

Chapter 271: A Ruckus and a Scuffle

“Okay, William, since you’ve already decided, I’ll naturally respect your opinion. But you must be mindful of the safety of the place you rent and don’t let yourself suffer any mistreatment!”

Lucas then took out a credit card and handed it over to William, but the latter immediately refused.

“No, please. I still have enough money to spare, and I’m now getting paid quite a high salary working as the general manager in your company. After working for some time, I should have enough money for the down payment of an apartment, and I’ll be a homeowner soon,” William said smilingly. He didn’t seem to be forcing it at all, and in fact, he seemed to have high hopes for a promising future.

Seeing that William had the right mindset, Lucas didn’t say anything else.

Knowing that William wasn’t willing to accept the money, Cheyenne said earnestly, “Dad, be careful when you’re out there. If you really face any difficulties, you have to seek help from us! No matter what, I’m your daughter, and it’s only right for me to be filial to you!”

“Don’t worry. We will take care of ourselves! It’s getting late. I’ll go back to my room and pack my belongings. You guys go to bed early too.” Then William turned around and left the room.

Cheyenne stared at his back for a long time before sighing. “It seems that Dad has already come to his senses. If only my mother would kick her old habits and change her ways like Dad has!”

Lucas didn't say anything.

Karen was different from William. Given her character, it would be best if she could behave herself without making trouble for a period of time. Making her repent would probably be impossible.

Indeed, they soon heard Karen screaming and cursing loudly, as well as the sounds of things getting smashed onto the ground.

Astounded by the ruckus, Lucas was just about to put Amelia on the bed and go downstairs to check out the situation when he heard panicky footsteps coming from the corridor outside the door.

Charlotte anxiously pushed open the door from outside and exclaimed in panic, “Cheyenne, Lucas! Mom and Dad are fighting!”

By the time the trio hurried downstairs, the scuffle had already ended.

Karen was sitting on the carpet in the living room, her hair unkempt and her face covered in tears and mucus. She was stomping her feet against the ground and cursing while bawling loudly.

Standing near her, William seemed to be in a much more miserable state. There were a few obvious scratch marks on his face, and his collar had also been torn.

Karen had clearly scratched William hard during the fight just now.

“Enough! You’re so old, yet you’re still rolling on the ground and sobbing. Aren’t you embarrassed of yourself at all?!” William snapped furiously while touching the burning wounds on his face.

Karen immediately retorted, “Embarrassed? You think I’m embarrassing now, huh? If you’re so ashamed of me, you shouldn’t have married me more than two decades ago! People say that if you marry a man, he should give you a good life. Other women get to live in the lap of luxury after marrying good men! But what about me? What have I gotten after marrying a good-for-nothing like you and slogging my guts out for decades? Nothing!

“Now that I’ve raised my daughters to adulthood and can live a slightly better life, you want me to move out with you after I just got to live in a villa for a few days! Where are you going to move to? Can you afford a mansion or a villa? You’re just a good-for-nothing who’s going to rent a shabby and lousy apartment for us! I’m telling you, I’m not moving out to live in a horrible place with you. If you want to move out, do so yourself! I’m not leaving!” Karen was cursing incessantly like a machine gun.

Only then did Cheyenne and Charlotte realize that Karen and William had gotten into a fight because of Karen’s refusal to move out.

Lucas looked extremely calm. For a greedy and mercenary person like Karen who wanted to live a life of luxury, she definitely wouldn’t be willing to move out of a luxurious and comfortable villa to live in a cramped and tiny rented house.

“You still have the cheek to criticize me for being incompetent, huh? Yes, I may be incompetent, but have you fulfilled your duties? No! You’re staying in Lucas’s house, but you’re always lashing out at him as if he owes you millions of dollars. You don’t cook or do any household chores. All you do is eat and then lie down on the couch to watch TV all day! If you stay here, you’ll become a burden that harms them sooner or later!

“I don’t care what you think. Anyway, you have to move out with me!” William was vehement and stood firm to his decision.

He had only stayed in the lake villa for two days. But within those two days, he had seen thoroughly everything that Karen had done. If he let her continue staying here, she would continue to pick on Lucas and insult him. No matter how good-tempered Lucas might be, he wouldn’t be able to tolerate it! Cheyenne would also be put in a difficult spot, and Lucas and Cheyenne’s marriage would end up being affected!

So no matter what, he had to take this troublemaker Karen away for the sake of Lucas and Cheyenne’s happiness!

“I said, I’m not leaving! It took me great efforts to raise the both of them, and it’s now their turn to be filial to me and let me enjoy life! Hmph, I’m their mother, not their maid. If they need someone to cook and do the laundry and household chores, they should hire a maid. What does it have to do with me?” Karen retorted scornfully while seating on the carpet.

Extremely infuriated, William snapped, “Do you have any shame? How was it difficult for you? All these years, when have you ever taken good care of Cheyenne and Charlotte? What right do you have to pretend to be noble and make my daughters serve you? Are you worthy of it?”

Lucas frowned slightly and subconsciously felt that William’s words seemed a bit strange. What does he mean by his daughters? Shouldn’t he say that Charlotte and Cheyenne are their daughters?

But Cheyenne and Charlotte didn’t notice that something was amiss, and they simply stood at the side nervously, trying to find a chance to stop them from fighting.

After hearing what William said, Karen looked a bit flustered and looked away. Clearly lacking in confidence, she said, “Anyway... I’m not leaving. At most, I’ll do more household chores in the future!”

Refusing to compromise, William stared at Karen and decided to go all out. “You don’t want to leave, huh? We’ll get a divorce tomorrow, and I’ll see how you can have the cheek to continue staying here!”

With that, William turned around and left to return to his own room to pack up.

Karen panicked when she heard William mention a divorce. She was already almost 50 years old, and if she divorced William, she wouldn’t know what to do.

Karen immediately placed her hands on the ground and got up. She leaped toward Cheyenne and grabbed both her hands before saying anxiously, “Cheyenne, your father said he wants to divorce me! We’ve been married for decades. If we get divorced now, it won’t reflect well on you two either!”

Cheyenne had always been gentle and approachable, unlike the feisty Charlotte, who had a quick temper. So Karen immediately grabbed Cheyenne tightly and asked her to help plead with William on her behalf.

But to Karen’s surprise, Cheyenne stayed still without panicking in the slightest. She then said coldly, “Mom, I think Dad is right too. You’ve been married to him for a couple of decades. Now that he wants to move out, you can’t leave him alone!”

“You!” Karen was exasperated and glowered at Cheyenne.

Chapter 272: Apologizing One After Another

“Cheyenne Carter, are you thinking of kicking me, your mother, out of this house too? You don’t want me anymore?” Karen questioned menacingly while pointing at Cheyenne.

She rarely called Cheyenne by her full name, but she was probably too livid at this point.

Cheyenne ignored her and maintained her composure as she said, “No, I just want you to stay with Dad.”

With that, she stopped talking and turned around to leave while pulling the dumbfounded Charlotte along with her.

Lucas naturally wouldn’t stay either. Soon, Karen was left alone in the luxurious hall again.

She looked around at the opulent and exquisite decor of the villa with a reluctant gaze in her eyes. She couldn’t bear to part with the villa. But when she stared at the backs of Cheyenne, Lucas, and Charlotte, her eyes were full of immense hatred again.

“Bastards! You’re just a bunch of ingrates abandoning your mother now that you’re all grown up! Sooner or later, I will make you all regret it one day!” Karen

clenched her fist and muttered with great resentment. Unfortunately, no one else saw this scene.

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Bright early the next morning, the sky had just turned bright after dawn, but Lucas could already hear the bustle going on downstairs.

By the time he and Cheyenne went downstairs, they saw three suitcases already filled with belongings in the middle of the living room. William was still stuffing some clothes and small belongings into one of them.

Reluctant to see him leave, Cheyenne stepped forward and said to William, “Dad, there’s actually no need for you to move out...”

William chuckled twice and said in an unprecedentedly relaxed tone, “Don’t worry. I’ve been feeling the best I’ve ever been lately! I’ll come back to see you guys when I’m free. The place I’m moving to isn’t far away from here either. I’ve spoken to your mother, and she’s agreed to move out with me. Rest assured! But I’ll have to trouble you to take care of Charlotte. She can’t live with us.”

Lucas nodded. “Of course we will. Charlotte’s our younger sister, so we’ll definitely take good care of her. Don’t worry. Call us immediately if you encounter any trouble!”

After giving each other instructions, William noticed that it was about time to go, but Karen was still in her room, so he had to go and urge her to leave.

Soon, Karen followed William out sulkily.

Unlike when she first moved into the villa, Karen didn't take a truckload of luggage with her. Instead, she was carrying only a small exquisite purse. In fact, she didn't even take a single piece of clothing.

Actually, deep down, she didn't want to move out of the villa at all. Besides, she intended to move out with William only for a day. After which, she would complain about the poor accommodations and say that it was too uncomfortable for her so that she could find an excuse to move back into the villa.

When William saw that Karen was only carrying a small purse, he understood what intentions she was harboring. He sneered and said, "Karen, don't think you'll come back soon. Since I've decided to move out and live on my own, I won't change my mind in a day or two. If you don't bring some clothes and personal belongings with you, don't think I'll give you money to buy some after we move out!"

Having her scheme exposed by William, Karen cursed under her breath, "Petty miser!" She then turned around to return to her room, where she stuffed a huge pile of clothes into a suitcase before dragging it out furiously.

"Mom, let me help you."

Cheyenne reached out to help Karen with the suitcase, but Karen slapped her hand away relentlessly. "I don't need your hypocrisy! Go away. I'll take it that my efforts to raise you have gone in vain!"

Karen already bore a grudge against Cheyenne for refusing to help her to persuade William.

The back of Cheyenne's hand reddened, and Lucas's face turned sullen. William seemed angered too.

“Karen, if you keep creating so much trouble, you won’t have to move out with me reluctantly anymore. We’ll just go to a lawyer and get a divorce!” William barked furiously.

Karen pursed her lips, humphed coldly, and stormed off while dragging her suitcase along.

Cheyenne insisted on sending William and Karen to their new residence so that she could have a look at it herself and have peace of mind. Since William couldn’t persuade her, he could only agree.

Lucas said to Cheyenne, “Okay then. Send your parents to their new place while I send Charlotte and Amelia to the office and kindergarten. I’ll come look for you guys after I’m done handling some matters.”

Cheyenne and William both nodded.

“Are we leaving or not? You kept rushing me just now, but now you’re the one who’s dilly-dallying!” Karen barked in disgruntlement as she stood outside the door.

Cheyenne and William stopped talking and moved the luggage to the trunk of the car. Cheyenne then drove the two of them to the new residence that William rented.

Meanwhile, Lucas also started his car and took Charlotte and Amelia with him.

Because they didn’t have breakfast this morning, Lucas bought some sandwiches and coffee from a café along the way for them.

Sitting in the backseat of the car and drinking the coffee distractedly, Charlotte suddenly said, “Lucas, I feel so sorry!”

Lucas was slightly stunned, and he asked smilingly, “What are you sorry for?”

Clenching her jaw, Charlotte explained, “Actually, I should have apologized to you a long time ago. From the time you just got married to Cheyenne till when you returned from the military more than two months ago, I’ve been rather rude to you, and I even did lots of detestable things. But you didn’t hold it against me, and you even rescued me on several occasions. I feel really guilty about it!

“My mother has always been like that. She says mean things to you all the time and has done so many awful things. I apologize to you on her behalf!”

Lucas laughed, unaffected by these things at all. “It’s okay. All of it has long passed. Yesterday, Cheyenne said something similar to me. But Karen is a separate individual from you guys. She does treat me terribly, but as long as she doesn’t go overboard, I won’t hold it against her since she’s yours and Cheyenne’s mother. Don’t worry too much about it.”

Only then did Charlotte smile gently. “Okay.”

During this period of time, the more she interacted with Lucas, the more she felt that he was a good man. So she didn’t want him to have ill feelings towards their family because of Karen and her misdeeds.

Lucas was quite emotional too.

Karen was a mean person who would never admit to her mistakes or change for the better. Yet both her daughters felt ashamed and guilty for what she had done and even apologized to him. He wondered who they had taken after because it clearly wasn’t Karen.

After sending Charlotte to the Stardust Corporation office building, Lucas didn’t stay long and sent Amelia to the kindergarten.

Seeing that it was almost 9 a.m., Lucas drove to the Ocean Bathhouse.

Back in Snowflake Entertainment yesterday, Preston had promised him that he would give him an answer before 9, so Lucas wondered if he would be getting a satisfactory answer today.

Chapter 273: Secret Business

Soon after, Lucas's car pulled over at the entrance of the Ocean Bathhouse, and it happened to be 9 a.m. sharp.

Lucas pushed open the door and walked into the lobby, only to see Preston quickly stand up from the couch at the side of the lobby and greet politely, "Mr. Gray, you're here."

Preston had tried to force Lucas to stay behind at Snowflake Entertainment, but he had instead been punched in the stomach by Lucas, causing him so much pain that he nearly passed out. But he asked someone to send him to the hospital last night for a checkup and found that although his abdominal pain was unbearable, there was no obvious damage done to his internal organs. And even on his belly, there were no bruises or welts.

Although he couldn't find any visible wounds, the pain was still overwhelming and unbearable. So the doctor had no choice but to prescribe him some painkillers and let him recuperate.

He had clearly been beaten up into a pulp, yet there were no visible traces. So Preston was even more scrupulous toward Lucas.

"Mr. Gray, about the matter you mentioned yesterday..."

Preston was about to bring up the subject when Lucas interrupted him, “Mr. Taylor, let’s go to the private room and talk.”

Zane, the new manager of the Ocean Bathhouse, immediately ushered Lucas and Preston to the dubious and secretive private room that Lucas had been in previously.

After all, what Lucas wanted to talk to Preston about involved some confidential matters that were not at all trivial.

When only the two of them were left in the private room, Lucas took the lead and sat down on the couch. Pointing to the one across from him, he said to Preston, “Have a seat.”

Only then did Preston carefully sit down.

After what happened last night, Preston considered Lucas an enemy, but he didn’t dare to offend him at all. After all, Lucas’s combat skills were too terrifying. Besides, Preston also vaguely sensed that what happened to the Hales previously seemed to be related to Lucas, so naturally, he didn’t dare to offend Lucas even more.

“Mr. Taylor, how’s your consideration of my proposal yesterday?” Lucas took the initiative to broach the subject.

Preston hurriedly said, “Mr. Gray, I’ve thought about it. I can try to help introduce my partners to you, but I can’t guarantee the outcome of your negotiation with them and whether they will agree to it or not.”

Lucas raised his eyebrows. “So, does this mean that they have high demands?”

Preston explained, “After all, the profits of this business are high, and so are the risks. It’s understandable that both parties have to be very careful.”

Lucas nodded indifferently.

In fact, it was an utterly sordid business. Moreover, since Joe installed tracking devices and listening bugs in their cars previously but was quickly shaken off by that group of people, Lucas understood how cautious they really were.

“Mr. Taylor, since you’ve been doing business with them for nearly twenty years, you must be very clear of their background, right?” Lucas asked and pretended to be nonchalant as he picked up a cup of coffee and sipped on it.

Preston chuckled bitterly and shook his head. “Actually, we don’t know a thing about their background either!”

Lucas asked in surprise, “How is that possible?”

Preston said, “I wouldn’t dare to lie to you, Mr. Gray. This is the truth. We may have had business dealings for more than a decade, but they’ve always been very conscientious and have never revealed any of their personal information. Whenever they send their people over, they would arrive in different vehicles, and during the process, they would change vehicles several times. The transactions are also done in cash, so it’s very difficult to find out their whereabouts.

“To be honest, many years ago, we also secretly tried to shadow them and investigate their background out of curiosity. But that one time, we sent several experts, and none of them returned. We even received a stern warning from them and almost lost the deal. Since then, we’ve never dared to find out their background again.”

Lucas frowned slightly. He could tell that Preston was telling the truth.

But this meant that the other party was indeed extremely cautious, so it seemed that it would be a tall order to get some information about them from the Taylors.

“So, don’t you have any contacts?” Lucas asked again.

Preston shook his head. “No. This business between us was first established by chance due to an incident eighteen years ago. But after that, they would contact us unilaterally for the deals, but we can’t contact them.

“So even if I promise to introduce you to them today, I will have to wait for them to contact me first. But whether they will agree to let you join them or not and the matters after that are uncertain.”

Lucas’s face sank. “I thought you were dealing fairly with each other on equal terms. But after hearing what you said, it seems that the Taylors are completely in a passive position in this partnership! You have to wait for them to contact you first for everything. If they decide to sever the business with you one day, wouldn’t you be unable to do anything?”

Preston nodded helplessly. “That’s indeed the case. They hold the resources and connections to get those women, so they already have control in the first place. Besides, the risks are too great, and there’s really nothing we can do.”

It seemed that the Taylors really didn’t have any extra information.

Finding it a pity, Lucas sighed. “Ah, it seems there’s nothing we can do. When they contact you again next time, help me make arrangements to get in touch with them. Let me know the outcome. I’m very interested in this business.”

Then Lucas handed one of his business cards to Preston.

Of course, given Lucas's position, he wasn't doing it for the sake of being able to run that sordid business. But rather, he wanted to get rid of this business and the people behind it entirely.

“Okay, when they contact me, I will definitely introduce you to them immediately and inform you.”

Preston took Lucas's business card with both hands, but he remained seated and asked nervously, “Um... Mr. Gray, when will you hand the Ocean Bathhouse back to me?”

The reason he had agreed to Lucas's request was simply that he wanted to get the bathhouse back.

“It depends on you. Once you get the job done, I'll give it back to you.” Lucas stood up and gestured for Preston to leave.

Preston had no choice but to take a few more glances at the Ocean Bathhouse that originally belonged to him before leaving indignantly.

Chapter 274: Meeting An Evil Shrew

Meanwhile, Cheyenne, William, and Karen had already arrived in the neighborhood of William's new rented apartment.

It was in the western part of Orange County. Although the housing estate seemed a little old, it wasn't dilapidated, and there was a plethora of amenities and stores nearby, such as a supermarket, mall, hospital, and other lifestyle facilities. The traffic was good too, and it was generally quite a suitable residential area.

The vehicles of non-residents were not allowed to enter the housing estate, so Cheyenne parked her car in the parking lot outside. She then took out a large suitcase from the trunk, followed by Karen's backpack, which Cheyenne carried on her back. William then carried the other two smaller suitcases, while Karen was much more relaxed, as all she held was her small little purse. She began to scan and survey her surroundings with a picky and impatient expression.

"Dad, this estate looks pretty nice, and there are quite a few fitness facilities inside. The overall neighborhood and living environment aren't bad either," Cheyenne remarked while walking.

She saw an average-sized artificial lake in the middle of the housing estate, with lots of greenery by the lake and quite a few people sitting on the benches along the banks. Some of them were chatting, some were fishing by the lake, while some were working out. They all seemed to be relaxed and enjoying themselves.

William said smilingly, “Yes, this is really not bad. It happens to be near the office too. I can walk to and from work every day. Besides, there are many residents here, so I can easily find someone to chat and exercise with when I’m bored.”

He was full of expectations and looking forward to his future life, and his face seemed to be glowing with vitality.

On the other hand, Karen humphed coldly and snapped in disdain, “Hmph, good my foot! It’s so noisy everywhere, and this estate is so old and shabby. I bet the people here all relocated from a demolished estate, and they must be horrible, lowly people! This lake is so small, filthy, and stinky. It’s worlds apart from the large lake around the villa!”

She didn’t want to move away from the luxurious and comfortable villa in the first place. After looking at the ordinary housing estate, she felt that everything about it was inferior and too lousy for her. *William Carter is such a dimwit. He chose to move out of a wonderful villa and come to this lousy and shabby place. He even dragged me down with him. This is unacceptable!*

William pursed his lips, frowned unhappily, and bellowed at Karen, “Mind your words! We’ve just moved here. Don’t end up offending everyone in this estate!”

If others heard her criticizing the residents here for being lowly and inferior, they would feel uncomfortable.

Karen continued to murmur for a while. She chose not to fight with him right on the spot because she could tell that he wasn’t in a good mood.

“Hey, look who this is. You’re the noble and prestigious Mrs. Carter, aren’t you?” At this moment, a sarcastic remark suddenly sounded from behind them.

Karen, Cheyenne, and William turned around in unison and saw a chubby woman in her thirties glowering at them scornfully.

Karen and Cheyenne immediately recognized who she was.

She was Sharon Hart, the wife of James Wilson, the general manager of the Titanium Corporation, whom they had gotten into a conflict with on several occasions.

In particular, when they had a meal at the hotel previously, Karen had bumped into Sharon in the washroom and got into an altercation with her over the exquisite bracelet Karen was wearing. Sharon had taken a liking to the bracelet, so she tried to cheat Karen out of it by claiming that Karen had damaged the bracelet she was wearing and thus demanded that the latter compensate for it.

Karen naturally refused to let herself lose out, so she immediately made a big fuss and kicked up a ruckus that eventually led to a fight with Sharon. Charlotte was unaware of the truth and even helped Karen beat Sharon up. Afterward, when Karen learned that Sharon was James Wilson's wife, she got scared and hurriedly gave the bracelet away while also pushing Charlotte out to get hit by Karen.

Since that incident, Charlotte was thoroughly disappointed in Karen, and her disappointment intensified as time passed.

Later on, because of Lucas's intervention, Sharon had no choice but to apologize to Karen under Wilson's coercion. She even had to return the bracelet that she had painstakingly gotten from Karen after being taught a hard lesson by Wilson. She could be said to have suffered a double loss.

Sharon had been bearing this grudge in mind, and she was just waiting for the right time to take revenge!

Coincidentally, she just happened to run into Karen today, and it was a godsend opportunity because Lucas wasn't around!

"Karen, do you know each other? Is she your friend?" William chuckled and asked. William wasn't around when that incident took place at the hotel, so he wasn't aware of the feud between them and merely thought that they were friends.

Before Karen could refute, Sharon flew into a rage and hollered at William with a scornful expression, “Who are you to call me that?!”

William froze on the spot and looked at Karen in bewilderment. “I was speaking to my wife. What’s the matter? Do you have a problem?”

Only then did Sharon realize that she had misheard and that William was talking to the sharp-tongued wench Karen, not her!

Ugh, why do our names sound so similar?

I got embarrassed again!’

Needless to say, Sharon’s disgust and hatred for Karen’s family instantly intensified.

Karen burst into laughter, thoroughly amused by Sharon’s blunder.

“Bitch, what the hell are you laughing at?” Sharon snapped.

Karen’s face immediately turned pale. Given her character, she’d definitely clap back at anyone who called her a b*tch in public and curse at them.

But since the incident at the hotel, Karen already knew Sharon’s identity as Wilson’s wife. So despite being insulted by Sharon, she didn’t dare to say anything else and merely shrank back to hide behind Cheyenne, completely pretending that she hadn’t heard anything.

But Cheyenne couldn’t stand by and watch her mother being insulted without doing anything.

She said seriously, “Ms. Hart, please mind your words.”

Sharon didn't take Cheyenne seriously at all, especially after she knew that Cheyenne was Lucas's wife. She was brimming with so much resentment that she decided to vent all the anger she had developed due to Lucas onto Cheyenne.

Sharon had already forgotten all about Wilson's previous admonishments for her not to provoke Lucas again. "Who are you to lecture me? Little b*tch, it seems that if I don't teach you a lesson today, you won't know who I am!"

As soon as she finished speaking, she raised her hand and slapped Cheyenne on her face before anyone could react!

Smack!

Chapter 275: Are You Fit To Be a Mother?

No one expected Sharon to suddenly get physical. Cheyenne was completely caught off guard by the hard slap, and her head cocked to the side. She was thrown off balance and almost fell down.

Not to mention that Cheyenne was dumbfounded, even William and Karen froze right on the spot in shock.

“Hmph, you’ll pay me back for the slaps your sister owes me from last time!”

After Sharon slapped her, she was in an extremely pleasant mood, and she even felt the thrill of taking revenge. She raised her hand to slap Cheyenne’s face again.

“Stop!” William finally reacted. He grabbed Sharon’s wrist and reprimanded furiously, “What’s wrong with you? Why did you hit someone for no reason?”

At this point, he finally understood that Sharon wasn’t Karen’s friend at all but an enemy she had gotten into a conflict with before.

“Let go! How dare you touch me, you garbage? Be careful, or else I’ll get someone to cripple you!” Sharon struggled to break free from William’s grip. Ignoring whoever this person in front of her was, she raised her hand to slap William’s face.

William was also enraged by Sharon’s shrewish behavior. He grabbed her wrist again and raised his hand to slap her.

Smack!

When the slap landed on Sharon's face, she shrieked in pain as a bright red fingerprint immediately appeared on her face.

"I'm giving this slap back to you! My daughter isn't a pushover, and no one is to bully her!" William glared at Sharon in disgust before turning around to look at the red and swollen fingerprint on Cheyenne's face. Feeling heartbroken, he asked, "Cheyenne, are you alright?"

Cheyenne shook her head and pulled William away. "Dad, I'm fine. Let's go."

Even though the dispute lasted for only a short moment, many people were already looking over from a distance. Cheyenne didn't want her parents to leave a bad impression on their soon-to-be neighbors, so she chose to let the matter rest.

William obviously also thought of this point. After taking a look at Sharon, who was clutching her face, he said coldly, "You started getting physical first, so you have no one to blame but yourself. I don't care who you are. Next time you dare to bully my daughter again, I won't care if you are a woman or not!"

With that, Cheyenne and William turned around to leave.

As for Karen, she jumped backward and retreated several meters the moment William hit Sharon, wishing she could completely draw a clear line between her and William.

Seeing William and Cheyenne leaving, Karen looked at the resentful and furious expression on Sharon's face and hurriedly scurried forward to catch up with William. She berated in a sharp voice, "William Carter, are you out of your mind? That woman just now is Sharon Hart, and her husband is James Wilson! How dare you slap her? Are you tired of living? You'd better go back and apologize to her and then beg her to forgive you. Otherwise, she'll definitely take revenge on you! When the time comes, you'll implicate me too!"

When William heard what Karen said, he immediately flew into a rage and stopped in his tracks. He barked, “Karen, are you blind? Did you not see that just now? That woman came for you. You must have offended her before! She slapped Cheyenne just now merely because she said something. As Cheyenne’s mother, you simply cowered behind her and watched her get slapped! Don’t you think I didn’t see that!

“You watched your daughter get bullied, and you hid behind her without saying a word. Are you even human? Are you still worthy of being a mother? It’s good enough that I don’t blame you for causing trouble and standing at the side without doing anything. Yet you still want me to apologize to that woman? Karen, what’s going on inside your head? Will that woman let us off just because of an apology?

“Hmph, if you are afraid of being implicated by me, let’s go get divorced now! No matter what I do, you won’t be implicated, okay? Are you satisfied now?! Come on. Let’s go now!”

William didn’t want to go to the rented apartment anymore, so he pulled his suitcase along and turned around to walk toward the gate of the housing estate. He seemed to want to go to a lawyer’s office to get a divorce with Karen.

Karen’s actions had been testing William’s limits ever since he came back to his senses.

As soon as Karen heard William mention a divorce, she was no longer confident and pursed her lips before saying awkwardly, “I’m just worried that you might get into trouble. I really am! We’ve been married for so many years. Why mention a divorce? We’re going to become a laughingstock!”

Of course, she wasn’t willing to divorce William.

For the past few years, she might not have lived in the lap of luxury with William, and she had also always resented William for failing to let her do so. But she had actually lived quite a good and carefree life where everything was provided for her, and she had even managed to save quite a hefty sum of money.

If it was more than 20 years ago, Karen might have been able to use her beauty to attract a richer man, but she was now almost 50 years old. After leaving William, she might not be able to find another man.

Besides, now that both her daughters were becoming more and more successful working as executives in established companies, she could foresee her life getting better and better. She couldn't afford to divorce William at this time!

Even if she had to leave, she had to reap some benefits before doing so!

Seeing Karen not say anything, William stopped paying attention to her and brought Cheyenne to an apartment building where they boarded the elevator up to the fifth floor.

William opened the door of the apartment and introduced it to Cheyenne as though he was showing her a treasure. "Cheyenne, look. How does this apartment look?"

Cheyenne walked around the apartment and looked at it carefully. There were two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a bathroom, occupying a total floor area of only about 60 to 70 square meters. Although it was a small apartment, the decor was beautiful, and there was good lighting and ventilation. The furniture and appliances were also mostly new, and the interior was spick and span. They could really move in right away.

Cheyenne took a few more careful looks at the kitchen equipment, bathroom faucet, sewer pipes, the fire extinguisher placed at the door, and some other miscellaneous items. After discovering that there were no issues, she nodded in satisfaction.

"Dad, this apartment is great. It might be a little small, but it should be enough for you and Mom."

William chuckled in satisfaction. "Exactly! I chose this place after browsing through all the available apartments for a long time. Of course it's good!"

At this moment, an abrupt voice sounded from the side. “Hmph, it’s tiny and shabby, just like a snail’s shell. Only poor people with narrow horizons will like it!”

Karen frowned in disgust, hating every detail about the apartment.

Chapter 276: Arrived at the Door

In Karen's opinion, only Lucas's villa could be considered a good house. The area of this apartment was far inferior to the living room of Lucas's villa. How could they be pleased with it?

But Karen failed to consider that Lucas's villa was unique in Orange County, so it didn't make sense to compare other residences with it. If she used Lucas's villa as a standard for comparison, she obviously wouldn't take a liking to other properties.

William didn't want to continue indulging Karen, so he snapped, "If you think it's too small, you can move to a larger place and pay for the rent yourself! As long as you can afford it, I won't stop you!"

His words made Karen speechless.

Although she had money, she wasn't willing to pay at least \$10,000 a month on renting a villa.

"Hmph, there's clearly a large villa for us to live in, but you insisted that we move out to this small and shabby apartment. You're so cheap you don't even know how to enjoy life!"

William happened to hear Karen's incessant complaints.

William pointed at the door and said nonchalantly, "Do you still have any shame at all? Even when we were living in the villa, you were picking on everything and creating trouble all day long! If you're still not satisfied, we'll get a divorce right away! I don't care where you're going. It's up to you!"

When Karen saw that William wasn't saving her from any embarrassment at all, her face turned sullen, and she immediately sat on the floor. She then began to smack the floor and wail loudly. "William Carter, you heartless thing! You've been married to me for decades, and now you think I'm old, so you're being so mean to me! What sin have I committed? I worked so hard to raise our daughters, and now you're treating me like this. Have you got a conscience at all?!"

With a look of annoyance, William ignored her and said to Cheyenne, "Cheyenne, now that you've seen the place, you can put your mind at ease, right? Quick, get to work. You don't have to worry about me anymore."

Normally, Cheyenne would definitely go up and persuade Karen if she saw her throwing a tantrum and bawling to William. But she was now extremely disappointed with Karen, and she could also tell that Karen just wanted to live in luxury, but she didn't dare to divorce William. So she decided not to bother about her.

"Dad, go back in. Let me know if there's anything you need. I'm going to work now." Cheyenne walked toward the door and got ready to leave.

William looked at Karen making a fuss and throwing a tantrum on the floor. "There's nothing much to unpack. I'll go to work first and clean up when I come back in the evening. Let's go together."

Neither of them was willing to take Karen's nonsense, so they stood by the door, ready to leave.

At this moment, the elevator outside the door suddenly opened, and they heard the voices of the people inside before they even walked out.

"I saw them enter this building. No matter where they are, search every floor!"

William's and Cheyenne's expressions changed because they could recognize the voice. It belonged to Sharon Hart!

Before they could react, Sharon came out of the elevator with four tall and burly men behind her.

There were two apartments on the floor of William's apartment, including his. The elevator was near the doors of both apartments, and William and Cheyenne were standing right next to it. So they saw Sharon and her men as soon as they came out of the elevator.

As expected, Sharon's eyes were full of joy and exhilaration when she saw Cheyenne and William standing a meter away from her.

She reached her hand out and pointed at them excitedly. "Quick, it's them!"

The four strong men behind her immediately walked toward William and Cheyenne aggressively.

"Quick, go in!"

Seeing that the situation wasn't right, William immediately pushed Cheyenne into the apartment before closing the door with a loud bang. He then stuck the key into the keyhole and twisted it a few times before pulling it out, locking the door with a loud bang.

William completed the entire process quickly in one go. He was so fast that Cheyenne didn't even manage to react in time. It was the fastest he had ever been in his life.

The four burly men tried to stop William but to no avail. All they could do was grab William's hair tightly while punching him hard on the face.

"Mmph!"

The punch landed right smack onto William's nose. Being big and strong, they broke his nose immediately, and bright red blood instantly gushed out from his nostrils.

“Dad!” When Cheyenne saw this scene, she was so frightened that she hurriedly reached out to twist open the handle of the door to try and stop the violence.

But she only managed to hear the clanging of metal. She couldn’t open the solid metal door because William had already locked it from the outside, and she couldn’t open it from the inside at all!

When Karen heard the commotion outside, she stopped crying and got up from the floor. She then pushed Cheyenne aside and peeked outside through the peephole, only to see William getting beaten up by the few burly men Sharon brought.

She was horrified but thankful and glad that William had locked the door so that they couldn’t rush in to harm her.

Seeing how anxious Cheyenne was and how hard she was trying to get out, Karen sneered and then pushed Cheyenne’s hand away. She mocked, “What are you trying to do? Do you want to go out there and get beaten up too? Don’t drag me down with you! Well, at least your jerk father has the conscience to lock the door! Otherwise, we wouldn’t have been able to escape the beating either!”

“I told him to apologize to Sharon Hart just now, but he refused to listen! He totally deserves to get beaten up by them now!”

Even though Cheyenne was usually good-tempered, she was still angered by Karen’s shameless words. She glowered at her with bloodshot eyes. “Dad is getting beaten up outside, and you’re gloating?! Besides, if you hadn’t hit Sharon in the restaurant that time, would she have come here to create trouble?”

Karen immediately sneered and retorted, “Bullshit! Are you blaming me for it? If you hadn’t offended Sharon Hart just now, she wouldn’t have slapped you. Your father slapped her for your sake. What does it have to do with me?”

Karen would never admit to her mistake, and in her opinion, she would never be at fault.

Cheyenne looked at Karen with her eyes full of disappointment.

She had always known that Karen was an incompetent mother who never felt much maternal love for her and Charlotte. But William was her husband, with whom she had spent decades. Now that he was getting beaten up outside, she wasn't concerned at all. Instead, she was just being cold and selfish!

Hearing the sound of kicking and punching from outside, as well as her father's suppressed groans of pain, Cheyenne felt as if her heart was being stabbed by a thousand daggers. She felt utterly powerless.

Suddenly, she thought of Lucas!

All the things that Lucas had done during this period of time had made Cheyenne trust him completely. Besides, during the incident at the hotel, Sharon's husband, James Wilson, also seemed to be afraid of Lucas, so he had brought Sharon to go and apologize to Karen.

With this thought in mind, Cheyenne immediately rummaged through her bag for her phone with shaky hands as though she had found a straw to clutch at. She then called Lucas.

"Lucas, bad news. My father is being surrounded and beaten up. Quickly come and save him! We're at Block 26, unit #501 of Golden Garden Estate!"

Chapter 277: Emergency Rescue

Lucas had just finished negotiating with Preston and sent him away, so he was still in the private room of the Ocean Bathhouse and discussing the following plans with Joe.

After Lucas received Cheyenne's call for help, his expression changed, and he suddenly stood up and said in a deep voice, "How are you? Are you in danger?"

When Lucas heard that such a thing had happened, the first thing he was worried about was Cheyenne's safety.

"I'm fine. My dad locked me in the apartment, and I can't get out. But they're beating my dad up badly at the door, and I'm really scared that something might happen to him..."

"Don't be afraid. I'll be right there! Stay in the apartment, and don't come out!" Then Lucas hurriedly strode out of the private room.

Seeing that something was wrong, Joe hurried to catch up with Lucas. He asked concernedly, "Mr. Gray, what happened? Is there anything I can do to help?"

Lucas immediately thought about Golden Garden Estate, which was more than ten kilometers away from the Ocean Bathhouse. It was now the morning rush hour, so there was definitely traffic congestion. Even if he drove at the fastest speed possible, it would take him at least twenty minutes.

“Do you have any subordinates near Golden Garden Estate?” Lucas asked while walking.

Joe immediately replied, “I run a cyber cafe outside Golden Garden Estate.”

Lucas immediately ordered without turning around, “Hurry up and get someone to rush to Block 26, unit #501 of Golden Garden Estate to help my father-in-law. He’s being beaten up!”

Joe was astonished. He hurriedly took out his phone to make a call and give an explanation about the matter. “Zach, take the security guards and managers of the cyber cafe with you and rush to Block 26, unit #501 of Golden Garden Estate to stop a fight. Rescue a middle-aged man who’s about fifty years old! Go now, immediately!”

By the time Joe hung up and rushed out of the Ocean Bathhouse, Lucas had already gotten into his black Jaguar and left.

Seeing Lucas leaving in a hurry, Joe naturally didn’t dare to slow down. He quickly ordered his bodyguards, took a few security guards of the Ocean Bathhouse with him as well, and drove to Golden Garden Estate.

At this moment, William had already been beaten up into a pulp at the entrance of his apartment in Block 26 of Golden Garden Estate. His face was battered with bruises, and the blood from his nose had flowed down his chin all the way to his chest, staining his lapel. He had taken numerous punches and kicks to his body, and he was almost unable to get up anymore.

If not for the fact that one of the men was still holding William by his collar and hitting him, William would have probably long fallen onto the ground immobile.

Seeing how miserable William was, Sharon felt that she had finally vented all her anger. To Sharon, getting insulted by William was extremely shameful!

“There are two more b*tches in there! You two, don’t think I can’t do anything just because you’re hiding in there! Immediately find the key from this old good-for-nothing and open the door!”

Listening to the commotion outside while leaning close against the door, Karen had her heart skip a beat. Afraid that Sharon would rush in from outside with her subordinates and beat her up, she paced back and forth around the room. “What should we do? What should we do? They’re about to rush in! Cheyenne, you... just stand here and don’t tell them that I’m here!”

Then Karen turned around and dashed into a bedroom. She quickly locked the door and looked around anxiously before finally cursing softly and curling up into the closet.

Cheyenne wasn’t at all surprised that Karen chose to flee when there was danger because she had already gotten used to it. She stood nervously by the door and gripped her phone tightly while praying that Lucas would arrive sooner.

But she also knew that Lucas couldn’t possibly arrive in such a short period of time since she had just called him.

After hearing Sharon’s instructions, the few burly men at the door immediately reached out to frisk William to find his keys.

William was currently so seriously injured that he was about to be unable to open his eyes anymore. But at this moment, he suddenly felt a burst of strength, and he suddenly broke free from the burly man holding his collar. He then tossed the key he had been holding tightly in his hand out of the ventilation window in the middle of the stairwell.

“Damn it! This old bastard threw the key away!” The burly man immediately flew into a rage and slapped William’s face twice.

“Two of you, go downstairs and find the key. I don’t believe that we can’t catch those two b*tches!” Sharon barked menacingly.

The two burly men agreed immediately. Just as they were about to go downstairs, another man suddenly yelled at him in shock.

“Shit, this old man passed out. He looks like he’s about to die. Something might happen!”

Sharon and the three remaining burly men were frightened when they saw that William’s eyes had already rolled back into his head, and he had passed out. His body was covered in bruises and blood. He seemed to be in an extremely terrible condition.

The few burly men were getting a little scared because they were just teaching William a lesson under Sharon’s orders. But they weren’t planning to kill him.

When Sharon saw the miserable state William was in, her heart skipped a beat, but she soon humphed coldly and said nonchalantly, “Hmph, he’s indeed an old fogey. He can’t take a beating at all. Let’s spare them this time. Let’s go!”

With that, she took the four burly men with her and left in the elevator.

“Dad, how are you doing? Dad! Say something! Can you hear me?”

Cheyenne was in the apartment, and when she saw William lying in the doorway covered in blood through the peephole, she was so flustered that she anxiously slapped the door and yelled while crying incessantly.

Shortly after Sharon and the others left, the door of the elevator on the fifth floor opened again, and eight equally strong and burly young men rushed out from inside. They were the security guards and managers of the cyber cafe outside Golden Garden Estate, who had come over under Joe’s order.

“Huh?” To their surprise, they didn’t see the brawl that they had expected. Instead, it was rather peaceful because there wasn’t a fight but a person lying motionlessly on the ground, covered in blood.

“Damn it! We’re too late!” yelled the leader of the young men, who had tattooed arms and was wearing ear studs.

Judging from the appearance of the middle-aged man on the ground, they reckoned that he should be the person Joe had told them to save. But the perpetrators had already fled, and William was the only one lying on the ground. They were unsure if he was dead or alive, and the floor was covered in bloodstains. The scene was extremely terrifying.

One of the men rushed to William’s side and tried to feel his breathing and his pulse. “Boss, he’s still breathing!”

“Quick, hurry up and send him to the hospital! He needs treatment immediately!” the man with the ear studs hurriedly exclaimed.

The other young men didn’t dare to be slow. They immediately picked William up to carry him to the elevator and then headed downstairs.

Seeing that a group of people had arrived and carried William away, Cheyenne banged the door harder while yelling, “Can you hear me outside? Hello! How is my father? Who are you people?”

Chapter 278: About The Douglas Family

Only then did the man with the ear studs realize that there was someone in the apartment next to them. He guessed that she must be related to the middle-aged man they were tasked to save. So he walked to the door and asked loudly, “We were sent to save someone. Is the injured man who passed out your father?”

Cheyenne hurriedly said, “Yes! I was locked inside, and my father threw the key out of the ventilation window over the stairs. Please help me find the key and let me go out!”

Since Joe was the one who sent them to rescue William, he naturally didn’t dare to neglect William’s daughter. He hurriedly instructed the three young people beside him. “Did you hear her? Hurry and go downstairs to find the key!”

The three young people looked at the ventilation window and immediately ran downstairs.

At this moment, the man with the ear studs called Joe and explained the situation to him in detail.

When Joe heard that his subordinates were too late to stop the fight and that William was already seriously wounded to the point of lying unconsciously on the ground, he immediately cursed furiously, “Are you a bunch of useless trash? I told you to rush there and save him immediately. Why were you still late? You even let the assailants escape!”

The man with the ear studs felt extremely vexed as well. He had immediately gathered his men and rushed to Golden Garden Estate to save William after receiving Joe's call. But he had indeed come late, and there was nothing he could do!

“Forget it. Since things have come to this, let's not waste time on nonsense! The perpetrators have already left, so hurry up and check the surveillance camera footage of the estate to find out who they are and where they've gone! Hurry up and investigate! If you mess up, you don't have to work for me anymore!”

With that, Joe hung up furiously before urging the driver to drive faster.

After hearing Joe lose his temper, the man with the ear studs tensed up. He then hurriedly called the estate management office to have them check the surveillance camera footage.

When his men found the key from the bushes downstairs and brought it up, Lucas happened to arrive at the fifth floor.

As soon as the door opened, Cheyenne leaped out from inside.

“Cheyenne, are you alright?” Lucas held onto Cheyenne and scanned her from head to toe.

Cheyenne's face was covered in tears, and she was extremely flustered. When she saw Lucas, she felt as if she had found her pillar of support, and she leaped into his arms and cried, “Lucas! Dad was seriously injured by them! I don't know how he's doing now! I'm really scared that something might happen to him! When he saw those people coming just now, he pushed me into the apartment and locked the door before throwing the key away to prevent them from coming in. I watched him get beaten up alone outside, but there was nothing I could do to help! I'm so useless...”

Cheyenne was worried and overwhelmed with self-reproach as she hugged Lucas and wept hysterically.

Lucas hugged Cheyenne, patted her on the back, and comforted softly, “It’ll be fine. William was just worried that you might be hurt, so he locked you inside. You’re a defenseless woman. If you had come out, you would definitely have been injured. At that time, William would have been in greater misery. William will only be at ease if you’re fine. Don’t think too much about it.

“If you’re worried about William, I’ll have someone send you to the hospital to visit him. He’ll definitely be fine.”

While being comforted by Lucas, Cheyenne gradually calmed down, wiped the tears on her face with her hand, and nodded.

Lucas asked, “Who are those people who came?”

Because Lucas was in a rush just now, he hadn’t had time to ask Cheyenne the details of what had happened over the phone. Only after he arrived did he realize that the perpetrators had fled.

Cheyenne said with bloodshot eyes, “It’s Sharon Hart, James Wilson’s wife, who got into a conflict with my mom at the hotel restaurant over the bracelet the other day. We happened to run into each other in the estate today and got into a conflict. She then brought four men over and beat Dad up.”

There was an icy cold glint in Lucas’s eyes!

Those two had had several conflicts with Lucas, but he had decided to let them off because Wilson had personally apologized and promised not to provoke them again. But unexpectedly, Sharon didn’t know any better and even had the audacity to bring people over to beat William and Cheyenne up.

If William hadn’t locked Cheyenne up in time, she would have been bullied and humiliated by Sharon. Besides, Cheyenne was a girl, so who knows what would have happened to her.

The thought of that scene made Lucas want to kill people!

He took a deep breath and suppressed the immense murderous intent within him. He then said to Cheyenne, “Okay, I know. Go to the hospital and take a look at William. Leave the rest to me.”

Lucas turned around and quickly explained to Joe, who had also hurriedly arrived at the door. “Take my wife to the hospital now and take good care of her. I don’t want any problems to occur this time!”

Joe’s heart almost jumped out of his chest when he heard the anger in Lucas’s tone. He quickly said, “Yes! I will definitely protect Miss Carter and ensure that nothing happens to her!”

Face all red and swollen, Cheyenne was very worried about William’s situation, so she frantically nodded and walked to the elevator.

At this moment, the sound of a door opening softly came. Karen finally peeked through the crack in the door before craning her neck to take a look outside.

When she realized that Sharon and the menacing henchmen had left and that her good-for-nothing son-in-law Lucas was standing at the door with a few men, she finally heaved a sigh of relief and walked out of the bedroom.

But Lucas and Cheyenne merely glanced at her coldly before looking away, as if they hadn’t seen her.

Cheyenne didn’t even ask Karen if she wanted to go to the hospital with her to check on William’s condition. She was afraid that she would hear Karen say some nasty things and no longer be able to suppress the anger in her heart.

When Karen saw their reactions, not only did she not feel ashamed at all, but she also pursed her lips and rolled her eyes in disdain.

Just as Cheyenne and Joe were about to go downstairs, the phone of the man with the ear studs rang. After he saw the caller ID, he answered immediately. “What? Have you watched all the surveillance camera videos?”

Hearing that they had already found some clues in the videos, the few of them stopped and listened to what he had to say.

“Okay, I know. Continue to keep tabs on it!” After hanging up, the man with the ear studs immediately reported to Joe and Lucas, “My men discovered that that woman brought her people to the Douglasses’ villa. Her men are also bodyguards of the Douglasses.”

The Douglasses? Why would she go there?

As far as Lucas knew, the Douglasses didn’t seem to be nearby, so he wondered how Joe’s subordinates managed to find out.

Seemingly having noticed Lucas’s puzzlement, the man with the ear studs hurriedly said, “The Douglasses own a villa in the Golden Palm Villa cluster nearby. They headed there!”

Lucas said coldly, “I’ll go there to see them now!”

Chapter 279: Douglasses' Villa

Hearing that Lucas wanted to go to the Douglasses' villa, the man with the ear studs' heart skipped a beat. Because unlike Joe, he didn't know how powerful and domineering Lucas was.

In his opinion, the Douglasses were a top family in Orange County, second only to the four top families. If Lucas demanded an explanation from them, he would be inviting trouble.

Suddenly, Joe said, "Zach, you will be responsible for taking Mr. Gray to the Douglasses' villa!"

Zach, the man with the ear studs, widened his mouth in shock and pointed at himself before exclaiming in disbelief, "Me?!" Immediately afterward, he grimaced and stared at Joe in hopes that Joe would change his mind.

Joe turned gloomy and hollered furiously, "What are you waiting for? Hurry up and show Mr. Gray the way."

Joe glared at Zach, as if he had expected better from him.

Of course, he knew what Zach was worried about. But after witnessing with his own eyes what Lucas had done to Preston, the future helmsman of the Taylors, one of the four great families in Orange County, Joe admired Lucas greatly. And he was even confident that Lucas wouldn't be on the losing end if he confronted the four top families, let alone the Douglasses.

If Lucas hadn't ordered Joe to escort Cheyenne to the hospital, he would have followed Lucas to the Douglasses' villa.

It was a rare opportunity that not everyone could have. Yet Zach still hadn't realized how lucky he was and was even acting as if he had to go to face a terrible situation.

The infuriated Joe smacked Zach on the head and warned, "Remember not to be disrespectful to Mr. Gray in any way. His orders are more important than mine. Do whatever you are told to do, do you understand?"

Seeing the warning gaze in Joe's eyes and realizing what he meant, Zach then understood how powerful the young man in front of him was. He thought that Lucas had to be at least a big shot even more powerful than Joe, whom Joe dared not disobey since Joe said that his orders were secondary to Lucas's.

In that case, following such a powerful figure to the Douglasses' villa wouldn't be an attempt to court death but an excellent opportunity!

When Zach figured this out, his conflicted expression and look of dismay immediately turned into excitement written all over his face. He guaranteed, "Yes! I will definitely follow Mr. Gray and obey all his orders!"

At this point, Lucas had long lost his patience and headed downstairs with Cheyenne while Joe and Zach hurried to catch up.

Soon, they moved quickly. Joe drove Cheyenne to the hospital where William was, while Lucas, led by Zach and several of his subordinates, headed to the Golden Palm Villa cluster where the Douglasses' villa was.

The Golden Palm Villa cluster was just a stone's throw away from the Golden Garden Estate, so it only took them a few minutes to drive to the Douglasses' villa.

As soon as they alighted, a young redhead jumped out from behind a rose bush near the villa and hurried to Zach. He reported softly, "Zach, that woman brought

her four bodyguards with her to this villa. I've been watching outside, so they shouldn't have come out yet."

Zach nodded and waved his hand to get his man to stand down. He bowed to Lucas and asked, "Mr. Gray, should I... send a few of my subordinates to sneak in and see what's going on?"

Although the Douglasses' villa was in front of him and letting his subordinates sneak in would be dangerous, Zach thought of what Joe had said to him just now and felt that even the Douglas family might be inferior to the mysterious and unpredictable Mr. Gray right in front of him.

Lucas narrowed his eyes and observed the luxurious and majestic villa in front of him.

Although it was a property owned by the Douglasses, it was not part of their main residence, though it was just as opulent. It was also equipped with amenities like a garden, a fountain, a swimming pool, several expensive cars, and a large stone monument with the Douglas family name engraved on it.

There were two tall bodyguards standing at the entrance of the villa and staring at the group of uninvited guests outside the villa with hostile expressions.

Although Lucas and company had yet to step within the boundaries of the Douglasses' villa, one of the bodyguards took two steps forward and said scornfully in a deep voice, "This villa belongs to the Douglasses. Get lost. Don't loiter at the door!"

"The Douglasses are really arrogant, huh?"

Lucas sighed calmly. Then with a sudden snap of his fingers, a black afterimage immediately darted toward the stone monument.

Bang!

The nearly two-meter-tall stone monument with the Douglas family name carved on it shattered into pieces, and countless stone debris shot in all directions. In the blink of an eye, it completely collapsed.

The few young men beside Zach widened their eyes in disbelief as they looked at the scene in front of them!

Lucas was obviously still several meters away from the stone monument a moment ago, so how on earth did it shatter into pieces?!

Even the bullet shot from a gun might not be able to achieve this outcome. It was as if the stone monument had been bombed!

Of course, how Lucas managed to do it wasn't the point. The point was that Lucas had shattered the Douglasses' stone monument right in front of them. It was plain and blatant provocation!

Most of the subordinates were unclear of Lucas's identity and merely knew that Zach was accompanying him to the Douglasses' villa. Seeing this, they were all visibly horrified.

“Holy shit! He smashed the stone monument of the Douglasses as soon as he arrived. Isn't he inviting trouble?”

“Zach, who the hell is this punk? He'd better not get us all killed!”

“Yeah! The Douglasses are one of the top families in Orange County, and they own lots of properties and have a lot of manpower. We only run a small cyber cafe. We'll definitely die!”

“Zach, I still have some things to handle at home. I'll get going now!”

“I... I suddenly remembered that my wife is ill today, so I have to send her to the hospital. I'm leaving now, Zach!”

...

After seeing Lucas destroy the stone monument at the entrance of the Douglasses' villa, Zach's subordinates panicked and wished they could curse at Lucas out loud. Of course, those who thought they were smart fled right away.

Compared to offending the prestigious Douglas family, they would rather offend Zach and Joe!

"Damn it! All of you are just a bunch of fools!"

Seeing his subordinates fleeing like cowards, Zach was infuriated and embarrassed, and he couldn't help cursing.

They might not have seen it, but Zach had seen clearly how Lucas shattered the massive stone monument using just a small pebble that he had casually picked up the ground when he got out of the car.

With a tiny pebble, he managed to achieve the effect of an explosive, despite launching it from a few meters away. He reckoned that Lucas's strength had to be far beyond the imagination of ordinary people like them!

The two bodyguards at the entrance of the Douglasses' villa were also stunned by Lucas's strike. No one had ever dared to make trouble at the Douglasses' doorstep before. They finally realized what was going on.

But from their perspective, they didn't see exactly how Lucas had broken the stone monument. All they knew was that Lucas was here to cause trouble!

"Punk, you're here to cause trouble on purpose, aren't you? Look where you are!" the bodyguards hollered and then picked up a rod each before charging toward Lucas.

Chapter 280: The Dogs Who Get in the Way

Seeing this, Zach voluntarily rushed up to stop the bodyguards before Lucas said anything.

But to be honest, he was only someone in charge of a cyber cafe who had a martial arts background. Compared to these official bodyguards trained by the Douglasses, he was far from comparable. So in just a short while, Zach's arm was hit twice by the bodyguards' rods, causing him to grimace in pain.

The redhead who had watched Douglasses' villa was still somewhat loyal, as he didn't flee as soon as he saw that they were offending the Douglasses. Instead, when he saw that Zach was no match for the two bodyguards, he clenched his jaw and dashed forward to help Zach block some of the attacks.

Lucas looked at the both of them in surprise, finding them quite loyal.

Of course, he wouldn't stand at the side and watch them get beaten up. He strode forward and appeared in front of the two bodyguards almost immediately. He raised his hands and grabbed one of them while twisting the other, causing them to shriek in pain. Their wrists were in so much pain that they dropped the rods in their hands.

Immediately afterward, before Zach and the redhead could even get a clear glimpse of Lucas's movements, the two bodyguards were already shrieking in pain and then collapsed in front of Lucas one after another. They couldn't get up at all, and the entire process didn't take more than two seconds.

Lucas stepped on the wrist of one of the bodyguards. "Just ten minutes ago, a woman came here with four bodyguards. Who did she come look for? Where is she now? Tell me, or I'll break your arms!"

Feeling the immense pain in his wrist that felt like it was about to break, the bodyguard turned pale in shock and hurriedly exclaimed, “I’ll tell you! I don’t know that fat woman, but she came here to look for Chris Douglas, the helmsman of the family. This villa belongs to him too, and they... they’re now in the master bedroom on the second floor of the villa. I don’t know about the rest!”

He was just a bodyguard who was only responsible for guarding the entrance of the villa, so he had no idea about the situation inside!

Lucas narrowed his eyes. *Turns out the owner of this villa is Chris Douglas. In that case, I should be able to meet this ruthless and vicious man soon.*

Suddenly, the other bodyguard on the ground whipped out the walkie-talkie from his waist with difficulty while Lucas was questioning the first bodyguard. He was just about to call someone to come over, but Zach, who was beside him, saw it and immediately went over to kick the walkie-talkie out of his hand.

“You still want to call someone to come to your rescue, huh?” Zach kicked the bodyguard twice and then asked Lucas for instructions, “Mr. Gray, in order to avoid any more trouble, I think we’d better knock them both out!”

Lucas nodded indifferently and moved his foot away while Zach and his subordinate immediately came forward to pick up the rods that the bodyguards had dropped. They then smashed them hard against the back of the bodyguards’ heads to knock them out.

Of course, the bodyguard who answered Lucas’s questions cooperatively had merely been hit once by the rod, while the other who tried to call for help was in a miserable state. After being knocked out, he was hit by the rods a few more times.

Lucas pushed open the door of the villa and walked in, followed by Zach and the young redhead.

Chris Douglas' private villa had extravagant and opulent decor. Although it couldn't hold a candle to Lucas's lake villa, it was still an incredibly beautiful luxury property.

Besides, the sound insulation of this villa was clearly impressive, as the people inside didn't know anything about the commotion that just happened outside. Even when the three of them reached the staircase at the end of the living room, the bodyguards standing in the corridor on the second floor by the stairway and chatting with each other still didn't notice them.

"Tsk, tsk, we're always told to guard the door, but what's there to guard? No outsider dares to come into this villa anyway."

"Hahahaha, you must be envious, huh? Our boss is enjoying himself in there, but all you can do is stay here and guard the place. Are you having a dry spell? When it's time to change shifts, I bet you'll dash out and find someone to satisfy your needs!"

"Hmph, I don't believe you're not envious! But seriously, Mr. Douglas has such unique taste in women. If I were him, I wouldn't want such a fat woman! I'd definitely get a woman who has a nice figure."

"Hehehe, there are plenty of women out there who have great figures. Mr. Douglas must have gotten sick of them. What do you know? This is called an occasional change of taste!"

...

While the bodyguards were chuckling lewdly over this topic with an unspoken mutual understanding, they were completely relaxed and failed to notice the commotion going on downstairs.

The redhead had sharp eyes, and as soon as he saw them, he said to Lucas softly, "Mr. Gray, those four bodyguards up there are the ones who followed that woman to Golden Garden Estate to beat that man up just now!"

Lucas looked up at the stairway of the second floor with an icy cold gaze.

They were the ones who had beat up his father-in-law, William, knocked him unconscious, and caused him to be hospitalized. They had even tried to harm Cheyenne!

Lucas sneered and quickly stomped his foot on the ground before pressing his hand against the handrail of the staircase. He then propelled upward like a bird with light wings, leaping up from the first floor to the second floor.

“So fast!”

Zach and the redhead were both stunned by the move Lucas just pulled! They looked at each other and hurriedly followed Lucas up the stairs.

Of course, they didn't have such amazing skills and could only run up the stairs.

At this moment, the pupils of four bodyguards, who were slacking off and chatting in the corridor on the second floor, constricted when they saw Lucas suddenly appear in front of them. They quickly got into a ready state and hollered, “Who are you?!”

Lucas said coldly with a hostile gaze, “You must be the ones who severely injured my father-in-law!”

Hearing the word ‘father-in-law’, they were stunned for a moment, but they soon understood.

One of the bodyguards spat a mouthful of saliva and said in disdain, “It turns out you're the son-in-law of that old fogy. Are you thinking of taking revenge on us?”

“Punk, you're really bold to have barged into the villa! We have to teach you a good lesson, or Mr. Douglas will blame us for failing our duties!”

Another bodyguard raised his fist in front of him and clenched it tightly, causing his knuckles to pop loudly. It was clearly a threat. “Hah, I can beat ten of you weaklings alone!”

The other bodyguard looked at Lucas’s lean body and snorted with contemptuous laughter. He didn’t take Lucas’s words seriously at all. As soon as he finished speaking, he charged toward Lucas and swung his fist against Lucas’s face!