

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 261

### Chapter 261: The Person Who Sneakily Took Photos

The young man, who seemed to be a famous paparazzi in the county, scurried away quickly. But after covering only a short distance, he discovered that a tall and phantom-like figure had appeared in front of him to block him from leaving.

“Still trying to run, huh?”

The young man was flabbergasted because the person in front of him was the same person he had been secretly snapping photos of!

A few seconds ago, this person was clearly more than ten meters behind him, yet he was standing in front of him in the blink of an eye. How did he do it?!

Having been discovered and even stopped by the person he was secretly snapping photos of, the young man got a little nervous and gritted his teeth. He then barked in a menacing voice, “Why are you stopping me? Get lost!”

Lucas sneered and pointed at the camera the young man was holding. He asked indifferently, “You’ve been tailing me all afternoon, so you must have taken a lot of pictures, right? Did you think no one could discover you when you’re so clumsy?”

Knowing that he had done something wrong, the young man gripped onto his camera tightly and argued, “What nonsense are you saying? Who tailed you and sneakily took pictures of you? I was just taking pictures of the scenery in the

amusement park! There's no rule against taking pictures here. You're poking your nose too far into someone else's business!"

"Is that so? Let me see your camera then." Lucas reached out to grab the camera in the young man's hand.

While trying to hide the camera behind him, the young man yelled loudly, "Damn it! Are you trying to rob me in broad daylight?"

Many tourists nearby, who were unaware of the truth, immediately looked over.

The young man was hoping to attract the attention of the passersby by yelling loudly and get them to come over so that Lucas wouldn't be able to snatch the camera from him.

But he didn't expect Lucas to ignore his yelling. Besides, as an ordinary person, he obviously couldn't stop Lucas, who had excellent reflexes.

The next second, Lucas had already gotten hold of the camera.

"Hurry up and give it back to me! Or else I'll call the police!" With a look of horror and panic, the young man whipped out his phone and threatened Lucas.

"Go ahead and call the police, as long as you're not afraid of being arrested yourself," Lucas was not scared at all, and his indifferent words immediately made the young man freeze on the spot.

The young man clearly knew what he had done. If the police got involved, he would be the one in trouble!

Soon, Lucas opened the man's camera and saw the pictures he had secretly snapped.

In almost every picture, Lucas and Charlotte were photographed on the various rides of the amusement park, with Charlotte looking up at Lucas gleefully most of the time. There were also many photos of them walking side by side.

There were at least 200 photos in the camera, all of which were taken soon after they entered the amusement park until they were about to leave just now.

Apart from some blurry and out-of-focus shots, the angles they were photographed from were just right. If an outsider didn't know how they were related and saw these photos, they would definitely think that he and Charlotte were a couple in love.

"That's mine. Quickly return it to me!" the young man hollered but lacked confidence.

The gaze in Lucas's eyes was icy cold, and a mere glance from him caused the young man to shudder in fear and not dare to continue speaking.

He had spent the entire afternoon secretly taking photos of Lucas, who had been kind and gentlemanly toward Charlotte. But after the brief eye contact made with Lucas, the young man was overwhelmed with immense fear as he felt as if he was facing a terrifying and menacing beast!

The young man realized that he had very likely provoked a big shot he couldn't afford to offend!

But since he had already done so, it was too late to regret it!

"Tell me who sent you to come take photos of us secretly?" Lucas asked indifferently while tossing the camera up and down in his hand twice.

“No one! I-I’m a photographer, and I was just taking some random photos of the amusement park! Quick, return the camera to me!” The young man refused to admit he had been taking photos of Lucas without permission.

Lucas sneered, pulled out the camera’s memory card, and crushed it into pieces in front of the young man.

“Ah! My memory card!” The young man immediately shrieked and wailed. The memory card being destroyed meant that the hundreds of photos stored inside were all gone! The photos he had taken after painstakingly spending most of the day finding the best angles to shoot from while hiding in trees and bushes were all gone!

“Compensate me for it! Compensate me!” The young man flew into a rage and charged toward Lucas while waving his fists to try and punch him.

But an ordinary person like him, who had never trained in martial arts before, was just like a weak chicken in front of Lucas. Lucas turned around to dodge and kicked him at the bend of his legs. He barely applied any force, but he managed to send the young man flying far and falling hard onto the ground.

“You... you snatched my camera and even attacked me! I must call the police to arrest you!” Since the memory card had been ruined, and all the photographic evidence was destroyed, the young man had nothing to worry about anymore. While lying on the ground, he started cursing loudly.

Lucas sneered and walked over. Standing in front of the young man and looking down at him from above, he demanded, “Drop the pretense. Speak up. Who instigated you to take photos of us without permission? If you don’t tell me, I’ll make sure you can never be a photographer again!”

He raised a foot and stepped on the young man's right wrist. As long as he applied a little more force, his wrist would be crushed, and he would never be able to hold a camera again.

At first, the young man thought that Lucas was just boasting and trying to scare him, so he continued to curse while lying on the ground. Only when Lucas stepped harder on his wrist did he feel the sharp pain that made him feel overwhelmed with fear.

This person in front of him might really cripple his right hand!

At the thought of this, the young man broke out in cold sweat while his face turned pale. Without consideration for anything else, he frantically yelled, "I'll tell you! I'll tell you! Shortly after I had lunch, someone found the contact number of my photography studio and asked me to help take pictures of his wife and his wife's adulterous lover. He claimed that he wanted to collect evidence to sue you two for adultery! He gave me three thousand dollars and even promised to give me another fifteen thousand once he got the photos! That's all I know!"

Fearing that Lucas would really crush his wrist in a fit of anger, the young man spilled the beans and came clean about everything in a single breath.

When Lucas heard the words 'wife' and 'adultery', his face became even more gloomy. He continued to probe, "Who's the person who looked for you?"

On the brink of tears, the young man said, "I have no idea. He sent me a text message and was very quick to transfer the deposit of three thousand, so I trusted that he would fulfill his promise and came here to take photos of you two. As for the rest, I really have no idea!"

Afraid that Lucas wouldn't believe him, the young man hurriedly pulled out his phone and showed Lucas the chat history and transfer record.

“Look, I’m telling the truth. I’m not lying to you!” the young man exclaimed pitifully.

Lucas noted down the number of the person who had sent the young man the message and finally moved his foot away from the latter’s wrist while dumping his camera onto the ground. “I’ll let you off this time. But if you dare to do something like this again, the consequences will be heavier than this.”

“I won’t dare to! I won’t dare to do it again! Thank you, sir!” The young man hurriedly picked up the camera and scrambled away in a panic as if he had received a pardon.

Meanwhile, Lucas took out his phone and called someone. After informing the person of the phone number, he said, “Find out who owns this number!”

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter

### **Chapter 262: Another Scuffle**

In fact, Lucas already had an idea about who the mastermind was, but he just needed some evidence to prove it.

Ever since he had returned to Orange County and took over the Stardust Corporation, there had secretly been a lot of unrest.

In particular, after Flynn had appointed Charlotte as the deputy general manager, Oliver Harvey, the director of the sales department at the time, stood out and vehemently opposed it. He even produced a large stack of digitally-doctored photos that implied an illicit affair between Charlotte and Flynn.

After the conspiracy was uncovered, Flynn fired Harvey from the company, and Harvey committed suicide by jumping off the building. A large number of media outlets quickly caught up to cover as much information as possible. They even misled the audience and caused the Stardust Corporation to face a major controversy and become the target of public criticism for a long time. Even until now, it still wasn't peaceful.

Lucas later found out that the person who secretly instigated or threatened Harvey into taking his own life was Dave Lewis, who worked for the Huttons. Shortly after Lucas found him, he died of a heart attack in his own home.

Although the trail of clues had been broken, Lucas was certain that the mastermind must be someone from the Huttons.

Later on, the Stardust Corporation became independent of the Huttons, and word about it gradually spread. Thus, many families in Orange County thought that the Stardust Corporation had been abandoned by the Huttons and was no longer as powerful as before. This resulted in plenty of trouble.

Coupled with today's incident of Declan going to the Stardust Corporation to hold Charlotte hostage and threatening to jump to his death, Lucas was sure that someone had instigated him. It was also very likely that the Huttons were the mastermind.

The matter of the paparazzi taking photos without permission could also be part of the plan.

They only had two agendas for doing so. One was to kill Lucas, and the other was to destroy the Stardust Corporation.

Lucas was well aware of this.

He didn't intend to go back to the Huttons, but some of the Huttons were extremely wary of him, and they tried all sorts of methods to suppress him and even get him killed.

Lucas didn't care, nor was he afraid of those who were trying to kill him, be it in private or public. But the Stardust Corporation was the only thing that his mother had left behind for him, so no matter what, he wouldn't tolerate them touching the Stardust Corporation!

With a sharp and cold gaze in his eyes, Lucas raised his head and looked distantly in the direction of the DC. "Hmph, I don't care who you really are. As long as you dare to reach your hand here, I don't mind chopping it off!"



When Lucas reached the amusement park entrance, he saw Charlotte waiting here for him worriedly.

“Lucas, what did you lose? Did you find it?” she asked curiously.

Lucas took out a bunch of keys from his pocket and said with a faint smile, “I accidentally lost my keys. Fortunately, I didn’t drop them too far away.”

Charlotte grinned and teased, “I thought that you were invincible. It turns out there are times when you’re careless and end up losing your keys too! Haha!”

Lucas didn’t bother to explain. He merely nodded and said, “Yeah, so you can’t be careless like me. Okay, it’s getting late. Let’s go pick up Amelia and go home!”

Charlotte nodded happily. Soon, the two of them got into Lucas’s Jaguar and sped off toward Amelia’s kindergarten.

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At this moment, in a luxurious villa of the Huttons far away in DC...

A young man in his twenties was reclining on a soft leather sofa with a sullen expression.

There was a man in his thirties wearing a suit standing in front of him with his head hung low. The man was standing quietly with great respect, not even daring to raise his hand to wipe the cold sweat covering his forehead.

“So, your plans have failed?” the young man asked slowly without any emotion in his voice.

The man in the suit immediately got down on both knees and pleaded, “Mr. Leighton, I failed to get the task done well. I’m incompetent! We initially found a perfect candidate, and we told him to force Lucas to jump to his death. But to our surprise, he merely pretended to jump. He even caught the person we instigated. I didn’t want to risk having that person spout any nonsense about this, so I’ve sent someone to get rid of him. We definitely won’t be implicated!

“However, I’ve indeed failed to complete the task well. Please punish me, Mr. Leighton!” The man in the suit pressed his forehead against the carpet.

Edward Leighton glanced at him uninterestedly. “What’s the point of reprimanding you and punishing you at this point? You’d better think of another solution to get rid of that person.”

Seeing that Edward didn’t hold it against him, the man in the suit breathed a long sigh of relief. He then raised his head from the ground and said, “Actually, it’s not that difficult to get rid of Lucas Gray. I’ll send a few of my elite assassins. I’m sure we’ll be able to kill him without anyone realizing!”

Edward snorted coldly in disdain. “Dimwit! If it was that easy, why would I need you to think of a solution? Sending hitmen to assassinate him is too straightforward and crude. Grandpa will definitely find out. When he does, neither you nor I will be able to get away scot-free!

“Besides, it’d be too easy for him if we just let him die like that! Doesn’t the Stardust Corporation mean the world to him because he thinks it’s something precious his mother left behind for him? In that case, I’m going to destroy it bit by bit so that he can watch it get destroyed while being unable to do anything about it!”

There was a cold gaze of resentment and viciousness in Edward’s eyes.

The man in the suit shuddered and hurriedly said with his head hung low, “Yes, Mr. Leighton, I understand! I will definitely adhere to your orders and think of a way to destroy the Stardust Corporation!”

Edward finally glanced at the man in the suit and said with a faint smile on his face, “That’s what you said yourself. Within a month, I want the Stardust Corporation to be completely destroyed! Otherwise, there’s no need for you to continue living in this world.”

The man in the suit shivered violently. Kneeling on one knee, he answered loudly, “Yes!”

...

Orange County...

Soon after Lucas arrived at the kindergarten with Charlotte and picked Amelia up, he received a call from Jordan.

“Lucas, I’ve checked up on that phone number you gave me. It belongs to an unregistered SIM card that can be bought off the market. The identity bound to it doesn’t serve any purpose. We’ve also tracked the positioning according to the network information, and it shows that the user threw the phone into a garbage bin. For the time being, there’s no other useful information. It was clearly premeditated.”

“Okay.” In fact, the outcome was within Lucas’s expectations. Since the other party was so conscientious that he had concealed his identity and even chose to contact the photography studio via text message, he definitely did so because he didn’t want to leave any clues.

“One more thing. Declan Adams regained consciousness in the hospital, but he suddenly went berserk before the police could interrogate him. He then jumped out of the window of the hospital ward and has already... fallen to his death.

“After that, the police and forensic pathologists recovered a tiny metal monitoring device from his left ear canal. The police are still investigating to find out if he heard any instructions through that device before his death.”

## Chapter 263: Please Come With Us

Lucas frowned.

He didn't expect Declan to die despite being in police custody.

But there were definitely potential loopholes everywhere. If it was really the doing of the force that Lucas guessed, the police would likely be defenseless and unable to guard against their actions.

But Declan's death was not in vain. At the very least, Lucas was now certain that the mastermind who instigated Declan was more likely than not one of the Huttons or someone under them.

Otherwise, Declan wouldn't have died so easily.

"Okay, I know."

Lucas was about to hang up the phone when he noticed in the rearview mirror that there were several inconspicuous cars tailing his car. Their intentions were unclear, but he knew that they had to be up to no good.

He frowned. *They're really everywhere. How annoying!*

He wondered who sent these people to tail him.

They actually waited at his daughter's kindergarten and subsequently shadowed him. It was obviously a provocation!

With a trace of murderous intent in his eyes, Lucas hung up the phone and quickly made another call. “Come to Amelia’s kindergarten immediately!”

Lucas parked his car by the roadside and acutely discovered that the few cars tailing behind also pulled over nearby. He sneered.

Shortly after, the tall and brawny Wade appeared in front of Lucas.

Charlotte, who was holding Amelia in her arms and chatting with her in the backseat, was stunned to see Wade.

As soon as Wade saw Lucas and Charlotte, he lowered his head and sincerely apologized, “Sorry, Mr. Gray. I failed to protect Miss Charlotte in the afternoon and ended up causing her to be frightened. Please punish me!”

Lucas had specially sent him to protect Charlotte. But in the end, Charlotte was held hostage by the deranged Declan, who even forcefully brought her to the roof of the Stardust Corporation office building, where she almost fell to her death. Wade was laden with guilt and self-reproach.

Lucas knew that although he had ordered Wade to protect Charlotte secretly, Wade would generally only protect her when she was at the office or at home. He naturally couldn’t follow her and stay by her side 24 hours a day.

Lucas shook his head. “What happened today has nothing to do with you. But from now on, you must be more cautious and protect her as well as you can. Otherwise, there’s no need for me to keep you around.”

Lucas’s words were not too stern or harsh, but they made Wade’s heart skip a beat. It was obvious what Lucas meant—if Wade couldn’t do his job well as a bodyguard, Lucas would no longer need him, and he would have no choice but to leave. That was something that Wade could never tolerate!

“Mr. Gray, I promise that I will do my best to protect Miss Charlotte as much as I can. What happened today will not occur again in the future!” Wade hurriedly guaranteed.

Lucas merely chided Wade a little and didn’t intend to punish him. Seeing that he was much more conscientious now, he nodded. “I still have some things to take care of now. Take both of them home.”

Since Lucas discovered that someone was following him, he planned to let Charlotte drive home together with Amelia. But he was worried that someone would harm them. Charlotte was a vulnerable girl while Amelia was a five-year-old child. In case something terrible really happened to them, Lucas would definitely regret it!

So he called Wade over and asked him to send them home.

This was how meticulous and cautious Lucas was.

Charlotte also sensed that something was amiss and asked worriedly, “Lucas, have you encountered trouble? Should we call the police?”

Amelia was also influenced by Charlotte’s nervousness, and she stared at Lucas with worry in her large eyes. “Daddy...”

Lucas stroked Amelia’s soft hair and smiled. “I’m alright. I just have a few things to take care of at the office. Be good and stay in the car with Aunt Charlotte. This muscular uncle will take you home.”

He turned to say to Charlotte comfortingly, “It’s alright. I just happen to have some things to handle. I’d feel more at ease with Wade sending you home.”

Charlotte finally felt relieved. Holding Amelia in her arms, she said, “Okay, be careful and come home early!”

“Yeah, got it.”

Lucas opened the car door and got out. After watching Wade get into the driver's seat and drive the black Jaguar far away, he finally looked away and walked toward the few small cars parked closely behind him.

The people in the cars seemed to be waiting for Lucas. When they saw him approaching, they immediately opened the car doors and got out to surround Lucas. There were more than ten of them, and they were rather burly.

They were obviously extraordinary bodyguards, especially since they were so large and muscular.

Lucas raised his eyebrows and asked nonchalantly, "Who sent you?"

The bald bodyguard, who was their leader, glanced at Lucas in surprise.

In his opinion, the vast majority of people would panic and look nervous when suddenly surrounded by more than ten burly men. Yet Lucas remained composed and didn't show the slightest trace of fear.

The bald bodyguard stopped being as contemptuous as he was when he first saw how lean Lucas was. "Mr. Gray, please come with us, and you will naturally find out who the person who sent us is."

He extended his arm and pointed at a Volkswagen Passat with a door opened, gesturing for Lucas to get inside.

After taking a glance at him, Lucas stepped foot into the Passat without saying a word or showing too much emotion. His actions were so natural that he was like their boss.

The bald bodyguard's cheeks twitched a little. He couldn't help but feel a sense of admiration for Lucas's ability to stay cool and collected.

About half an hour later, the car pulled over at a clubhouse called Snowflake Entertainment.



The bodyguards asked Lucas to get out and then surrounded him again before taking him to the entrance of one of the most luxurious private rooms on the top floor.

“Boss, Mr. Lucas Gray is here,” the bald bodyguard reported from the doorway.

“Let him in!” A familiar voice came from inside the private room.

Lucas raised his eyebrows. He could recognize the voice.

It belonged to Preston Taylor, the most successful descendant of the Taylors and the one most likely to succeed as the next helmsman of the family. He was also the former owner of the Ocean Bathhouse. Lucas had just met him this morning and extorted a compensation of three million dollars from him.

Lucas was waiting for the Taylors to come looking for him, but he didn’t expect Preston to be so impatient as to resort to such a method to ‘invite’ him over.

Watching Lucas step into the private room, Preston, who was sitting on the innermost couch, snorted coldly with a fake smile. “Lucas Gray, I’ve finally invited you to my turf.”

Preston deliberately emphasized the word ‘turf’ because he wanted to clap back at Lucas for saying that the Ocean Bathhouse was his turf in the morning and forcing him to compensate him.

“In that case, are you trying to take revenge on me now, Mr. Taylor?” While speaking, Lucas didn’t show the slightest bit of fear at all. He sat down on a random couch across from Preston.

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 264

### Chapter 264: Return It to the Taylors

When Preston saw how bold and fearless Lucas was, his facial muscles twitched a little as he gritted his teeth with great resentment and viciousness in his eyes.

With a hypocritical grin, he said, “Hehe, why would I do that? Since I invited you here, I naturally have something to discuss with you.”

He thought he had hidden his intentions well. But being a sharp and shrewd person, Lucas had long seen through Preston.

“Mr. Taylor, don’t beat around the bush with me. If you have anything to say, just say it.” Lucas couldn’t be bothered to exchange hypocritical pleasantries with him. He simply leaned against the couch and got straight to the point.

Seeing Lucas taking the lead in the conversation, Preston was displeased, and his face immediately turned dark.

He waved his hand, and the few scantily clad beauties sitting beside him immediately walked out of the room.

Soon, only Lucas, Preston, and a burly man who followed Preston wherever he went were the only ones left in the large private room.

Lucas glanced at the burly man and found that his muscles were bulging from underneath his clothes. He was brawny, the skin above his joints was all covered in calluses, and his temples were also slightly bulging. He was obviously a powerful elite personal bodyguard of Preston's.

But he was powerful only in comparison to ordinary people. In Lucas's opinion, this bodyguard was mediocre and far inferior to Stanley Ray, so he quickly looked away uninterestedly.

"Lucas Gray, I asked you about your background in the Ocean Bathhouse this morning, but you refused to tell me. However, we're in a modern society now, and it's a piece of cake for me to find out who you are!

"Six years ago, you were just a poor college student who got embroiled in a scandal with Cheyenne Carter, and subsequently, you became a live-in son-in-law of the Carters. But you soon went missing to go join the military for six years. You were discharged only recently, and then you returned to Orange County, am I right?"

Preston stared at Lucas austerely as he spoke. At the same time, he was also closely observing Lucas's expression to try and find some traces of panic or nervousness.

But he was disappointed because Lucas merely remained sitting without even frowning, as if Preston was talking about an irrelevant person.

"Hmph, I also discovered that you're one of the Huttons, so you should have been named Lucas Hutton. Unfortunately, you and your mother were both kicked out, and you can't even keep your family name! I'm right about that, aren't I?" There was a gloating gaze in Preston's eyes.

Logically speaking, it was unlikely for the Taylors to have found out about the family affairs of the Huttons and the incident that happened more than two decades

ago. But it could be that the Huttons also utterly detested Lucas and thus told the person who the Taylors sent to scout for information everything about Lucas.

Initially, Preston was astonished after hearing that Lucas was a descendant of the Huttons while also feeling a little scared. After all, the Huttons were one of the eight top families in DC, and they owned businesses in various industries all over the country. They could really be considered a whale. If he confronted Hutton, Preston wouldn't be the only one in trouble, as he would implicate the rest of the Taylors too.

But Preston soon learned that Lucas, this so-called member of the Huttons, wasn't even considered one of them. He not only wouldn't be able to get any help from the Huttons, but he had even ended up offending many of them. He was really considered an abandoned member of the Huttons who had no support or backer!

If Preston could go against Lucas and suppress him, he might be able to win the favor of the Huttons, and it was even possible for him to build connections with the aloof Huttons!

When Preston thought of this, there was even more smugness on his face.

Lucas naturally knew that Preston must have had some help and encouragement from some people since he could find out so much about him. But Lucas wasn't afraid at all.

There was no need to let someone like Preston know about the truth and whether or not he had been abandoned. Lucas felt that he would just keep it to himself.

"Did you investigate my background and identity just to show off your subordinates' great potential for becoming paparazzi?" Lucas mocked indifferently.

Preston choked in exasperation and sneered. “Hmph, Lucas Gray, stop trying to play tricks by being a slick talker to me! Who are you to go against the Taylors? Listen up. I’m not a bumpkin like Joe who hasn’t seen much of the world. I won’t be intimidated by your scaremongering words!”

“Oh, is that so? What do you want then?” Lucas asked indifferently, seemingly not giving a hoot about Preston’s threats.

Preston felt like his attempts to intimidate Lucas failed every single time, and he felt no sense of accomplishment at all. Instead, he ended up being furious.

Lucas Gray is atrocious!

He’s just a punk who got kicked out of the Huttons when he was a child. Without no family backing him, how can he still be arrogant in front of the Taylors?

Preston slammed his hand hard on the coffee table while hollering viciously, “Hmph, Lucas Gray, since you don’t know any better, I won’t waste my breath on you. At the end of the day, the Ocean Bathhouse is a property of the Taylors. Calvin Pearce was just the owner-in-name. He doesn’t have the right to sell the bathhouse at all! So if you’re smart enough, give the Ocean Bathhouse back to me, and I can pretend that nothing has happened!”

As if to play along with Preston, the burly bodyguard took a step forward to approach Lucas while trying to appear as intimidating as possible.

Lucas smirked and stood up relaxedly. He then picked up a dice from the table, fiddled with it in his hand, and said with a faint smile, “In that case, are you thinking of snatching the Ocean Bathhouse away from me?”

“I’m not snatching it. I want you to return it to me!” Preston hollered smugly with great righteousness as he leaned against the couch.

The situation now was different from the morning. Lucas was now on the turf of Preston, who also had an extremely powerful bodyguard by his side. There were at least dozens of other henchmen outside, so Preston was confident that Lucas wouldn't turn him down!

"I see." Lucas smiled faintly and suddenly flicked the dice that he was fiddling with.

Whoosh!

The dice suddenly emitted a loud sound as it shuttled through the air. It then struck the spot on the wall beside Preston's head with a loud bang.

"Waah!" Preston was so frightened that he shuddered, shrieked in horror, and sprang up from the couch.

The bodyguard beside him also shielded him as if they were facing a great enemy.

The two of them stared at the spot in the wall, dumbfounded.

They saw that a huge hole had formed on the wall above the couch where Preston had sat, which was originally covered in beautiful wallpaper. There were also several cracks in the hard concrete wall around the hole, which spread all over the wall!

There was an extremely ordinary dice embedded in the center of that deep hole in the wall!

"Mr. Taylor, what did you just say? I didn't get to hear you clearly," Lucas said indifferently as he leaned back on the couch with a smile.

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 265

### Chapter 265: Small Request

Preston's face was naturally extremely gloomy at this point.

Lucas was clearly trying to intimidate him!

It was just an ordinary dice, but the power that emerged from Lucas's hand when he threw it was not inferior to the power contained in a bullet shot from a gun!

Besides, the dice Lucas shot had landed near Preston's head. If Lucas had intended to kill Preston, he would have probably been shot in the head by now!

At the thought of this, Preston felt his entire body's hair stand on end, and cold sweat rapidly seeped out of his pores, making him chilly all over.

And Preston's elite bodyguard was also overwhelmed with shock.

As a bodyguard, he should protect his employer's safety in any emergency situation.

But the speed of the dice Lucas shot out just now was so quick that it wasn't visible to the naked eye. In fact, he only figured out what happened after hearing the terse and sharp sound of the dice shuttling through the air, followed by the loud bang.

He couldn't even react in time, let alone protect his employer, Preston, from the dice full of thunderous power that had traveled at lightning speed.

The elite bodyguard subconsciously touched the bulge on his waist, where there was clearly a hidden weapon. Lucas guessed that it was probably a pistol, and as soon as Preston gave the order, he would immediately pull it out and aim it at Lucas.

But a pistol was just like a toy to Lucas. It didn't scare or deter him at all.

So Lucas was still smiling calmly and sitting on the couch, as if he hadn't noticed the bodyguard's actions at all.

"Stand down!" Preston clenched his jaw and hollered loudly. Only then did his bodyguard put his hand down indignantly and retreated to stand behind Preston.

Seeing the calm expression on Lucas's face, Preston forced himself to smile, and his attitude changed drastically. "Mr. Gray, I forgot to mention something just now. I'm not asking you to return the Ocean Bathhouse to me for free. Since you spent eight million dollars to acquire it, I'll give you sixteen million now. I promise you won't suffer any losses. What do you say?"

Lucas shook his head. "Return to you? Mr. Taylor, you must have misunderstood! I bought the Ocean Bathhouse with cash, and all the legal procedures for the purchase have been completed. What do you mean 'return it to you'?"

Curbing his anger, Preston clenched his jaw. "I shall rephrase my words. I'll buy the bathhouse back from you at twice the original sale price!"

"No." Lucas shook his head without hesitation.



“Triple the price! I’ll buy the bathhouse at three times what you paid!” Preston increased the offer. “Lucas Gray, you purchased the Ocean Bathhouse from Calvin Pearce at only eight million, and within a day, you’re going to earn sixteen million if you accept my offer. This isn’t a deal that comes by all the time!”

In fact, Preston was anguished, as he felt the pinch of having to pay so much.

He was in charge of the Ocean Bathhouse in the first place, and the businesses run in the bathhouse, especially the one on the top floor, was indispensable for the Taylors. Yet Calvin had sold it to Lucas at a low price of eight million dollars!

The Ocean Bathhouse was extremely important for the Taylors, and even more so for Preston! If the old fogies of the family who had always been against him found out, they would definitely strip him of his position as the successor!

Therefore, Preston had to get the Ocean Bathhouse back before the rest of the Taylors found out!

At first, he wanted to force Lucas to hand over the Ocean Bathhouse, but he was intimidated by the scene when Lucas shot the dice. So if he wanted to get the bathhouse back now, he would have to be resolute and buy it back with cash!

As for the extra 16 million dollars, he would have to fork it out of his own pocket.

16 million dollars!

The thought of giving away such a large amount of money to Lucas for nothing made Preston feel extremely devastated!

But the 16 million dollars that made Preston extremely upset was nothing to Lucas.

Not to mention the immeasurable wealth that Lucas had, Tony Zander had recently given Lucas 24 million dollars for nothing. So Lucas really didn't care for this 16 million dollars.

"No. Even if you pay me five or ten times the price I paid, I won't sell it to you. I'm sure you know better than me the exact value of the Ocean Bathhouse." Lucas shook his head adamantly.

Preston played dumb and said, "It's just a bathhouse. How much value can it have? The only reason I want it back is because it's the place that built the Taylors' family fortune. Mr. Gray, if you're interested in such entertainment joints, how about I trade Snowflake Entertainment for the Ocean Bathhouse? This deal will definitely guarantee you a profit!"

Lucas sneered in derision. "Mr. Taylor, let's be open and aboveboard. The Ocean Bathhouse is different from other entertainment joints, and we both know it. Otherwise, why would you be so insistent on getting it back?"

When Preston heard this, his eyelids twitched.

Actually, many members of the county's upper class were aware of the business being run on the top floor of the Ocean Bathhouse. Otherwise, how did their clientele come about?

But Preston didn't expect that Lucas, a person he thought was of insignificant status, would find out about it and even harp on it insistently.

"Lucas Gray, since you're already aware of it, you should know how important it is to the Taylors. I will lay my cards on the table. What exactly do you want before you are willing to hand over the Ocean Bathhouse to me?" Preston glared at Lucas. If he wasn't afraid of Lucas's impressive feat, he would have long told his bodyguard to kill Lucas!

Lucas tilted his head and smiled. “Actually, I’m not trying to be greedy and rip you off. To be honest, I only have a small request. As long as you agree, I can return the Ocean Bathhouse to you for free.”

“Do you mean it?” Preston was overjoyed, but he soon sensed that something was amiss. He reckoned that if it was a request that could make Lucas give up easily obtaining a profit of millions of dollars, it mustn’t be a simple one.

“What is your request? If you raise something that I can’t fulfill or is far beyond my means, wouldn’t that be a waste of breath?” Preston asked conscientiously.

Lucas smiled faintly. “I have a simple request, and it’s definitely something that you can fulfill. I’m very interested in the business that the Taylors are running on the top floor of the Ocean Bathhouse. As long as you help me recommend some business, I’ll give the Ocean Bathhouse to you for free. How does that sound?”

“What?!” Preston never expected that to be Lucas’s request!

## **Chapter 266: Gunshot**

“No!” Preston refused resolutely. “This isn’t a small business. We’ve monopolized it in Orange County! If I recommend some clients to you, won’t I be giving the Taylors a competitor for no reason?”

Lucas shook his head. “I naturally won’t run this business in Orange County and become your competitor.”

After giving it some thought, Preston still didn’t believe Lucas. “Your roots are all in Orange County. Why should I believe that you would leave this county and go elsewhere to run this business.”

Lucas shrugged. “It’s up to you to believe me or not. Mr. Taylor, please get your facts right. I’m doing you a favor by asking you to recommend clients to me. Besides, I don’t want to fall out with the Taylors either. To put it bluntly, the Ocean Bathhouse is in my hands now, and so are those beautiful women. Even if I take over the business directly now, what can you do to me?”

Lucas’s words made Preston’s face turn gloomy again.

But this was really what the current situation was like. Since that bastard Calvin had presumptuously sold the Ocean Bathhouse, Lucas was the dominant party. Since Preston wanted the bathhouse back, he would have to be led by the nose by Lucas. This made Preston furious.

His face was unsightly and hostile.

Lucas stood up and said casually, “Think this over properly and give me a firm answer before ten tonight. Otherwise, I will change my mind tomorrow, and the Ocean Bathhouse will belong to me forever.”

With that, he turned around and walked toward the door of the private room.

“Hold it!” Preston bellowed in exasperation. The bodyguard beside him immediately drew the pistol from his waist and aimed the muzzle at Lucas.

Lucas turned around, glanced at the bodyguard and the pistol he was holding, and then turned to look at Preston again. He sneered. “Mr. Taylor, what do you mean by this?”

“Lucas Gray, surely you don’t really think that I invited you here to negotiate the terms and let you bargain with me, do you? Don’t forget. The place where you are standing now is my turf!” Preston started behaving smugly as usual again and guffawed loudly. “As the future successor of the Taylors, what’s going to become of my reputation if I get threatened by a punk like you? It would be a huge embarrassment and insult to the Taylors!

“Punk, I wanted to be kind and buy the Ocean Bathhouse back from you with cash in a fair and peaceful manner. But you’re being too disrespectful to me! Who do you think you are? How dare you say you will give me a few hours to consider? Do you really think that I’m afraid of you?”

The resentment and anger that Preston had been curbing for a long time finally erupted, and he even felt that there was no need for him to be wary of Lucas and put up with his behavior previously. He decided to get his bodyguard to pull out his pistol and threaten Lucas to hand over the bathhouse. If Lucas refused to comply, he would just have Lucas killed! Anyway, it wasn’t like Preston hadn’t killed anyone before!

Lucas looked at Preston, who seemed to have gained confidence and was emboldened. “Do you really think you can threaten me with a tiny pistol?”

Preston narrowed his eyes and mocked contemptuously, “Yeah! I have a pistol, so you are destined to die! I’ve put up with you for a long time now. If you kneel down and apologize to me now, I will consider letting you leave this place in one piece. Otherwise, hmph, don’t blame me for being ruthless!”

“Is that so?” As soon as Lucas said this, he suddenly vanished from the spot in front of Preston and his bodyguard!

“Where is he?” Preston blurted, and his eyes widened in astonishment.

The bodyguard was shocked too. He had already aimed his gun at Lucas, yet Lucas vanished right on the spot without a trace!

But the next instant, a massive force struck Preston’s stomach!

“Argh!” Before Preston could even scream, he spat out a mouthful of bile!

Preston’s abdomen and internal organs seemed to have been shattered. He was in so much pain that he convulsed incessantly and curled up into a ball while hugging his abdomen. It took him a long time to wail loudly, “Ahhh! It hurts!”

The elite bodyguard was horrified, and he hurriedly aimed the muzzle of his pistol at Lucas and shot without hesitation.

Bang!

The bullet pierced through Lucas’s head and struck the wall near the door.

The bodyguard was just about to heave a sigh of relief when he found that Lucas, who should have collapsed after being shot by the bullet, suddenly appeared in front of him. Lucas raised his hand and swiftly snatched away the pistol with immense strength that the bodyguard couldn't resist.

Afterward, the bodyguard and Preston were horrified to find that the small but hard pistol looked just like a clay toy in Lucas's hands. He pinched the barrel and grip into a bizarre figure 8, and the entire pistol seemed to have become a ball of scrap metal!

Lucas actually managed to twist and distort the gun with his bare hands. This was simply beyond the imagination of Preston and his bodyguard!

The bodyguard was shocked, and a wave of dread surged in his heart!

I should have shot Lucas Gray in his head just now. How did he appear in front of me unscathed...

No!

He didn't manage to shoot Lucas at all. The bullet had merely pierced through Lucas's afterimage!

The young man is incredibly fast!

The bodyguard's eyes widened in horror, and he suddenly felt an astonishing chill in his heart.

Bang!

"Mr. Taylor, are you alright?"

The door of the private room suddenly opened violently from the outside, and more than ten burly bodyguards charged in. They were the same bodyguards who had brought Lucas here from the bathhouse.

They had been guarding outside the room and charged in when they heard the sudden gunshot. Although they were sure that the person who fired was definitely Preston or his personal bodyguard, they decided to rush in after a moment of hesitation.

The scene that appeared in front of them was very different from what they had imagined!

They initially thought that since the person who shot was one of the Taylors, the person wounded or even dead from the gunshot had to be the young man they had brought over.

But they never expected to see their employer, Preston, huddled up on the ground while clutching his stomach with cold sweat all over his forehead. He was in so much pain that he couldn't speak at all. Moreover, his personal bodyguard was standing still with a look of horror on his face, as if he had seen a ghost.

Yet the young man was standing unscathed in the room with a ball of scrap metal in his hands and staring smilingly at the bodyguards who just entered.



## Chapter 267: Can't Make Him Stay

*W-what's going on?*

The ten-odd bodyguards who barged in glared at Lucas like he was a great enemy.

On the ground, Preston gritted his teeth resentfully as he struggled to raise his head to look at the bodyguards and ordered, "Kill... kill him!"

The punch Lucas threw at his abdomen left Preston in so much pain that he was on the verge of throwing up all the food he had eaten for the past few days. The slightest movement made him feel intense pain in his stomach.

For the past few decades of his life, Preston had never been beaten up like this or suffered such a huge loss before!

If Lucas could still leave Preston's turf under the siege of so many bodyguards, Preston would be thoroughly embarrassed!

The ten-odd bodyguards and Preston's personal bodyguard acknowledged and immediately surrounded Lucas.

Lucas smiled coldly and raised his leg to kick the bald bodyguard who rushed in front of him, sending him flying!

“Ah!” The bald bodyguard let out a miserable cry as his body was propelled upward before slamming hard against the distant wall. He then bounced off the wall and crashed onto the glass coffee table.

It was the same for the other bodyguards. Each of them got kicked in the chest and sent flying. In just a few seconds, all of them were lying motionlessly on the ground and clutching their chests while wincing in pain. They couldn’t get up at all.

Even Preston’s personal bodyguard, whose proficiency in combat skills was better than ordinary bodyguards, was no match for Lucas at all. When facing Lucas, whose power was way above that of ordinary people, he couldn’t take a blow from him either. After taking a kick from Lucas, he spat out a mouthful of blood and laid motionlessly in the corner of the room, unable to get up at all.

Huddled on the ground, Preston stared at the scene in front of him with his eyeballs on the verge of falling out.

He didn’t expect that the numerous bodyguards he had hired for so much money would be that useless. Lucas kicked each of them away effortlessly, as though they were all inferior to ordinary people who didn’t know any combat skills.

“Good-for-nothings... Argh, all of you... a bunch of good-for-nothings!” Preston seethed and then let out a low, helpless roar of exasperation from his diaphragm.

*Bang!*

*Bang!*

Lucas walked towards Preston unhurriedly.

Preston had one side of his face lying against the ground, and his pupils constricted as he watched Lucas approach him bit by bit. He felt as if Lucas was a ferocious beast walking over toward him unhurriedly in a bid to rip apart his already defenseless prey.

He desperately wanted to huddle up and retreat back even more, but the space of the room was limited, and he couldn't move any farther because there was a large and heavy couch behind him.

“You... Don't come over... I-I'm the successor of the Taylors. If you dare to lay a finger on me, we won't let you off!”

Overwhelmed with fear, Preston broke out in a cold sweat and struggled to say something threatening while ignoring the pain in his chest and abdomen.

The pistol was useless against Lucas, who had even twisted and bent it into a ball of scrap metal, while the ten-odd bodyguards were completely defenseless when facing Lucas, like children who couldn't fight back. Preston no longer had anything to rely on, and he was truly scared at this point!

Seeing how cowardly and terrified Preston was, Lucas sneered and chuckled softly. Of course, he wouldn't choose to do something to him now. Rather, he just wanted him to understand that he was not to be threatened or held back by force.

Lucas stood in front of Preston and looked down at him condescendingly. “Mr. Taylor, do you still want to hold me back forcefully?”

“N-n-no! I wouldn't dare to!” Preston shook his head profusely. At this point, he was afraid that Lucas would kill him in a fit of anger, so how could he dare to continue to make things hard for Lucas?

“Okay, in that case, I can give you one more night to think about it. The condition I just raised will remain the same. Come to the Ocean Bathhouse at nine o'clock tomorrow morning and give me an answer. Do you understand?”

Preston obviously no longer dared to turn him down. He hurriedly nodded in a flustered manner.

Only when he saw Lucas leave the private room did he completely relax. His body was drenched in cold sweat, and he shivered several times.

While Preston was furious and aggrieved, Lucas called an Uber and returned to the villa in the middle of Pearl Lake.

At this time, the sky was already completely dark, and Cheyenne and her family had long since returned home.

“Lucas! You’re finally home!”

As soon as Lucas arrived home, Charlotte scurried out and held onto his arm while grinning widely. “Cheyenne cooked a lot of delicious food today to celebrate us escaping unscathed and returning unharmed!”

Feeling the warmth on his arm, Lucas subconsciously wanted to pull his arm away, but Cheyenne happened to hear the noise and walked to the front of the villa too.

“Lucas, you’re back!” The gaze in Cheyenne’s eyes flickered a little when she saw Charlotte hugging Lucas’s arm. But she soon walked forward with a beautiful smile and pulled Lucas away a little. “Hurry up and go wash your hands. Dinner is ready. We can dig in after you wash your hands.”

Lucas immediately said, “Okay.” He then quickly retracted his arm and hurriedly strode toward the bathroom.

Soon, all of them gathered at the dining table. Both Cheyenne and Charlotte were grateful that Lucas had saved Charlotte today, so they kept helping him to the food.

Seeing this scene, Karen was immediately displeased. “Hmph, you’re just a good-for-nothing who sponges off of us. Who are you to let my daughters help you to the food?”

Karen glared daggers at Lucas before yelling at her daughters in displeasure, “I’ve painstakingly raised the both of you, but I’ve never seen you helping me to food at all. Yet you’re so caring towards an outsider, huh?! You two are just ingrates!”

After hearing these words, Charlotte immediately flew into a rage. She had had such a dangerous encounter today, but Karen didn't even show her any concern!

Ever since that incident in the hotel restaurant, Charlotte had been completely disappointed in Karen, who had broken her heart.

But deep down, she still had a glimmer of hope that her mother cared about her.

So at first, she had thought that Karen wasn't aware of it. But she soon found Karen sitting on the couch and watching television, on which there were news subtitles about the incident that she was involved in at the Stardust Corporation today!

Feeling aggrieved, Charlotte asked, "Mom, why didn't you ask me what happened to me today?"

But to her surprise, Karen merely rolled her eyes at her while chewing on a snack before asking in displeasure, "What's there to ask? You came back in one piece, didn't you?"

Her words made Charlotte so furious that she almost questioned Karen if she was her biological mother.

She had never seen anyone like Karen who didn't show any concern for her daughter who had been held hostage and had almost fallen to her death from a great height! Karen's attitude was worse than that of a stranger!

Now, Charlotte and Cheyenne were just helping Lucas to the food to thank him for saving her life. Yet Karen started making such sarcastic remarks, leaving Charlotte speechless.

"Mom, Lucas saved my life today. Can't I help him to some food? Also, don't forget that you're now living in Lucas's villa. Why are you always so mean to him?" Charlotte asked in exasperation.

Karen immediately rolled her eyes again. “Hmph, bullshit! This good-for-nothing didn’t buy this villa. It was a gift from Ethan Sawyer!”

## **Chapter 268: Revealing The Truth**

In fact, Karen didn't know how the ostentatious and luxurious villa came about. But she subconsciously felt that Lucas was a good-for-nothing who certainly wouldn't be able to afford such a villa.

It happened that she had created a misunderstanding in front of Ethan during the banquet at the Intercontinental Hotel some time ago. She had mistakenly thought that Ethan wanted Charlotte to be his daughter-in-law, only to find out later that Lucas had inadvertently done the Sawyers a huge favor. Thus, Ethan had decided to give Lucas many hefty gifts, including a luxurious sports car and properties worth several million dollars.

So Karen also took it for granted that the villa was a gift to Lucas from Ethan.

Cheyenne couldn't stand it any longer. She clarified sternly, "Mom, Lucas bought this villa, and it has nothing to do with the Sawyers."

But Karen didn't believe her at all as she humphed in disdain. "Hmph, do you take me for a fool? Six years ago, he was just a penniless man who stole fifty thousand dollars from us while he was our live-in son-in-law! Now that he has returned from the military, he's suddenly able to afford a villa worth over a hundred million dollars. Who would believe that?"

When Lucas heard Karen once again accusing him of stealing 50,000 dollars from the Carters, his face turned gloomy.

Karen had mentioned that matter once when he had just returned to Orange County and went to the Carter residence to see Cheyenne. At the time, he had even explained it. But unfortunately, Cheyenne seemed to be the only person who

suspected that the truth might not be like what they thought. The rest of the Carters refused to believe him.

“Karen, shut up!” William flew into a rage, threw his cutlery onto the table, and said with a stern expression, “I must make things clear today so that Lucas will no longer be falsely accused of this!

“Six years ago, Lucas did borrow fifty thousand from me for the medical treatment of his seriously ill mother, who was hospitalized at the time. Unfortunately, he couldn’t make it in time to bring the money to the hospital, and his mother passed away before he arrived. He didn’t use the money and returned the entire sum to me on the very same night.”

William glanced at Karen. “You are aware of this matter too. Back then, you even had a huge fight with me because you were mad that I had lent the money to Lucas. You only shut up after you saw Lucas return all of it to me without a single cent less. Less than two days later, your nephew wanted to borrow money from you, and you lent it to him without even discussing it with me! Six years have passed, and till now, your nephew still hasn’t returned the money!

“After Lucas left at that time, we encountered all sorts of problems, including some financial difficulties. But you couldn’t tell Cheyenne and Charlotte that you lent so much money to your nephew, who hasn’t returned it yet, so you made Lucas the scapegoat and accused him of stealing the money before absconding with it!”

William revealed the truth of the matter in a single breath.

In fact, he had been keeping it to himself for a long time. Especially after seeing how Lucas was wholeheartedly doing his best to care for their family, he felt even more guilty for mistreating him at the beginning. He also felt really bad for accusing Lucas of stealing money in front of both his daughters.

So he decided to take the opportunity today to reveal the truth and clear Lucas’s name!



After hearing this, both Cheyenne and Charlotte were astonished!

It wasn't too bad for Cheyenne. After all, she had been having doubts about the truth of this matter since she heard Lucas say that he didn't steal the money. On the other hand, Charlotte was flabbergasted because it was the first time she heard the truth about this matter.

Fortunately, her impression and opinion of Lucas had changed drastically during this period of time. Otherwise, she might still be one of the people who pointed fingers at Lucas and berated him!

At the thought of all the misunderstandings and harsh remarks she had made to Lucas in the past, Charlotte couldn't help but feel a strong sense of embarrassment as she blushed ashamedly.

But Karen wasn't guilty nor embarrassed at all. After she heard William tell the truth, the first thing she did was slam the table hard and holler furiously, "Bullshit! William Carter, what are you talking about? When did my nephew ever come to borrow money?"

William snorted coldly and retorted, "You should know very well whether or not your nephew has taken fifty thousand dollars from you! Anyway, Lucas definitely didn't take the money, so don't put the blame on him!"

Seeing William also siding with Lucas, Karen flew into a rage and snapped, "William Carter, you heartless thing! I've been married to you for more than two decades, and throughout our marriage, I've suffered so much hardship and worked hard every day to wash your clothes and cook for you. I even raised your daughters to adulthood! Even if I lent some money to my nephew, what's the big deal?! Don't forget. That money was part of our matrimonial assets, and it belonged to both of us. I have the right to spend it too!

"I really have such a miserable life. Not only did I marry such a useless man, but he's even reprimanding me to no end for lending money to my nephew! I did lend

him some money, so what? William Carter, you scoundrel, what else do you want?!”

Whenever something happened, Karen would scream and yell at the top of her lungs like a shrew. Usually, William, Cheyenne, and Charlotte would simply ignore her and let her rattle on.

Over time, this trick had almost become Karen’s trump card, as she mistakenly thought that everyone would be scared and not dare to provoke her as long as she yelled at them loudly.

But today, William didn’t want to put up with her any longer.

“Throughout the years, you’ve given a lot of money to your relatives to cope with their financial difficulties. But the fifty thousand you lent your nephew six years ago was a large sum of money that I had scrimped and saved to accumulate over the years. I intended to use it for Charlotte’s wedding and for Cheyenne and Amelia’s living expenses!

“But what about you? You gave the money to your nephew without saying a word! Your nephew didn’t even need the money for an emergency. He just squandered it! He even bragged about it to me!

“At that time, Cheyenne was pregnant with Amelia, and people would show up at the Brilliance Corporation to look for trouble every other day. Charlotte was still in college then, so we really needed money for many things! You lied to them and said that Lucas stole the money from us because you couldn’t afford to cover those expenses! I told you to go to your nephew to urge him to return the money. Yet you vehemently refused, and you even lashed out at me. You said that I’m stingy and disregarded kinship!

“I’ve really put up with you for so many years! When Cheyenne and Charlotte were kids, I worked hard all day, while you spent all your time playing cards with your friends. You didn’t cook or did any household chores. If my mother hadn’t

come over to look after them every once in a while, they might have starved to death when they were young!

“When both of our daughters were in college, I gave you money to pay for their tuition, laptops, and cell phones because I didn’t want them to fall far behind other children. But what did you do? You took the money and used it to buy computers and air conditioners for your family! If I hadn’t asked about it afterward, you would have squandered away all the money meant for their college tuition!

“Later on, when the Carters snatched Cheyenne’s company away from her when she was late into her pregnancy, she was so furious that she went into premature labor. But despite being her mother, you stayed at home to take a nap every day and refused to go to the hospital to take care of her! Yet you have the cheek to say that you raised the both of them painstakingly?”

...

William had been bottling up these emotions within him for way too long. So he took the opportunity to vent his anger today, revealing the truth of several incidents that he had never mentioned before in the past decade or so.

Meanwhile, Cheyenne and Charlotte looked at Karen in utter shock and disbelief!

They were aware of some of the things William exposed, but most of them were unheard of to them. In fact, they never dared to imagine it either.

But they knew that William was telling the truth, and the motherly image of Karen in their hearts was utterly ruined!

## **Chapter 269: How to Stop Someone Crying**

Seeing William mercilessly exposing many of her secrets from the past and the look of disappointment in Cheyenne's and Charlotte's eyes, Karen immediately felt a little flustered.

“Cheyenne, Charlotte, these are all just lies that William Carter made up to deceive you! I'm your mother. How could I have mistreated you? Even if I was negligent when I took care of you two in the past, it was just an understandable mistake. I didn't do it on purpose!” Karen said anxiously.

But when she saw her daughters still staring at her heartbrokenly, she was furious and ashamed. She then yelled at William, “William Carter, what intentions are you harboring?! I raised both our daughters to adulthood, and yet you're making things up now to drive a wedge between me and them!

“Are you thinking of sucking up to your daughters now that they are old enough to support you? I'm no longer of any use to you, right? You're so evil and vicious. Why exactly are you doing this to me?!”

While speaking, she reached out to scratch William's face.

William blocked Karen's hand and sneered. “You know better than I do whether or not I made up those facts just to sow discord!”

With that, he directly stood up and left the dining table to return to his own room, not giving Karen a chance to throw a fit at all.

There were many rooms in this villa that Lucas bought. Since William returned yesterday, Karen hadn't asked him anything about his two-week absence or shown

him any concern, which was very much to his disappointment. Thus, he chose to stay in an empty room to be away from her.

After William left, Karen again desperately pulled Cheyenne's and Charlotte's hands while weeping miserably and lamenting about how hard it had been for her to keep the family together while raising the both of them. She anxiously tried to convince them not to believe William's words by claiming that he was lying.

But Cheyenne and Charlotte were now absolutely disappointed in Karen. They were no longer children and could tell right from wrong, so they had already come to a conclusion about who was lying based on their own judgment.

They didn't want to listen to Karen's explanations, nor were they in the mood to continue eating. They struggled to break free from Karen and then carried Amelia upstairs.

Soon, only Karen and Lucas were left in the spacious dining room.

Lucas glanced at Karen coldly. He wasn't even aware of many of the incidents that William had just mentioned. Although his mother had died at a young age due to her severe illness, she had always exerted her utmost effort to teach him to be an upright person.

Lucas almost dared not imagine that Karen, who was likewise a mother, would have such a horrid personality.

Karen's actions and behavior made her unworthy of being a mother at all.

After glaring at her coldly, he stood up and turned around to leave the dining room.

"Hold it!" Seeing that everyone was ignoring her, Karen got increasingly furious, and she flew into a rage. She scurried to Lucas and stopped in front of him before raising her hand to slap him. "You're the reason for everything that just happened, you good-for-nothing!"

Karen had always been uncouth and tyrannical. She was clearly the one who started stirring up trouble and accusing Lucas while everyone was enjoying the meal just now, which eventually led to William's decision to expose her lies and the shameless acts she had committed in the past! Yet she refused to admit that it was her mistake and even put the blame on Lucas.

She dared to do so only because Lucas was her son-in-law, who wouldn't contradict her or hit her back whenever she berated and even hit him. So she had developed the habit of putting the blame on him for everything and venting her anger on him.

Just as she was about to slap Lucas, he raised his hand and firmly grabbed Karen's wrist.

With an icy cold gaze in his eyes, Lucas said indifferently, "You're Cheyenne's mother, so I'm being tolerant to you for her sake. But that doesn't mean that I'll keep letting you trample all over me!

"Also, this villa belongs to me, and no matter how it came about, my name is written on the title deed. This is the home I've prepared for my wife, her family, and our daughter. If you behave yourself and stop stirring trouble, I won't bother with you. But if you continue to wreak havoc at home every other day, you'd better get lost from here before it's too late!"

Then he stopped looking at Karen and turned around to leave.

Lucas was harsh with his words this time.

In fact, it was the first time he had given Karen such a stern warning throughout the years that he had been married to Cheyenne.

Karen was so stunned by Lucas's words that it took her a long time to react and realize what he meant. She flew into a rage and was fuming mad.

*Bang!*

Staring at Lucas's back as he headed upstairs, Karen clenched her jaw with all her might while she grimaced and grabbed her bowl to smash hard against the ground. "Lucas Gray, how dare you speak to me like that? I must make you pay the price for it!"

...

When Lucas walked into the room, Cheyenne was sitting on the edge of the bed and wiping her tears while Amelia sat beside her sensibly. Wiping Cheyenne's tears with a piece of tissue paper, Amelia said softly, "Mommy, don't cry. Your eyes will hurt."

Lucas sighed. *Cheyenne is really unlucky to have a mother like Karen.*

He walked over, took his lovely daughter into his arms, and patted Cheyenne's back to console her.

Cheyenne raised her head and looked at Lucas, only to have tears flow out of her eyes again. Gazing at him apologetically, she said, "I'm sorry. Mom has always been so harsh to you, and we had the wrong idea about you for such a long time."

Lucas shook his head. "We are a family. You don't need to apologize to me. Besides, Karen is your mother, and you don't have to apologize to me for her misdeeds. Take it easy. Some people just don't care much for kinship. Don't take it to heart."

After Cheyenne heard his comforting words, she felt touched and aggrieved and cried even more miserably.

"Uh..." Lucas was suddenly at a loss for what to do.

"It's okay. I'll be fine in a while." Then Cheyenne hurriedly rushed into the bathroom, and soon, the sound of water gushing out of the faucet came.

"Ugh." Lucas covered his forehead and let out a low sigh.

He had always been domineering and powerful. But whenever he faced the woman he loved, he often felt powerless and clueless about what to do.

Just now, he clearly wanted to comfort Cheyenne, but he ended up causing her to weep even more, which was truly terrible.

The intelligent and powerful captain of the Falcon Regiment was too inexperienced in dealing with women.

“Daddy,” Amelia called out and suddenly raised her head while laying in Lucas’s arms. She blinked and said, “Daddy, hug and kiss mommy later! She would hug me, kiss me, and comfort me whenever I cried, and that made me not want to cry anymore!”

“...”

Caught between laughter and tears, Lucas pinched Amelia’s little nose while thinking to himself that if he had done that to Cheyenne, she might stop crying, but she’d definitely beat him up and kick him out of the room!



## **Chapter 270: Move Out of the Villa**

Soon, Cheyenne came out of the washroom.

She just rinsed her face with cold water and stopped her tears from flowing, but her eyes were still red. Besides, despite being barefaced, she was still incredibly beautiful now.

Lucas recalled what Amelia said just now and couldn't help feeling a little uneasy. After coughing gently, he looked away.

But Amelia tugged on Lucas's sleeve in displeasure and urged, "Daddy, hurry up!"

Lucas was instantly even more shy.

Cheyenne had gotten a grip on her emotions, and when she saw their strange behavior, she couldn't help asking curiously, "What are you two playing?"

Amelia immediately looked at Lucas with her large eyes that seemed to have the ability to speak, urging him to hurry up and coax Cheyenne.

Lucas sighed helplessly and pretended not to be bothered. "Amelia is telling me how to coax you!"

"Huh? Coax me? How?" Cheyenne asked curiously.

Lucas coughed a little. Of course, he wouldn't tell her what Amelia said. He merely glanced at Amelia to show that it was her idea.

Cheyenne sat beside Amelia and asked amusedly, “Amelia, you’re still a little child, but you already know how to coax me?”

Hanging on Lucas’s neck, Amelia grinned and said, “Of course I do! Mommy, I usually stop crying after you hug and kiss me! So I asked Daddy to hug and kiss you too so that you won’t cry anymore!”

Cheyenne froze in shock.

By the time she processed what Amelia said, she immediately blushed shyly in amusement.

She finally understood why Lucas didn’t tell her how he was going to coax her.

Caught between laughter and tears and blushing shyly, Cheyenne reached out to pinch Amelia’s soft and tender cheeks, only to catch a glimpse of the redness on Lucas’s ears. Her heart skipped a beat and soon began ricocheting against her chest.

In an instant, Cheyenne and Lucas both felt uneasy.

Sitting between Lucas and Cheyenne, Amelia looked up at the both of them and asked in surprise, “Dad, Mom, why are you two blushing? Is it because it’s too hot here?”

After hearing Amelia’s puerile voice, they immediately felt even more embarrassed.

But the misery and aggrievance Cheyenne felt because of Karen’s behavior had unknowingly dissipated as a warm and fuzzy feeling arose in her heart.

*Knock knock.*

There was rhythmic knocking on the door of their bedroom.

Lucas held Amelia in his arms while Cheyenne immediately stood up and walked over to open the door. She saw William standing outside the room, seemingly hesitant to speak.

“Dad, it’s so late now. Is there something wrong?” Cheyenne hurriedly let William into the room.

After entering, William hesitated for a moment before suddenly saying, “Lucas, Cheyenne, I’ve already made up my mind. I will move out with your mother early tomorrow morning.”

Both of them were extremely surprised to hear this. But they knew that it had to be because of what Karen had just done during dinner that made William decide to move out with her.

Lucas quickly said, “William, you don’t have to think too much about it. This villa is huge, and it’s more than enough for us. Why bother moving out?”

Cheyenne chimed in and tried to dissuade him, “Yes, Dad, our old house is no longer habitable. Where can you move to now?”

William sighed, held Lucas’s hand, and said sincerely, “Lucas, I know you’re a great kid. Despite all the terrible things we’ve done to you in the past, you didn’t hold it against us and even spared a thought for us in every aspect. You’re such a good son-in-law!

“However, I can’t just take advantage of your kindness and good intentions and shamelessly pretend that nothing has happened. When I think about those things in the past, I feel really sorry to have let you down. How can I have the cheek to continue living in your home?”

Lucas hurriedly shook William’s hand and said very seriously, “William, let’s leave those things in the past. We are now a family. It’s good enough if we can live together harmoniously in joy. If you move out, Cheyenne and I will be really worried.”

William shook his head and said bitterly, “I know you’re filial, but it’s because of how obedient you two are that I can’t bring myself to continue staying here anymore. I don’t want to let this mess affect and disturb your lives.

“Besides, I’ve finally figured out a lot of things now, and I want to try living on my own terms by relying on my own abilities. I’ve already made up my mind. I just looked at some properties for rent on the internet, and the rent isn’t expensive. We’ll move out tomorrow.”

Lucas still wanted to continue persuading him to stay, but Cheyenne suddenly stopped him and said, “Lucas, don’t try to stop Dad anymore. Since he’s already decided, we should respect his wishes!”

Actually, she could tell that while Karen was certainly one of the reasons William insisted on moving out, it was also because he wanted to make some achievements with his own abilities after he came to his senses a while ago.

For example, he wanted to work hard to sustain a livelihood for himself. Previously, he lived in the old residence belonging to the Carters, and now, he was living in his son-in-law’s house. So he wanted to move out and rely on his own efforts to have a roof over his head. Even if he had to rent a place temporarily, he had at least earned the money for the rent himself.

Hearing that Cheyenne understood his intentions, William felt heartened, and he said with a smile, “Cheyenne understands me best. Don’t worry. Even if we move out, we are still a family. We can visit each other when we’re free. That makes it more comfortable for all of us.”

Seeing that they had both made up their minds, Lucas could only sigh inwardly.

In fact, it was not that he didn’t understand what William was thinking. His luxurious villa did offer an excellent shelter and living environment, but it didn’t belong to William at the end of the day. So he would inevitably feel uncomfortable about living under someone else’s roof.

In the past, William probably would have never felt like that. All he used to want was to have a roof over his head, a source of entertainment, and a steady supply of alcohol while he muddled through life.

But William had now come to his senses and developed his own views and determination to achieve some of his personal goals. Thus, all Lucas could do was give him his support.