

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 191 – Intimate Photos

Chapter 191: Intimate Photos

The crowd was already bewildered and intrigued by the sudden personnel transfer. When they heard someone objecting, everyone immediately turned to look at the person who spoke.

The person who spoke was a middle-aged man in his late forties. He was short and fat with a protruding belly, and he had a bald spot in the middle of his head. He was Oliver Harvey, the director of the sales department of the Stardust Corporation.

Harvey was a senior employee of the Stardust Corporation. Having been with the company for more than ten years, he was quite esteemed too. Everyone even considered him the most likely person to take over the position of deputy general manager.

So when he stood up and opposed the decision of the higher-ups, it held a lot of weight for the attendees of this meeting.

Davis narrowed his eyes slightly before leaning back in his chair with his hands crossed and placed on the conference table on stage. “Mr. Harvey, may I know what your reason is?”

Harvey smiled and said to everyone else in the conference hall, “As we all know, Miss Charlotte Carter has been an employee of our company for less than two months, and she’s still just an ordinary employee. In such a short period of time, she was promoted from a junior position to the deputy general manager of the company. In my opinion, this is too drastic of a speed. Hence, I oppose this decision.”

Many executives secretly nodded in agreement.

The deputy general manager of the corporation was a significant role and could even be considered the goal of each of the executives. When the position of deputy general manager was finally vacated, all of them were eager and excited, hoping that they could fill it.

But the position that they all dreamed of was now in the hands of a young girl who had been an employee of the company for less than two months and was only in her twenties. They were naturally disgruntled and opposed to that decision.

In fact, Harvey's words simply struck a sour note in their hearts.

When Davis saw Harvey openly opposing his decision and even stirring the emotions of many employees in the conference hall, his face turned sullen.

He stretched his hand toward James Denning, his secretary, who then immediately placed a document in his hand.

Davis threw the document onto the center of the large and wide conference table and said coldly, "This is the information that I got someone to collate. All of Charlotte Carter's attainments and performance since joining the Stardust Corporation are stated clearly in there. You may pass this around so that everyone can take a closer look.

"Yes, Charlotte might be young and relatively new to the company. But the contracts she has clinched with her own efforts in such a short period of time account for more than half of all the contracts signed with the company during this time! Which one of you can achieve this?"

Once Davis said this, many of them seemed rather astonished.

Has Charlotte Carter clinched more than half of the contracts signed with the company during this period of time? What outstanding performance!

Some people were in disbelief and thus opened the document that Davis had someone pass around, only to be stunned by the shocking number of contracts signed and the value of the contracts.

They didn't expect that this nameless newcomer, who had only joined the company a short time ago, was actually that competent!

After seeing the change in everyone's expression, Davis said, "Charlotte Carter's outstanding performance is the reason I decided to promote her to deputy general manager, despite her being a new employee who's less experienced than many of the senior staff here. She's definitely competent enough!

"I would also like all of you here to understand that as long as you are hardworking and competent enough, you will be given the opportunity to shine in the Stardust Corporation instead of relying on spending time to accumulate more experience for a promotion! Since Charlotte Carter has managed to be promoted with her own abilities, each one of you here can too!"

"In addition, I would also like to say that the promotion of Charlotte Carter is not my personal decision, but a consensus that the chairman and the board of directors have reached after discussion. It is entirely in line with the company's promotion criteria and rules."

After Davis said his piece, many of them were full of zeal, especially the middle and lower management staff.

Since Charlotte, a newcomer of the company, could be promoted to deputy general manager because of her outstanding performance, they believed that as long as they worked hard and strove to become better, they would be able to perform well and get promoted too.

All of a sudden, the majority of people felt greatly encouraged, and Charlotte's super promotion had undoubtedly become an excellent example for them to learn from.

Davis once again scanned the expressions of the people in the conference hall and felt relieved. He stood up and said, "In that case, that's all we have for today's meeting. The meeting is adjourned."

"Wait a minute!"

Just when Davis wanted to pack up and leave the conference hall, a voice sounded out of the blue and interrupted him. It once again attracted the attention of all the attendees of the meeting.

Standing in place, Harvey sneered. "Flynn Davis, you sound so righteous and morally upright, but don't you think I don't know the nasty things you've done in secret!"

As soon as he said this, everyone was astonished!

One reason was that Oliver Harvey actually had the guts to address Davis, the general manager, by his full name. As if that wasn't rude enough, he even said those things to him!

Nasty things? Has Flynn Davis really done something shameful and sordid?

Before Davis and the others could say anything, Harvey continued, "Hmph, don't think I'm talking nonsense. I have evidence against you! Once everyone sees it, you will understand why Charlotte Carter got promoted to deputy general manager!"

He took out a large briefcase from below his seat, which he had long prepared. He then took out a large stack of photos from it and waved his hand to scatter them all over the conference hall.

Some people subconsciously picked up a few photos, only to look flabbergasted and widen their eyes in disbelief after seeing the contents carefully.

"Wow!"

“Oh my god! How is this possible?”

“Wow! This is too... inappropriate!”

Everyone exclaimed one after another. Immediately afterward, they began to cast dirty looks of disdain and shock at Davis and Charlotte.

Charlotte’s heart dropped, and she intuitively felt an ominous hunch. She reached out to take one of the photos, and as soon as she saw the picture clearly, blood surged to the top of her head while her body turned cold!

Charlotte was photographed lying beside Davis with a coquettish smile on her face and one arm wrapped tightly around his neck. Their faces were almost pressed together, and they looked extremely intimate!

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 192 – Who Instigated You?

Chapter 192: Who Instigated You?

“This...!” Charlotte’s eyes widened in shock, and her hands trembled as she immediately dropped the photo of her and Davis sharing an intimate moment.

But the photos were already strewn all over the floor of the conference hall. And apart from the one Charlotte just saw, there were many more explicit and intimate photos of her and Davis!

Everyone looked at Charlotte and Davis with peculiar gazes.

No wonder Oliver Harvey said that we would understand why Charlotte Carter could become the deputy general manager after seeing these things. It turns out that she slept her way to the top!

So much for being deceived by Flynn Davis’s words and foolishly thinking that Charlotte Carter really relied on her abilities to obtain her promotion!

Even Sophie Evans, Charlotte’s best friend, was extremely astonished. She wanted to defend Charlotte at first. But with so much concrete evidence and photos, she really couldn’t defend her. She could only glare at Charlotte, seemingly expecting better from her and trying to ask her why she had done such a thing.

Harvey looked at the expressions on everyone’s faces before saying with a smile, “I believe I don’t need to say anything else. You should be able to understand why a newbie like Charlotte Carter could suddenly soar so high and become the deputy general manager of the Stardust Corporation.”

Everyone in the conference hall looked at Charlotte with contempt and disdain in their eyes.

In the workplace, it was a relatively common practice to sleep with others and rely on various connections to achieve results and get promoted through the back door. But it was indeed quite rare for someone's illicit affair to be exposed in such an exaggerated manner as Charlotte's scandal did. At least, in the last ten years or so, there had never been such a case in the Stardust Corporation.

Sophie gritted her teeth and couldn't help but stand up for her best friend, Charlotte. "But Charlotte Carter's excellent work performance is placed clearly before you! We've all just seen the data in the document. The huge number of contracts she clinched alone, as well as the value of those contracts, is proof that she's very competent. It's not impossible for her to be promoted!"

Harvey sneered. "How naive of you! The photos are right before you. They're proof that Flynn Davis is having an illicit relationship with Charlotte Carter. It's also very possible that Flynn Davis abused his authority as the general manager to let her sign those contracts! Otherwise, how could a newbie like Charlotte Carter, who just joined the company a short while ago, manage to clinch so many major partnerships?"

"Flynn Davis, do you dare to say that you didn't help Charlotte Carter sign those contracts at all?" Harvey turned to Davis and compelled him for an answer.

Davis's face turned extremely sullen. In fact, Charlotte was indeed a very competent employee who was worth grooming. But it was definitely impossible for her to clinch so many major deals in such a short period of time.

During this process, he had indeed given her a lot of help and secretly let her complete the signing of many contracts using the connections that he had formed for the Stardust Corporation over so many years.

But he had done these things according to Lucas's instructions and had also been very secretive about them. Even Charlotte herself was unaware that he had helped her, what more others.

Besides, there was a huge problem with those photos!

Davis was certain that he and Charlotte were innocent. They had only met twice in total at the office, and there wasn't any personal contact and intimacy between them at all. Besides, he knew that she was Lucas's sister-in-law, so how could he have an illicit affair with her?

"Those photos have all been digitally doctored! Mr. Davis and I are innocent. We've never done anything like that!" Charlotte shouted in exasperation, her beautiful and delicate face flushing as she crushed the photos in her hands!

She was clearly an innocent girl who had never even had a boyfriend, but now she became a woman who sold her body to climb up the ladder in the eyes of everyone. How could she accept that?

"Haha, Charlotte Carter, there's no point in tearing up these photos. There are at least a couple hundred in the conference hall. Can you tear up all of them? Let me tell you. The truth is right in front of us. And that is, you resorted to dirty tricks like seducing Flynn Davis and bewitching him with your beauty so that he would promote you to deputy general manager. Stop trying to argue or defend yourself!" Harvey glared at Charlotte with a look of contempt and disdain.

"They're definitely fake. I never did such a thing. Why should I accept being slandered? I can go to the police and have these photos analyzed by professional criminal investigators to find out if they're real or doctored!" Charlotte yelled through gritted teeth while boiling with fury.

Harvey snorted coldly and continued to insist, "Hmph, since you claim that these photos are digitally doctored and that you and Flynn Davis aren't in an illicit affair, how do you explain his decision to promote you directly to deputy general manager today? You're just a new employee who's only been with the company for less than two months. Even if you're very competent and have outstanding achievements, you should at most be promoted to a senior managerial position. How is it possible for you to reach the top in a single promotion? The Stardust Corporation is not one of those small private companies out there! Who believes that there's nothing going on between you and Flynn Davis?"

The employees in the conference hall nodded profusely in agreement with Harvey's words.

Indeed, even if Charlotte achieved brilliant results that were enough for her to be promoted, it shouldn't be to the extent of a promotion to deputy general manager! Besides, the photos were right in front of them, and everyone instinctively believed what Harvey said to be the truth.

In terms of competency, they were not necessarily inferior to Charlotte, so why was it that she could clinch so many deals and become the deputy general manager? There had to be something more!

It was only human nature to believe what you wanted. The vast majority of people would believe that there had to be something fishy going on when it came to an unusual promotion linked to s*xual favors.

Looking at everyone's expressions, Charlotte was enraged and flustered. The more anxious she was to explain, the harder it was to explain things clearly.

Besides, everyone already began speculating and pointing fingers at her. They dared not say anything more to Davis since he was the general manager, but they had no scruples about Charlotte.

At this moment, Davis, who had been staying silent, suddenly smacked the conference table and hollered, "Quiet!"

Everyone in the conference hall fell silent.

Davis looked at Harvey and questioned coldly, "Oliver Harvey, you'd better tell me honestly who instigated you to do this?"

Everyone was stunned again as they wondered what Davis meant by this.

Could there be some conspiracy behind this?

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 193 – Smash Them One By One

Chapter 193: Smash Them One by One

Harvey panicked, but he soon calmed down and looked at Davis sneeringly. Without any respect on his face, he continued, “Flynn Davis, are you ashamed and furious because I exposed your scandal? Are you trying to frame me then? I, Oliver Harvey, have been with the Stardust Group for more than ten years. Who can order me around?”

“I just can’t stand the fact that you gave Charlotte Carter a top position in exchange for s*xual favors! If you just wanted to give your mistress a little more help and promote her to a manager or something, I might have chosen to turn a blind eye and just ignore it. But you promoted her straight to deputy general manager! Do you know how important the deputy general manager is to a corporation? Very often, a wrong decision made by the deputy general manager will result in huge losses for the company! I really don’t want to see the Stardust Corporation getting destroyed by a despicable scumbag like you!”

“So, even if you want to fire me now, I must tell the truth! The employees of the Stardust Corporation are one big family who work hard together. The corporation doesn’t belong to you alone! You can’t be presumptuous, corrupt, and nepotism! You can’t ruin the Stardust Corporation!”

Harvey sounded extremely righteous, especially when he called Davis a despicable scumbag who put the interests of the entire Stardust Corporation at stake for the sake of his own selfish desires and made himself out to be a fearless person who was willing to risk getting fired for the sake of defending the company’s interests.

Many of the employees present subconsciously inclined toward Harvey.

I

Davis narrowed his eyes and clapped his hands twice. “Oliver Harvey, I’ve really underestimated you. With those excellent acting chops of yours, it’s such a pity that you didn’t become an actor! However, don’t think that you can twist the facts and frame me by putting on an act in front of everyone!”

Then Davis suddenly hollered, “Someone, arrest him!”

Davis was usually a kind and relatively nice person. But at this juncture, his face was incredibly gloomy, and his voice was like a thunderbolt. He was emitting such a terrifying aura that everyone subconsciously got out of their seats.

Several tall security guards immediately walked in and went directly toward Harvey according to Davis’s instructions.

“What do you want? What are you trying to do?! I’m the director of the sales department!” A look of panic appeared on Harvey’s face as he barked at the security guards.

However, the security guards simply ignored him and expressionlessly grabbed Harvey’s arms.

“Flynn Davis, what the hell are you trying to do? We are in a civilized society under the rule of law. Are you trying to get your people to nab me and force me to keep my lips sealed? Unfortunately, there are many colleagues here who can bear witness to this scene. Are you trying to commit murder in public? What are you waiting for? Hurry and let go of me,” Harvey roared while struggling desperately to break free from the security guards.

Unfortunately, he couldn’t resist the strength of these tall security guards and couldn’t break free.

According to Harvey's initial plan, he would find a way to incite feelings of resentment toward Davis within everyone in the Stardust Corporation after 'exposing the scandal' between Davis and Charlotte during the meeting. He had thought that it would be best to blow things up and get the higher-ups involved so that Davis would be stripped of his position as general manager. Harvey could then take over as the general manager.

He had been performing well, but Davis suddenly became harsh and even ordered security guards to bring him up to the stage and hold him down!

"Tell me, who instigated you to do this? Come clean and give me an honest explanation! Otherwise, don't blame me for being merciless!" Davis ordered coldly as he glared at Harvey.

"Hah! Flynn Davis, do you think you're a king? Do you think you can do whatever you want? Listen up. If you dare to do anything to me, I will definitely sue you!" Harvey threatened while glowering at Davis.

"Hmph, it looks like you're not planning to say anything." Davis ignored his threat and simply pushed the ashtray on the conference table over. "Keep smashing his fingers until he's willing to talk!"

The security guard on standby at the side immediately obeyed. He picked up the large crystal ashtray, walked over to the other two security guards holding Harvey down, and cooperated by firmly pressing the latter's hand down onto the conference table.

"Let go of me! You... you can't do this! Flynn Davis, you... you're breaking the law!" Harvey's face paled as he swallowed his saliva and shuddered.

"Smash it!"

The security guard immediately raised the ashtray high and slammed it down on Harvey's hand under his horrified gaze!

Bang! The thick and heavy corner of the ashtray smashed hard onto his left pinky!

“Ah!” Harvey screamed miserably, and his pinky finger became a badly mangled mess under the heavy and sharp ashtray corner. Even the white bones under his flesh were exposed.

All the people in the conference hall were so frightened and horrified by the bloody scene that they inched closer to the exits.

None of them expected that Davis would really instruct someone to smash and break one of Harvey’s fingers!

Some female employees even closed their eyes in fear, not daring to look at the scene at all. Some timid ones were even frightened to the point of having their legs turn into jelly and wishing that they could burst into tears.

They all wanted to leave the conference hall, but none of them dared to leave without Davis’s permission. But now, they had gained a new understanding of him.

Their general manager, who was usually nice and personable, was actually that intimidating and menacing when he was furious!

Sophie grabbed Charlotte’s hand tightly. Both of their faces had turned pale, and their palms had become sweaty too.

Of course, Davis also knew that his current behavior might traumatize many of the employees present, but he had to force Harvey to confess even if he had to use brutal means. He had to make him clarify the truth in front of everyone.

Otherwise, even if he got hold of evidence against Harvey slandering them, there would be no means for him to explain the matter between him and Charlotte.

If Lucas found out that Charlotte was implicated in this scandal, he would definitely not let him go!

So no matter what, Davis had to make Harvey talk!

“Tell me. Who told you to fabricate those digitally doctored photos to frame and smear me?” Davis questioned compellingly again.

He deliberately chose not to mention Charlotte’s name just so that he could make Harvey direct his revenge against him alone, lest she got subjected to everyone’s criticism in the future.

“I... I’ve just said, I can’t stand your behavior, so I wanted to reveal the evidence of your crimes! But you’re trying to force me to confess. You’re... shameless!” Cold sweat covered Harvey’s face, but he was insistent.

“You really won’t be scared until you face death, huh?! Keep going! Break every single one of his fingers! Let’s see how tough your bones are!”

Davis waved his hand, and the ashtray in the security guard’s hand slammed down again. This time, it smashed Harvey’s left index finger!

“Ah!”

The pain in his fingers made Harvey shudder in pain, but he was horrified. Davis’s attitude was too cruel and terrifying! Harvey completely believed that if he gritted his teeth and insisted on keeping mum, Davis would definitely break all his fingers!

When Harvey saw that the ashtray in the security guard’s hand was about to slam down on his hand again, he teared up and was finally frightened enough to yell, “Stop! I’ll tell you! I’ll tell you everything! Stop!”

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 194 – The Culprit

Chapter 194: The Culprit

Seeing Harvey finally compromising and deciding to reveal the truth, Davis was slightly relieved and raised his hand to gesture for the security guard to stop for the time being. “Speak up. However, if I discover that you’ve lied or hidden the truth, I’ll cripple your limbs immediately!”

Harvey was now extremely terrified of Davis, fearing that he would get the security guard to smash his hand again. He frantically said, “It’s Dave Lewis who works for the Huttons. He instigated me to do it! He told me that as long as I could falsely accuse you of having an affair with a female employee and abusing your authority and then make a big deal out of it so as to tarnish the reputation of the Stardust Corporation, they would pressure the chairman to remove you and make me the next general manager. They would also groom me and give me a role in the Hutton Corporation in DC...”

Davis snorted coldly. *Indeed, it’s the Huttons behind this!*

“What about those photos then?” Davis once again questioned. His main agenda was to clear Charlotte’s name.

“Dave Lewis was the one who got someone to doctor them after asking me for some photos of the both of you! He threatened me and told me that if I didn’t obey him, he would find a way to drive me out of the Stardust Corporation and make it impossible for me to have a foothold in Orange County! Since he’s one of the Huttons, I really didn’t dare to defy his orders!”

Afraid that Davis wouldn’t believe him, Harvey hurriedly added, “Mr. Davis, I swear that what I said is true! I have a voice recording of Dave Lewis threatening me during a conversation I had with him on my phone! If you don’t believe me, just take it out and listen to it!”

Harvey's hands were still firmly pinned onto the conference table by the security guards, rendering him motionless.

Davis glanced at his secretary, James Denning, who then immediately went over and took out the phone from the pocket of Harvey's suit. He then found the voice recording easily.

Indeed, just as Harvey said, all the words that Lewis said to threaten and coerce him had all been recorded clearly.

After listening to this recording, everyone in the conference hall understood that someone had indeed instigated Harvey to deliberately fabricate evidence to frame Davis and Charlotte. The explicit photos of them behaving intimately and the accusation of him gaining personal benefits by abusing his power were all false!

Moreover, Charlotte Carter, who had clearly earned her promotion with her own abilities, was smeared and accused of getting promoted because of personal connections and nepotism.

All of a sudden, everyone looked at Charlotte with an apologetic gaze and at Davis with some more respect.

Charlotte felt tears well up in her eyes. She had almost become a pawn in a power struggle! If Davis hadn't resorted to those cruel means to force Harvey to confess, she would have really been unable to defend herself!

"Hmph, now everyone knows that the Stardust Corporation has already separated from the Huttons. Yet they're still poking their nose into our business and tried to create an internal conflict here. Oliver Harvey, as an employee of the Stardust Corporation, you actually tried to help a villain accuse me falsely. The Stardust Corporation will not tolerate having someone like you! From today onward, you're fired!" Davis hollered coldly.

Upon hearing this, Harvey regretted his decision and knelt in front of Davis to beg for mercy. "Mr. Davis, please let me off this time because I was threatened! I

promise that I will never do such a foolish thing again. I'll definitely devote myself to the company and contribute wholeheartedly! Please don't sack me on account that I've worked hard for the company for the past decade!"

He had been with the Stardust Corporation for more than ten years. And he had also climbed so far up the ladder to the position of director of the sales department. His annual salary and various bonuses and commissions added up to about one million dollars, which was enough for his family to live well.

If he got fired, he could kiss goodbye to all that money!

He was already in his late forties. If he got fired, it would be impossible for him to get such a high-paying job in the future. Besides, if word about what happened today spread, he would even have a hard time getting an ordinary job in Orange County!

Besides, his son was going to get married soon, and he had just taken out a loan to finance the purchase of his son's villa. He even bought a luxury car to make himself seem loftier. He had to pay tens of thousands of dollars in loan repayments for the mortgage and the car. If he lost his job, he wouldn't be able to afford these expenses!

Therefore, Harvey was now kneeling in front of Davis and bawling with repentance, begging him to let him keep his job with no regard for his image.

Davis didn't waver at all. He said coldly, "It's precisely because you were threatened and I considered the fact that you had worked hard for the company that I decided to only fire you! Otherwise, I would have called the police and have you arrested for malicious slander and attempting to destroy the company! If you still want to continue making trouble, I won't mind putting you behind bars."

Harvey's heart pounded as his face turned ashen.

He understood that Davis was definitely not lying. If Davis really decided to hold him liable, he wouldn't be able to escape the crime.

Besides, once he was behind bars, he would be tainted with a criminal record and never be able to raise his head high for the rest of his life.

Despite feeling reluctant, regretful, and indignant, Harvey could only hang his head low and slowly leave the Stardust Corporation.

After Harvey left, Davis once again looked around the conference hall and warned, “I don’t want something like what happened today to repeat again in the future. If anything like this happens again, I won’t go so easy on you. I hope everyone will remember this!”

The crowd had seen the terrifying side of Davis today, and they nodded profusely while promising that they would never do anything to let the company down.

“Okay, that’s all for today’s meeting. Charlotte Carter earned her promotion to deputy general manager of the Stardust Group with her competency. I hope you will all keep that in mind and make her your role model and learn from her. As long as you do your best, the company won’t mistreat you! Meeting adjourned.”

With that, Davis took the lead to leave the conference hall, leaving everyone behind to congratulate Charlotte.

As soon as he returned to his office, Davis found that Lucas had already arrived and was sitting in front of his desk.

“What’s going on?”

Davis quickly walked up and reported to Lucas everything that happened in the conference hall just now, including each and every detail. He also played a copy of the voice recording from Harvey’s cell phone for Lucas.

Hearing that it was the Huttons behind it, Lucas said with a menacing gaze, “Hmph. I haven’t gone to settle scores with them yet, but they’re already poking their nose so far. How brazen!”

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 195 – Jumped To His Death

Chapter 195: Jumped to His Death

Flynn Davis was naturally aware of the grudges between Lucas and the Huttons. Looking at Lucas's face, he said carefully, "Mr. Gray, I've heard of Dave Lewis, whom Oliver Harvey mentioned today. But as far as I know, Dave Lewis is only someone in charge of a branch company of the Huttons. This time, he actually interfered with the Stardust Corporation. There must be someone else behind this. You must be careful!"

Lucas narrowed his eyes. "You don't have to worry about the Huttons. I'll handle them myself. Just take care of the affairs of the Stardust Corporation here in Orange County."

Davis understood what Lucas meant and hurriedly acknowledged. "Yes!"

Just as he was feeling worried and wondering if Lucas was displeased with him, he suddenly heard Lucas say, "You did a good job dealing with Oliver Harvey today. Don't worry. As long as you are loyal to me and do your job properly, I won't mistreat you."

Flynn was overjoyed to hear this. Lucas hadn't only given his approval and affirmation of his actions, but he also considered him one of his people. This was a great gift!

The reason Lucas was willing to make Flynn work for him in the beginning was that he had gotten hold of some evidence against him. While Flynn was working for Lucas, he was often anxious and on tenterhooks, fearing that Lucas would one day abandon him.

Now that he had earned Lucas's approval, Flynn was as happy as a lark!

But at this moment, Flynn's secretary, James Denning, who had always been reliable and composed, hurriedly came in. Before he could even catch his breath, he said to Flynn, "Mr. Davis, I just received a piece of bad news. Oliver Harvey... is dead!"

"What?!" Flynn sprung up abruptly, and his jaw dropped in disbelief.

"Didn't he just leave the office alive and well? Why did he suddenly die? How did he die?" Flynn asked with a sullen expression.

"After Oliver Harvey left the office, he stayed somewhere for a short while before going to the roof of the commercial building across from us and jumping off. He fell to his death and landed near the entrance of our company. Before he died, he also yelled something..." James's forehead was covered with cold sweat, but he was still coherent in his speech. But when he was about to reveal Harvey's last words, he hesitated.

"What exactly did he say? Tell me quickly!"

"He said... he chose to jump to his death all because you forced him to, and he also said lots of nasty things detrimental to you and the Stardust Corporation. There are already reporters outside," James finally answered truthfully.

Flynn's heart immediately sank.

The terrible things that Harvey said before his death would undoubtedly bring tremendous trouble to the Stardust Corporation.

If those reporters, who were just in pursuit of clout, were to make up things and spread rumors, the Stardust Corporation would face public criticism and sink into controversy.

Oliver Harvey wants to ruin the reputation of the Stardust Corporation and mine even at the cost of his own life, huh?

What should we do now?

Flynn was flustered and at a loss for what to do.

At this moment, Lucas, who was sitting in front of the general manager's desk, said calmly, "Let's call the police first."

James was shocked. Only then did he realize that there was someone else in Flynn's office—the chairman who rarely appeared!

As Flynn's secretary, he naturally knew of Lucas's identity. But Lucas rarely appeared in the office, and even if he occasionally came, he would speak directly to Flynn. So James didn't have many opportunities to talk to the young and mysterious chairman.

"Mr... Hello!" James was unsure if Lucas wanted to reveal his identity yet, so he could only address him with a vague term.

Flynn ordered gloomily, "Hurry up and do what Mr. Gray instructed."

James hurriedly turned around to go and call the police.

Lucas glanced at Flynn. "Since this matter has blown out of proportion, the incident that happened in the conference hall just now can't be covered up anymore. The police may summon you for investigations anytime soon, so go to the police station now and take the initiative to cooperate with their investigation."

After thinking about it briefly, Flynn understood what Lucas meant. Since Harvey had claimed that Flynn forced him to his death before he jumped off the building, the police would definitely investigate Flynn, especially since something like that happened in the conference hall. Instead of being taken away passively by the police, it would be better to take the initiative to explain the situation clearly to them before that happened.

“Yes, Lucas. I’ll go to the police station and cooperate with the investigation. Well, as for the office...”

“Don’t worry about it. I’ll have someone handle it properly,” Lucas said with composure.

After hearing this, Flynn no longer worried about anything. He bowed to Lucas before leaving the office.

After Flynn left, Lucas immediately called Jordan. “Investigate carefully who Oliver Harvey met or spoke to after leaving the Stardust Corporation. Find out about the situation of his family and his finances too.”

“Yes, Lucas!” Jordan immediately acknowledged without asking the reason.

Indeed, Lucas suspected that there was something fishy about Harvey’s death.

According to Flynn’s account, it seemed that Harvey was terribly afraid of death and definitely wouldn’t end his own life.

Besides, it was also said that Harvey’s son was about to get married soon, so it was even unlikelier that he would choose to end his life and abandon his family now.

The only possibility was that someone found out that his plan had failed and threatened him with something during the brief period of time after Harvey left the Stardust Corporation. Then he forced him to take his own life so as to smear the Stardust Corporation.

It seemed that it wasn’t hard to guess who the instigator was.

Lucas smiled coldly with an indifferent gaze. “Since you want to attack me, let me see how tough you are!”

After calling the police, James spoke to a few reporters outside and then immediately returned to the general manager's office, only to discover that Flynn was surprisingly no longer here. Lucas was the only one here.

"Call Charlotte Carter and tell her to come to the chairman's office," Lucas ordered indifferently.

"Yes... I'll get to it at once."

Even though Flynn wasn't here, Lucas was the chairman of the Stardust Corporation, so he dared not be negligent.

Soon, Charlotte came to the chairman's office.

She was feeling extremely anxious and had no idea why the chairman, who had never appeared publicly in the office before, would ask to see her. But when she saw the familiar face sitting before the chairman's desk, her anxiousness and worries immediately turned into extreme astonishment.

"Lucas? Wh-what are you doing in the chairman's office?"

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 196 – The Hand In The Capital

Chapter 196: The Hand In the Capital

Lucas smiled faintly without explaining much. He simply said, “I guess you already know what happened to Oliver Harvey. I told Flynn to go to the police station to cooperate with them in the investigation. So, you will be the acting general manager and manage everything of the Stardust Corporation from now on. Can you do that?”

Charlotte widened her mouth in shock, and countless thoughts ran through her mind.

Lucas suddenly appeared alone in the chairman’s office of the Stardust Corporation, and he seemed to be used to issuing orders too...

Thinking of a certain possibility, she couldn’t help but inhale sharply and look at him in astonishment. “Lucas, are you...!”

Lucas nodded casually. “Yes, but we’ll leave that for later. Can you do what I just asked of you?”

Charlotte bit her lower lip tightly and was at a loss for an answer. Before this, she was merely a junior employee of the Stardust Corporation, yet she was suddenly promoted to deputy general manager today, which was already an unexpected surprise. Now, Lucas handed her the even more shocking task of being the acting general manager!

Charlotte honestly wasn’t sure if she was cut out for the job. And even now, she still felt that everything that happened today was extremely surreal.

Seeing Charlotte hesitating and not answering right away, Lucas shot her an approving gaze.

When an opportunity was presented before you, some people would immediately agree to it regardless of their competency, while some would be too cowardly to agree. In the end, they would eventually lose the opportunity.

Charlotte was obviously contemplating carefully and trying to evaluate if she could take on the role or not.

Lucas said, “You don’t have to be too stressed. First of all, there’s something more to Oliver Harvey’s death than what meets the eye. But it has nothing to do with you at all, so you don’t need to care.

“Besides, I asked you to take over the position of general manager temporarily because Flynn will be away for a while, and there must be a leader in the company. After what happened with Oliver Harvey, I can’t trust the others in the office except for you. Another reason is that I believe you have the ability to take on this role. Just gather your courage and do it. It won’t matter if you don’t do a perfect job. After all, it’s your first time.”

Upon hearing this, Charlotte smiled and felt a lot less stressed.

The reason she didn’t dare to agree to Lucas immediately was that she was afraid she was too inexperienced and would end up doing a terrible job. But Lucas’s words were a great encouragement to her.

Moreover, the fact that Lucas said that he trusted her and her abilities made her feel excited and confident.

“Of course, you will experience some difficulties at first. First, the employees might not be too convinced of your abilities, and second, Oliver Harvey’s incident will definitely be blown out of proportion. By then, the entire Stardust Corporation will face the pressure of public opinion. Third, some people in the company who are out of line might deliberately try to make things hard for you. So pay attention to these three points I’ve mentioned and deal with them properly.

“That’s all I have to say. Now, do you have the confidence to take on this task?”

Sitting in front of the chairman's desk, Lucas gave off an invisible domineering aura. He was completely different from the Lucas Charlotte remembered.

He had the majesty of the chairman of the Stardust Corporation.

After pondering for a moment, Charlotte nodded firmly. "I'm confident that I can do a good job. Rest assured, Mr. Chairman!"

Lucas smiled and seemed to have expected this. He felt that he had made the correct judgment of Charlotte.

"Alright. I'll have someone relay this order immediately. From now on, you're the acting general manager of the Stardust Corporation. Get to your duties!"

Lucas called James, the general manager's secretary, over and gave him some instructions before standing up to pat Charlotte on her shoulder with an encouraging smile. He then turned around and walked out of the room.

"Lucas... where are you going?" Charlotte asked in surprise.

"It's almost dismissal time at the kindergarten. I'm going to pick up Amelia and take her home."

"..." Charlotte was speechless. She thought that Lucas would stay in the office after such a major incident happened today. She didn't expect that he would just leave so casually.

...

Soon, Flynn arrived at the police station to cooperate with the police in the investigation of Harvey's suicide. The news that the Stardust Corporation would be presided over by Charlotte, the new acting general manager, soon spread throughout the company.

After hearing this, numerous people had various thoughts in their mind, and many were displeased and unconvinced that Charlotte could take on the job. But when they heard that it was an order from the chairman himself and that there was an official document, they dared not show their displeasure.

But it was common for many people in the workplace to defy orders from the higher-ups and even disregard them. Thus, this undoubtedly caused a lot of hindrance for Charlotte.

Lucas was naturally aware of these things, but he didn't take any countermeasures and simply handed the Stardust Corporation entirely to Charlotte, leaving it in her care.

For Charlotte, it was both a Herculean task and a great opportunity for honing her skills.

If Charlotte could be trained into a competent leader, Lucas would be able to hand over his business in Orange County to her in the future.

After all, Lucas wouldn't stay in this city forever, and he would one day return to DC to face the Huttons head-on.

...

At this moment, in a luxury villa belonging to the Huttons in DC, a young man was sitting leisurely on the terrace of the second floor and swirling a glass of red wine in his hand.

There was another young man in his thirties standing behind him with his head hung low. He reported softly, "Mr. Leighton, Oliver Harvey from Orange County has jumped to his death, and I have, as you instructed, engaged many reporters and hired some netizens to blow the matter up. Once things escalate out of control, the Stardust Corporation's reputation will be tarnished, and that good-for-nothing Lucas Gray won't be able to do anything while watching his hard-earned business collapse."

“Haha, Dave, you’ve done a good job.” The young man complimented and then gracefully sipped a mouthful of red wine before continuing, “In order to avoid letting them investigate you, you’d better go abroad to lay low. I’ve prepared the plane ticket and money for you. You will leave tonight.”

Edward Leighton nodded slightly, and then a person beside him who seemed to be a bodyguard handed an envelope to Lewis.

Lewis was overjoyed and took the envelope containing the plane ticket and check with both hands. He then bowed and thanked him, “Thank you, Mr. Leighton! It’s my greatest pleasure to work for you!”

“Go ahead. Come back and continue working for me after the matter blows over. Don’t worry. I won’t mistreat my subordinates,” Edward said warmly with a smile.

“Yes! I’ll get going then. Goodbye, Mr. Leighton!”

Lewis turned around to leave gleefully with the envelope in hand. He didn’t even notice Edward winking at his bodyguard behind him.

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 197 – Tactics Behind Closed Doors

Chapter 197: Tactics Behind Closed Doors

The bodyguard in black hurriedly caught up with Lewis.

Right after Lewis arrived home, he took out the envelope and was about to see how much money was on the check when two strong arms suddenly held him back. Afterward, they pinched his jaws to pry his mouth open and tossed a pill into it.

“Argh! You... Who the hell are you! Quick, let go of me...” Lewis exclaimed in horror.

But before he could finish, he felt a pain in his chest so excruciating that it felt like it was getting torn apart. The pain was so intense that it robbed him of his ability to speak!

At the same time, Lewis’s heart thumped rapidly like a drum as blood flowed in reverse within his body. He immediately fell to his knees, and his limbs convulsed violently while the green veins on his face bulged. His face was twisted into a grimace, and he looked extremely terrifying! But he soon foamed at the mouth and became motionless.

With a straight face, the bodyguard in black took the envelope from underneath Lewis. After removing any traces he left, he returned to the villa to report to Edward.

Edward took out the check in the envelope and casually gave it to the bodyguard as a reward. He then picked up the flight ticket and tore it into pieces.

“You’ll truly lay low only when you die. Don’t worry. I’ll take care of your funeral.”

Lucas was sitting in his black Jaguar, which was stopped in front of the kindergarten, waiting to pick Amelia up. At this juncture, his phone suddenly rang. It was Jordan.

“Lucas, I’ve sent someone to investigate. The last call Oliver Harvey received before he jumped off the building was from DC. After checking, I found out that the phone number is registered under Dave Lewis. But…”

“Keep going.”

“Yes! But my subordinates in DC told me that just over ten minutes ago, he died in his home from a heart attack. After the police’s preliminary investigation, they ruled out the possibility of homicide and eventually deduced it to be an accidental death,” Jordan said.

Lucas wasn’t surprised to hear this, but he narrowed his eyes slightly.

It seemed that the other party was even more ruthless than he had imagined as he resolutely cut off all leads.

“Lucas, do we continue investigating the cause of Dave Lewis’s death?”

Lucas tapped his finger twice on his phone. “No, tell those in DC to be careful and pay attention to Dave Lewis’s funeral. Don’t worry about the others for now, lest you alarm them.”

After ending the call, Lucas looked out of the window in the direction of DC with a sharp gaze in his eyes.

In fact, he could already guess something without detailed investigation.

He had left the Huttons for nearly twenty years, and many people in the Huttons had simply forgotten about him, the former scion.

But the patriarch of the Huttons suddenly behaved out of the ordinary and asked him to return to the family. He even wanted to hand over the family to him. In the eyes of many Huttons, Lucas would damage their interests tremendously, so they absolutely didn’t want him back.

So even if Lucas didn't have any plans to take over the Huttons, those people were worried and wanted to use some tactics to suppress the Stardust Corporation he had just obtained.

But the fact that an employee had been fired and jumped to his death was obviously not enough. He was certain that there would be more to the matter of Oliver Harvey!

Lucas asked Jordan to pay attention to the situation secretly, but he didn't want to intervene at this moment. He decided to leave those matters to Charlotte to handle, thinking that it would be good training for her.

At this moment, the doors of the kindergarten opened, and a teacher led the children out. Lucas got out of the car, walked over, and quickly brought Amelia back to the car.

Immediately afterward, the two of them went to the Brilliance Corporation to pick up Cheyenne, who just got off work.

Lucas then drove to the villa in Pearl Lake with his wife and daughter.

Amelia, who was playing with Cheyenne affectionately in the back seat, suddenly looked at the scenery outside the window and asked in bewilderment, "Daddy, aren't we going home? Where are you going?"

Lucas smiled. "Amelia, from today onward, we're moving to a new place!"

"New place?" Amelia was stunned, but she soon exclaimed in excitement, "Wow! That's great! We're moving to a new place! Daddy, Mommy, where's our new house? Is it big? Is it nice?" Amelia raised her little head and bombarded him with lots of questions.

Cheyenne stroked Amelia's little head and said with a smile, "The new house Daddy bought is huge and beautiful, just like a castle from a fairytale! You'll definitely like it when you see it!"

“Wow, a castle! Does that mean I can be a little princess?” Amelia was so excited that she leaped up in the backseat. She suddenly exclaimed at Lucas, “Daddy, you’re awesome! You’re so much better than Fatty’s Daddy!”

Amelia’s puerile voice was full of pride.

Seeing how gleeful his daughter was, Lucas was pleased, but he also felt a little melancholic.

Ever since she was born, Amelia had lived with Cheyenne and the Carters in that shabby house nearly three decades old. It was run-down and situated in an old residential district.

Although the interior had been renovated and the yellowed and cracked walls had been repainted, there were still lots of peeling and spots on the exterior walls.

Amelia had invited her kindergarten classmate home once, but when she saw the exterior walls of the Carter home, she blurted, “Amelia, your house is so ugly!”

Later on, Amelia also told Cheyenne and Lucas that when she grew up and could earn her own money, she would buy a big house for them.

Of course, it was just the mindless words of a child, but Lucas was heartened yet heartbroken to hear them.

When Lucas saw his daughter smiling joyously because of the new house, his heart was full of contentment.

Soon, the three of them drove back to the Pearl Lake villa.

When Amelia saw the beautiful villas and manors in front of her, which looked like palaces from fairytales, she leaped up in elation. “Wow! It’s really a big beautiful house! I’m so happy!”

Watching Amelia running into the dreamy and gorgeous house like a pretty fairy, Lucas and Cheyenne looked at each other in contentment.

Lucas accompanied Amelia on a tour around the new house while Cheyenne prepared dinner.

By the time dinner was ready, Charlotte still hadn't returned home yet.

"Strange, why hasn't Charlotte come home yet?" Cheyenne muttered to herself. She grabbed her phone to call Charlotte.

But as soon as she unlocked her phone, she saw countless notifications.

"A huge scandal broke out in the Stardust Corporation. The general manager of the Stardust Corporation abused his authority to promote a female employee in exchange for s*xual favors!"

"The Stardust Corporation forces a veteran employee to confess in public and drives him to jump to his death in order to clear his name!"

"Female employee successfully rise! The general manager of the Stardust Corporation has been arrested while lover Charlotte Carter rises to the position of acting general manager, sparking public debate!"

...

The countless pieces of news were all negative news about the Stardust Corporation.

Cheyenne naturally knew that the Stardust Corporation belonged to Lucas, so her heart dropped as she began to get nervous after seeing the negative news.

But when she saw Charlotte's name, her vision blurred, and her face immediately paled!

Chapter 198: Between a Married Couple

Cheyenne thumped herself down onto the couch and immediately panicked while being distracted. Recalling that Lucas was still playing with Amelia upstairs, she hurriedly exclaimed, “Lucas! Come down quickly!”

Lucas could tell that something was wrong when he heard the anxiety in her voice. He immediately ran downstairs and hurriedly asked, “Cheyenne, what’s wrong? Did something happen?”

With trembling fingers, Cheyenne handed her phone to Lucas as she said anxiously, “Lucas, quick, look at this. Something has happened to the Stardust Corporation! And Cheyenne... Why would Cheyenne have a lover and become the acting general manager? What’s all this about?”

Only then did Lucas realize that it wasn’t that something had happened to Cheyenne, but rather, it was because she saw the news about the Stardust Corporation.

He patted her shoulder and said comfortingly, “It’s fine. Don’t worry. Let me explain it to you slowly.”

Lucas told Cheyenne everything that happened, from Charlotte’s promotion to the position of deputy general manager by virtue of her outstanding work to Oliver

Harvey slandering her and Flynn using some digitally doctored photos. He also included the matter of Harvey being instigated by someone into jumping to his death and framing the Stardust Corporation.

Cheyenne's expression changed continuously with his explanation. Sometimes she was surprised, sometimes furious, and sometimes worried.

After finishing, he saw her frowning, obviously still extremely worried. He comforted again, "Everything is really fine. Flynn Davis didn't get arrested. He just took the initiative to go to the police station to cooperate with the investigation. He'll be released in a few days. As for Charlotte, she's very competent, so I'd like to take this opportunity to let her gain some good experience in managing the company. Nothing will happen.

"As for the news reports, all of them are untrue. I believe Charlotte will soon take care of it. Actually, someone has been plotting against us this time to deal with the Stardust Corporation."

Cheyenne suddenly asked, "You just said that the person who instigated Oliver Harvey works for the Huttons, right? Why are they trying to deal with you?"

Lucas sighed. "Because I used to be part of the Hutton family."

"What?!" Cheyenne sprung up and looked at Lucas in disbelief. "You used to be one of the Huttons? The famous Huttons in DC?"

After seeing him nod, she came to a sudden realization. "No wonder... The Stardust Corporation used to belong to the Huttons, but now it belongs to you... Lucas, what else are you hiding from me?"

Cheyenne stared at Lucas with reddened eyes, feeling extremely uncomfortable.

She was clearly married to him, but there were still so many of his secrets that she wasn't aware of. She only found out about his family background today.

Besides, he had more secrets, some of which even Charlotte knew, but she didn't. The feeling of being distrusted by him and having many secrets between them made her feel hurt.

“Cheyenne, I didn't mean to hide it from you. It's just that the situation over at the Huttons is very complicated, and I don't want you to worry,” Lucas said helplessly.

Cheyenne instantly raised her head and kept her reddened eyes fixed on his face. She gritted her teeth and said, “You keep saying that you hope I can accept you and that we can truly be like a married couple, but you keep hiding things from me. Do you really consider me your wife? Am I the kind of woman who can only accept your help and protection without being able to share your burdens with you? If that's how you see me, you should leave me before it's too late!”

Lucas hurriedly explained, “That's not what I mean! I just think that these are my personal issues, and I don't want you to be bothered by them. I just want you to live happily in peace.”

Hearing this, Cheyenne became even more furious. “If you think that's all your business and you don't need me to be involved, should you also stay out of my affairs in the future? If we can't share weal and woe, what kind of married couple are we?”

Lucas's heart trembled. Previously, he had always thought that he owed Cheyenne and Amelia too much, and so he had always been trying to do his best to make it up to them so that they could live happily. He didn't want to let Cheyenne know of the dangers and troubles he faced outside.

Thus, he hadn't told Cheyenne about Amelia's abduction or the matters with the Huttons.

Only now did he understand what she thought.

It turned out that she had always wanted to share weal and woe with him. It turned out that she had long regarded the two of them as a real married couple who could trust and support each other wholeheartedly.

Lucas looked at Cheyenne emotionally and said with utmost sincerity, “I’m sorry, Cheyenne. It was my mistake for thinking that way. From now on, I won’t hide anything from you. You’re right. This is the way things should be between a married couple.”

Cheyenne was not a petty woman. After they cleared the misunderstanding, the anger in her heart subsided.

“Since you are one of the Huttons, why is your last name Gray?” Cheyenne asked curiously.

After a moment of silence, Lucas answered softly, “When I was seven years old, both my mother and I were kicked out by the Huttons. And since then, I took on my mother’s last name. The Stardust Corporation didn’t originally belong to the Huttons. It was single-handedly founded by my mother when she was young. But the Huttons encroached on it later on.”

“Ah!” Cheyenne exclaimed and covered her mouth. She never thought that Lucas’s relationship with the Huttons would be like that!

Besides, the fact that the Huttons had encroached on the Stardust Corporation, which Lucas’s mother had established, was very similar to the Carters snatching away the Brilliance Corporation from her!

But Lucas’s mother had her business snatched away from her and got kicked out of the family with her child. From this point of view, it seemed that Lucas’s mother had had it worse than her.

Cheyenne looked at Lucas and wanted to comfort him, but she didn’t know how she should begin.

Noticing her expression, he smiled. “It’s alright. It’s all in the past now. Amelia should be hungry. Let’s have dinner. I’ll talk to you about the other things later.”

After putting Amelia to bed after dinner, Lucas sat in the living room and told Cheyenne truthfully everything about his past.

There were no longer any hidden secrets between them after this conversation, and their relationship became even closer.

The following day, the family of three washed up and headed downstairs, only to see Charlotte rubbing her eyes while making her way downstairs on the other side.

Chapter 199: Hidden Movement

“Cheyenne, Lucas, good morning!” Charlotte yawned and greeted both of them.

Cheyenne looked at her worriedly and asked, “Charlotte, you must have come home really late last night, right? I saw the news about everything that happened in the office yesterday. Was it troublesome to deal with?”

Charlotte smiled. “Cheyenne, don’t worry about it. Lucas has given me a rare opportunity, and I will definitely be able to handle it well! Just rest assured! Speaking of which, you two are really good at hiding things. You didn’t even tell me anything! I was so shocked when I saw Lucas at the office yesterday and found out that he’s the chairman of our company!”

Cheyenne glanced at Lucas beside her and said embarrassedly, “Charlotte, it’s not suitable for too many people to know about Lucas’s identity, so... I...”

“It’s okay, Cheyenne. You don’t need to explain. I understand everything,” Charlotte interrupted and then put her arms around Cheyenne’s neck with a smile. “Don’t worry. I’ll keep this a secret and won’t let others find out. Hehe!”

Seeing how bubbly and cheerful Charlotte was, showing that she was unaffected by the accusatory news, Cheyenne finally felt relieved.

Lucas smiled and said to Charlotte, “I’ve handed over all the matters at the office to you. Have you encountered any trouble?”

Charlotte originally wanted to say that she was able to handle it all. But thinking that Lucas was not only the chairman of the company but also her brother-in-law, she felt that there was no need to be scrupulous about anything.

“I basically haven’t encountered any problems, except that many of the senior staff don’t quite approve of me yet because I was promoted to deputy general manager previously, and now I’m even tasked to be the acting general manager. They’ve been rather perfunctory with the orders I give them, and it’s causing a great hindrance for me, greatly lowering my efficiency.”

Lucas said casually, “Since you are now the acting general manager, you possess all the rights of the general manager. Just relax and do what you have to. If anyone tries to abuse their seniority to make things hard for you by delaying their tasks, find a way to subdue them. If anyone goes overboard, you also have the right to fire them directly.”

“Really?” Charlotte smiled and said coyly, “I was just waiting for you to say that! In case I accidentally get into any trouble, you have to help me out, Lucas!”

Lucas smiled. “Okay, go ahead and perform as you please. You don’t have to be too worried or scrupulous. Furthermore, you should also pay attention and groom some people you think are trustworthy. For example, your best friend, Sophie. If she’s competent, you should try to train and promote her to work for you.”

After giving Charlotte some tips, he drove Cheyenne to work, Amelia to the kindergarten, and then left.

After everything that happened last night, the controversy revolving around the Stardust Corporation had spread widely, especially because of the instigation of someone and the heated debates on the internet.

Meanwhile, Aston Brooke rushed back to LA overnight and reported everything, including the current situation in Orange County and the latest scandal that broke out at the Stardust Corporation, to his old grandpa, Andrew.

“That means the reputation of Lucas and his Stardust Corporation have been ruined because of Oliver Harvey’s suicide. I reckon they’ll suffer heavy losses and have a hard time handling it.” Andrew poured himself a cup of premium coffee and took a sip of it leisurely.

Aston smiled gloatingly. “Yes. According to the staff of the Stardust Corporation, the person who instigated Oliver Harvey to do that is someone named Dave Lewis, who works under the Huttons. The Huttons are targeting Lucas Gray so soon. Clearly, he’s not going to get to be arrogant for long.”

Andrew smiled. “Yes. That punk still had the audacity to demand that we pledge allegiance to him. He doesn’t have the self-awareness to know that he isn’t worthy!

“How are the leaderless businesses the Hales left behind doing now?”

Aston hurriedly said, “I’ve previously contacted the managers of all the major businesses under the Hales, but they turned down our offer. Besides, they don’t seem to be leaderless either. In fact, they seem harder to deal with than before.

“According to the information I’ve found, it seems that those managers have some connection with Lucas Gray, and who knows if he’s already acquired all those businesses.”

Andrew snorted coldly. “He’s got quite a huge appetite. Isn’t he scared of biting off more than he can chew? Immediately go back to Orange County and take everything from Lucas Gray while he’s overwrought! That punk probably won’t be able to make a comeback this time. It won’t matter even if you fall out with him!”

Aston had long been jealous and resentful toward Lucas, so he agreed merrily.

“Yes! Rest assured. I’ll definitely seize the opportunity to snatch the Hales’ businesses back from Lucas Gray!”

At this time, Lucas had already driven to a prison in the outskirts of the city.

In just a few days, the patriarch of the Hales, Bruce Hale, who used to be energetic and full of vigor, had already aged greatly. Wrinkles covered his face, and his back had become a little hunched. He seemed to be old and dying.

Currently, there was a tall, muscular, and tattooed man standing in front of Bruce.

“Old fogey, I told you to tell me where you hid all the money in your family, yet you’re still so stubborn! Do you believe that I’ll beat you to death?” The burly man raised his huge fists and swung them in front of Bruce.

With an extremely bitter expression on his face, Bruce said, “Our family has been arrested, and our properties no longer belong to us, so how could we have any money left?”

“Damn it. It seems you won’t be scared until you’re facing death. Tell me honestly!” the burly man hollered furiously and slapped Bruce on his face.

“Don’t think I don’t know. The Hales are so rich, so you must have secretly hidden money somewhere! I don’t care if you’re hiding cash, jewelry, or antiques, just hand them over! Otherwise, I’ll beat you up and kill your grandsons and children too! Anyway, I’ve killed many people, so I’m not afraid to kill a few more since I’m facing a death sentence anyway!” the middle-aged man roared.

After being slapped, Bruce cocked his head to the side as blood flowed down the corners of his mouth.

He pleaded, “We really don’t have any hidden cash! Our whole family is here now, and we don’t know when we’re going to die. Even if we have hidden money, we can’t spend it, so why should we hide it from you? Besides, you’re just like us. Once you come in, you won’t be able to leave anymore. Even if you have money,

you won't be able to spend it. So we might as well get along well, don't you agree?"

"Get along, my ass!" As soon as the burly man heard what Bruce said, he kicked him in the face, disregarding the fact that Bruce was already an old man in his seventies.

"Ahhh!" Bruce shrieked in pain and fell to the ground. He clutched his stomach while wailing.

The burly man was furious and wanted to kick him again. But the gates of the prison opened at this moment, and a prison guard who looked rather stern barked, "Why are you making such a ruckus? Anyone who dares to get up to any nonsense will be dragged out and killed immediately!"

Everyone in the cell suddenly fell silent while the burly man stood against the wall with a fierce expression. But he didn't dare to contradict the order or get physical.

The prison guard shifted his attention to the old man sitting on the ground and shouted coldly, "Bruce Hale, come out. Someone wants to see you!"

Chapter 200: Seeing the Light of Day Again

It took Bruce a long time to react, and there was some light in his cloudy eyes.

The past few days, they had been locked up in this heavily guarded death row prison after the military arrested them, and no one was allowed to come and visit them.

All the Hales, including Bruce, felt that they would die here in silence without anyone finding out. They were full of fear and despair, but to Bruce's surprise, someone was here to see him.

Bruce propped himself up and slowly climbed up from the ground. Then he followed the prison guard to the reception room outside with anxiety.

When he saw the handsome young man sitting at the table, he was so excited that he leaped toward him like he had found his lifeline. "Mr. Gray! Mr. Gray, I know we made a mistake before. The Hales failed to realize how formidable you are and ended up offending you! I'll kowtow and apologize to you, so please give us a chance and let us off!"

Then he really knelt directly on the ground and kowtowed to Lucas.

Lucas frowned, avoided it, and said indifferently, "I came here today with the intention of giving you a chance. But whether you can grasp this chance or not is all up to you."

Bruce hurriedly said, “Okay, okay! Mr. Gray, please feel free to tell me what it is. As long as you can forgive us and set us free from this prison, I’m willing to do anything!”

Bruce meant every word. During the past few days, he and his family had been living in immense agony, as they had been bullied, humiliated, and saw no hope in getting out alive. In fact, they didn’t even know when they would suddenly receive the news that they would be executed.

Such a life was simply too dismal and terrifying, and they didn’t want to stay here a second longer!

Lucas smiled indifferently. “You’re aware that you and your grandson have both offended me, so you can’t be forgiven easily. Now, I’ll give you two options. One, I’ll let you off, but the rest of your family will die. Two, you die here yourself, but I’ll pardon the other Hales and get them out of here.

“Make your choice.”

Bruce’s eyes were overflowing with dismay, and his lips twitched twice, seemingly wanting to plead with Lucas again. But he knew that Lucas wouldn’t change his mind.

He closed his eyes in despair and soon opened them again. He looked at Lucas and asked, “If I choose the second option, will you really let the rest of the Hale family off and set them free without pursuing the matter any longer?”

Lucas nodded. “Of course. I’ve always been a man of my word.”

“Okay, I’ll go with the second option then. I hope you will honor your promise. I’ll atone for my sins using my life!” Bruce said firmly.

Lucas chuckled. “I couldn’t tell that you’re willing to sacrifice yourself for the greater good.”

Bruce didn't know if Lucas was mocking him or not, but he said with a bitter smile, "I've already lived for more than seventy years, and I've seen everything and lived long enough. If I can use my life in exchange for the safety of my descendants, it will definitely be worth it. Thank you so much for giving me the chance to choose, Mr. Gray."

Lucas raised his eyebrows. "I caused your entire family to be locked up here. Don't you hate me?"

After a long silence, Bruce answered, "Honestly, I resented you in the beginning. But after the past few days of pondering, I've understood everything. It was clearly the Hales' fault for offending you first. We provoked you, and I continued to make a mistake by failing to discipline my children and grandchildren. I even tried to suppress you with force. Indeed, we were at fault, and we have brought this upon ourselves!

"You've also spared my one-month-old great-grandson and given me a chance to choose. What right do I have to hate you?"

When people were on the brink of death, they tended to say pleasant things. Since Bruce had already chosen to die, everything he said was sincere and from the bottom of his heart.

After a moment of silence, Lucas suddenly smiled.

He stood up and looked down. "I'm very satisfied with your answer. In that case, I don't mind giving the Hales another chance."

He nodded at the prison guards by his side and ordered, "Release all the Hales."

Bruce's jaw dropped in shock. When all the Hales returned to the family villa and he saw his little great-grandson, he finally snapped back to reality.

Lucas actually held such great power that he could release the Hales from prison. In fact, he even benevolently spared Bruce, who thought that he would die after choosing the second option.

All the Hales cried tears of joy while hugging their family members and bawling out loud.

In just a few days, they had experienced lots of ups and downs. They thought they were going to die in prison, where they couldn't see the light of day. But there was a sudden twist of fate, and they were allowed to return to the luxurious Hale villa.

After hugging his wife and son in exhilaration, Connor gradually calmed down and said through clenched teeth, "Lucas Gray is to blame for everything that happened to us! Grandpa, we can't let him off!"

"Shut up!" Bruce bellowed and raised his hand to give Connor a tight slap on his face. "Sinner! All this trouble was caused by you and your incompetent brother! Yet you still don't know how to reflect on yourself!"

"All of you, listen up. The only reason we were able to get out of there is that Mr. Gray is generous enough to let us off the hook! All of you are to remember this kindness! In the future, I will immediately disown anyone who dares to disrespect or offend Mr. Gray!"

Bruce's voice was terribly stern. He had been the patriarch of the Hale family for years, and the prestige and authority he had accumulated over the years was extraordinary. He managed to calm everyone down immediately.

The others also found out at this point that they had managed to get out of that hellhole all thanks to Lucas!

Be it Lucas's incredible combat skills he displayed at the banquet the other day or the relationship between him and the military, all of it made the Hales extremely terrified and cautious.

At the thought of everything that had happened the past few days, Connor hurriedly said with lingering fear, “Grandpa, I was muddled! I’ll definitely obey you and respect Mr. Gray! I won’t dare to offend him again!”

The rest of the Hales also promised that they would definitely not trifle with Lucas again.

“Also, all of you are to remember this lesson! From now on, no one is to act recklessly, bully others, and behave brazenly in the name of the Hales! If I find out, I’ll punish anyone found guilty! Do you hear me?”