

### **Chapter 321: Not Releasing A Single One**

Looking sullen and grief-stricken, Kyle said, “I think everyone knows about the auction we Kingstons held in Club Splendor tonight. During the auction, a young man named Lucas Gray got into a conflict with Liam over a beauty put up for auction as the finale item. I tried to mediate the conflict, but I didn’t expect Lucas Gray to suddenly get physical and kill Liam a second before he left the auction hall!

“I wanted to nab the culprit and bring him here to take revenge for Liam, but Lucas Gray is extremely good at fighting. Even the guards working for my family couldn’t hold him back, and even I almost got killed by him. If he hadn’t been deterred by the power of my family at the last moment, I would have died like Liam.”

As Kyle spoke, he raised his head to reveal the purplish-green welts on his neck from being strangled by Lucas.

Pierre Wallace and the other Wallaces were initially somewhat doubtful about Kyle’s words, but the fingerprint-shaped bruises on his neck were indeed real. Only then did they believe that even Kyle was almost killed by the person who murdered Liam. Clearly, the murderer was indeed brutal and menacing!

“Lucas Gray? As far as I know, there isn’t a top family in Orange County that bears the family name Gray. Which city is his family from?” Pierre asked with a frown.

The Wallaces began pondering over it, but none of them could figure out if there was a powerful family with the name Gray.

Kyle shook his head. “Lucas Gray isn’t a member of a powerful family from another city. I heard that he’s from Orange County, and he’s actually quite well-known here too.”

“What?! He’s from Orange County?” The Wallaces were extremely surprised.

“Could it be that this Lucas Gray you mentioned is that infamous good-for-nothing son-in-law of the Carters, who married Cheyenne Carter, who was formerly known as the most beautiful girl in the county, due to a scandal?” A few of the younger Wallaces blurted because they suddenly found the name ‘Lucas Gray’ extremely familiar.

Kyle nodded and said with a look of agony, “Yes, it’s him! I didn’t expect a lowly live-in son-in-law like him to actually have the audacity to attack Liam and me.”

“Damn it! Lucas Gray is nothing but a piece of garbage that everyone despises. How dare he provoke and challenge the Wallaces?!” After hearing about Lucas’s past, several young men of the Wallace family began cursing and clamoring about immediately going to settle scores with Lucas.

“There’s also one more thing I think I should tell you guys. Lucas Gray seems to be very close to the Hales, which is also one of the four most powerful families of Orange County. At the auction venue earlier, Bruce Hale, the head of the Hale family, kept defending Lucas Gray. If Bruce Hale hadn’t tried to stop me, Lucas Gray would probably have been caught by my family guards!” Kyle deliberately told the Wallaces about an incident he had fabricated.

After all, at the time, all the other guests in the auction venue had been made to leave, and Lucas, Kyle, Russell, Liam, and the Kingstons’ ten-odd experts were the only ones around.

Apart from them, no one saw what had happened, so even if Kyle made things up, no one could verify the claims he made nor expose his lies.

“The Hales, Bruce Hale!” There was anger written all over Pierre’s old and wrinkled face. He gritted his teeth and bellowed, “I, Pierre Wallace, swear that the Wallaces will steer clear from the Hales from now on and never be on good terms with them again!”

With a subtle glint in his eyes, Kyle asked concernedly again, “Mr. Wallace, how do you guys plan to deal with that bastard Lucas Gray? My family can also give you some help.”

Pierre glanced at Kyle and said coldly, “This is a feud between the Wallaces and him, so we will naturally be the ones to take revenge! We won’t bother you for now. Please take your leave, Mr. Kingston!”

Seeing that Pierre was austere and upset, Kyle could only purse his lips and leave as he was told. “In that case, I’ll get going now. I offer you my deepest condolences. Goodbye!”

After Kyle left the Wallaces residence with both his personal bodyguards, Pierre’s face turned sullen, and he snorted furiously. “Hah, Kyle Kingston isn’t a decent person either! Trust him to think that I’d fall for his pretense and his tricks. He’s such a greenhorn!”

Pierre’s eldest son, Bryant Wallace, was standing right beside him. When he heard what Pierre said, he couldn’t help being stunned. “Dad, are you saying that that brat was lying to us on purpose just now?”

“Hmph, he might not necessarily be lying about everything, but there must be some falsehoods! Why would Liam get into a conflict with that Lucas Gray out of nowhere, and how did things escalate to such an extent?”

“From what you’ve said, Lucas Gray should only be a lowly live-in son-in-law of the Carters. How could he have had the guts to do something like that? This matter must have something to do with that punk Kyle Kingston!”

“Besides, the Kingstons used Club Splendor as the venue for their auction of some secretive items tonight, which they clearly stated are to be kept hidden from the public eye. So the Kingstons must have sent plenty of their guards and henchmen to guard the place both inside and outside!

“In the end, the altercation broke out on our property, but none of our subordinates were allowed to stay at the venue. As a result, we don’t even know what exactly happened at the auction! The Kingstons can’t shirk responsibility for this!”

The more Pierre thought about it, the angrier he got. He ordered Bryant coldly, “Send someone to investigate immediately. We must get to the bottom of the truth! I don’t care who Lucas Gray is. As long as he’s related to Liam’s death, we won’t spare him!”

After hearing what Pierre said, Bryant, Liam’s biological father, exclaimed ruthlessly with reddened eyes, “Yes! We’ll definitely avenge Liam and get ahold of every single person who caused his death!”

Soon, the news of Liam Wallace’s murder spread like wildfire throughout Orange County.

After all, the Wallaces were one of the four most powerful families in Orange County, and the victim this time was the grandson of the Wallaces’ helmsman. The news was especially shocking because it was said that Liam had been killed during a brawl.

Someone actually dared to lay their hand on a direct descendant of a top family in Orange County. How brazen!

Bruce received the news early the next morning, and his eyelids couldn’t help but twitch.

The first thing that came to his mind was the words that Lucas said to Grace outside Club Splendor yesterday—”Liam Wallace will never pester you again.”

Bruce was almost 100% certain that Liam's death was related to Lucas.

After hesitating for a long time, Bruce nevertheless called Lucas. "Mr. Gray, the top families of Orange County have received a message this morning regarding Liam Wallace's... demise."

At this moment, Lucas was on the way to the hospital to visit William after sending Cheyenne to work and dropping Amelia off at the kindergarten.

Upon receiving Bruce's call, he immediately understood what Bruce was worried about and thus said straightforwardly, "I killed Liam Wallace yesterday in front of Kyle Kingston."



## **Chapter 322: Getting Discharged and Going Home**

Although Bruce had already guessed it, he was still stunned by Lucas's ability to remain composed and speak calmly. After all, the person he killed wasn't an ordinary person but a direct descendant of the Wallaces, one of Orange County's four most powerful families!

In particular, Lucas had killed Liam right in front of Kyle and the Kingstons' employees. This was truly shocking!

“Mr. Gray, according to the information I received, Kyle Kingston personally delivered Liam Wallace's corpse back to the Wallace residence last night and even said a lot to them. He must have smeared you and made extremely unfavorable allegations about you. The Wallaces should bear a grudge against you now, and they'll surely confront you soon. They also declared that they would steer clear of the Hales and swore to be at odds with us from now on.”

Bruce said solemnly, “The Hales aren't intimidated, and I'm not worried that they'll try to deal with you either. But I'm a little worried that the Wallaces might harm the people around you. You have to be careful and keep your guard up!”

The Wallaces would resort to extreme methods at times. And if they really attacked the people related to Lucas, they would definitely resort to some despicable means that could result in fatal consequences.

Lucas sneered. “If they have the audacity to do that, I can guarantee that the Wallaces will definitely vanish from Orange County immediately!”

Lucas’s family was his Achilles’ heel, and anyone who dared to harm them would die, regardless of who they were!

“I have my own arrangements for this matter. Don’t worry. Since the Wallaces have now declared war on the Hales, can you cope with it?” Lucas asked.

Bruce was very confident about this. “The Wallaces and the Hales are similar in status, and in fact, in some aspects, they’re inferior to us. So they can go ahead and declare war on us all they want. I doubt they can do anything to us.

“Of course, if the Kingstons join them and stand on their side, it might be a little difficult to handle them...”

Bruce wasn’t blindly confident in himself. Last night in Club Splendor, he represented the Hales and stood on Lucas’s side, so he reckoned that Kyle must have formed a grudge against the Hales. There was a high possibility that he would secretly collude with the Wallaces to deal with the Hales.

“Okay, inform me immediately if the Kingstons start attacking you,” Lucas instructed.

Bruce immediately felt relieved. He said with a smile, “Alright. Thank you, Mr. Gray!”

After hanging up the phone, Lucas continued to drive to the hospital.

Regarding the safety of the people related to him, as Bruce mentioned, Lucas had actually made arrangements to protect them last night.



He had long arranged for Wade to stay by Charlotte's side to protect her at all times. When he called Jordan last night, he had already instructed Jordan to tell Stanley to come back from LA. Then he gave Stanley the task of secretly protecting Cheyenne at all times.

As for Amelia, Lucas would send her to and from the kindergarten every day, so her safety was guaranteed.

Soon, Lucas arrived at the Orange Coast Medical Center and took the familiar route to William's ward.

"Lucas, I've been lying alone in the hospital for two days. The boredom is killing me! Hurry up and let me get discharged from the hospital!"

Lucas heard William complaining as soon as Lucas stepped into the ward.

Lucas said helplessly, "You were still unconscious when you were transported to the hospital yesterday. Your injuries are quite severe, so it's better for you to rest and recuperate here for a few days."

"Hey, they're just some superficial wounds! There aren't any serious issues with my health. I've been hospitalized for more than a day, and I'm almost fully recovered! I didn't suffer any fractures or anything, so why do I need to continue being hospitalized?" William deliberately jumped twice on the ground to prove to Lucas that his injuries were not serious.

Lucas sighed and shrugged with his palms spread open. "There's no point in asking me to help you get discharged, William. You have to get Cheyenne and Charlotte's approval."

William had no choice but to call his daughters again and plead as hard as he could to convince them. He even asked his attending physician to prove that his injuries were not severe and that he was indeed ready to be discharged from the hospital.

Due to William's insistence, Cheyenne and Charlotte could only agree to let him be discharged and go home for recuperation.

After William's things were packed, Lucas planned to take William back to the villa for a short stay of a couple of days so that everyone could take care of him. But William insisted that Lucas send him back to his rented apartment in Golden Garden Estate.

"Since we've already moved out, just send me back to my apartment. Otherwise, if Karen finds out, she'll definitely kick up a fuss and go to your place to argue with you guys. Just drop me off at the estate. Karen's home. She'll take care of me."

Lucas sighed.

He knew that one of the main reasons that William insisted on moving out of the villa was actually that he wanted to prevent Karen from insulting Lucas and making malicious remarks about him all the time, lest she disrupted their pleasant and peaceful life.

Lucas sent William to Block 26 of Golden Garden Estate and accompanied him up to the apartment on the fifth floor. When they entered the apartment, they saw Karen sprawled across the couch in the living room and watching television. There were food wrappers, empty bags of chips, empty bottles, and other trash all over the floor. It was a huge mess and filthy everywhere. But Karen merely lay on the couch and continued watching TV as if she hadn't seen the garbage and mess she had created.

Even when she saw William and Lucas walking in, she merely turned to glance at them nonchalantly before looking away and ignoring them, let alone ask about William's injuries.

William was instantly disappointed.

He had been treating Karen well all these years. And apart from the time he had gotten into a physical fight with Karen in a drunken stupor, he had never laid a hand on her or lashed out at her before. He would bear with her tantrums and scoldings every day and even let her be in charge of the pursestrings.

This time, he had gotten beaten up at the door of his apartment and ended up hospitalized. Even Lucas, his son-in-law, had made several trips to the hospital to visit him. Yet Karen, his wife of decades, didn't give him a single call, much less visit him at the hospital.

Now that he had come home, she still didn't show him any concern and simply pretended like she didn't see him. This made William feel truly heartbroken.

When William saw the mess in the living room, which now looked like a dumpster, he no longer wanted to stay here. After placing the items that he was holding back inside his room, William immediately left.

When they walked to the square below the apartment block, William complained to Lucas with a glum expression, "Hey, Lucas, to be honest with you, I really don't want to continue living with this woman anymore!"

### **Chapter 323: The Arrogant Subordinate**

Lucas looked at him sympathetically and sighed without saying a single word.

In fact, Lucas was in awe of William's ability to tolerate Karen's detestable character for so many years.

If he were in William's shoes, he would have long left Karen because he couldn't stand her at all. He would rather live alone than continue living with a horrid woman like her.

But no matter what, Karen was still Cheyenne and Charlotte's biological mother, so Lucas naturally wouldn't persuade William to divorce her.

"Ah, forget it. Let's stop talking about her. The mention of that woman makes me feel terrible. I'm going to go to the office to take a look," William said.

The company he was referring to was naturally the Orange County branch of the Solar Corporation, which Lucas had him manage some time ago.

The Orange County branch of the Solar Corporation originally belonged to the Brookes from LA. But Aston and Andrew had previously transferred 49% of the shares of the Orange County branch to Lucas in order to gain his support while feigning allegiance to him. In exchange, they wanted an opportunity to expand their family business in Orange County.

Later on, the Brookes repeatedly committed acts of betrayal against Lucas, which ultimately led to their fall. Lucas then acquired all of the businesses formerly owned by the Brookes at market price, which naturally included the Orange County branch of the Solar Corporation.

But after Lucas acquired this company, he didn't have enough manpower to spare for managing it, so he had no choice but to let William take on the role of the general manager and be fully in charge of all affairs related to the company in Orange County. Lucas hadn't even gone to the company to take a look yet, not even once.

Hearing that William wanted to go and take a look at the office, Lucas thought about it and decided to go with him.

On the one hand, he wanted to send William there. On the other hand, he also wanted to see for himself the current operation and situation of the company.

After all, William had just taken over the responsibility of managing the company a few days ago, and most of the current employees had been working there even before Lucas acquired it. He wondered if they would have any dissatisfaction or refusal to obey William's orders.

The Solar Corporation office building was only a short distance away from Golden Garden Estate, so it only took them a ten-minute drive to get there.

Lucas followed William into the office building, which had rather grand and presentable decor.

“Hey, aren't you the new general manager of our company, Mr. Carter? You're actually at the office today. Pigs can fly! I heard that you fell sick and were hospitalized, right? You recovered so soon!”

Just as the two of them stepped into the office, they heard a sarcastic remark.

Lucas turned around and saw a middle-aged man in his forties with a huge beer belly speaking to William with contempt and derision.

“Hah, Mr. Carter has someone powerful backing him up. Even if he continues being on medical leave for a long time, he’d still be our general manager. Such treatment isn’t something we hardworking employees can enjoy!” Another middle-aged man with a gaunt and long face was standing beside the man with the beer belly.

Lucas had sharp eyesight, and he saw at a glance the metal nameplates on both of their chests. The words ‘Deputy General Manager: Adrian Hill’ were on the nameplate of the middle-aged man with the beer belly. While on the thin middle-aged man with a long face were the words ‘Directory of the Business Department: Jimmy Brown’.

Lucas immediately frowned.

Both of them were obviously senior executives of the Solar Corporation branch in Orange County. But they were both very sarcastic and snide when speaking to William, even though he was the general manager. They didn’t show him the slightest respect and even displayed a lot of animosity toward him.

Their voices were rather loud when they were mocking William, so many people in the office area suddenly turned over to look at them.

William’s face turned sullen.

Lucas had given him full authority to manage the company. But when Lucas came to inspect the operations of the office for the first time, he was greeted with this distasteful scene of William being publicly humiliated by his subordinates.

It not only meant that William didn’t hold any significant authority in the company, but it also reflected the disorderly management of the company. Strictly speaking, it was considered William’s dereliction of duty.

William took a glance at Adrian Hill and Jimmy Brown before looking at the other employees in the office, who were looking at them with peculiar gazes. He ordered sternly, “All of you, stop what you’re doing immediately and gather in the conference hall on the first floor! I have something to say!”

After hearing William’s order, all the employees didn’t get up immediately as ordered. But instead, they subconsciously turned to look at the deputy general manager, Adrian, to see what he intended for them to do.

Adrian said nonchalantly with a smug expression, “Mr. Carter, it’s unfortunate that I happen to have an appointment with a client at this time. I’ll give your meeting a pass! In addition, I advise you to give notice at least a few days in advance when you decide to hold a meeting again. Who has the time to attend your impromptu meeting?”

Then he scanned his surroundings.

“Mr. Carter, I’m sorry, but I have an errand to run, so I have to be out of the office. I’ll have to miss your meeting!” Jimmy, the director of the business department, said with a smile on his long face.

“That’s right! The next time you want to hold a meeting, please inform all of us in advance. Such an impromptu meeting is really disrupting our work rhythm!”

“Haha, Mr. Carter doesn’t even care about the situation of the company. He obviously doesn’t give a hoot about whether your work rhythm is disrupted or not! Our lives are so hard. We get so overwrought and caught up with working every day, but we still have to attend some nonsensical meeting! Who has time for that?!”

“Exactly! I happen to have an important project to follow up on. I won’t be attending the meeting either.”

...

All of a sudden, several senior executives of the company declined to attend the meeting and even wanted to leave the office altogether. The remaining employees looked around to observe the situation and stayed silent while feigning ignorance.

“All of you, shut up!” William suddenly hollered and immediately told all of them to stop in their tracks. Everyone turned to look at him.

William was so enraged that his face was flushed. Although he knew that many of the long-tenured employees of the company ostracized him and would obey his instructions perfunctorily without actually putting them into action, he didn't expect them to be so disrespectful to him. It was a blatant insult to him!

If he couldn't find a way to subdue them today, he wouldn't have the cheek to call himself the general manager again from now on, for he had no power or authority and was getting trampled on by everyone. What a huge joke he would become!

“Haha, what's the matter? Mr. Carter, are you going to put on airs as the general manager in front of us?” Adrian sneered. What he meant was that he didn't take William seriously at all, even though he was the general manager.



## **Chapter 324: Those Who Oppose**

In fact, Adrian had been extremely hostile to William since he had joined the company a few days ago.

The reason was very simple—before William became the general manager of the Solar Corporation’s Orange County branch, Adrian was the person in charge of the entire branch office!

The Orange County branch of the Solar Corporation originally belonged to the Brookes, so the former general manager was one of their distant relatives.

But since the sudden fall of the Brookes, all of them had left LA, and their remaining businesses were acquired by Lucas. Adrian and the other long-tenured employees remained in the Solar Corporation’s Orange County branch instead of leaving with the Brookes.

In their opinion, the Brookes were just the owners of the company they worked for, so there was no need for them to go down together with the Brookes.

Because Lucas hadn’t had the time to manage the company himself, he allowed the existing employees to remain in their current positions and didn’t do any shuffling of duties.

Adrian, who had been the deputy general manager of the company for a long time, became the most senior employee and held the highest position in the company. In his opinion, the position of general manager would definitely belong to him once the higher-ups from headquarters issued the next appointment letter!

But Adrian never expected that headquarters would transfer someone over to become the general manager just as he was happily and conceitedly preparing to be appointed as the general manager!

To make matters worse, the newcomer was far inferior to him in terms of seniority, experience, and prestige. How could Adrian stomach this?

So from the very first day William joined the company, he had become an eyesore and a thorn in the side of Adrian, who was often sarcastic and defiant to his orders.

Furthermore, the other senior executives of the company were also unconvinced of William's abilities and were indignant about his takeover as general manager. As a result, everyone disrespected William and even ostracized him unanimously.

Previously, William felt that it would be inappropriate to be harsh with them since he had just joined the company. He had been adopting the mindset of maintaining peace as far as possible as he tried his best to speak to them amicably.

But it now seemed that his tolerance and compromises had made him seem like a weak and vulnerable pushover no one took seriously.

William said coldly with a dark expression, "I repeat. I want all of you to gather in the conference hall on the first floor within five minutes. No one is allowed to be absent from the meeting! Those who do not arrive at the conference hall within five minutes will be regarded as being absent from work without reason, and there will be a company notice of your misconduct!"

William turned to his secretary and gave a stern order.

The secretary immediately seemed extremely conflicted.

Although he was the secretary of the general manager, those who openly ostracized William included the deputy general manager and the directors of the business department, human resources department, and finance department. Meanwhile, he was just the secretary of a powerless general manager whose authority could be

overridden at any time. So the secretary was at a loss because he felt that he didn't have the power to carry out William's instructions.

"What? Are you, my secretary, going to disobey me too?" William narrowed his eyes.

Although he hadn't worked in a corporate office for many years, he had at least held a managerial position before. Now that Lucas was beside him too, he sounded extremely domineering and dignified, exuding the assertive aura of a superior figure.

The secretary was flabbergasted and hurriedly nodded. "Yes, Mr. Carter!"

Adrian turned gloomy. He glared at the secretary in a threatening manner. "Louis, you have to think this through carefully. Don't take sides without considering the consequences. It might be too late for regrets when the time comes! If you don't want to continue working for this company, I can grant your wish at any time!"

Adrian was extremely arrogant for blatantly threatening the secretary.

Louis, the secretary, immediately pulled a long face, feeling glum and conflicted as he was caught in between two big bosses at odds against each other. Regardless of who he obeyed, he would end up offending the other person. He was truly vexed.

Lucas had been standing quietly by the side without saying anything, though his face was incredibly grim and obviously displeased.

Seeing Adrian's arrogance, William stared at him composedly before suddenly saying, "Adrian Hill, do you think I'm really afraid of you and that I won't dare to do anything to you?"

Adrian sneered. "Haha, who doesn't know that our general manager, Mr. Carter, was transferred from headquarters and has someone powerful behind him? Even if you try to suppress me with your backer, it won't work! After all, I have been in the industry for so many years, and I have far better business skills, experience,

and connections than you do! To put it bluntly, even if the two of us get into a heated dispute and blow things up to the extent that the higher-ups of headquarters have to choose between the two of us, I will be the one to stay! What else do you think you can use to suppress me?"

William sneered too. "I know that many of you are displeased with the fact that I've suddenly become the general manager of this company. Those who want me to step down from the position of the general manager, come forward!"

Everyone fell silent at once.

Many people looked at one another while watching the two most authoritative leaders of the company argue with each other.

For ordinary employees, it actually didn't matter who the higher-ups were. Of course, they weren't in any place to be concerned either because it wasn't the level they could reach anyway.

Thus, the people whose interests were directly concerned were naturally those who held the top managerial roles of each department.

"As long as I'm around, none of you will need to worry. Feel free to voice your opinion," Adrian guaranteed as he looked around at the employees.

After two seconds of silence, Jimmy, the director of the business department, stood out and made his stand clear. "I'm not willing to accept you as the general manager. In my humble opinion, Adrian is the most suitable candidate for being the general manager!"

After Jimmy took the lead, several other people proceeded to stand out too.

"I too am unwilling to submit to you. You shouldn't be the general manager!"

“Same for me! Mr. Hill has better qualifications and experience than you do, and he has served this company for much longer than you have. Why should he be subordinate to you?”

“Exactly! When you were part of the Carters the past few decades, you barely participated in any corporate work for the Carter Corporation. So you don’t have any experience or concept of the operations of modern companies. If you continue to be in charge of leading the entire company, the company’s prospects will definitely be bleak! So I’m not willing to accept you as the general manager either!”

...

In addition to Adrian, a total of six other senior executives stood out to oppose William.

Looking at the few people standing in front of him, William took a deep breath and asked again, “Is there anyone else who shares the same thoughts as them?”

“...”

After several seconds, no one else moved.

The seven of them had basically already accounted for half of all the top executives of the Solar Corporation branch in Orange County.

But Adrian was still extremely dissatisfied with the result, and he glowered at the other few top executives who didn’t stand out against William.

He was expecting everyone to stand on his side and launch a major boycott against William!

But at the end of the day, William was directly appointed by the higher-ups of headquarters to be the general manager, and the way he spoke with gusto and

authority had also shocked some of them, deterring them from taking sides without consideration.

William glanced at the seven of them and suddenly said to Louis, “Louis, take down the names of these people and draft seven letters of dismissal. Hand one to each of them! From this moment on, you seven are fired!”

## Chapter 325: Brazen Impostor

“What? Fired?!”

As soon as everyone heard William’s decision, their eyes widened in disbelief.

*He wants to dismiss half of the senior executives, including the deputy general manager, Adrian Hill, all at once?!*

*That’s too exaggerated!*

Staring at William in disbelief, Adrian suddenly sneered. “William Carter, what nonsense are you spouting? Your position is only one level higher than mine, and you haven’t even secured a foothold in this company yet. What right do you have to fire me?”

“On the basis that I’m senior to you and that I’m the general manager of the Solar Corporation, who has to be fully responsible for all the company’s affairs! Since you don’t want to obey my decisions, and you insist on going against me all the time, you people will only be unnecessary scourges of the company if I continue to let you stay. Am I supposed to be subservient to you instead of firing you?”

William retorted hostilely.

Since these people had openly stood out to oppose his leadership, there was no need for him to be kind to them.

Adrian and the others instantly choked in shock. They wanted to use this method to manipulate William, but they didn’t expect him to suppress them using his position as the general manager.

But they thought, *Who does William Carter think he is? How dare he dismiss so many of us at once?*

“William Carter, you must have gone mad from being obsessed with being the general manager. We’re all pillars of the company and long-tenured employees. It can be said that all of the achievements that the company has made in Orange County couldn’t have been possible without us! Without us, the company will immediately fall into jeopardy! Can you afford to be responsible for this?”

“Besides, we refuse to comply with you, so your dismissal has no effect! If you have the guts, come with us to see the chairman at headquarters, and we’ll see who’s going to be dismissed!” Adrian said adamantly and aggressively.

Given his personal qualifications and the contributions he had made to the company, he was certain that William would be the one who got dismissed once they got the higher-ups of headquarters involved.

“Exactly, without the chairman’s approval, we won’t leave the company! Who do you think you are?!”

“That’s right. If you have what it takes, let’s all go to the chairman and let him decide who’s fired and kicked out of the company!”

The few senior executives standing on Adrian’s side voiced their refusal to comply too.

William looked at these people and suddenly said, “Will you leave immediately once the chairman agrees?”

“Hmph, of course! Well, you have to get the chairman’s approval before anything else!” Adrian said sneeringly with folded arms.

“Okay then.” William immediately turned around and looked at Lucas beside him. He said seriously, “Mr. Chairman, can I dismiss them now?”



Lucas, who had watched the entire process from the side, naturally nodded. “They’re arrogant, unbridled, snobbish, presumptuous, disrespectful, and defiant toward their superior. They’re only going to be the scourges of the company if they stay behind. Of course they have to be dismissed!”

Adrian, Jimmy, and the rest were indeed astonished when they heard William calling Lucas the chairman.

But when they saw that the person standing opposite them was just a young man of around 27 or 28 years old, they simply felt that it was absurd.

“Hahahaha, William Carter, do you take us for fools? You found a random person to come here with you and tried to use him to deceive us. You must be dreaming! I can say that I’m the chairman’s father. Would you believe me?”

The others immediately burst into laughter.

They were all aware that the Solar Corporation branch in Orange County was now under the Stardust Corporation. The chairman of the Stardust Corporation had always been very mysterious, and very few people had seen him in person.

But no matter what, he was still a big shot. While Lucas, the young man dressed in ordinary clothes in front of them, had been following behind William ever since he entered. They felt that it was impossible that he was the chairman of the Stardust Corporation.

Lucas narrowed his eyes threateningly as he exuded a cold aura.

But Adrian didn’t detect the danger. He was now smiling smugly, as if he was holding a powerful piece of evidence against William.

“Haha, how dare you impersonate the chairman of the Stardust Corporation? You two are dead meat!” Adrian pulled out his cell phone impatiently and tapped on Flynn’s number.

“Mr. Davis, I’m sorry to bother you. I’m Adrian, the deputy general manager of the Solar Corporation branch in Orange County. Just a short while ago, William Carter, the newly appointed general manager who joined us just a few days ago, brought a young man in his twenties with him to the office and tried to deceive us by making the young man pretend to be the chairman of the Stardust Corporation. He even misused the chairman’s authority to dismiss us and kick us out of the company!

“This is absolutely intolerable. What do you say we should do about this?”

Flynn, who was still dealing with the work at hand in LA, was initially rather patient as he listened to what Adrian, the deputy general manager of a mere branch office, had to say. But after hearing everything, he received a great shock and sprung up from his chair in the office.

“What did you say?!” Flynn hollered furiously.

Adrian thought that Flynn was also enraged by the fact that someone had the audacity to pretend to be the chairman of the Stardust Corporation and assume his authority to dismiss the old-tenured employees. So he glanced at William and Lucas provocatively before explaining everything once more with additional details that he made up.

Afterward, he asked fawningly, “Mr. Davis, should I immediately call the police and have both of them arrested?”

“Obviously no!” Flynn’s deafening roar came from Adrian’s phone, and it was so loud that even those a couple of meters away could hear the obvious anger in Flynn’s tone.

The deafening roar of fury immediately made the smile on the face of Adrian, who was waiting to claim credit, stiffen.

The rest of the people on his side also seemed bewildered and anxious.

At this moment, Flynn was almost frightened and angered to death by Adrian's words!

Flynn knew that William was Lucas's father-in-law, and he was also the one who informed his subordinates to announce the news of William being appointed as the general manager of the Solar Corporation's branch office in Orange County.

*The young man in his twenties standing beside William that Adrian Hill mentioned is definitely Lucas!*

*Impersonate the chairman my foot. He's the actual chairman!*

*Based on the tone of Adrian Hill's voice, he must have offended Lucas terribly, and that must be why he's getting the sack!*

*Yet this idiot had the audacity to come complaining to me?*

*He even said that someone impersonated the chairman of the Stardust Corporation and is trying to throw the company into jeopardy?*

*This is absurd. The Stardust Corporation isn't that incompetent!*

After not hearing Flynn respond for a long time, Adrian bit the bullet and asked, "Mr... Mr. Davis?"

He was confused as to why Flynn hollered at him just now!

"You dimwit! That young man is indeed the chairman of the Stardust Corporation, and he has the final say! If you dare to offend him, I'll get someone to kill you immediately! Do you hear me?!"

Flynn's deafening voice penetrated through the phone, making Adrian's eardrums tremble. Everyone else standing around also heard it clearly.

In an instant, everyone seemed to be in extreme disbelief as they merely stood in place and stared at Lucas with a deadpan expression.

In particular, Adrian and the six senior executives beside him had exceptionally interesting expressions.

## Chapter 326: Disloyal Once

*What did we just hear?*

*The young man in front of us who seems too young to hold such a high position turns out to really be the chairman of headquarters who rarely makes an appearance?!*

*Did we just kick up such a huge stir right in front of the chairman?!*

*We even called him an impostor?*

*Oh God! What have we done?!*

If there was a cure for regret in this world, they would go back in time to ten minutes ago and never let themselves behave so stupidly again!

Unfortunately, there is no way to turn back time. And regardless of how regretful they were, there was nothing they could do except face the harsh reality.

Adrian was the first to chicken out as he hurriedly lowered his head and apologized to Lucas. “I’m... I’m sorry, Mr. Chairman! I didn’t know that you’re the chairman just now... I really didn’t mean to offend you. Please forgive me!”

He had been leveraging on his seniority to disobey William. But now that he was facing the person with the highest authority in the company, he knew that he would really be chased out of the company if he still didn't admit to his mistakes!

He was at least the deputy general manager of the company now, who drew a high salary each month and received plenty of bonuses each year too. More importantly, he could obtain lots of benefits too, making his net income much higher than the salary he was getting on the surface!

If he was really fired from his job and got kicked out of the company, he would no longer enjoy these benefits. Furthermore, he was already in his forties. It would be extremely difficult for him to get a similar job elsewhere, especially if the reason for his departure from the company was a unilateral dismissal because other companies wouldn't dare to hire him.

Thus, it was no big deal even if he had to swallow his pride and bow down to Lucas to apologize to him and seek his forgiveness.

The other six senior executives also quickly reacted after recovering from the shock and hurriedly apologized to Lucas.

“Mr. Chairman, w-we just made an unintentional mistake. We didn't intend to offend you. Please forgive us!”

“Yes, that's right. Mr. Chairman, we were wrong...”

...

Lucas stood still without moving and merely sneered. “You may not have been aware of my identity, but you were very clear that Mr. Carter is the general manager! I saw how sharp-tongued and aggressive you were just now. You people

openly defied Mr. Carter and expressed your unwillingness to obey him. I almost thought you were the chairman of the Stardust Corporation!”

Lucas’s derisive scolding immediately made the senior executives, who had just apologized, speechless as their faces became flushed.

Everyone knew that William was the general manager of the company and their direct superior. But they were still disrespectful to him nevertheless. Actually, it had nothing to do with whether they were aware of his identity or not. It just showed that they thought that William was a pushover because he was transferred here to be the general manager.

“Mr. Carter, from now on, all employees who disobey you and deliberately cause trouble in the company will be fired!” Lucas suddenly said to William.

“Yes, Mr. Chairman!” William didn’t want to reveal his relationship with Lucas in front of the company’s employees, so he was rather respectful when speaking to Lucas.

Adrian’s face was extremely sullen. Seeing William’s secretary about to turn around to prepare the dismissal letters, he was overwhelmed with anxiety, and he finally couldn’t help standing out and protesting loudly, “Mr. Chairman, you can’t just fire me like this! I was one of the first few employees of the company, and I’ve been around since its establishment. I won’t dare to say that I deserve great credit for the rapid development of the company over the years, but I’ve at least committed a lot of effort, sweat, and tears to make it possible!

“Even till now, I’m in charge of many of the company’s key projects, and I’m also responsible for keeping in contact with many of our clients. If you dismiss me now, it will definitely result in major losses incurred by the company. It will also cause the displeasure of our clients! I don’t think any of us wants to see that happen, right?” While informing Lucas of his contributions, he was also somewhat threatening him.

Unfortunately, Lucas would never succumb to threats. “Do you think that the company can’t continue operating without you? As for those so-called contributions you mentioned, don’t go talking about them to me. I know better than you do.”

The Orange County branch office of the Solar Corporation was brought back to life and put on track with Lucas’s help. In terms of the clientele and expansion, the Stardust Corporation had given the Solar Corporation a great push too.

Furthermore, the company was relatively new and was thus still receiving lots of resources and help from the Stardust Corporation. Adrian had claimed credit to the wrong person.

Adrian wanted to play the sympathy card again but to no avail after hearing what Lucas said.

The other six executives gritted their teeth when they saw this and said, “Mr. Chairman, we didn’t intend to go against Mr. Carter! We really... Well, Adrian Hill is the deputy general manager and holds great authority. He insisted that we boycott Mr. Carter together with him and threatened to deal with us if we didn’t. We really didn’t have a choice!”

“Yes! Before Mr. Carter came, Adrian Hill had been calling the shots in the office. Being employees who lack authority, we didn’t dare to disobey him!”

“Yes, we didn’t want to go against Mr. Carter either! In fact, who the general manager is makes no difference to us employees. Adrian Hill forced us!”

“Mr. Chairman, Mr. Carter, please don’t fire us! We are all in our forties and fifties, have families to feed, and loans and bills to pay. If we get dismissed, how are we supposed to keep on living? We promise that we’ll obey Mr. Carter and never defy him again!”



...

They all pushed the blame onto Adrian and tearfully claimed that he had forced them to offend William. They even pleaded to Lucas and William to forgive them and not kick them out of the company.

“You! You people...!” Enraged by their open betrayal, Adrian turned beet red, but he couldn’t bring himself to say a single word.

William intended to ignore them at first, but he had previously also personally experienced the difficulties of finding a job as someone in their fifties. So he couldn’t help but become softhearted and relent a little.

“Luc... Mr. Chairman, they seem quite pitiful. Why don’t we let them stay?” William whispered to Lucas with sympathy in his eyes.

As soon as Lucas saw the look in William’s eyes, he knew that William must have empathized with these people. But Lucas felt otherwise and instead shook his head with certainty. “A person who has been disloyal once should never be trusted again. They ostracized you for the sake of sucking up to Adrian Hill, and now, they’re pushing the blame onto him for their own benefit. Next time, they might not even hesitate to sell the entire company for their personal interests!

“Besides, there are so many employees in this company, and they’re not the only senior executives here. Why weren’t the rest forced to go against you? So that’s not a valid reason at all.

“Each and every person in this world has to take responsibility and pay the price for their own choices and decisions!”

In the military, the most shameless type of people were traitors because they were despicable by nature and would easily destroy the efforts that countless people had

guarded with their lives for the sake of their own benefits. Lucas would never allow such people to stay in his company.

After Lucas said these words with a straight face, even William shuddered, let alone the other senior executives who bore the brunt of it. They almost knelt down immediately!

## **Chapter 327: Joint Conspiracy**

After hearing what Lucas said, William felt that he had a point. Employees with poor character like them indeed couldn't continue staying in the company, let alone remain in their positions as senior executives. He had merely relented a little out of impulsiveness just now.

William ordered sternly, "Louis, go type out the dismissal letters for the seven of them immediately. From now on, they're no longer employees of the company! We will decide who to fill the vacancies in the next meeting!"

This meant that the seven senior executives who had been arrogantly ignoring William just now were about to be officially dismissed from the company.

"Yes, Mr. Carter!" Louis agreed loudly and immediately hurried back to his office to draft the letters and documents.

In contrast, Adrian, Jimmy, and the other five former senior executives had turned pale and were overwhelmed with dejection. They stood rooted to the ground and stubbornly refused to leave. They even continued to plead with William and Lucas while promising that they would never make any mistake again, in hopes that they would withdraw their orders.

With some annoyance in his eyes, Lucas said impatiently, "If you continue pestering us here, I'll have someone put up a public notice and expose your misdeeds to the entire county!"

Adrian and the others immediately stopped what they were doing, not daring to continue acting indiscriminately.

Although it was extremely humiliating to be dismissed, they would be completely embarrassed if the company put up a public notice to inform the public of what they had done. It would then be almost impossible for them to gain a strong foothold in Orange County.

Thinking of that possibility, Adrian and the other six no longer dared to kick up a ruckus and had no choice but to grit their teeth, pack up, and immediately leave in dismay.

As the few of them left in miserable states, the remaining people in the office all had a clear idea that in the power struggle for the position of general manager, William had obtained the support of the chairman of headquarters. Thus, William's position in the company was firm.

The employees who didn't take sides in the beginning were in a better plight. But many of them who had wavered just now were feeling extremely thankful that they hadn't foolishly followed the crowd and stood against William. Otherwise, they would have probably been dismissed too.

"Everyone, as per my previous instructions, gather in the conference hall on the first floor within five minutes!" William ordered once again.

But this time, all of them answered loudly, "Yes!" Then they immediately took action, with none of them daring to oppose again.

William led Lucas to his office for some rest.

"William, why didn't you tell me that you were ostracized and bullied by those people in the office?" Lucas asked helplessly.

It had been some time since he had appointed William as the general manager of the Orange County branch office of the Solar Corporation. But whenever he asked William about the company and whether or not there were any defiant employees, William would just tell him that everything was fine. So Lucas hadn't paid much attention to this branch office.

But to Lucas's surprise, he had witnessed with his very own eyes how lawlessly arrogant those former senior executives were, so much so that they didn't show William any respect at all. Who knows how terribly they would have continued to bully William if Lucas, the chairman, hadn't been present.

William had a trace of bitterness and embarrassment on his face. "I just thought that it'd be inevitable to encounter some problems since I just joined the company. I intended to handle those issues on my own, lest I keep making you guys worried. But I didn't expect them to be so brazen as to openly contradict me and boycott me. Ah, I've embarrassed myself in front of you today. It's all because of my failure to discipline the employees well."

As William spoke, he began to look a little glum.

He had indeed not managed a company for years and thus failed to suppress those employees with malicious intentions, causing them to gradually become more and more brazen. Moreover, he had even almost made another grave mistake out of sympathy for them. In conclusion, he felt somewhat ashamed to face Lucas, who had handed the company over to him to manage.

Lucas patted William's shoulder encouragingly, "William, since I've handed the company over to you, it means that I trust your abilities, so you don't have to doubt yourself. With your level of competency, you're definitely capable of managing this company well for me! But you don't have to feel embarrassed to tell me about any problems you face, if any, in the future. We're all a family. If you encounter any trouble, feel free to tell me!"

William nodded and smiled. “Alright, I won’t stand on ceremony then.”

“You didn’t have to stand on ceremony with me in the first place. Just let me know if you encounter any problems. It’s about time for the meeting to begin. I’ll go with you. I’ll just stay at the side and listen in so that I’ll have an understanding of the current development of the company.”

“Okay then. Let’s go together!”

William stood up and led Lucas to the large conference hall on the first floor, where he announced the start of the first proper meeting he had ever held since he joined the company. During the meeting, he picked out a few suitable candidates among the employees and appointed them to appropriate positions while also filling the vacancies of the seven dismissed senior executives. He also introduced some competitive rules, reward schemes, and punishment systems, which gave hope to many employees who hadn’t been promoted or given a raise in a long time.

All of a sudden, all the employees, be it those who were promoted or had the potential of being promoted in the future, were all motivated and full of zeal. The atmosphere in the entire branch office of the Solar Corporation became much more positive and lively.

Almost everyone admired William and was pleased that he was their new general manager.

Of course, those who had just been given the sack and driven out were in drastically different moods.

At this moment, the seven of them were sitting in a private room of a restaurant near the Orange County branch office.

Just now, they were glaring furiously at Adrian with their personal belongings in hand and planning to just leave. But Adrian suddenly stopped them and brought them to the restaurant.

“Why did you ask us to come here?” Jimmy questioned coldly.

Jimmy was full of hatred for Adrian now. He had been doing well as the director of the business department and had a relatively easy job scope. There was basically nothing for him to do, but he would still get a considerable amount of sales commission and kickbacks each month. Life was pretty good for him.

But he had chosen to believe Adrian and thought that William would definitely investigate him once he got used to being the general manager. Adrian had even tempted him by offering to give him more benefits if he supported the idea of making Adrian the general manager. Adrian even promised to let Jimmy take over his position as the deputy general manager then.

But what happened in the end? He didn't get a single benefit but instead suffered a double loss and even ended up losing his job!

The rest were also in a similar situation. If Adrian hadn't tempted them by promising to give them lots of future benefits, they wouldn't have bothered to go against William.

Therefore, the few of them glared at Adrian hostilely.

As if he didn't notice the hatred in their eyes, Adrian said with a faint smile, “Don't look at me like that. It's not that I don't want to fulfill my promises to you. Well, I'm now in the same plight as you. I got fired too! However, are you willing to be driven away just like that and never have a chance to succeed again?”

Jimmy frowned slightly, as he could sense that there was a hidden meaning to Adrian's words. He couldn't help saying in annoyance, "What exactly do you want to say? Just get straight to the point!"

"Exactly. Stop keeping us in suspense when things have already come to this point! Just hurry up and tell us straight!" the rest chimed in.

Only then did Adrian smile and drawl, "I have a plan in mind, and as long as we execute it successfully, I can guarantee that William Carter will beg us to return to the company! But I'll need all of you to put in equal effort in order to make this plan work. Are you interested?"



## **Chapter 328: Conscientiousness**

The other six people looked at each other.

Were they interested? Of course they were!

Who would be willing to be fired from their jobs?

“Will it really work?”

“What’s the plan?”

“What do we need to do?”

...

The six of them immediately started asking.

After successfully arousing their curiosity, Adrian said with a mysterious smile on his face, “I’m sure you guys have heard of Charlie Franco, haven’t you?”

“Charlie Franco? Are you planning to ask him for help?” Jimmy asked with shock written all over his face.

“Charlie Franco? Who’s that?” Of course, the rest hadn’t heard of this name before, so they hurriedly asked Jimmy about it.

Jimmy frowned and said in disbelief, “I’ve only heard of this person’s name, but I haven’t met him in person, nor do I plan to cross paths with him. I just heard that Franco is the owner of Snowflake Entertainment and has plenty of underlings who often do dirty deeds for him. Besides, Franco is very ruthless. He’s an ex-convict who has caused grievous harm to many people. Most people don’t dare to offend him.”

His words made everyone’s heart skip a beat.

One of the former senior executives said without hesitation, “Adrian, are you planning to...” He slid his palm across his neck. “... hire someone to kill William Carter?”

The rest immediately looked at Adrian with bizarre gazes.

Indeed, Adrian naturally hated William to the core and wished that he would die sooner, especially since William was now the general manager of the Solar Corporation’s Orange County branch office; while he, the former deputy general manager, had been driven out of the company!

Although they would usually accept bribes and fabricate false business expense claims out of greed for money, they would never dare to hire a hitman!

Besides, getting William killed would only allow Adrian to vent his anger and wouldn’t bring them any benefits at all. Only a fool would be willing to follow Adrian’s plan!

Seeing everyone looking at him in horror, as though they had seen a terrifying existence, Adrian pursed his lips and hurriedly explained, “No, no, you’ve got the

wrong idea! Why would I hire a hitman to kill William Carter? Even if we kill him, we won't be able to go back to the company, and it won't benefit us in any way. Why would I bring up such a suggestion?"

Everyone finally looked more relieved.

"What's the plan you're talking about then? Hurry up and tell us!"

"That's right. Stop being so wishy-washy and making us guess! What are you planning regarding Franco?"

Two impatient people urged.

"Don't be in such a hurry and hear me out. Franco is indeed a ruthless and troublesome person, but he's not as terrifying as the rumors make him out to be. Although Franco is now the person in charge of Snowflake Entertainment, Snowflake Entertainment belongs to the Taylors, one of the four most powerful families in this county. In other words, Franco is now working for the Taylors. Even if I want to hire him to kill someone for me, he definitely wouldn't agree to it. So don't get the wrong idea.

"However, we can hire Franco to work for us. Once he can help us block the warehouse and export outlet of the branch office for a period of time and demand that I be present before he stops, I can guarantee that that scoundrel William Carter will definitely be at a loss for what to do. When the time comes, he will naturally beg me to go back to the company!

"As soon as I return to the company and become the general manager, I'll be able to immediately hire all of you again. Not only will you be able to return to your original positions, but I can also fulfill all the promises I've made to you before!"

After listening to Adrian's explanation, they seemed to be interested in his plan.

The Solar Corporation's Orange County branch office was mainly operating a logistics and transportation business. So the warehouse was the most important aspect. If people blocked it for just half a day, it would result in extremely severe consequences, let alone a day!

Adrian's plan seemed quite a good idea in their opinion.

"Will that bastard William Carter give up the position of general manager to you and ask you to return to the company?" someone asked doubtfully.

Adrian said with certainty, "Given William Carter's capability, he's definitely no match for Franco. If Franco refuses to give in, there's nothing William Carter can do. And once he fails to solve the problem, the company will suffer major losses. At that time, he will have to resign and leave the company disgracefully. He might even have to compensate the company for the massive losses incurred!

"If he comes to me for help and lets me become the general manager, I might be kind enough to give him a job. I believe he won't turn me down as long as he isn't a fool!"

Everyone finally suddenly realized that Adrian was planning to force William into stepping down.

His plan seemed somewhat feasible.

"However, the Solar Corporation is under the Stardust Corporation, and the chairman of the Stardust Corporation was on William Carter's side today. If William Carter seeks help from him, I'm afraid your plan won't work out," Jimmy said worriedly after some thought.

Adrian remained composed. "Don't worry. The Stardust Corporation is no longer as influential as it used to be. Everyone used to respect them because they were

supported by the powerful Hutton family. Who would dare offend them? But the Stardust Corporation has already been abandoned by the Huttons, and it's now just an ordinary large enterprise that's incomparable to the top four families of the county!

“Moreover, I heard that this chairman is also at odds with the Huttons. Why should we be afraid of him then?”

“Another reason I've decided to seek help from Franco is because he's backed by the Taylors. Even if the chairman of the Stardust Corporation wants to help William Carter, will he dare to stand against the Taylors?”

Adrian smiled smugly while the remaining six people secretly admired him for his conscientiousness.

It turned out that he was just planning to have someone block the warehouse of the company. But Adrian had put so much thought into it without missing a single detail, and he even made sure to leave no stones unturned. They were thoroughly in awe of him!

“So, what about it? Do you want to join me?” Seeing the looks on their faces, Adrian smirked with a look of determination.

“Okay. As long as you can hire someone to carry it out flawlessly and let us return to the company, we'll obey you! Tell us what you need us to do!”

Jimmy and the others thought about it for a while and finally agreed to work with Adrian to carry out his plan.

“First things first, it's very expensive to hire someone as powerful as Franco. We need 450 grand in total to hire Franco. Each of you will just need to chip in 60

grand each, and I'll cover the remaining 90 grand," Adrian said smilingly as if he was being very generous.

"What? We have to chip in 60 grand each!?!"

"That's too much money! That's more than what I took home each year when I worked at the company!"

"If I can come up with so much cash right now, why would I bother trying to return to the company?"

"Exactly! Are you kidding us?"

They were all aghast to hear the amount of money Adrian wanted each of them to contribute.

## **Chapter 329: Bargain**

Sixty grand in cash wasn't a small sum for the six of them.

It wasn't that they really couldn't afford so much cash. But rather, they didn't think that it would be worth it to spend so much money just to get their jobs back.

Adrian had long expected them to react this way. He snorted coldly. "All of you were senior executives, so you have to consider things long term! It's just sixty grand from each of you. Once we return to the office, I promise you can earn this sum of money back within two months. Even surpass it!

"Think about it. Franco is such a powerful person, so how can we hire him without enough money? Franco is not only impressive, but he even has the Taylors to back him up. Do you think random gangsters who charge a cheap price can get the job done well?"

Hearing this, everyone was speechless.

Indeed, hiring gangsters at a cheap price to block the warehouse definitely wouldn't work. But the cost of hiring such a powerful person like Franco was too high for them!

In case things didn't work out in the end, they would have made ducks and drakes with their money.

But if it worked out, they would be able to get their jobs back. And according to Adrian, he could give each of them a five-figure monthly salary. That would make their investment worth their while, as the returns were very promising!

They were all caught in a dilemma as to whether or not to fork out the sixty grand each.

Adrian deliberately let out a long sigh. “In fact, I can very well afford the full sum of 450 grand on my own, but I just thought that I should count you guys in on this since we’re friends after all. If none of you are willing to fork out the money, just take it that I didn’t say anything today!

“However, I want to make things clear beforehand. If I come up with the entire sum of money and gain the position as general manager, don’t be envious of me once I make loads of money every day!”

Then Adrian put down his teacup and stood up to leave.

“Wait! Adrian, count me in! Damn it. It’s just sixty grand. I’ll go all out and take on this gamble with you!” Jimmy stood up and exclaimed while gritting his teeth.

If it didn’t work out, he would lose at most sixty grand. But if it did, he would be able to make several times that amount within just a year. So he was willing to give it a shot!

Everyone was hesitant and conflicted at first. Now that someone took the lead, they seemed motivated too. So they made up their minds, and one of them said, “Fine, I’ll join you guys too!”

“Well... I’ll come up with sixty grand too!”

“Forget it. I’ve decided not to buy the new car I was saving for. I’ll join you guys!”

...

Soon, all six of them agreed to come up with sixty grand each to support Adrian’s plan.



Adrian patted his chest and said righteously, “Great. Brothers, since you have so much faith in me, you have my word. I guarantee that I won’t let you regret your decision!”

He was the only person who knew what his true intentions were.

By the afternoon, all six of them had transferred the total of \$360,000 to Adrian’s bank account.

Adrian looked at the account balance shown on his mobile banking app with derision in his eyes. He then grabbed his bank card and drove to Snowflake Entertainment.

In a luxurious private room on the fifth floor of Snowflake Entertainment, a burly man with a buzz cut and a square-shaped face covered with some scars was leaning comfortably against the backrest of a soft and cozy couch while enjoying the service of a beautiful, scantily-clad woman feeding him grapes.

He casually spat out a grape seed and said to the person in front of him disinterestedly, “You crook, what are you here for?”

This muscular man with scars on his face was none other than Charlie Franco.

Adrian smiled and stood in front of Franco respectfully. He said courteously, “Mr. Franco, I came here today because I have a favor to ask of you.”

Franco narrowed his eyes. “You need a favor from me? That depends on whether you can afford to pay the price! I’m sure you know what my rules are.”

Adrian hurriedly said, “I naturally do! Don’t worry. It’s just a small favor, and there won’t be any bloodshed, nor do I need anyone killed. I just need to borrow your reputation and a few of your underlings. I can offer you this much money.”

Adrian stretched out five of his fingers.

When Franco heard Adrian say that there wouldn't be any bloodshed or murder involved, he knew that it was definitely a trivial matter. He reckoned that Adrian just needed him to appear and deter Adrian's insignificant rivals.

Such a trivial task wouldn't cost much money.

Just as he was about to turn Adrian down, he saw Adrian's fingers.

It naturally couldn't be just five grand, so he reckoned that it should be fifty.

If he could earn fifty grand just by taking a few of his subordinates out for a spin, it would be quite a good deal.

Franco reached out and pushed away the beautiful girl beside him.

When only the two of them were left in the room, Franco said leisurely, "You want me to do you a favor for only fifty thousand? You're belittling me! Give me three hundred thousand, or you can forget about it!"

Adrian was the one asking him for a favor now, so he naturally had to play hard to get and bargain for a higher price.

Adrian cursed in his heart before pretending to be put in a difficult spot. "I'm naturally willing to pay such a high price for a favor from you, given how famous you are. But I'm now in trouble, as I just got fired from my job. I really can't afford to come up with so much money..."

"If you can't afford it, cut the crap! Are you wasting my time?" Charlie spat onto the ground and glowered at Adrian menacingly.

Adrian was frightened and hurriedly said, "No, no, no, I wouldn't dare to do that, Mr. Franco. I mean, I only have fifty thousand in cash now. But as long as you help me out this time, I'll pay you the remaining two hundred and fifty thousand once I return to the company and become the general manager. What do you think?"

Franco said in annoyance, “Wait for you to become the general manager? God knows when that’ll happen!”

“Mr. Franco, don’t be impatient. You’ll understand after you hear me out.”

Adrian smiled and briefly told him the plan that he had told the six senior executives previously. “The plan is simple. I just need you to take your subordinates with you to the large warehouse of the Solar Corporation’s Orange County branch office and stay there for a day or so. Then tell them that you’ll leave only if I’m there. That good-for-nothing William Carter will have no choice but to come and beg me. As soon as tomorrow, I’ll be able to become the general manager of the company. When the time comes, I’ll definitely transfer the two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to you from the company funds. You can use the money for a feast!”

Adrian’s eyes were full of confidence and certainty.

Franco glared daggers at Adrian for a long time before laughing out loud. “Hahahaha, like I said, you’re a crook. You’re really full of evil ideas! Okay, I can accept fifty thousand from you upfront and deal with that fool for you. But once the job is done, you have to give me another five hundred thousand!”

Before Adrian could respond, Franco said, “Don’t try playing games with me. That money is going to come out of your company’s funds. You don’t need to fork out a single cent from your own pocket. I’m already doing you a favor! What do you think?”

### **Chapter 330: Blocking the Warehouse**

What else could Adrian say? He could only grit his teeth and comply.

Anyway, he got a total of \$360,000 from Jimmy and the other five executives. After giving Franco \$50,000, he would get to pocket the remaining \$310,000.

He would deduct the remaining \$500,000 he had to pay Franco from the company's funds. Since he wouldn't have to use his own money, he naturally wouldn't feel the pinch.

Franco was also very pleased with the deal this time because all he had to do was take his underlings with him to block the doors of a warehouse, and he would easily earn \$550,000, which was way higher than the annual wage he drew from working at Snowflake Entertainment.

The two were extremely satisfied with the deal and soon agreed on the time and details of the operation.

The next morning, many cargo trucks parked in front of the entrance of the warehouse of Solar Corporation's Orange County branch. Many movers and sorters were getting busy too.

Logistics workers would work continuously round the clock almost without stopping. They were especially busy today because there were a few trucks of very important goods to be loaded immediately and sent to another city in the afternoon.

"Everyone, work faster. These goods have to be expedited. Speed up, guys!" A supervisor standing next to the trucks instructed loudly.

“You have to give us a bonus this month!” someone said to the supervisor smilingly.

“Haha, sure. I’ll apply for it from the higher-ups!”

They joked around for a while before speeding up moving the goods.

*Boom!*

*Boom!*

Suddenly, a series of roars coming from vehicles came from outside the warehouse.

Everyone raised their heads to look over, only to see more than twenty shiny black motorcycles. One by one, they pulled over in front of the warehouse with the screeching sounds of the brakes.

The roguish riders of the motorcycles were burly men with dyed hair and tattoos. They started crowding around the entrance of the warehouse with menacing expressions and steel rods in their hands.

The supervisor, Ryan, tensed up and hurriedly took out a box of premium cigarettes from his pocket. He walked forward and said with a deferential smile, “You are...?”

“Get lost!” Before Ryan could finish speaking, the leader, whose face was covered in scars, pushed him away and hollered, “Block all the doors of this warehouse! No cargo is allowed to leave here today!”

“Okay!” The gangsters carrying steel rods answered loudly and soon guarded the doors of the warehouse tightly.

The workers had never seen such a scene before. When they saw these people charging over aggressively, they hurriedly dropped the goods they were carrying and left.

Although the workers outnumbered the gangsters, they were just ordinary people and obviously didn't dare to fight these gangsters wielding steel rods.

Seeing this, Ryan was so frightened that he started shuddering. But since he was the supervisor, he couldn't run away like the others. He could only muster his courage and ask fearfully, "Gentlemen... Um... did someone offend you?"

Franco spat saliva onto the ground and shot a glance at the red-haired underling beside him.

The red-haired underling immediately stepped forward, grabbed the horrified Ryan by his collar, and dragged him toward Franco.

"Sir, please spare me! I-I didn't do anything!" Ryan shuddered uncontrollably. He was so flustered that he began tearing up.

"Hmph, call your general manager, William Carter, and get him to come here!" Franco said furiously while sitting on a box of goods with one leg crossed over the other.

"Yes, yes! I'll call Mr. Carter right away!"

Soon, William, who was still going about his daily duties in the office, received a report from his secretary.

"Bad news, Mr. Carter. We just received news that someone leading a gang of more than twenty people has blocked the doors of our company's warehouse. They refuse to let any goods be transported in or out!"

William Carter immediately frowned.

This was the first time he encountered such a thing since he took over the company.

“Let’s go check out the situation.” William stood up and instructed his secretary to go to the warehouse with him.

These types of things would happen either due to personal feuds or blackmail. Regardless of the reason, William was obliged to solve the matter, as it was part of his duties as the general manager of the company.

Of course, William was not foolish enough to go there only with his secretary. He instructed some of the security guards of the company to go with them to the large warehouse near the harbor on the outskirts of the county.

Soon, William arrived at the warehouse with his men, only to see the conspicuous convoy of motorcycles at the entrance and the twenty-odd burly men blocking the entrances and exits of the warehouse. He also saw the scarf-faced Franco sitting on a box of goods and smoking some cigarettes.

William didn’t know who Franco was, but he could tell from his domineering aura and posture that he was the leader of these gangsters. So William walked toward Franco and said courteously, “Sir, I am the general manager of this company. Why are you doing this? Did one of us offend you?”

Franco puffed out a ring of smoke and glanced at William nonchalantly. He asked in disdain, “Are you the new general manager, the bastard I’m looking for?”

William’s face turned a little sullen, but he nevertheless said courteously, “My name is William Carter. How should I address you?”

“You’re not fit to know my name.” Franco glared at William hostilely, and the hideous scars on his face made him look even more menacing.

William received a great shock and turned as pale as a sheet.

He forced himself to calm down and tried to negotiate with Franco. “Sir, can we talk things over calmly? There’s a café nearby. How about we have a chat there?”

“To hell with that! I’m telling you, you’re in no place to speak to me. Get Adrian Hill to come here! I’ll speak to him instead!” Franco said ferociously.

Seeing that Franco knew who Adrian was, William immediately felt uneasy and wondered if Franco was Adrian’s enemy or accomplice.

But no matter what, William continued to speak in a courteous tone, “Adrian Hill... was already dismissed by the company yesterday. He’s no longer an employee of our company, so if there’s anything you need to tell him, you can just let me know...”

“Bullshit!” Franco hollered furiously. He stepped forward and gave William a hard slap on his face! “Bastard, I said Adrian Hill is the only person I’m going to speak to. Do you not understand what I said?”