Sawyers another chance for my sake?" Lena asked through gritted teeth, her eyes filled with tears as she looked at Lucas pitifully.

For her sake?

Hearing this, Lucas wanted to sneer.

Lena meant nothing to Lucas. He didn't take her seriously at all.

In fact, if it wasn't for Cheyenne, Lucas wouldn't have bothered to talk with Lena at all.

"No," Lucas said firmly.

When Lena saw Lucas not wavering in the slightest and rejecting her again without any room for compromise, disappointment gradually appeared on her face.

Tears slowly welled up in her eyes, and she frowned while saying aggrievedly, "Lucas, why do I feel like you're giving me the cold shoulder all of a sudden? How have I offended you?"

Seeing that Lena actually had the cheek to pretend as if nothing had happened, Lucas felt even more disappointed and repulsed.

Since she wanted to treat him as a fool, why should he save her from embarrassment?

Lucas stared closely at Lena's eyes and sneered. "How dare you ask me how you've offended me when you did something so abhorrent."

Lena's heart tensed up, she subconsciously clenched her fists, and a look of panic appeared on her face. Could Lucas already know that I'm the one behind that matter?

No, that can't be. I pulled it off well that day. Lucas shouldn't suspect me!

As Lena thought of this, a trace of confusion appeared on her face, and she seemed clueless about what he was saying. She asked in bewilderment, "What have I done? What are you talking about, Lucas? I don't understand what you mean."

Seeing Lena still feigning ignorance, Lucas couldn't be bothered to continue wasting his breath with her and exposed her right on the spot. "You don't have to pretend to be innocent in front of me. You're the one who took those photos and sent them to Cheyenne!"

He didn't speak in an inquisitive tone but a firm, aggressive, and affirmative one.

Lena's expression changed drastically, and her hands clenched the tablecloth tightly, crumpling the snowy-white fabric, which was now all wrenched up like her heart.

"What... what are you talking about? What photos? I have no idea what you're saying!" Lena tried her best to remain calm and pretend not to know anything. But unfortunately, Lucas's sudden exposure of her caught her off guard. Her voice stuttered, revealing the obvious guilt and nervousness within her.

Lucas sneered at her.

At this point, she still refused to admit it. It seemed that she was trying to hold out until the very last moment.

"Lena Sawyer, drop the act. Since I've already said it, I won't malign you. Third Avenue, Apex Studios, Marcus Thompson, these names should ring a bell, shouldn't they?"

After hearing these names, Lena felt as if she had been struck by lightning. Her hands holding the tablecloth trembled violently, and the glasses and tableware on the table clanged loudly.

Apex Studios was the agency Lena had hired to photograph her and Lucas secretly. Marcus Thompson was the photographer who had taken the photos of her and Lucas seemingly being intimate outside the hotel.

Since Lucas had already managed to find Marcus, he obviously knew that she was the culprit.

At this moment, Lena felt as though she had been thrown into an ice cellar, and her entire body was cold. She felt incredibly ashamed and embarrassed, as if she had been stripped naked in public.

She didn't expect Lucas to find out everything she had done.

So much for pretending and feigning ignorance in front of him just now. To her horror, he had already found out the truth, and her performance in front of him was probably just like a clown act.

At the thought of this, Lena turned pale, and she couldn't say a word.

Staring at Lena, Lucas questioned coldly, "To be honest, I'm really disappointed in you! Cheyenne has always regarded you as her best friend, and she's been kind to you for more than ten years. But what did you do to her in return?

"There was clearly nothing between us, but you maliciously hired someone to take those photos that made us look intimate. And you even sent them to Cheyenne to sow discord between us and upset her. Is that what a best friend should do?

"What has Cheyenne done to you to make you hate her so much that you'd want her to suffer and be sad?!"

Lucas's voice became increasingly louder as he questioned Lena. She lowered her head with every question and was almost unable to raise her head.

Hanging her head low, she clenched her fists, and her nails dug deep into the flesh of her palms. But she suddenly raised her head and stared straight at Lucas. "She hasn't let me down, but I've... I've fallen in love with you! I'm in love with you!"

Boom!

Her words were like a thunderbolt striking Lucas on the head, making him absolutely dumbfounded.

Lucas never thought that Lena would fall in love with him!

This explained why she had tried to sow discord between him and Cheyenne. She wanted to ruin their marriage.

How was this possible?!

Why would Lena fall in love with him?

Lucas was truly dumbfounded as he looked at Lena in confusion, seemingly not knowing her at all.

Since she had already said it, she decided to go all out. With red eyes, she yelled, "Do you remember the first time we met? You sent me home, and I encountered the sudden attack by the speeding motorcycle in front of my house. From the moment you saved my life, I fell in love with you!

"I thought I could suppress my feelings for you and keep them to myself forever, but when you saved me from the deadly pursuit in LA, I knew that everything was God's will. God must have sent you to me! In that case, why should I give you up and let someone else have you?

"I know I've let Cheyenne down, but sometimes, there really isn't an explanation for your feelings! I didn't want things to turn out this way, and I don't want to steal Cheyenne's husband either, but I couldn't help myself!

"I'm just so helplessly in love with you that I'd rather give up my friendship with Cheyenne!"

Lena burst into tears and revealed all her feelings for Lucas for the first time.

Dumbfounded, Lucas sat in his seat, at a complete loss for words to express his emotions.