

Chapter 231: Loose Corners

Lucas originally thought that Lena was a weak and spoiled daughter of a rich man, but he didn't expect that she was not simple-minded.

“Lena, the situation you were in just now was too dangerous. Why don't you come home with us for the time being?” Cheyenne suggested worriedly.

Lena smiled and shook her head to turn down Cheyenne's kind offer. “Cheyenne, thank you, but there are security guards in the villa. I'll be safe once I go inside. I'll be alright.”

Cheyenne thought about it and felt that she was right. Since Lena was already at the doorstep of her own home, Cheyenne merely reminded, “Be careful then. Ask your dad to assign a few elite bodyguards to protect you in case those crooks get up to more malice and try to harm you.”

Lena nodded. “Alright, I will.”

Then she turned and said to Lucas, “Thank you so much for saving me. I owe you my life. I'll definitely repay you for your kindness!”

Before Lucas said anything, she turned around and walked toward the villa.

When Cheyenne saw Lena walk into the villa, she finally turned around and said, “Let's head home too.”

When Cheyenne got into the passenger seat of the Jaguar, Lucas restarted the engine and continued to drive toward the villa in the center of Pearl Lake.

But at this moment, Cheyenne was obviously in low spirits and seemed rather worried.

Lucas knew that she was worried about Lena's safety, so he couldn't help but ask, "Lena has been living abroad all along and rarely comes back to Orange County, right?"

Cheyenne nodded. "Yes, Lena's dad sent her abroad when she was at a tender age, and she has been living there since. She rarely comes back to Orange County and only does so once in a while. I got to know her when I did her a favor by chance many years ago, and we eventually became best friends.

"Over the years, we seldom met, and we usually communicate over the phone or through the internet. I only learned that she's the daughter of the richest man in Orange County some time ago. But very few people here are aware of her identity. I really wonder who the culprit behind today's incident is."

Lucas comforted, "Don't worry. With Ethan Sawyer's abilities and resources, I'm sure they'll find out who the real culprit is soon. And he will definitely tighten the security measures to ensure her safety in the future. Today's incident shouldn't happen again."

Cheyenne thought about it carefully, and only then did she start to relax.

But she soon recalled everything that happened in Little Atlantis City today and couldn't help but ask curiously, "Speaking of which, you won three rounds in a row when you gambled with Tony Zander in Little Atlantis City today. Was it really because of luck, or did you resort to some other means? Have you learned how to gamble before?"

Lucas smiled and shook his head. "No, I've never played those games before. I should have just gotten lucky today."

Refusing to believe him, Cheyenne asked, “Was it really just luck? I don’t believe it. If it was just luck, how did you dare to bet so much money each round? You even ended up with nearly thirty million dollars worth of chips.”

Lucas smiled mysteriously. “I just had a feeling that I’d win. That’s why I bet so much. I really got lucky this time. I think it should be because you were standing next to me.”

Cheyenne instantly blushed and tilted her head toward the side. She said softly, “You’ve got such a glib tongue. I wonder where you got that from.”

Lucas chuckled and was about to speak when he heard his phone beep twice.

He picked up his phone and swiped his finger across the screen to unlock it. There was a notification from the bank to inform him that 27 million dollars had been transferred to his bank account.

The other notification was for a text message from Joe, informing him that the money was the money he had won from gambling with Tony in Little Atlantis City. Three million of it was his principal amount, while the rest was transferred from Tony’s account.

There was nothing wrong with deducting the money from Tony’s account since he had lost the money to Lucas.

But rightfully speaking, Little Atlantis City was supposed to get a certain percentage of the chips won by the poker players there when they were finally converted into cash. The larger the amount won, the higher the percentage of commission. For example, Little Atlantis City should have gotten nearly a million dollars out of Lucas’s winnings of 27 million.

But the money that Lucas won tonight was all credited to his account without a single cent less. It was obviously a deliberate gift to Lucas from Joe.

Besides, at the end of the text message, Joe also implicitly told Lucas that Tony had died.

Cheyenne was about to turn her head to say something to Lucas when she accidentally caught a glimpse of the text message on his cell phone, leaving her in astonishment as she widened her eyes.

“Twenty-seven million dollars?! Why did so much money get transferred to your bank account?!” Cheyenne exclaimed in shock.

If she hadn’t seen it with her own eyes tonight, she wouldn’t have believed that Lucas had won more than 20 million dollars in less than 20 minutes! This was even faster than printing money!

“Haha, that’s why I said that Lady Luck was smiling at me today. Not only did I win all three rounds, but I even encountered such a wealthy fool like Tony Zander. Otherwise, how could we have such a windfall?” Lucas said with a deliberate smile.

Cheyenne quickly calmed down after being agitated. But when she thought of her father being addicted to gambling, her heart sank, and she was once again in low spirits.

Cheyenne was hurt and heartbroken when William used her as collateral during his gamble today. But when she saw how he knelt in front of Lucas and wept miserably while begging him not to take her away, she felt conflicted, and her heart was full of complicated emotions.

“Lucas, what do you intend to do to my dad?” Cheyenne asked with a conflicted expression.

Lucas glanced at Cheyenne and said calmly, “Actually, when he used you as collateral, I really felt that he was completely unworthy of being a father, and I even felt an urge to kill him.

“But when he knelt before me and begged me to let you go, I could tell that he truly regretted it at the time and wanted to take you back. He still cares about you, but when he’s obsessed with gambling, he can’t care about anything else.

“So, I want him to wake him up and make him realize that if he continues to be addicted to gambling, he will lose his daughter, his family, everything. Only after he loses everything and hits rock bottom will he come to his senses and quit his addiction, which is the cause of these consequences!

“So, Cheyenne, you have to cooperate with me. You can’t go easy on him. Even if he looks for you at the office, you must refuse to see him and make him truly realize what he has really lost. Otherwise, he will never be able to come to his senses and turn over a new leaf!”

Cheyenne thought about it for a long while, and the gaze in her eyes gradually became firmer. “You’re right. If I let myself be softhearted and give in, all our previous efforts would be in vain. I might even end up harming Dad! Don’t worry. I’ll tell Charlotte about this and get her to cooperate with us too. No matter who Dad goes to, we won’t see him!”

The Jaguar soon stopped at the entrance of the lake villa, and the two of them alighted to go home.

In the Sawyers’ villa, Lena was currently bent over her desk and drawing the outline and contours of a person’s face with a pencil on a piece of paper.

The person she was drawing was a handsome young man. His eyebrows were sharp, his nose bridge was high and taut, and his lips tightly pressed together.

It was Lucas!

Lena rubbed the man’s features she had drawn on the paper with her slender fingers and suddenly smiled radiantly.

“Cheyenne, your man is such a good catch!”

Chapter 232: Finally Came To His Senses

Lucas, Cheyenne, Charlotte, and the others each got busy with their own matters in the meantime.

As the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation, Cheyenne naturally had many new plans to carry out and arrangements to make.

As the acting general manager of the Stardust Corporation, Charlotte also had a lot on her plate every day. She had to handle the daily affairs of the Stardust Corporation and suppress those who refused to obey her and were throwing their weight around just because they were old. She also had to handle the follow-up matters of the Oliver Harvey case and try her best to minimize the impact of this matter on the Stardust Corporation.

Fortunately, Charlotte was quite competent and managed to handle everything without Lucas's help.

As for Flynn, the rightful general manager of the Stardust Corporation, he was originally supposed to return to work at the Stardust Corporation after taking the initiative to cooperate with the police in the investigation of the Oliver Harvey incident.

But Lucas assigned him to take over and organize the businesses left behind by the Brookes in LA, and he would report his daily progress to Lucas over the phone every day.

With Stanley providing help and presiding over the matters in LA, the families that were coveting the businesses of the Brookes suddenly gave up and didn't dare to openly snatch them away anymore. Thus, Flynn's takeover was extremely smooth and successful.

Lucas didn't idle about either. Apart from assigning tasks remotely and responding to the reports he received, he also made arrangements for people to take over the Hales' businesses in Orange County that they had voluntarily handed to him. There were also many other miscellaneous things that he had to do.

His tense and busy days passed by just like that, and soon, more than half a month passed. It was officially summertime.

Orange County was near the coast, where rainfall was abundant. Since it was near the ocean, it was usually humid and warm during summer, which was rather uncomfortable.

What surprised Lucas and Cheyenne was that during those two weeks, William didn't appear at all, nor did he go to Cheyenne's and Charlotte's workplaces to look for them.

Of course, Lucas had sent someone to tail William and guard his safety secretly. This person would also report William's whereabouts to Lucas every day.

In the Civic Plaza of Orange County...

It was only five in the morning, but the summer sun was already up and shining brightly.

William, who had curled up and slept on a park bench for yet another night, frowned when he felt the bright rays of sunlight shining on his eyelids. It took him a long time to open his eyes with great difficulty before sitting up.

He sat on the bench and froze for a long while before he finally remembered the state that he was currently in. He stood up from the bench and dragged his feet to the nearby public restroom in the park.

He collected some tap water in his palm from the faucet of the public restroom and rinsed his face to wake himself up.

William muttered to himself, “It’s time to go find a job.”

He then combed his fingers through his unkempt and greasy hair a few times before turning around to leave.

But as he walked, tears began to well up in his eyes before finally flowing down the contours of his face and dripping onto the concrete floor.

His heart was now full of regret and misery that made him feel immense heartache.

He really regretted it!

He originally had a harmonious and complete family, with a wife, two smart and beautiful daughters, and an adorable granddaughter.

It was his fault for developing a gambling addiction and staying out late every night. He had even ended up losing several million dollars.

His daughters had been worried sick about him and searched high and low for him everywhere. In the end, Cheyenne even went to a sordid place like Little Atlantis City to look for him. She begged him to go home with her and quit gambling.

But what did he do? He hurled such malicious and hurtful words at his daughter, pushed her away, and even used her as a stake for his gamble by putting her up as collateral to a complete stranger!

He ended up losing his daughter to that stranger, who took her away.

The stranger was wearing a mask, so William didn't know who he was.

But every time William thought of what the stranger had said to him, he felt a chill in his heart and wanted to give himself a few more loud slaps on the face!

The man said that if he lost his daughter to him, his daughter's future life and wellbeing would have nothing to do with him anymore!

These days, he often got jolted awake from his nightmares of Cheyenne being abused and tortured to her very last breath by a man whose face he couldn't see clearly. In his nightmares, she would often be bawling and begging him to go to her rescue and take her home. But whenever he tried to reach his hand toward her, his efforts would be futile. He would never be able to touch her no matter how hard he tried, and he could only watch her get bullied again and again.

William really regretted everything that he had done!

He wanted to go back to his daughter, but he just didn't know where he could go to look for her.

He had once returned to the residence that they had lived in for decades. But he found that something happened during his absence, and the house was now a wreck.

All of Karen's, Cheyenne's, Charlotte's, and Amelia's belongings were no longer in the house.

He reckoned that they should have moved, but he didn't know where they moved.

He couldn't blame them for moving to another place without informing him because he only had himself to blame for spending all his time at the casino and completely neglecting his family.

He deserved to be in the plight that he was in now!

But no matter what, he had to get his daughter back!

Now that he was homeless and penniless, he had been living on the streets and wandering around aimlessly the past few days. He was searching for Cheyenne while also trying to find a job so that he could make some money to support himself and continue to look for his daughter.

But he was old and lacked work experience. Besides, due to the fact that he had been living on the streets for a long time, he now looked scruffy, filthy, and unkempt. No one wanted to employ him.

He had spent all the money he had with him, and he couldn't even afford breakfast now. There was also no news of Cheyenne, and he had no idea where she was suffering now.

Overwhelmed with regret, William finally couldn't stand it any longer as he squatted on the ground and sobbed loudly.

"Cheyenne... where are you? I really know I was wrong. I wish I could bring you home right now, but I can't find you!"

William squatted on the ground while tugging his hair and weeping miserably with mucus and snot falling from his nose. Looking even more disheveled than before, he attracted the attention of the crowd. Many came to surround him, but he could no longer be bothered!

Screech!

At this moment, a car abruptly braked and stopped beside William.

William wiped a handful of tears and snot, looked up, and saw Lucas getting out of the car and standing in front of him.

At this moment, William felt an unprecedented sense of guilt and remorse within him. Choking between sobs, he said, “Lucas, I’ve let you down. I lost Cheyenne to someone else. I can’t find her...”

“Dad!”

At this moment, a familiar voice that was also sobbing rang in his ears.

William immediately raised his head as if he had been struck by a thunderbolt and stared at the other person who got out of the car in immense disbelief.

Cheyenne had long burst into tears and was now standing right before him!

Chapter 233: Bathhouse

William raised his head with a look of astonishment and widened his eyes in disbelief. He could no longer be bothered by the tears and mucus still flowing down his face. Dumbfounded, he spluttered, “Cheyenne? Are you really Cheyenne? Or am I hallucinating again?”

Unable to contain her emotions any longer, Cheyenne leaped toward William and hugged him tightly, ignoring the stench of his body. She cried, “Dad, it’s me. It’s really me! I... I’m here to take you home.”

William finally reacted and realized that he wasn’t hallucinating at all. His daughter had really appeared!

He couldn’t find her no matter how hard he had tried, and now, the daughter he thought that he would never see again in this life finally returned!

With tears streaming down his face, William held Cheyenne tightly in his arms and bawled loudly. “Cheyenne, I really know my mistakes! I won’t do it again. I won’t lose you again!”

Cheyenne also hugged her father tightly. She felt that he had lost a lot of weight over this period of time, and his originally muscular body was now a little bony. Clearly, William had been through a lot of suffering and hardship. Feeling rather heartbroken, Cheyenne burst into tears.

Charlotte also got out of the car. When she saw her father and sister holding each other and crying, she couldn't hold back her tears either. She leaped forward and hugged William tightly, weeping together with them.

“Dad, don't you ever go gambling again! Let's just live together as a family properly. Without you or Cheyenne, our family will no longer be complete!” Charlotte exclaimed while crying.

“Okay, okay. I won't go gambling again! Rest assured. I will never set foot in a casino again!” William reassured while sobbing.

At this moment, the fact that his lost daughter could return to him was already a godsend! He would definitely change his ways and never indulge in gambling again!

Lucas stood by the side, looking at the scene in front of him with a sense of relief within him.

It seemed that after those two weeks, William had truly turned over a new leaf. His and Cheyenne's efforts to put on an act did not go in vain.

For the past two weeks or so, Cheyenne had been extremely uneasy. Although Lucas had sent someone to keep close tabs on William, pay attention to his safety, and report every move to him every day, Cheyenne was still worried sick. On several occasions, she even had an urge to go out and see her father with her own eyes.

If not for fear of sabotaging the plan because of her impulsiveness, Cheyenne definitely wouldn't have been able to control herself.

After the three of them were done crying and venting their emotions, they wiped their tears and got inside the car.

William had not bathed and changed his clothes for nearly two weeks. Besides, it was now summertime, and the weather was hot and sweltering. He reeked of a

pungent odor of sweat, which intensified when they were in the confined space of the car.

Charlotte crinkled her nose. Although she wouldn't be disdainful of her father, she really couldn't stand the smell. Since William had already decided to turn over a new leaf, she thought that he ought to take a shower, get changed, and go home all fresh and clean.

There happened to be a large-scale bathhouse near where they were now. When Charlotte saw it outside the car window, she hurriedly asked Lucas to pull over and said to William, "Dad, go take a bath in there while we buy you a few sets of clothes from the shops nearby. Get your hair fixed and go home handsomely!"

Hearing this, Lucas thoughtfully took out a wad of bills from his pocket and stuffed them into William's hands. "William, go ahead."

William felt a little embarrassed because he was aware that he had to smell horrid since he hadn't showered or changed his clothes for two weeks. Besides, he had no money on him now.

Blushing a little, he took the money from Lucas's hand and promised, "I won't take your money for nothing. Just take this as a loan to me. I'll return it to you when I make enough money in the future!"

Then he opened the car door and got out without waiting for Lucas to decline.

Cheyenne and Charlotte watched their interaction quietly. After a long while, Charlotte finally sighed. "Dad has really changed drastically."

Cheyenne nodded and said softly, "Yeah, Lucas, we really have to thank you this time!"

Lucas smiled. "We're all family. There's no need to be polite with me."

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Meanwhile, William heard someone cursing in a sharp voice as soon as he entered the bathhouse. He hadn't even had time to get a clear look at the decor inside.

"F*ck, where did this stench come from?! It smells nasty! Hurry up and get lost! This isn't a place for you, stinky beggar!"

At the front desk, two beautifully dressed receptionists were covering their noses and looking at William with disgust, as if they were looking at a filthy piece of trash.

Knowing that he smelled awful, William hurriedly apologized, "I'm sorry. I... I'm not a beggar. Something just happened to me, so I ended up like this. I'll pay more for the bath later."

One of the receptionists obviously didn't have the patience to hear his explanation. She hollered with extreme disgust, "I don't care how you got yourself in such a state and whether or not you're really a beggar! This is an upscale bathhouse, and you made the entire place stink as soon as you entered! How are our customers going to enjoy their baths now? Hurry up and get lost!"

"Security! Where's security? Are they skiving again? Why did they let such a person in here?!"

Soon after the receptionist hollered, several security guards rushed out from the duty room and barked, "Who is it? Are you tired of living? How dare you cause trouble in the Ocean Bathhouse?!"

When they saw the filthy William and smelled the pungent odor coming from his body, they flew into a rage. "Damn it. Where did this stinky beggar come from?! Is this a place you can be?! Get lost! Hurry up and get lost!"

"I just came to take a bath. I can afford it. I'm not a beggar!" While speaking, William took out the wad of cash he was holding and showed it to the security guards.

“Get lost. Even if you have money, we can’t let you go in, you filthy thing!”

The burly security guard who was the leader started chasing William away without hesitation.

He subconsciously tried to push with his hands. But as soon as he saw William’s dirty appearance, he raised his leg and kicked him ruthlessly.

“Ah!” William wailed in pain and fell to the ground.

But the security guard didn’t stop at that and continued to kick him repeatedly until he rolled out of the bathhouse.

Cheyenne and Charlotte were still in the car and discussing where to buy some clothes for William. Before the engine started, they suddenly caught sight of the dirt-stained William being kicked out of the glass door of the Ocean Bathhouse like a soccer ball!

Chapter 234: We'll See Who Dares To Stop Us

“Dad!”

Cheyenne and Charlotte were stunned as they hurriedly opened the car doors and dashed over to help William up. Then they scrutinized him from head to toe to check his injuries.

“Dad, are you okay? Does it hurt anywhere? Where did they kick you?”

William was grimacing and wincing in pain because of the excruciating pain spreading throughout his body from the kicks. Fortunately, he only had some bruises and abrasions, without any serious injuries.

“Why did you hit my dad?! Did he offend you in any way?!”

Seeing that William was not seriously injured, they finally relaxed. Charlotte was hot-tempered, so she immediately turned around and questioned the security guard leader who had kicked William.

Charlotte had been in charge of the Stardust Group for some time and had gained a lot of experience in dealing with trouble. Her stern question made the security guard leader subconsciously freeze while his heart trembled.

But when he saw that the person in front of him was a young and pretty woman, his fear immediately vanished.

At the same time, he was also extremely surprised that this dirty old man had two gorgeous daughters.

The security guard leader chuckled. “Beautiful lady, it’s not my fault. Look at how dirty your father is. We could smell the unbearable stench of his body when he came in! The Ocean Bathhouse is an upscale bathhouse. If all our customers are as smelly as your father, wouldn’t it be impossible for us to keep our business running?”

Charlotte retorted in exasperation, “Isn’t the bathhouse open for business? Besides, it’s not like my father isn’t going to pay. If you’re afraid of disturbing other customers, we can pay a little more and book an entire bathroom! But why did you hit him?”

Charlotte made perfect sense.

The security guard leader was at a loss for words for a rebuttal and couldn’t help feeling ashamed and furious. “Who are you to reprimand me? You’re so young, yet you have a dirty beggar for a father. I doubt you’re a decent person!

“You probably came to promote yourself because you heard that there are lots of pretty girls working at the Ocean Bathhouse. Unfortunately, you’re probably just a plaything who has been toyed with by countless men. You’re not welcome in our bathhouse!”

Charlotte was stunned, and she froze for a long time before realizing the lewd meaning in his words. She immediately turned beet red!

Before she could curse, William flew into a rage when he saw his daughter bullied by this scumbag. He got up from the ground and charged furiously toward the security guard leader! “Scoundrel, how dare you insult my daughter? You’re going to get it from me!”

But before William could touch him, a long leg appeared in front of the security guard leader, who had made those malicious comments.

Bang!

A massive force struck the security guard leader in his chest. He only managed to scream before he was soon kicked away by the huge impact and slammed hard against the glass door.

Crack!

The glass shattered in pieces, and glass shards flew all over the ground.

After having his head slam against a pillar in the lobby, the security guard passed out without making another single sound.

The great commotion immediately resulted in a series of screams.

The other security guards in the lobby were dumbfounded and gaping in shock.

Among the security guards, their leader was the best at martial arts, yet he was knocked out without being able to resist and was now lying motionlessly on the ground like a dead dog!

William's fist was still hovering in midair. But the man opposite had already flown around eight meters away, passed out cold, and could no longer move an inch.

William blinked and looked at Lucas beside him, somewhat at a loss for words.

At this moment, his son-in-law had a fiery gaze in his eyes and was exuding a menacing aura while standing in front of them. He was mighty, overbearing, and not to be provoked.

Even William was intimidated by Lucas's domineering aura and didn't dare to move about.

While staring at Lucas's majestic stance, William somehow had a strange feeling arise in his heart.

The masked young man who took Cheyenne away from him in Little Atlantis City just two weeks ago seemed very much like Lucas!

“Hmph, we must get in even if you’re stopping us! William, let’s go in together. I’ll see if they have the guts to stop us!” Lucas said coldly.

He was not throwing his weight around. But everyone in the bathhouse was a snob who looked down on those who didn’t seem well-off and would even chase them away. If they had merely forbidden William from entering, it would be fine. But they had beaten William up and even hurled humiliating insults at him, as well as Cheyenne and Charlotte.

Lucas was bent on standing up for them!

Cheyenne and Charlotte now had a much clearer idea about Lucas’s strength and abilities. It was safe to say that there was no one in Orange County whom Lucas was afraid of offending.

So after hearing what Lucas said, both of them went to William’s side and said firmly, “Dad, just listen to Lucas. Let’s go in and see who dares to stop us!”

William looked at Cheyenne and Lucas, who were standing together on his right, and suddenly felt that maybe the masked young man, who took Cheyenne away from him in Little Atlantis City that day, was really Lucas!

Otherwise, Cheyenne wouldn’t have been so... composed. Apart from feeling incredibly disappointed in William for using her as a gambling stake, Cheyenne hadn’t seemed to be scared or repulsed by the stranger.

They had also appeared at the same time that day. Cheyenne merely showed him great concern and worry, but she didn’t seem to have mentioned what happened to her after the stranger took her away and how she returned.

So there was only one possibility about what the truth was!

The reason they did it was so that he could finally realize the consequences of losing his family due to his gambling addiction and the dangers of gambling so that he would quit gambling for good!

After figuring everything out, William didn't feel angry at all and instead felt grateful and overjoyed!

Fortunately, what had happened to him was just staged by Lucas and Cheyenne and not the cold, harsh reality. Otherwise, Cheyenne might have died!

Thinking of all the horrendous things that he had said or done in the past, as well as the humiliation and insults he had inflicted on Lucas, William was overwhelmed with guilt and self-reproach.

He decided that from now on, he would be a good father and never let his children down!

As soon as they stepped over the broken bits of glass to enter the Ocean Bathhouse, a group of people hurried over from the corner of the stairs and immediately saw the huge mess at the entrance. They also saw the unconscious security guard leader lying on the ground and the security guards standing by the entrance but not daring to step forward.

“What’s the ruckus about? What’s going on here?” a man bellowed in anger.

Chapter 235: What Is the Truth?

Frightened by the scene just now, the two receptionists had hidden behind the marble counter and shivered in fear. When they saw the people suddenly come downstairs, they hurriedly dashed toward them and complained to the manager, “Mr. Perry, these people tried to cause trouble in the Ocean Bathhouse!”

As they spoke, they pointed their fingers at Lucas and the others.

The person addressed as Mr. Perry immediately glared at them hostilely and barked, “You actually have the audacity to cause trouble in the Ocean Bathhouse. You’re very brazen! You even dared to hurt my people. How are you going to settle this?”

As soon as Perry finished speaking, several more security guards walked over from the lobby with electric batons and other weapons. They surrounded the four of them and were obviously out to settle scores with them.

Once the answer given by Lucas and the rest was not to Perry’s satisfaction, they would either be beaten up or suffer more severe consequences.

William had rarely experienced such altercations, so as soon as he saw these people surrounding him, he became extremely nervous. He reached his arms out to shield his daughters, but a layer of cold sweat had already seeped out of his forehead.

“Dad, everything will be fine with Lucas here.” Cheyenne was touched and gently patted William’s arm while comforting him softly.

William took a glance at Lucas, who looked extremely composed. Only then did he realize that his son-in-law wasn’t an ordinary person. As long as he was around, he definitely wouldn’t let anything happen to Charlotte and Cheyenne!

Lucas really didn’t take these security guards seriously. Even if they were holding guns instead of electric batons, he wouldn’t be scared at all.

“You’d better find out what happened before doing anything. Otherwise, customers won’t dare to patronize your place anymore,” Lucas said calmly.

The manager, Perry, couldn’t be bothered to find out what exactly happened. In his opinion, he would deal with all troublemakers!

But there were also many other customers around who rushed out after hearing the commotion. Besides, considering what Lucas said, he was worried that the customers of the bathhouse might have a bad impression of it if he handled this inappropriately. So Perry forced himself to stay patient and said to a receptionist patiently, “Tell me what happened just now. Why was there a fight?”

This receptionist was the one who had called the security guards to come over and kick William out, so she definitely wouldn’t give a fair account of what had happened.

“Mr. Perry, here’s what happened. That filthy and smelly beggar suddenly rushed over to create trouble, causing a huge hindrance for the other guests. I just kindly tried to tell him to leave, but I didn’t expect him to suddenly go berserk like a madman and try to attack us. I suspect that he’s mentally unsound, and I was afraid that he might scare the other guests, so I got the security guards to send him out.

“But I didn’t expect his family to be waiting outside. As soon as they saw our security guards, they immediately started hitting them ruthlessly. They even

knocked the captain out! They then caused a huge stir and said that it's our fault. They're obviously out to extort us!"

The receptionist was very articulate, and she even managed to twist the facts while adding fuel to the fire. Everyone in the lobby looked at William, Lucas, and the others with disdain.

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William hurriedly shook his head and clarified loudly, "No, it's not like that! I'm not mentally unsound. I just wanted to come here to take a bath. I also brought enough money. Besides, I was even willing to pay a little more! But this receptionist called me a smelly beggar and chased me out without hesitation! Look at these footprints on my body. They're from when they kicked me out!

"My daughter and son-in-law naturally came over to stand up for me and demand for an explanation when they saw that I was being assaulted. How is that considered extortion? You people are obviously the problematic ones. You discriminated against me and hit me for no rhyme nor reason!"

Everyone looked at William. There were indeed lots of footprints and mud on his body. Their eyes became full of bewilderment.

The receptionist hurriedly said, "Those footprints and mud on your body were already there when you stepped into our bathhouse. Who knows where you got those stains? You're even deliberately trying to frame us!"

William quickly tried to retort, but the receptionist asked, "You said you're not mentally unsound, huh? Look at how dirty you are. You probably haven't showered in weeks. Which person in their right mind who has a sane daughter and son-in-law would end up in such a filthy state?"

William opened his mouth, but he was no match for the eloquent and sharp-tongued receptionist. It was a fact that he was extremely filthy and hadn't

showered in weeks. All of a sudden, he couldn't find the words to rebut her, so he immediately became flustered.

The onlookers around them also began discussing.

"I think this receptionist has a point. Which ordinary person would let themselves become so smelly and dirty? I can smell the stench from so far away. Tsk!"

"Exactly. Why did he come out before taking a shower at home? There must be something wrong with him."

"Maybe they're just here to extort money! When we were in the lounge just now, no one witnessed what happened. If it wasn't for this receptionist, we might have been deceived by them!"

...

"Did you hear that? That's the truth. What else do you have to say?"

Hearing the discussion going on around him, Perry realized that they had started leaning toward the Ocean Bathhouse. He couldn't help but be smug and sneered.

"No, I really wasn't going to hit her. I just came in for a bath! You... you have to believe me!"

William looked at the people around him and then shifted his gaze to his daughters and Lucas anxiously.

He had finally reconciled with his daughters and made up his mind to turn over a new leaf, so he was really scared that they and Lucas would get the wrong idea about him. The opinions of the others paled in comparison.

Lucas grabbed William's hand and said sincerely, "William, I believe you."

Cheyenne and Charlotte also looked at William with great trust. “Dad, we trust you too. The staff of this bathhouse clearly bullied you!”

“The truth is right before you, yet you still have the audacity to slander us. You probably won’t regret it until you see the consequence, huh?!” Perry flew into a rage and was about to order the security guards to chase them out.

“Hmph!” Lucas sneered. “It’s just a few one-sided words from your own employees. How can it be considered the truth?”

Pointing at the few surveillance cameras on the ceiling around them, he hollered, “Aren’t there cameras in this bathhouse? Since you want to find out the truth, we can just look at the footage to see who’s lying and being the bully!”

Upon hearing his words, William was overjoyed. As long as there was footage from the cameras, they would be able to prove his innocence!

On the other hand, after the receptionist heard that Lucas wanted to see the footage of the surveillance cameras, her expression immediately changed drastically.

Chapter 236: Killing One To Warn Others

Of course, Lucas saw the nervous reaction of the receptionist.

Perry's heart skipped a beat too, and he immediately understood that things definitely weren't as simple as what the receptionist had told him.

The other people, who were surrounding them and watching the situation, immediately seemed interested because the receptionist's account was completely different from that of William. Their claims were worlds apart, so one of them had to be lying!

But was the liar this filthy and smelly beggar-like person or the fashionably dressed receptionist who sat at the front desk of the Ocean Bathhouse all day?

Everyone watched the scene with interest. Every now and then, some of them would urge Perry to retrieve the surveillance camera footage to let everyone see what exactly happened.

As soon as Perry saw how nervous the receptionist was, he already knew that his staff must have made a mistake. Otherwise, how could they have asked him to produce the surveillance footage? If William and the others had done something wrong, wouldn't the surveillance footage expose them?

But at this moment, the surrounding customers all started clamoring and asking for the surveillance footage to be shown, which really put Perry in a spot. It seemed that he had to let Lucas intervene and settle the problem.

Perry walked to Lucas and said softly, "Rascal, you injured one of my security guards today and even broke the door of our bathhouse. As long as you get lost immediately, I won't hold it against you for what happened today and can pretend

that nothing has happened. Otherwise, I won't let you leave this place unscathed. Consider it clearly!"

He clearly wanted Lucas to take the initiative to drop the matter and let it go, but he acted haughtily like a snob. He was commanding Lucas and even threatened him.

Lucas wasn't the type to let himself be threatened. Besides, his father-in-law and sister-in-law had just been insulted. If he chose to pretend that nothing happened and just leave, what would that make him?

Lucas sneered. "Your staff made a mistake, but you framed my father-in-law. Now that everyone is asking for the surveillance footage to be shown, you're trying to threaten me because you're afraid that the truth will be to your disadvantage. What right do you have to do that?"

Lucas's voice was extremely loud. He was deliberately trying to make the watching customers get a clear idea of what was going on.

When Perry saw Lucas say that out loud, showing how unrelenting he was, his face became extremely sullen as he glared daggers at Lucas.

Indeed, the surrounding people also understood by now that Perry was actually threatening Lucas. Clearly, there was something wrong with this matter. They couldn't help but start discussing among themselves.

"Oh my god, I thought it was their fault and that they're deliberately trying to extort this bathhouse. But it seems that Mr. Perry doesn't dare to show us the surveillance footage. He must be lying then!"

"Yeah, he refuses to admit to his mistake or apologize. He even went on to threaten others. He's being such a snob."

“Oh gosh, I thought that the Ocean Bathhouse provides excellent service, but it turns out they’re so two-faced. If I get dirty and come here someday, will they treat me like a beggar and chase me out?”

“Yeah, that receptionist was so full of confidence and gusto that I thought they really got bullied, but it turns out they were the bullies. I’ve really had enough! It seems that I have to go back and talk to my friends about this. From now on, we’d better avoid this place, lest we get framed by them. It’d be hard to explain then!”

...

There was a sudden twist in the situation, and the reputation of the Ocean Bathhouse was greatly tarnished.

Perry was naturally glum. But since the matter had already happened, and the situation had escalated out of his control after so many mistakes, he naturally wouldn’t admit to them!

No matter what, he had to put the blame on William and the others and then chase them out!

“Hmph, you people deliberately came here to twist the facts and slander the Ocean Bathhouse, yet you still have the audacity to cause a stir here. You’re really arrogant!

“Security, break this man’s limbs and throw him out. Strip those two women naked and throw them out too! I’m going to use this as a warning to everyone. Anyone who dares to cause trouble here will end up the same.”

Perry’s words were extremely ruthless, and his methods were vicious. Having their limbs broken and stripped naked would be immense suffering and humiliation!

But this also caused the surrounding people not to dare to discuss the matter loudly. If they messed up and got into trouble too, what would happen?

Many customers here were ordinary people here to enjoy a bath and massage. They always thought that this place was just a simple bathhouse, but they never expected the manager to be so vicious and ruthless. There was definitely a complicated reason behind it.

Many of them were terrified, and they made up their minds that they would never patronize this bathhouse again!

After hearing Perry's orders, the security guards immediately gripped their electric batons tightly and surrounded them.

There was a cold, murderous look in Lucas's eyes.

Lucas didn't take the threat of having his limbs broken seriously at all.

But Perry actually had the audacity to say that he wanted to strip Cheyenne and Charlotte naked and then throw them out to humiliate them. That was something that Lucas absolutely couldn't tolerate.

As long as he was here, no one would be able to do anything to them.

When the battle was about to begin, someone behind the surrounding crowd suddenly yelled in a clear voice, "Stop! I'll fight anyone who dares to lay a finger on Mr. Gray!"

The person who spoke quickly pushed aside the crowd of onlookers and walked over. He was bespectacled, slender, and tall, looking extremely harmless.

But those who knew him were aware that he was Joe Daniels, one of the few people in Orange County not to be provoked.

When Perry saw Joe, he immediately shuddered and asked softly, "Joe, why are you here? Is the service upstairs unsatisfactory?"

Joe pushed Perry away and walked toward Lucas. He bent forward and asked, “Mr. Gray, these dimwits didn’t hurt you just now, did they?”

When he saw how respectful Joe was to Lucas, Perry inhaled sharply!

Chapter 237: Change of Attitude

Joe was a rare talent in the industry of underground businesses. He used to be in charge of the Opulence and had a ruthless style of doing things that made others submit to him. He was said to have become the new owner of Little Atlantis City recently and was in control of almost the entire industry of underground businesses in Orange County. His power and strength were absolutely not to be underestimated. A trivial lobby manager of a bathhouse like Perry was not fit to talk to him!

After learning that Joe had come to the Ocean Bathhouse, Perry had been incredibly nervous and had hurriedly instructed his subordinates to attend to Joe.

But why would such a big shot like him actually stoop so low in front of Lucas and respectfully address him as Mr. Gray?

Perry immediately had an ominous hunch!

“Is this part of the turf you manage?” Lucas asked calmly with a straight face, his emotions entirely concealed.

Joe hurriedly shook his head. “No, I just happen to be here to take a bath and discuss a business deal with someone. This bathhouse has absolutely nothing to do with me!”

Joe had always been smart and quick-witted. When he was behind the crowd, he had already heard of the conflict and knew that there must have been some dispute between Lucas and the manager. Thus, he had to draw a clear line between himself and the bathhouse immediately, lest Lucas took it out on him and thought that it

was a result of his lack of proper management or that he had given them permission to do it.

Just half a month ago, Joe had pledged allegiance to Lucas of his own accord, and only then did Lucas let him manage Little Atlantis City. In fact, Lucas had put almost all the underground businesses in the city under Joe's management in a bid to exterminate all businesses and industries related to the vices. Joe was tasked with a massive responsibility.

Besides, the Ocean Bathhouse had never had a clean background, so Joe was worried that Lucas might blame him for being incompetent.

Lucas nodded and suddenly said, "Since this place has nothing to do with you, go and get someone to draw up a contract for me now. I'm going to acquire this place."

Lucas's words immediately resulted in a drastic change in Perry's expression.

He never thought that the young man dressed in ordinary clothes in front of him would say that he wanted to buy the Ocean Bathhouse. He was really generous!

But when he saw how subservient Joe was toward this young man, Perry suddenly doubted his previous thoughts as he wondered, *Is this young man really a wealthy bigwig?*

Perry was making wild guesses in his head, but he was just the lobby manager of the Ocean Bathhouse and didn't have the authority to sell the bathhouse!

Things are about to get even more troublesome!

Perry frowned as the ominous feeling within him grew stronger and stronger.

As the lobby manager, he was well aware of what business was being run on the top floor of the bathhouse. He knew that this bathhouse couldn't be sold!

He would be in deep trouble if his negligence and mishandling of the situation just now caused the Ocean Bathhouse to be acquired by someone else! The higher-ups would definitely not spare him!

Perry's heart ricocheted in his chest. And while he was thinking about how he should deal with the matter at hand, he also decided that he had to send someone to quickly notify the general manager of the bathhouse upstairs.

After Joe heard Lucas's plans, his eyes widened in surprise. He then hesitated for a moment before walking to Lucas and saying softly, "Mr. Gray, this is actually not just a simple bathhouse. The owner is the Taylors, one of the four major families of Orange County.

"Moreover, the business on the top floor of this bathhouse is actually not very proper... So you have to think this through!"

Joe wanted to let Lucas know that the Taylors were the owners of this bathhouse so that he wouldn't accidentally offend them. And he also wanted to remind Lucas that they were running an illegal and improper business, so Lucas would have to pay an immense price to acquire it. In his opinion, the cons outweighed the pros.

Lucas was a little surprised to hear this. He didn't expect to have ended up choosing a bathhouse with a fishy background related to the Taylors when he intended to just randomly pick one for William to have a bath in.

Not long ago, Scott Taylor had once gone to Lucas's villa at Pearl Lake and tried to purchase it from him forcefully.

Now, the bathhouse that he was trying to acquire happened to be a property of the Taylors. It was truly fate.

Perry was full of regret now. *This young man should be a powerful figure I obviously couldn't afford to provoke. I was too careless with handling this situation!*

Perry swallowed his pride and forced himself to smile as he scurried to Lucas, bent forward, and said apologetically, “Mr. Gray, I’m so sorry to have offended you. I already have a clear idea of the situation. It’s indeed the mistakes of our receptionists and security guards. I’ll definitely fire them and give you an explanation! In addition, I also apologize on behalf of the Ocean Bathhouse. Please be magnanimous and forgive us!

“And this old gentleman, I’m really sorry. You just said you wanted to take a bath, right? No problem. We will arrange a top-notch private jacuzzi room for your enjoyment and gift you with a supreme annual membership card free of charge. For a year, you can come to take a bath for free as and when you please!”

William froze for a while before he reacted, feeling surprised and flattered. He tugged Lucas’s sleeve gently and persuaded softly, “Lucas, let it go. Since they’ve apologized, let’s not pursue it any further!”

William was timid and conscientious by nature. Seeing the change in Perry’s attitude and considering the fact that he had apologized and even promised to give him a free membership card, William was no longer disgruntled. So he persuaded Lucas to let the matter go.

In his opinion, it was no big deal that he had been kicked, as he didn’t lose anything else. On the contrary, Lucas kicked the security guard leader of the bathhouse to the point of losing consciousness and being severely wounded. If the bathhouse pursued the matter, they would have to bear a greater responsibility.

So in his opinion, the bathhouse was being sincere enough to drop the matter and offer them an apology.

After all, it was better to avoid unnecessary trouble.

But Lucas felt that the apology and compensation that Perry offered were insignificant.

Chapter 238: Buying the Bathhouse

In Lucas's opinion, Perry did that not because he really knew that they had made a mistake but because he could tell from Joe's attitude toward Lucas that Lucas might really be a big shot whom he couldn't afford to offend. So he began to be deferential and bowed to Lucas.

But if Lucas was just an ordinary person, they would definitely have suffered a huge loss!

If he was just an ordinary person who didn't have any combat skills, he would have definitely ended up having his limbs broken and thrown out of the bathhouse, thereby becoming a cripple for the rest of his life.

Moreover, the beauties Cheyenne and Charlotte would also have been stripped naked, humiliated, and thrown out of the bathhouse. That would have resulted in a huge uproar, and perhaps they would have become the subjects of public criticism and never be able to raise their heads high again.

How could the matter be resolved with just an apology and a membership card?

"Get your boss to come out. I'm going to buy this bathhouse." Lucas's tone was indifferent but full of determination, leaving no room for negotiation at all.

Cold sweat immediately emerged on Perry's forehead.

"What's going on? What's all the commotion about?"

At this moment, a middle-aged man in his forties with a slicked-back hairstyle slowly walked down from upstairs.

He frowned while looking at the commotion in the lobby below with a look of displeasure.

Perry's forehead twitched, and his heart was full of dismay.

He had received a report from his subordinates and specially went downstairs to deal with the ruckus. But he didn't expect it to spiral out of control, and now, things had escalated to the extent of Lucas wanting to buy the bathhouse.

Now, the owner of the bathhouse, Calvin Pearce, had also come downstairs. He found it hard to explain himself.

But things had already escalated to this point, so there was no way he could continue to cover it up.

Perry walked toward Calvin and reported softly, "Mr. Pearce, our staff accidentally offended these people just now, but I've also apologized to them and offered them compensation. However, they refuse to let it go and insist on buying the Ocean Bathhouse. What should we do?"

Anger immediately appeared on Calvin's face.

Although he was not the true owner of the Ocean Bathhouse, he was the legally appointed person in charge of the bathhouse. He had also relied on the illegal business run on the top floor of the bathhouse to build connections with upper-class figures of the county.

He thought that Lucas, whom he had never seen before, probably shouldn't be a descendant of a prestigious family in the county. Besides, his last name 'Gray' didn't ring a bell either because there was no prominent family with the last name Gray.

But the young man in front of him actually had the guts to claim that he wanted to buy the Ocean Bathhouse. In his opinion, Lucas was delusional and ignorant!

Calvin narrowed his eyes and said with a gloomy expression, “Punk, you want to buy the Ocean Bathhouse? You’d better ask around and find out who the owner of this bathhouse is before saying that. Who are you to buy this place?”

Calvin’s eyes were full of obvious contempt.

Upon hearing his words, Joe immediately stepped forward and glared at Calvin before hollering, “Calvin Pearce, mind your tone! How dare you talk to Mr. Gray with such a rude tone? Are you tired of living?”

Although Joe didn’t want Lucas to confront the Taylors, one of the four top families in Orange County, he naturally couldn’t stand by and quietly watch a Taylor lackey insult Lucas.

After all, he had pledged allegiance to Lucas, so he was Lucas’s subordinate. He had to intervene now that Lucas was insulted. Although he didn’t want to go against the Taylors, Calvin was only the person in charge of the bathhouse. And when it came to authority and power, Joe wasn’t afraid of Calvin at all.

Calvin frowned.

Just a short while ago, Joe came to the Ocean Bathhouse to negotiate a business deal with some distinguished guests, and Calvin had also tasked his subordinates to serve him well in a bid to get closer to him. But he never thought that Joe would have an extraordinary relationship with the young man in front of him and even stand up for him. Joe didn’t even mind offending Calvin and the Taylors for him.

The thought of it made anger surge in Calvin’s heart.

Although he was usually kind and polite to Joe because he didn’t want to offend him, Joe’s power and authority were actually inferior to the Taylors’, even though he controlled almost the entire underground businesses of Orange County!

If Joe dared to offend him and the Taylors because of Lucas, he would suggest to the Taylors to have Joe killed!

“Joe, you’re just an outsider. I suggest you don’t interfere in our affairs!” Calvin warned indifferently.

Joe was about to lose his temper when Lucas shot him a glance that made him stop moving immediately.

“Yes, I’ve taken a liking to this bathhouse. Name your price. I’ll buy it now,” Lucas said composedly.

“Hmph, you’re very generous, huh?!” Calvin snorted. “Which family do you belong to?”

Lucas glanced at him. But before he could say anything, the receptionist beside Calvin said, “Mr. Pearce, I know who this person is! Look, the woman standing there used to be known as the most beautiful woman in Orange County, Cheyenne Carter! That man is her good-for-nothing husband!

“He isn’t the son of a prestigious family but a poor chauffeur!”

Hearing the receptionist’s words, Calvin turned to look at the two beautiful women in the bathhouse.

When he came downstairs just now, he had already noticed how stunningly gorgeous they were, but he didn’t recognize Cheyenne, the former greatest beauty of the county.

After he heard the receptionist’s words, it finally dawned on him that the people in front of him were the same ones who had been disowned by the third-tier Carter family!

Calvin burst into laughter. “Hahaha, this is such a hilarious joke! A good-for-nothing who got kicked out by his wife’s family has the cheek to

shamelessly want to buy the Ocean Bathhouse. Should I say that you are ignorant and fearless? You are really brazen!”

Lucas shook his head regretfully and sighed. “I was quite hesitant about buying your bathhouse at first because I felt that it wouldn’t be worth it, but I’ve decided that I’m going to buy it!”

Calvin immediately stopped smiling!

He looked at Lucas in disdain and sneered, “You? Sure, stop blowing your horn! As long as you can take out eight million dollars in cash now, I’ll immediately sell the Ocean Bathhouse to you!”

Chapter 239: Take Out Eight Million Dollars

Eight million dollars was not a small amount for any family, let alone Lucas, whom Calvin thought was a good-for-nothing the Carters had kicked out.

In Calvin's opinion, it would be an impressive feat if Lucas could even take out 80,000 dollars in cash.

He was certain that Lucas would never be able to fork out the massive sum of eight million dollars!

He firmly believed that Lucas was just deliberately putting on an act and pretending to be impressive. He wanted to see how this good-for-nothing could afford to take out eight million dollars!

If he couldn't, Calvin would definitely make sure Lucas got on his knees and crawled out of the bathhouse!

After Lucas heard the price Calvin named, his expression remained unchanged. Instead, he smirked calmly. "Everyone, you heard him clearly. Calvin Pearce said that if I can take out eight million dollars in cash, he will immediately sell the Ocean Bathhouse to me. All of you are witnesses."

Then he turned to look at Calvin. "Give me your bank account number. I'll transfer the money to you now."

Calvin's face twitched a little, and he sneered. "Hmph, go on, keep pretending. I'll see how long you can keep at it!"

He pulled out a bank card from his pocket and dropped it on the front desk next to him. “My card is right here. Do the transfer now!”

Their actions immediately piqued the curiosity of the customers surrounding them and watching.

Since ancient times, it had been human nature to enjoy gossip and watch dramatic commotions, especially since the one taking place in front of them now was so rare and exciting!

Everyone was wondering whether Lucas could afford to take out eight million dollars or if he was just putting on a front.

There were also a few who were secretly speculating and making guesses among themselves, wondering whether or not Calvin would really sell the bathhouse if Lucas could really afford the eight million dollars.

Just as everyone was watching curiously, Lucas took out his phone and typed a series of digits. Soon, a text message notification popped up on Calvin’s phone screen.

Everyone immediately looked at Calvin intently.

Some who were eager and impatient even urged him, “Mr. Pearce, hurry up and check. Has he transferred the money?”

“Did this person really fork out eight million in cash?”

“Wow, no way can a live-in son-in-law really take out so much money? That’s terrifying!”

“Everyone, don’t worry. It might be spam!”

...

Everyone began discussing, and Calvin began to get the chills.

But he didn't believe that Lucas would really transfer eight million dollars to him. He took out his phone from his pocket and opened the text message while saying contemptuously, "Hmph, who knows how much money this punk actually transferred to me? He might have only transferred a dollar! Let's not be fooled..."

Before he could finish, his eyes suddenly widened in horror as he stared in disbelief at the string of numbers in the text message on his cell phone.

[A sum of \$8,000,000 has been credited to your savings account (ending with 9291). Your account balance is now \$8,041,000. Please verify as soon as possible.]

Calvin looked at the string of numbers several times in disbelief. He even rubbed his eyes vigorously, wondering if he had counted the wrong number of zeros or had read the message wrongly.

Seeing Calvin stand rooted to the ground for a long time without saying anything, the surrounding customers began to get impatient.

A few bolder ones even went up to Calvin and craned their necks to take a look at the screen of his phone. "Wow, he really transferred eight million dollars! I saw it! This person really transferred eight million to Calvin's bank account!"

The customers gathered around immediately exclaimed in astonishment.

There were many families in the county who had assets worth more than 15 million dollars, but there were very few who had enough liquid funds to casually take out 8 million dollars.

Even the direct descendants of the top families in Orange County were not that financially powerful!

The vast majority of people would have invested most of their money in their family businesses or in stocks, funds, or other financial products. They wouldn't leave it in the bank and accrue a meager amount of interest.

Besides, the fact that Lucas could casually take out that sum of money was enough to show that they were just an insignificant portion of his savings account.

There were only two possibilities. One was that Lucas had terrible financial sense and didn't know how to make his money grow itself. The other was that he was incredibly wealthy, so much so that he had more than enough not to bother about the eight million dollars!

With these thoughts in mind, Calvin couldn't help but inhale sharply as a wave of chilliness struck his teeth.

He didn't think that such a wealthy person would have such bad financial literacy. So the truth should be that Lucas's wealth was unimaginable!

In fact, Calvin had really read too much into this.

The 8 million dollars were actually a portion of the 24 million that Lucas had recently won from Tony at Little Atlantis City.

Not to mention eight million dollars, even if Calvin asked for twice the amount, Lucas would have transferred the money to him without hesitation.

After seeing that Lucas had transferred eight million dollars to Calvin, Charlotte and Cheyenne didn't seem to be surprised at all.

They had already known for a long time that Lucas had a powerful background and a massive amount of wealth. Although eight million dollars wasn't a small sum, it was indeed insignificant to Lucas.

However, William reacted much more differently. He widened his eyes in shock, unable to believe what he just heard!

His son-in-law, whom he had always thought was penniless, actually managed to casually transfer eight million dollars in cash. This was beyond imaginable for him!

The stranger thing was that Lucas had decided to use that money to buy the bathhouse all because William had been bullied and humiliated by the staff here!

This was such a generous move!

At this moment, William really wondered if he was dreaming because everything happening in front of him was too bizarre, outrageous, and unbelievable!

The crowd of onlookers was naturally amazed. On the other hand, Calvin, the person involved, turned as pale as a sheet.

Chapter 240: Acquiring the Bathhouse

Calvin casually said that he would sell the Ocean Bathhouse to Lucas if he could pay eight million dollars in cash right on the spot because he was initially certain that Lucas wouldn't be able to fork out such a large sum of money.

But the real owner of the bathhouse was the Taylors. Calvin was just the legally appointed person in charge of the bathhouse. How could he have the guts to sell it without permission?

Calvin knew for a fact that the Taylors definitely wouldn't spare him if he dared to sell the Ocean Bathhouse!

At this moment, a young lawyer in his twenties clad in a suit and holding a black briefcase entered the Ocean Bathhouse.

After he scanned the crowd, he walked straight to Joe and lowered his head respectfully. "Joe, this is the transfer agreement you asked us to prepare just now. The terms have been drafted, and this contract will take effect as soon as the transferor and transferee sign it."

Joe grabbed the document from the lawyer's hand, quickly looked through the contract terms, and then handed it to Lucas after ensuring that there were no problems. He said respectfully, "Mr. Gray, the contract has been prepared according to your orders. There are no problems. You may sign it."

Lucas took the transfer contract from Joe and said with a nod of satisfaction, "Good."

He then turned around to look at Calvin and said smilingly, “Mr. Pearce, what you said just now in front of everyone should still count, right? I’ve already transferred the money to you and drafted the contract. Take a look at it and sign your name.”

Calvin’s face was extremely sullen at this moment.

Large droplets of sweat appeared on his forehead as he stared at the contract in front of him in horror as if it was a ferocious beast.

Calvin definitely wouldn’t dare to sign that contract!

“Uh, Mr. Gray, I was just kidding. I don’t intend to sell this bathhouse,” Calvin said embarrassedly with an awful, forced smile.

Lucas stopped smiling and said coldly, “In that case, do your words mean nothing at all? I didn’t take it as a joke. I’ve already transferred eight million dollars to your bank account. Do you think I’m joking?”

Calvin hurriedly said, “I’ll transfer that money back to you now, not a single cent less!”

Calvin then took out his phone and fumbled around while anxiously trying to transfer the eight million dollars back to Lucas.

Lucas grabbed Calvin’s wrist to stop him before saying coldly, “I’ve already paid you the money. It’s now time for you to complete the sale to me.”

Then he took the transfer contract, quickly signed his name on it, and pushed it toward Calvin. “Mr. Pearce, it’s your turn now.”

Calvin gritted his teeth and roared, “I said I’m not going to sell it!”

At this moment, his eyes were full of fear, stemming from thinking about the Taylors.

As the person in charge of the Ocean Bathhouse, Calvin knew very well what it meant to the Taylors, especially with the illegal business secretly being run on the top floor. He definitely couldn't let the bathhouse land in the hands of an outsider, or else the Taylors would certainly kill him!

Thus, no matter what, Calvin didn't dare to sign his name on the transfer contract.

Lucas slightly narrowed his eyes that were full of impatience and annoyance.

Joe instantly understood what Lucas meant. He shot a glance at the bodyguards behind him, and the both of them walked over and grabbed Calvin's arm.

"What are you doing? What are you trying to do?" Calvin hollered in fear and anger.

Joe chuckled. "Mr. Pearce, I think we should go to a private room to talk about this matter!"

Then the two bodyguards held Calvin down like he was a prisoner and dragged him into a small room nearby before he could even say anything.

Soon, Joe came out of the room, holding the signed transfer contract. He then handed it to Lucas with both hands. "Mr. Gray, the procedures have been completed. You are now the new owner of the Ocean Bathhouse."

Lucas nodded and said politely to the surrounding customers, who were overwhelmed with astonishment, "Dear guests, the incident today has affected your experience at our bathhouse. As the new owner of the Ocean Bathhouse, I hereby apologize and thank you for your support!"

"Our staff will give you each a small gift as a token of our apology later. At the same time, we also hope that you will patronize the Ocean Bathhouse frequently in the future! However, I hope you won't spout nonsense about what happened today."

The customers present nodded in agreement. “Sure, you’re so generous, Mr. Gray. We definitely won’t spout any nonsense.”

“Yeah, Mr. Gray bought this bathhouse for eight million dollars, and all the legal procedures have been completed. Who is to say anything?”

In fact, the crowd had already made many guesses about Lucas’s identity as soon as he had paid the eight million dollars in cash. Since then, they were sure that Lucas was definitely not an ordinary good-for-nothing and that he definitely had incredible power!

Seeing that Lucas had dealt with Calvin so quickly and even became the new owner of the bathhouse, they knew that the methods he had resorted to, as well as what happened in that small room, were definitely far beyond the limits of their imagination.

Likewise, they wouldn’t dare to spread a word about what happened today, lest they provoked Lucas and ended up having to bear severe consequences.

Satisfied with the dramatic scene they had watched and Lucas’s efforts to appease them by giving them valuable gifts, they all dispersed and returned to the bathing rooms, massage rooms, and lounge from where they had come.

Only the former employees of the Ocean Bathhouse, such as the two beautiful receptionists, the security guards who had wanted to attack Lucas with electric batons, and Perry, all stood up with looks of shock and fright.

The receptionist who had slandered William had already turned as pale as a sheet, and her legs were limp. She had despair and hopelessness written all over her face. She was well aware that since Lucas was now the owner, he definitely wouldn’t let her continue working at the bathhouse!

The other beautiful receptionist also looked anxious, afraid that she would be implicated and end up getting fired by Lucas too.

On the other hand, after carefully looking at Lucas for a few moments, Perry smiled and walked toward him subserviently. He bent over and said politely, “Mr. Gray, I’m really sorry for what I did just now! Please forgive me! Do you have any other orders now? Let me know, and I’ll get it done immediately!”

His attitude had changed really quickly.

But Lucas merely glanced at him coldly and said indifferently, “I won’t keep an employee like you around. Go to finance to collect your final pay!”