

Chapter 331: Raising A Request

The sudden slap dumbfounded William!

He thought that since Franco was here to create trouble, he would definitely state his requests before they negotiated the terms.

But the menacing-looking Franco opposite William didn't act according to what he had imagined at all and instead slapped him hard on the face without saying much.

Franco was in charge of running an entertainment joint that offered vice-related services, so he was definitely tough and strong. His slap immediately made one side of William's face redden and swell up. There was even an obvious cut at the corner of his lips, from which a stream of blood was flowing down. His entire head was buzzing.

“Who are you people? How dare you slap our general manager, Mr. Carter?!” The head of the security department, whom William had just promoted yesterday, hollered furiously when he saw William getting humiliated. He quickly led more than ten security guards over to surround Franco and his men.

Franco sneered. “Hah, you're just a bunch of small fries. What can you do to me?”

He gave an order to his burly underlings, who were blocking the entrances of the warehouse, and all of a sudden, more than ten of them charged over aggressively,

each holding a steel rod more than half a meter long. Without hesitation, they began hitting the security guards that William had brought over.

“Damn it! Watch what you’re saying when speaking to Mr. Franco!”

“How dare a bunch of idiotic security guards clamor about noisily?!”

They were all gangsters adept at fighting and had stained their hands with blood countless times before. How could these ordinary security guards be a match for them?

Moreover, they were all holding steel rods and obviously trying to establish dominance in front of William and the security guards. So Franco’s underlings viciously and ruthlessly struck the security guards on their legs, elbows, backs, and abdomens.

“Ah!”

“Stop... Stop hitting me! Ah!”

“My leg!”

Shrieks suddenly started resounding at the warehouse together with the hair-raising sounds of iron rods striking against bones and flesh.

William shivered uncontrollably as he stared wide-eyed at this chilling scene.

They were all just ordinary employees of the company!

“Stop! Stop hitting them! What do you want? Just tell me what you want! Why do you have to hit these ordinary people?!” William hollered at Franco, suppressing the fear within him.

“Damn it! How many times have I told you that I want to speak to Adrian Hill? Are you f*cking deaf?” Franco narrowed his eyes and kicked William in the chest, sending him flying far away. His dark gray suit was instantly covered in mud and dust, making him look extremely disheveled.

William clutched his ribs in pain and struggled to prop himself up from the ground. As he did so, a few people took advantage of the situation to kick him a few more times.

“Okay, I’ll call Adrian Hill and ask him to come over right now. Tell your men to stop hitting them! If this goes on, things will get out of hand!” William exclaimed anxiously while trying to bear with the pain and hurriedly pulled out his phone.

Franco looked at the security guards huddling on the ground while wailing endlessly in pain. He raised his hand reluctantly and gestured for his underlings to stop for the time being.

“Mr. Carter, something terrible has happened!” Louis, the secretary, was pale as a sheet as he whispered to William. “They’ve blocked the entrances and exits of the warehouse, so we can’t load and unload the goods! We’re going to incur immense losses today! Moreover, there’s a large delivery order belonging to a very important client that we have to fulfill by this afternoon! Once there’s a breach of contract, we’ll have to compensate millions of dollars!

“And these people are too difficult to handle. They’re definitely not ordinary people. What should we do now?”

Of course, William was aware of the major consequences that would entail, which was why he had personally come to the warehouse to deal with it. Unfortunately, Franco wasn't compromising at all.

Besides, although William had purposely brought a group of security guards with him to prevent such situations, the security guards were obviously helpless in the face of Franco's underlings. As a result, they ended up getting beaten up badly and had probably sustained severe injuries.

William wiped away the blood at the corner of his mouth with the back of his hand, looked at the security guards who had been beaten up beyond recognition, and then turned to look at the burly men still standing in front of the entrances and exits of the warehouse to block them. He had no choice but to obey Franco's instructions and call Adrian.

The phone rang for a long time before Adrian finally picked up.

He snapped impatiently with annoyance, "Who's calling? Do you know how early it is? You're disturbing me from sleeping! Don't you have any manners?"

"Adrian Hill, it's me, William Carter."

"Oh, I thought it was some scoundrel disturbing me. Turns out it's our most impressive Mr. Carter! You're a noble figure high above us plebeians and enjoy the great support of the chairman. Aren't you afraid of lowering yourself by speaking to someone like me?" Adrian said sarcastically.

William could hear the sounds of vehicle engines roaring coming from the other end, so he knew that Adrian was clearly outside. Yet he pretended that call had just woken him up. But of course, it wasn't the time to pursue this matter now.

“I’m calling you because there’s something important. Someone wants to have a chat with you in the large warehouse by the harbor on the outskirts of Orange County. Please make a trip here.”

If possible, William wouldn’t have called Adrian at all.

At the beginning, he wasn’t sure if Franco was here to look for Adrian or not, nor was he certain if Franco wanted to take revenge on him or for some other reason. After Franco and his underlings resorted to violence, William ruled out the fact that it could have been a personal grudge.

After all, these people were powerful and skilled in fighting, and they had obviously been gangsters for a long time. If they merely wanted to seek revenge on Adrian, they could have gone straight to Adrian’s home instead of blocking the entrances of the company’s warehouse despite knowing that he had already been fired. Besides, they definitely had plenty of ways to find Adrian’s address, and there was no need for them to threaten William into calling Adrian over.

It was especially suspicious because Adrian had just been fired yesterday, and yet there were gangsters here to cause trouble today while insisting on having Adrian settle the matter.

William wasn’t a fool, so he could naturally tell that there was something fishy about this.

Adrian said mockingly, “Haha, Mr. Carter, is your brain damaged? Or have you developed senile dementia at such a young age? I remember that you kicked me out of the company just yesterday, and now you’re asking me to go to that lousy warehouse? What for? Who do you take me for?”

William gritted his teeth. “As long as you come over now and help solve this matter, I can rescind my orders and let you return to the company!”

That's probably Adrian Hill's agenda, right? William wondered. But in order to resolve the current issue, he had no choice but to promise to let Adrian return to the company temporarily.

To his surprise, Adrian chuckled and giped, "Hah, you want me to go back and continue being the deputy general manager who still has to take orders from you? No way!"

"What else do you want then?" William asked with his jaw clenched.

"I want to be the general manager! I want you to resign from your job and recommend me to the chairman to be the general manager!" Adrian immediately stated the condition that he had thought of long ago.

Chapter 332: My Turf

“That’s impossible!” William refused immediately. “The chairman isn’t going to listen to my orders. I can’t do this.”

Adrian was immediately going to use Franco as a threat, but he changed his mind when he suddenly thought of something.

“Okay then. I can make do with being the deputy general manager for now, but you have to pick me up in your car and ferry me there personally to prove your sincerity.” Adrian made another request in a leisurely manner.

William took a deep breath. “Where are you? I’ll go pick you up now.”

“Palm View Estate. Call me again when you’re here!” With that, Adrian hung up right away.

William held his phone with a sullen expression and then turned around to say to Franco, “I’ve already contacted Adrian Hill, and I’m going to pick him up now. Can you...”

“Get lost!” Franco hollered to interrupt William.

“Get the man here before you talk to me. Now get lost immediately!” Then Franco once again kicked William, causing him to fall to the ground. This time, the skin of his palm was scraped.

William was covered in mud and dirt, and his face and hands were stained with fresh blood. He looked extremely disheveled.

Seeing Franco refusing to compromise, William had no choice but to turn around immediately and go pick up Adrian.

He drove quickly so that he could bring Adrian to the warehouse and get the matter resolved as soon as possible, lest the company incurred major losses.

Unfortunately, even if William drove as quickly as he could and rushed to the entrance of Palm View Estate, he wouldn't get to see Adrian.

Because Adrian was actually sitting in a car right across the road from the large warehouse at this moment!

Not only had he seen everything that just happened, but he also felt particularly pleased when he saw William getting beaten up.

Only after making a fool out of William and forcing him into a state of desperation would he appear and see how William would beg him!

As Adrian thought about this, he restarted the car and drove to somewhere else.

At this time, Lucas had just sent Cheyenne to her office and dropped Amelia off at the kindergarten. He didn't have anything to do at the moment, so he thought of going to check on William and see if there were any more issues to handle at the branch office.

After he arrived at the Solar Corporation's Orange County branch office, he was told that there was a major issue at the large warehouse near the harbor on the outskirts of the county and that William had rushed over with his secretary and a group of security guards to handle the matter.

Lucas frowned slightly and wanted to give William a call to ask about the situation.

But William happened to be on a phone call with Adrian when Lucas tried to call him, so the call didn't get through. So Lucas decided to drive straight to the warehouse.

When Lucas arrived in his black Jaguar at the large warehouse, William's and Adrian's cars had just left one after another.

Lucas drove to a spot about a hundred meters away from the parking lot and acutely sensed that something was amiss.

Although it was his first time at the warehouse, he knew that Solar Corporation was a giant in the logistics industry, so there would definitely be numerous cargo trucks and busy workers at the warehouse at this time of day.

But there were now many vehicles at the entrance of the warehouse while the uniformed workers were crowding together in a spot far from the entrance, all looking terrified and panic-stricken.

Lucas drove his car a little closer, only to see more than ten roguish-looking and brawny men surrounding the entrance of the warehouse, as well as a burly man with a buzz cut and scars on his face sitting on a cargo box in front of the warehouse.

There were also twenty-odd security guards wearing the Solar Corporation's uniform lying on the ground around him!

Lucas's pupils abruptly constricted, and an icy cold gaze appeared in his eyes!

He had just learned from the staff at the office that William had gone to the warehouse to deal with an issue that had cropped up all of a sudden together with a bunch of security guards. Lucas reckoned that they should be the ones who were now lying on the ground.

Where's William?

What exactly happened here?

Lucas immediately got out of the car and did a quick scan of his surroundings. He didn't see William anywhere, but there happened to be someone standing nearby

with anxiety all over his face. Lucas immediately recognized him. He went forward, grabbed his shoulder, and asked in a deep voice, “What exactly happened? Where is Mr. Carter?”

This person was none other than William’s secretary, whom Lucas had met for the first time yesterday at the Solar Corporation’s Orange County branch office.

Louis was incredibly worried about the situation, so when Lucas grabbed his shoulder all of a sudden, he was caught off guard and almost screamed on the spot.

After recognizing the person in front of him to be Lucas, he hurriedly patted his chest. He was surprised and overjoyed, as he felt he finally found a straw to clutch at. He hurriedly said to Lucas, “Mr. Gray! These people suddenly appeared at the entrance of the warehouse early this morning and blocked all the entrances and exits to stop our goods from being loaded and unloaded! Due to the severity of this matter, Mr. Carter and I immediately rushed here to deal with the situation, but the leader of the troublemakers was really aggressive and brutal. He refused to listen to us and even hit Mr. Carter!”

As soon as Lucas heard that William had taken a beating, his eyes were instantly brimming with terrifying hostility.

“Where is Mr. Carter?” Lucas immediately asked.

He was afraid that William had gotten into another mishap because he couldn’t see him anywhere.

“The leader kept saying that he wanted Adrian Hill to come here before he would negotiate with us, so Mr. Carter had no choice but to call Adrian Hill. However, Adrian Hill insisted that Mr. Carter go pick him up personally, so... Mr. Carter just left in his car a few minutes ago after telling me to keep an eye on the situation here,” Louis quickly explained.

“How are Mr. Carter’s injuries? Who are the people causing trouble?” Lucas continued to ask.

Louis answered with a worried expression, “Mr. Carter was slapped and kicked twice by the burly leader. He appeared to be in a lot of pain. This person... seems to be called Charlie Franco, who’s in charge of Snowflake Entertainment. He also works for the Taylors, and I heard that he’s a tough nut to crack! The security guards of our company tried to protect Mr. Carter, but Franco’s underlings beat all of them to the ground with iron rods. They should be heavily injured!”

Lucas glared at Franco coldly and sneered. “Hmph, you’re just a lackey of the Taylors. How dare you cause trouble and assault others on my turf?!”

Lucas didn’t keep his voice down, so his words spread far. Besides, he was now emitting a terrifying and cold aura, making Franco, who was sitting near him, immediately sense his murderous aura.

Franco instantly stood up from the cargo box and glowered at Lucas hostilely. He barked furiously, “Punk, do you have a death wish?!”

Chapter 333: Who Is Being Surrounded?

Louis was incredibly frightened by what Lucas said. When he saw Franco flying into a rage, he was so scared that he turned as pale as a sheet, and even his calves began trembling.

“Mr... Mr. Gray! Please don't be impulsive. They're not to be trifled with. Franco's underlings are violent and brutal, while Franco himself will beat anyone up. Furthermore, he's working for the Taylors. Even the security guards of our company were beaten up badly! You... You're alone, so you'd better be careful not to provoke him!”

Despite being absolutely terrified, Louis nevertheless inched close to Lucas and quickly whispered a reminder into his ear.

In Louis's opinion, Lucas was a young man who had been living in the lap of luxury and had never suffered any hardship. He was definitely too weak to withstand a single punch from Franco, just like him.

“Where did this punk come from? How dare you provoke Mr. Franco? Are you tired of living?”

“Punk, do you want to get punched by real men?”

Seeing that Franco was obviously enraged, his underlings could no longer contain their anger as they dashed forward from the entrance of the warehouse to surround Lucas. They had menacing expressions on their faces, and the shiny iron rods in their hands were emitting blinding rays of light under the sun.

Lucas sneered and stared at them coldly. “Who are you people to beat up the security guards of my company? I haven’t looked for you yet, but you’ve brought yourselves to me for a beating, huh?”

These gangsters were stunned for a moment before immediately laughing loudly. “Hahaha, it seems to be the other way around, punk!”

“This brat’s really arrogant! Franco, let’s teach him a lesson!”

“We hafta give this bastard a good beating and knock all his teeth out, just like the trash on the ground!”

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Franco had a sinister smile on his face. Almost everyone who had offended him ended up suffering, especially those like Lucas who had the guts to insult his men in front of him. Franco had killed the last person who dared to do this!

Franco raised his hand slightly and was about to signal his underlings to beat the living daylights out of Lucas and break his bones. But before he could issue the order, Lucas flashed and vanished almost immediately!

“Ahhhh!”

“Wuuahh!”

“Argh!”

Immediately afterward, incessant shrieks of misery filled the warehouse!

Franco's face stiffened, and his eyeballs were about to fall out as he stared wide-eyed at the scene before him.

He saw Lucas's figure dashing through his underlings quickly like a tornado. With every strike Lucas launched, the limbs of his underlings would break with loud crackling sounds, followed by the metallic sounds of the iron rods falling to the ground.

When Lucas appeared in front of everyone again, Franco and the others watching from afar were stunned to see that Lucas was the only one standing in the middle of the warehouse, while the twenty-odd burly underlings of Franco had already been knocked down to the ground. Their limbs were all broken, and they were wailing while rolling on the ground, seemingly in a much more miserable state than the security guards.

The entire process took only a few seconds!

In fact, before many of them could react, the siege had already ended!

Louis looked at everything in front of him with his eyes and mouth wide open. He couldn't help rubbing his eyes hard.

Everything that happened in front of him just now resembled a scene from some exaggerated action movie. It seemed incredibly surreal to him!

What did I just see? The young chairman of our company, who finally made an appearance in front of everyone just yesterday, managed to defeat around twenty bulky and menacing men surrounding him within just seconds?

More than twenty people surrounded Mr. Gray at first, but it seems to be the other way around!

This is too fantastical!

Franco was astonished!

He was well aware of how competent and ruthless his men were. They were all brutal people who would never hesitate to stab anyone in the stomach and possessed excellent combat skills.

Yet despite being armed with thick iron rods, they still failed to last even a few seconds fighting against Lucas, and they even had their limbs broken!

This meant that Lucas had managed to break the limbs of at least four or five people every second! What terrifying speed!

He managed to effortlessly break the bones of humans like they were just straw!

Meanwhile, Lucas was standing still, completely unharmed. He wasn't breathing heavily at all, and his clothes were clean and spotless. This meant that Franco's underlings might have tried to attack Lucas but failed to even touch him!

What kind of a person is this? Who the hell is he?! A trace of fear, which Franco hadn't felt in a long time, suddenly surged in his heart.

"Punk, who exactly are you?" With a frown on his face, Franco asked in a deep voice that contained obvious traces of nervousness and scruples.

Lucas ignored his question and simply stared at him coldly, especially his muscular arms and strong legs.

“Which hand and leg did you use to slap and kick Mr. Carter just now?” Lucas asked indifferently.

Franco subconsciously felt some tension in his limbs, as he could tell that Lucas was obviously here to take revenge for William. His cheek muscles twitched, and he gritted his teeth. “What do you want?”

Lucas said indifferently, “If you choose to cripple one of your hands and one of your legs now, I’ll consider letting you off for the time being. Otherwise, I guarantee that you will regret letting me do it for you!”

For several years now, Franco was used to being flattered and having others suck up to him. When he heard what Lucas said, he immediately flew into a rage and suddenly suppressed the fear within him.

“Damn it, how dare you say something like that to me? Do you really think my reputation is for nothing?”

Franco roared and ripped off his tank top to reveal the chiseled, defined, and extremely terrifying muscles of his upper body.

The workers watching from afar immediately gasped in shock.

Franco was scarily muscular, and his body was almost twice the width of Lucas’s, which was tall and slim.

Franco not only had a few conspicuous scars on his face, but various hideous scars also covered his upper body. They were all of Franco’s battle scars that he had accumulated over the years.

Facing Lucas, he flexed his bulging muscles and clenched his fists while hollering sinisterly, “Punk, don’t think I’m afraid of you! Bring it on! I’ll show you what I’m made of!”

Then he pounced at Lucas!

Chapter 334: The Dog You Raised

Franco's muscles naturally looked extremely terrifying in the eyes of ordinary people, who would be intimidated by them once he bared his body. But they were meaningless in the eyes of top combat experts like Lucas.

“Since you refuse to cripple your own limbs, I'll have to give you a hand!”

Lucas sneered and charged toward Franco like a bolt of lightning. Soon, he grabbed Franco's right wrist.

Franco's pupils constricted violently, and he subconsciously wanted to grab Lucas's neck with his left hand.

But when he raised his left hand a little, he felt an abrupt and excruciating pain in his right wrist!

Snap!

With a crisp sound of bones cracking, Lucas instantly broke his wrist!

“Ah! My wrist!” Franco shrieked miserably. Now that he was facing Lucas, he finally experienced extreme horror.

Beads of cold sweat emerged on his face as he hurriedly said, “I... I work for the Taylors! If you dare to touch me again...”

Snap!

Crack!

Snap!

Before Franco could even finish speaking, a series of the sounds of bones cracking rang out. Lucas had completely broken his other wrist and both ankles!

“Ah!” Franco let out an extremely sharp and painful shriek that didn’t sound like it came from a human. It almost resounded throughout the entire large warehouse.

Everyone couldn’t help shivering when they heard it, and they looked at Lucas with their eyes full of horror.

Most of Franco’s underlings had only one arm or leg broken by Lucas, but they were already rolling on the ground and wailing in pain. When they saw Franco rip his tank top off, they thought that he would teach Lucas a lesson.

But to their astonishment, Franco actually ended up in a state worse than theirs, as he had all four of his limbs broken and was rendered immobile!

Because Franco had slapped William and kicked him, Lucas decided to break all of Franco’s limbs. It was absolutely terrifying!

He was even more brutal than them!

All of a sudden, all the gangsters wailing on the ground immediately shut up, not daring to groan in pain anymore, fearing that they might provoke Lucas and end up being dealt with harshly.

If they had known there was such a terrifying man here, they would have never dared to hit those security guards!

At this time, Lucas could no longer be bothered to pay attention to them. He turned around and said to Louis, “Immediately get some people to send all the injured security guards to the hospital. In addition, quickly arrange for the workers to continue loading the goods and dispatching the cargo!”

Only then did Louis come back to his senses and realize that the matter had been resolved. He hurriedly nodded and ran off to make the arrangements.

Lucas glanced at Franco, who was lying on the ground motionlessly, and then made a call to someone.

The call was soon answered, and the person who answered it spoke in a tone of surprise. “Hello, Mr. Gray, are you suddenly calling me because you’re planning to return the Ocean Bathhouse to me?”

The person who answered the call was naturally Preston Taylor.

The Ocean Bathhouse was the foundation that the Taylors had built their wealth on and the place where they ran an illegal social escort business. Thus, it was extremely important to the Taylors. But due to a freak combination of factors, Lucas had managed to acquire it.

Lucas originally intended to use the Ocean Bathhouse to strike a deal with Preston in exchange for the secret of the illegal business. Unfortunately, Preston didn’t know much about it and couldn’t satisfy Lucas’s requests. So he had no choice but to wait until Preston managed to get into contact with the mysterious organization that supplied the beautiful women to the Taylors.

Preston had been stressed and incredibly worried during this period of time. While fearing that his family would find out about the Ocean Bathhouse being sold to someone else, he was also anxiously waiting for news from the mysterious organization. But there still hadn’t been an outcome yet, so he was truly overwhelmed with anxiety.

Upon receiving a call from Lucas, the first thing that came to Preston’s mind was that Lucas changed his mind and decided to return the Ocean Bathhouse to him!

But he was destined to be disappointed because the first thing Lucas said over the phone was, “Is Franco your lackey?”

Louis had told him just now that Franco was in charge of Snowflake Entertainment, which belonged to the Taylors. Previously, Preston had brought

Lucas to Snowflake Entertainment to negotiate a deal and even tried to exchange Snowflake Entertainment for the Ocean Bathhouse.

Preston was stunned for a moment. But when he heard the hostility in Lucas's tone, he hurriedly said, "Yes, he... he does work for me. What's the matter? Did that idiot offend you?"

"Come to the Solar Corporation's warehouse on the outskirts of the county immediately!" Then Lucas hung up.

Holding onto his phone, Preston pondered about it and soon turned red with fury. He kicked the potted plant beside him and roared, "Charlie Franco, you bastard! You must have created trouble for me again!"

Preston was hopping mad. He was worried sick that Lucas wouldn't return the Ocean Bathhouse to him, so he had been trying his best to improve his relationship with Lucas. But he didn't expect Franco, his subordinate, to offend Lucas!

Furthermore, the fact that Lucas asked directly if Franco was his lackey just went to show that Franco had offended Lucas badly!

While cursing furiously in his head, Preston didn't dare to delay and hurriedly drove to the address of the warehouse that Lucas had given him.

Meanwhile, William was also driving very quickly, and he managed to reach the residential estate where Adrian claimed he was in just a little over ten minutes, though the journey would usually take more than twenty minutes.

William didn't know exactly which building Adrian lived in, so he could only call Adrian when he was at the entrance.

The phone rang for a long time before Adrian picked up. Trying his best to stay calm, William asked, "Adrian Hill, I've already reached the entrance of the residential estate you live in. Can you come out now?"

Adrian chuckled. “William Carter, you’re too slow. I lost my patience while waiting for you and got really hungry, so I’m now eating at a restaurant outside the Ocean International Building! Drive here and pick me up immediately. Don’t take too long, or you might miss me again!”

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With that, he hung up again.

William’s face was extremely sullen.

He had already rushed over as quickly as he could, and he managed to arrive in less than twenty minutes. But the Ocean International Building where Adrian said he was at was more than ten kilometers away from where William was now, and it would definitely take him more than ten minutes to get there.

There were only two possibilities. One was that Adrian lied about being at home and had deliberately made William drive to his residence to pick him up. The other was that Adrian was likewise fooling him by claiming that he was having a meal at the Ocean International Building!

William felt extremely frustrated as he clenched his jaw. To confirm with Adrian his exact location, William called him again several times, but Adrian refused to pick up.

“Damn it!” Incredibly exasperated, William slammed his fist against the seat of his car!

Chapter 335: Deliberate Prank

However, he didn't have a choice now because he had to solve the problem at hand. Since the scar-faced Franco, who was creating trouble at the warehouse by blocking the entrances and exists, insisted on communicating with Adrian before he would budge, William had no choice but to find Adrian as soon as possible!

Otherwise, the company would incur major losses!

Left with no choice, William started the car again and quickly drove toward Ocean International Building, where Adrian claimed to be.

Meanwhile, Adrian was sitting comfortably in a café and enjoying his breakfast with coffee. Staring at his phone screen that kept lighting up because of William's incessant calls, he simply ignored the alerts and smirked in derision.

Of course, Adrian wasn't in Ocean International Building. But he was relishing in the thrill of watching William wrapped helplessly around his finger.

After nearly twenty minutes, Adrian finished the last sip of his coffee leisurely and finally answered the call. "Hello."

"Adrian Hill, I've arrived at the entrance of Ocean International Building."
William was trying to curb his anger. "Are you coming down on your own, or do you want me to go up to look for you?"

Pretending to be shocked, Adrian exclaimed, "Ocean International Building, why did you end up there? I clearly told you that I'm at River Café! Mr. Carter, has your hearing deteriorated now that you're getting older? How could you have made such a ridiculous mistake?"

“Adrian Hill! I’ve had enough of you!” William could no longer stand it and hollered furiously. “Is it that fun to make a fool out of me? You wanted me to express my sincerity by picking you up. Fine, I complied and drove to several different places! Yet you’ve been lying to me all this while!”

The goods at the warehouse had to be dispatched urgently, and every minute wasted would cause the company to suffer increasingly heavy losses. William was panic-stricken and full of anxiousness. He obviously didn’t have the time for such senseless games with Adrian.

“William Carter, is this the attitude you should have when you’re asking someone for help? I’m warning you. If you dare to continue speaking like that, you can forget about asking me to go back and help you with the issue the company is facing!”

Adrian sneered, extremely certain that with Franco’s pressure, William would definitely have no other option than to continue begging him.

William gritted his teeth, took a deep breath, and suppressed the burning fury within him. He asked, “What exactly do you want?”

“I’ve already told you that I’m at River Café. I’ll give you ten minutes to come here. It’s up to you!” With that, Adrian hung up again.

William took several deep breaths and finally curbed his anger. He then started his car again and drove to the café Adrian said he was at.

During the journey, William also thought about calling Lucas for help, but he soon dropped the idea.

The first reason for his decision was that he reckoned Franco and Adrian should be in cahoots to humiliate him and make him let Adrian return to the company. William felt that it was his responsibility to handle the matter, which he could resolve as long as he dealt with Adrian. If he kept asking Lucas for help with every problem he encountered, he would seem too incompetent.

Second, it was naturally because he knew that Franco and his underlings were too ruthless and violent. Even the ten-odd security guards William had brought to the warehouse with him were powerless and unable to do anything against them. He was afraid that he might put Lucas in danger by asking him to help him out at the warehouse.

So after much contemplation, William decided not to call Lucas and instead bit the bullet and sped off to the café.

William finally met Adrian at the café.

William wiped off the sweat on his forehead and said anxiously, “Adrian Hill, the situation at the warehouse has to be taken care of urgently. I’ll fulfill the conditions you raised just now and let you resume as deputy general manager of the company. Please hurry up and come with me to the warehouse to settle things with that man!”

As William spoke, he reached his hand out to grab Adrian’s arm to urge him to leave quickly.

But Adrian pushed William’s hand away.

“There’s no hurry.” Adrian smirked. “William Carter, I told you before that what I want is not the position of deputy general manager, but general manager. Do you understand?”

With an extremely gloomy expression, William hollered, “I told you that that’s impossible, and you’ve already agreed at the time too!”

Adrian raised his head and said obnoxiously, “Ah, yes, I did agree before, but things are different now because I’ve changed my mind again!”

“You!” William was so enraged that he began trembling while hating himself for trusting Adrian despite knowing that he was a vile, despicable person.

“You’ve already wasted so much time. If you can’t make up your mind now, the company will definitely incur heavy losses! In particular, if you can’t fulfill that especially important order by this afternoon and deliver the goods on time, the company will have to pay at least a few million dollars in liquidated damages. Am I right?”

Adrian was very confident because he had long known about this important order that the company had to fulfill, which was also the reason he chose to carry out his plan on this very day. He was putting great pressure on William.

“William Carter, you must think through this carefully. If you obey me and let me become the general manager, I guarantee that I can solve this matter satisfactorily. But if you insist on clinging to the position of general manager and refuse to step down, the company will have to incur losses of dozens or even hundreds of millions of dollars!

“When the time comes, you’ll be a huge sinner of the company, and even the chairman won’t forgive you. That person who let you join the company and gave you such a high position will definitely regret doing so and letting you bring about major losses for the company!”

Adrian’s words were like sharp daggers piercing through William’s heart, making him feel panicked, terrified, and uneasy. He even began to doubt himself and his capabilities.

Lucas was the person who had appointed him as the general manager of the company, and the only reason Lucas had given him this opportunity was that he was his father-in-law. But if he caused the company to suffer massive losses of hundreds of millions of dollars in just half a month, how could he face his daughter and son-in-law?

Thinking of the current crisis the company was facing and the massive losses that it might incur very soon, William closed his eyes tightly and said with great difficulty, “Fine. I promise you that I will step down and recommend to the board

of directors to make you the general manager! However, you must come with me to the warehouse now and solve the problem immediately!”

Seeing that he had finally compelled William into agreeing to his demand, Adrian was overjoyed. He commanded, “Things could have been resolved easily if you had promised me sooner. What are you waiting for? Open the car door for me.”

He was clearly already treating William as his chauffeur.

Despite feeling furious and frustrated, William had no choice but to open the back door of his car for Adrian before getting into the driver’s seat and speeding all the way to the large warehouse on the outskirts of the county.

In the car, Adrian was grinning widely from ear to ear and happily sending a message to the chat group with the other six former senior executives.

“The matter has been settled. Everyone, gather at the entrance of the warehouse now!”

Soon, a series of replies appeared in the group.

“Alright!”

“You’re really capable, Adrian. You got it settled so quickly!”

“Impressive! We can all finally go back to work at the company again!”

...

These six former executives were naturally the ones William had given the sack yesterday for choosing to take Adrian’s side.

After each of them had given 60 grand to Adrian yesterday for hiring Franco, they had been waiting anxiously for updates on the progress of the matter. Now that

Adrian relayed some good news to them in the group chat, they were finally relieved, and each excitedly drove to the warehouse.

At this point, they still didn't know that there had been a drastic twist of events in the warehouse, and what was awaiting them was definitely not the scene they wanted to see!

Chapter 336: Who's Inferior?

At this time, the injured security guards at the warehouse had already been conveyed to the hospital. And the movers had returned to their stations and started working in an orderly manner. They moved the boxes of goods to the forklifts and then to the cargo trucks at the entrance.

Before long, the goods of the important order were quickly loaded onto the trucks. After a final round of checks, the goods were dispatched.

Seeing the trucks gradually vanishing out of sight, Louis, who had been all tensed up, finally felt relieved. As long as they fulfilled the large order and rushed to complete the other orders, the company would basically not suffer any losses.

Louis secretly glanced at Lucas and thought to himself in amazement, The chairman is indeed very impressive!

Unfortunately, William, the general manager, had been forced by Franco to go to pick up Adrian and still hadn't returned yet.

Louis sent William a text to tell him about what had happened over here. He also informed William that the chairman had resolved the issues at the warehouse.

Unfortunately, William was now rushing to the warehouse with Adrian in his car, so he didn't notice the text.

There were more than twenty people kneeling on the ground in front of the warehouse, all of whom were injured. Each of them either had a broken arm or a broken leg as they kneeled with twisted bodies. Cold sweat covered their foreheads, but they didn't dare to wince or groan in pain at all.

A muscular man with all four of his limbs broken was lying on the ground a distance away from them, and his face was deathly pale. It was none other than Franco, who was currently completely different from his arrogant and domineering self more than half an hour ago. At this moment, he was lying motionlessly on the ground like a piece of trash, with horror written all over his face.

When Preston arrived at the warehouse and saw the scene before him, he flew into a rage.

Without saying a word, he rushed forward and kicked Franco twice. "Damn it! You bastard, didn't I tell you to work in Snowflake Entertainment? Why did you bring your underlings here and create so much trouble for me?!"

As soon as Franco saw Preston, he received a tremendous shock. He was already in agonizing pain after having all four of his limbs broken by Lucas, and Preston's kicks against his wounds made the pain worsen. He immediately let out several shrieks as the pain overwhelmed him. "Ah! Mr. Taylor, please... stop! I know I was wrong. I know I was wrong!"

Still unsatisfied, Preston kicked him twice more before hollering in exasperation, "Tell me! How did you end up here? What have you done to Mr. Gray? Hurry up and give me a clear explanation of everything that happened!"

Only then did Franco realize that Preston appeared because of Lucas.

Although Franco was notorious, and many people were afraid of him, he was still working for Preston after all. Now that his limbs had been broken and he was rendered immobile, he was no longer as confident as he used to be.

He didn't dare to hide it from Preston and told him honestly how Adrian had approached him and promised to pay him \$550,000 in return for his help. He also told Preston that Adrian had requested him to bring his subordinates with him to the warehouse to block the exits and entrances, as well as the fact that they had beaten up the security guards.

As Preston listened to his explanation, his face turned even more sullen, and he kicked Franco hard a few more times. "Bastard! Have the Taylors not been paying you well? How dare you take on private jobs behind my back and do such a stupid thing for merely 550 grand? You even offended Mr. Gray! I'm going to kill you, you dimwit!"

He lashed out at Franco and reprimanded him furiously, but Franco was his subordinate and had indeed offended Lucas badly. No matter what, he had to give Lucas an explanation.

Preston walked up to Lucas and said with a fawning smile, "Mr. Gray, I'm so sorry. I failed to take my subordinate in hand and ended up offending you. It's indeed my mistake! How do you think this matter should be settled?"

Preston was extremely polite to Lucas. In fact, he even seemed to be fearful of Lucas and was trying to please him.

Lucas merely glanced at him indifferently. "There are still a few other culprits who haven't arrived yet, so stand by and wait for the time being!"

Preston's face stiffened, but he nonetheless complied obediently and stood at the side quietly.

Franco's jaw dropped when he saw this!

He had always thought that no one dared to mess with the Taylors because they were one of the four most powerful families in Orange County. So despite knowing that the Solar Corporation was under Stardust Corporation and that he was going against the Stardust Corporation by blocking the entrances and exits of the warehouse, he didn't take Lucas, the chairman, seriously at all.

But Preston, the direct descendant of the Taylors most likely to be the next helmsman, was actually so... subservient toward Lucas. It was an immense shock to Franco!

Upon seeing this scene, Louis, who was standing near them, was also amazed and surprised. The chairman seems to be far more impressive than I imagined!

Even the shoo-in helmsman of the Taylors, who has his nose high up in the air, seems deferential to Mr. Gray!

Mr. Gray is so terrifying!

At this moment, several expensive cars drove over from the other side of the warehouse, and a few familiar figures opened the doors of their respective cars and stepped out of them. With gleeful expressions, they began striding toward the main entrance of the warehouse smugly.

Louis immediately recognized them to be the former senior executives who had been fired from the company alongside Adrian just yesterday. He immediately went forward to stop them. "You people have already been fired from the company. What are you doing here now?"

"The general manager, Mr. Adrian Hill, has asked us to come back to work for the company again. Aren't you aware of that?" one of them said conceitedly.

Louis frowned and said in bewilderment, “Wasn’t Adrian Hill also fired from the company? The general manager is now Mr. William Carter! What nonsense are you spouting?”

These former executives were instantly displeased.

“Damn it. You’re just a lowly secretary who knows nothing! Let me tell you, that Mr. Carter of yours is facing the end of his career and will soon be kicked out of the company! And you, his secretary, will also have to pack your things and scam soon!”

“That’s right! Adrian will soon become the next general manager, and you’re going to be kicked out because you defected to William Carter.”

“Hey Reece, aren’t you the director of the human resource department? Issue an order now to have this clueless secretary fired immediately! Anyway, Adrian definitely won’t like him!”

The few of them were extremely displeased with the fact that Louis was standing on William’s side and treating them with so much disrespect. So they were clamoring about having him fired right there and then.

Chapter 337: Untitled

Had this happened in the past, Louis might have really believed what these former senior executives had said and thought that Adrian had really made a comeback, while Louis himself was going to be in huge trouble. But now that Lucas, the chairman of the company, was standing near him, and Adrian's conspiracy had already been exposed, Louis certainly wouldn't let them have their way.

Louis didn't believe them at all and naturally wasn't afraid of being threatened.

"Want to fire me? You can try doing it if you have what it takes!" Louis exclaimed sneeringly.

His provocative attitude and taunting immediately made these former executives feel that their authority had been challenged.

"Hah, you're just a lowly secretary! What right do you have to be so arrogant in front of us?!"

"Reece, immediately get this bastard fired and kicked out!"

"Sure. I'll notify the company staff right now and have him fired immediately!"

They glowered at Louis scornfully as the former director of the human resource department resolutely pulled out his phone and called to the office to have Louis fired.

They initially thought that Louis would panic and be uneasy. But to their surprise, Louis remained composed and stood still with his arms folded. He was even staring at them with contempt and derision in his eyes, as if he was looking at a bunch of clowns.

“What? Who am I? Can’t you recognize my voice? I’m Reece Jacobs, the director of the human resource department! What did you say? A new director was appointed yesterday, so you no longer have to take orders from me? Damn it. Do you also think that I’ll never be able to return to my job? Let me tell you, you’ll be the first person I fire once I get back to the office later! Screw you!” Reece hung up furiously.

“Reece, what’s the matter? Are those scoundrels in the office disobeying you?” The other former executives gathered around Reece and asked in disbelief.

Reece was so enraged that his face flushed red. Feeling embarrassed, he hollered resentfully, “Hmph, once I get back to the office later, I must teach them a lesson and fire all those fools who defy me!”

“Reece, you’re right! We should really keep those employees in line when we go back! Let’s fire every single one of them who stood on William Carter’s side yesterday! There are numerous people applying for a job at our company anyway!”

“Exactly. It’s time I discipline my subordinates in the business department!”

“Same goes for the purchasing department I’m in charge of!”

These former executives tried to comfort Reece and even imagined the scene of themselves establishing dominance and getting rid of those who disobeyed them back in the Solar Corporation’s Orange County branch office.

Standing right in front of them, Louis pursed his lips after hearing what they said.

At this juncture, an extremely ordinary-looking black Nissan sped over from a distance and came to a screeching halt in front of them.

The car doors opened, and William and Adrian stepped out of the driver's seat and backseat respectively.

"Why did you brake so quickly? Are you trying to kill me?" Adrian rebuked William relentlessly.

William pressed his lips together tightly and was about to tell Adrian to hurry up and settle the issue with Franco so that the goods in the warehouse could be dispatched and delivered on time. But he suddenly heard the voices of the former executives interrupting him.

"Adrian, you're finally here!"

"Adrian, you have no idea how disrespectful those bastards at the office are to us now, even though it's only been a day since we left the company!"

"That's right! Just now, Reece called his subordinates at the office but ended up being ridiculed by them. They said that you and all of us no longer have any rights to give them orders because we've already been kicked out of the company! Atrocious, huh? We can't let such people continue working for the company any longer!"

"Yeah, Adrian. When you return to the company, you must deal with those who disregarded you!"

"Yes, that's right! And this secretary of William Carter over here is absolutely obnoxious. He mocked us right in our faces and even taunted us to fire him if we have what it takes. Adrian, you must fire him just based on this statement!"

...

Upon seeing Adrian, the former executives flocked toward him and began complaining to him as though he was their closest kin.

After hearing their complaints, Adrian said coldly with a sullen expression, “Hmph, don’t worry. Once I get to the office, I’ll kick all of those arrogant punks out!”

At this moment, a cargo truck loaded with goods that had passed the final inspections and administrative processes was driving toward the main road.

Adrian was astonished, and only then did he realize that the burly men originally blocking the entrances and exits of the warehouse were no longer around. Furthermore, the warehouse’s workers were also doing their jobs of loading the trucks with goods and dispatching them as per usual.

“Damn it! Who allowed them to start loading and dispatching goods? Didn’t I already say that they have to wait for me to get here before the goods can be released? Where’s Franco?” Adrian hollered in rage.

As soon as he said this, Jimmy and the other five former executives were stunned.

They had noticed that the warehouse had reopened when they arrived just now. But they didn’t think much of it and merely assumed that Adrian and Franco had already achieved their goal, thus allowing operations to resume at the warehouse.

But according to what Adrian just said, Franco had apparently unblocked the exits and entrances without informing Adrian. They couldn’t help wondering what was going on.

In contrast to their puzzlement, William sneered and seemed to have figured out something. He looked at Adrian and gibed, “Turns out everything that happened was your doing! You hired that scar-faced man to do that, didn’t you?”

William had been suspecting this for a long time, but he finally heard Adrian admit to it now.

Adrian had no intention to hide it from William. Besides, since he had almost achieved his goal anyway, he wasn’t afraid of letting William find out at all.

“Yes, I was the one who did it. So what?! Let me tell you, I must become the general manager of the company! Otherwise, I’ll get Franco to come and block the warehouse every single day. In just a few days, the company will go bankrupt and shut down. Let’s see what will happen to you when the time comes!” Adrian said arrogantly.

“I don’t know what will happen to him, but I know that you’ll be the first to die without knowing why!” All of a sudden, an icy cold voice sounded behind the crowd.

Adrian was startled to hear the voice, and he hurriedly turned his head around, with the other former executives following suit. They stared nervously at the source of the voice.

Lucas, the young chairman of the company who often kept such a low profile that they even thought he was an impostor at one point, was standing right behind them expressionlessly!

Chapter 338: Coercion

There was also a middle-aged man in his forties standing behind Lucas with a sullen expression, but no one knew who he was.

William looked at Lucas with his eyes wide open in surprise because he didn't tell Lucas about what had happened here!

"You... Ahem, Mr. Gray, why are you here too?" William asked, sounding a little unnatural.

Lucas said indifferently, "If I hadn't come in time, I'm afraid someone else would have replaced the general manager of my company without my knowledge, huh?"

William's face was getting a little warm. Seems like Lucas has already found out everything that happened. At a loss for an explanation, William opened his mouth but ended up closing it again because he couldn't bring himself to say anything.

Of course, Lucas wasn't trying to hold William responsible or reprimand him. He turned to look at Adrian and the former executives around him, and his gaze instantly became much more menacing.

Adrian and the others had slightly guilty consciences in the first place. And now that Lucas, their most authoritative superior, had exposed their ploy to threaten William, they immediately felt even more nervous.

“Mr. Gray, since you’re here, there are some things that I’d like to tell you in person.” Among the group, Adrian had the best EQ, and he was also very quick-witted. So he soon thought of an excuse and explanation to give Lucas.

“What is it?” Lucas sneered.

Adrian coughed gently. “Mr. Gray, you probably didn’t see what happened just now. Charlie Franco, the person in charge of Snowflake Entertainment, brought a bunch of his men with him to block the entrances and exits of our warehouse, causing operations to be disrupted. Even the security guards of our company couldn’t stop them and ended up getting beaten up badly.

“If I hadn’t asked Franco to unblock the entrance and exits, I believe that the operations of the warehouse would still be disrupted now. The orders for the goods to be delivered would have been all affected, which would have brought major losses to the company. I’m sure you’re very clear about that.”

Lucas glanced at him indifferently. “So?”

With a look of determination, Adrian said, “Mr. Gray, since you’ve heard what I just said with William Carter, I’ll get straight to the point. Franco is not only the head of Snowflake Entertainment, but he’s also a highly valued subordinate of the Taylors. At the same time, he’s also a good friend of mine.

“Franco was really upset that I was dismissed from my job for no reason yesterday, and he insisted on doing me justice, so he brought his men here and blocked the entrances and exits in the morning. He told me that he would bring them here every single day and stop the cargo trucks from entering and leaving the warehouse until I’m appointed as the general manager of the company! Mr. Gray, you should know very well what that means, right?

“So, Mr. Gray, you’re a wise person, and I believe you should know the best choice to make!”

Adrian was eloquent, and his explanation was logical and coherent as well. He not only made himself seem close to Franco, but he also attributed the cause of everything that had happened to Franco's insistence on seeking justice for him.

If Lucas hadn't already learned the truth from Franco, he would have probably really been fooled by Adrian's words.

Standing behind Lucas, Preston had an incredibly gloomy expression.

Charlie Franco is just a lackey of the Taylors. What does he mean Franco is highly valued? Is he implying that I have poor judgment?

God knows how many stupid things that bastard Franco has already done in the name of the Taylors!

After hearing Adrian's threat, William flew into a rage and snapped, "Adrian Hill, you're really despicable and shameless! You actually resorted to such underhanded tricks just to become the general manager!"

Lucas shook his head and laughed. "How are you so certain that I can't deal with Franco?"

Adrian said with unparalleled confidence, "Charlie is backed by the Taylors, one of the four most powerful families in this county! Even if you're the chairman of the Stardust Corporation, you own only one corporation, and everyone in Orange County knows that the Stardust Corporation no longer has anything to do with the Huttons now. So, do you think you can defeat the Taylors?

"Besides, Franco has a large group of underlings who have committed all sorts of violent acts such as slashing and arson. Franco himself is a combat expert who has been training since he was a teenager! Mr. Gray, given how lanky you are, Franco can crush you with the lift of his finger! Aren't you afraid that he'll deal with you

ruthlessly?” At the end of his speech, a sinister glint appeared in Adrian’s eyes as he began to threaten Lucas’s personal safety.

“Pfft!” Someone next to him suddenly burst into laughter.

Seeing that everyone was now staring at him, Louis hurriedly reached his hands out to cover his mouth.

Louis found Adrian’s threats hilarious and couldn’t help himself.

He wondered what expression Adrian would have on his face when he found out the truth later.

“In that case, you’re bent on being the general manager, and there’s no room for negotiation. Is that right?” Lucas asked with raised brows.

“I’ll be honest with you too. Franco will continue to disrupt the operations of the warehouse for as long as I’m not the general manager. Mr. Gray, it’s up to you to decide whether you can afford to wait!” Adrian dropped his pretense and simply revealed his agenda and tricks to Lucas.

Lucas sneered and stopped wasting his breath on Adrian. He turned around and said to Preston, “Go bring that so-called highly valued subordinate of yours over!”

“...” Preston glanced at Lucas while gritting his teeth, but he could only helplessly gesture at the bodyguards behind him.

The bodyguards immediately acknowledged his order and walked toward the warehouse.

Lucas's reaction made Adrian, Jimmy, and the other five people baffled as they had an ominous hunch. They were just about to crane their necks to see who the bodyguards would bring over when Lucas suddenly questioned them.

“Are the six of you still going to take Adrian Hill's side?”

Jimmy and the other five people looked at each other. Soon, they saw a look of certainty in each other's eyes.

They had already handed over 60 grand each to Adrian in return for the chance to return to their jobs at the company and then make a ton of money. They couldn't give up and back out at this point.

They had to be on Adrian's side!

“Yes, Mr. Gray. We're indeed going to support Adrian in becoming general manager!”

“Yes. Mr. Hill is capable, qualified, and competent, so why shouldn't he be the general manager? If you hadn't interfered yesterday, this wouldn't have happened to the warehouse today!”

“That's right! We're all in this together with Adrian. We're not taking sides, but rather, we're just choosing to stand on the right side!”

“Mr. Gray, think about it carefully. Otherwise, the company will eventually go bankrupt and shut down!”

Lucas shook his head regretfully. “I just gave you guys a chance, but unfortunately, you gave it up yourselves.”

Jimmy and the other five all frowned in bewilderment, failing to understand what Lucas meant.

At this juncture, the sounds of a noisy commotion filled the air. A group of people came out from the corner outside the warehouse and walked over with bizarre gaits. Their bodies were swaying unsteadily, and many of them were limping or hopping over on one leg. All of them were grimacing and hissing in pain.

At the front, the two bodyguards in black were carrying a person whose limbs were obviously broken and hanging loosely while walking toward Lucas.

Looking at these people who didn't seem to be behaving normally, Adrian panicked and subconsciously took two steps back. Pretending to be composed, he asked, "Who... who are these people?"

Lucas gibed with a smile, "What? Can't you recognize your best buddy?"

Chapter 339: Full of Regrets

“What?!” Adrian received a great shock when he saw the two bodyguards in black throwing the man they were carrying onto the ground.

All four of his limbs had been broken, and he groaned in pain when he landed on the ground. Adrian could clearly see the obvious scars on his now pale and twisted face.

“Franco?!” Adrian was horrified to realize that the man whose limbs were all broken and seemed to be in a miserable state was Franco, who called the shots among the gangsters in Orange County. He immediately took two steps back as a sudden chill ran down his spine.

How did the mighty and formidable Franco end up in such a state?

What exactly happened here?

Franco, lying on the ground, immediately glared at Adrian resentfully with his eyes wide open. “Adrian Hill, you bastard! You cheated me and caused me to become crippled. I’ll definitely settle scores with you!”

Shocked by the terrifying hatred in Franco’s eyes, Adrian frantically took two steps back again and spluttered, “Franco... Franco, h-how did you end up like this?”

“Bastard, you still have the cheek to ask me that? Damn it... Ah!” Franco began to get worked up as he tried to get up to strangle Adrian. But as soon as he moved, he immediately felt excruciating pain in the spots where his bones were broken. He had no choice but to fall back down again.

Standing beside him, William widened his eyes in shock. Before he went to look for Adrian, Franco was still unruly and arrogant. But now, he was in such a tragic state...

William subconsciously looked at Lucas, who was standing beside him with a composed expression. He instinctively felt that Lucas must have something to do with Franco's current miserable plight! *Seems that my son-in-law is getting more and more complicated...*

"Are you still going to threaten me with Charlie Franco?" Lucas asked with a smile as he stared at Adrian.

Adrian was no longer as confident and firm as he was a few minutes ago. Ever since he saw the terrible state Franco was in, he felt as if his heart had fallen into an ice-cold cave. His teeth began chattering, and he was at a loss for words.

Seeing this scene in front of them, Jimmy and the other former executives had already realized that things were not in their favor.

Franco had been crippled, and Adrian's plan had fallen through. Moreover, they were also doomed!

They looked at each other and then bit the bullet and knelt down in front of Lucas.

Thud!

The sound of their knees hitting the concrete ground was extraordinarily loud, but they could no longer be bothered at this point! "Mr. Gray, w-we didn't want to do this either. We were all forced to do it!"

"It was all Adrian's idea. He came to us yesterday and fooled us into paying him sixty grand each to hire Franco for his plan. He even threatened to make sure that we could no longer make a living in Orange County if we refused!"

“Exactly! Mr. Gray, we gave Adrian Hill 360 grand in total. It was as much as our life savings. We had no choice but to obey him... but we really didn’t intend to go against you!”

They were all weeping miserably as if they were victims who had been forced.

As soon as they said all of this, Adrian became a little flustered.

The reason being, he did collect 360 grand from them yesterday, but he had only given 50 grand to Franco and pocketed the remaining amount.

Initially, no one would find out about the matter. But now that they had exposed him in front of Franco, Franco would certainly find out that Adrian had pocketed this large sum of money and gotten the better end of the deal!

Franco would probably hate him even more, especially since he had all his limbs broken because of this matter.

As expected, Franco instantly sat up from the ground and hollered angrily, “Adrian Hill, you f*cking bastard! You collected 360 grand from them but only gave me 50! You f*cking pocketed over 300 grand and even wanted me to put my life on the line for you! Damn it! I must kill you!”

Franco glowered at him, and the veins around his eyes were bulging. He looked incredibly horrifying, as if he was going to eat Adrian up.

If he could still move now, he would personally sever Adrian’s arms and legs one by one!

The other six only found out now that Adrian had pocketed the large sum of the money he had collected from them!

In other words, Adrian didn’t fork out a single cent himself but even earned more than 300 grand from the deal, in addition to becoming the general manager of the

company, if the plan worked out, of course. He had blatantly treated them as fools and took them for a ride!

“Adrian Hill, you son of a b*tch! You’re so despicable. How dare you deceive us?!”

“Screw you! Hurry up and return our money!”

“Adrian Hill, you’re such a bastard! Pay up!”

After realizing that they had been cheated out of their money, the six former executives furiously grabbed Adrian by his collar. Some were impatient and even punched him on his face.

Adrian shrieked in pain, but no one bothered about him.

Meanwhile, Preston kicked Franco furiously and rebuked, “Dimwit! You had the nerve to do such nonsense behind my back for a mere fifty grand. And you even dare to make a fuss about that money now? Is that something you should worry about now? Damn it!”

After dealing with Franco, the livid Preston walked up to Lucas. “Mr. Gray, this stupid bastard Franco has indeed made a tremendous mistake and offended you. You can do whatever you want with him. Even if you kill him, the Taylors won’t stop you!”

The six people beating up Adrian suddenly realized that the person who had been standing by Lucas’s side was Preston Taylor! In that case, they had not only offended Lucas but also Franco and the Taylors!

They were in hot soup!

Adrian turned as pale as a sheet, and his legs turned into jelly, causing him to fall to the ground.

The funny thing was, he had just threatened Lucas by saying that the Taylors wouldn't let him off for offending Franco. But little did he know that a Taylor had been standing right there and watching him repress others in their name!

Adrian had always thought that he was really smart, but he never expected that his well-thought-out plan would backfire and cause him to end up in such a plight!

The only mistake he had made was belittling the chairman of the company, Lucas Gray!

He had underestimated Lucas's power and wrongly assumed that Lucas wouldn't be able to deal with Franco's violence or even dare to confront the Taylors. But he was utterly wrong!

It was a terrible mistake!

However, it was too late for regrets now!

After hearing Preston say that he would hand Franco over to him to deal with, Lucas seemed completely uninterested. He said apathetically, "You can do whatever you want to a dog with all four limbs broken."

"In that case... Mr. Gray, what would you like me to do?" Preston gritted his teeth. The Taylors were considered at fault for what happened today, so he had to give Lucas an explanation to appease him.

Since Lucas didn't want to do anything to Franco, Preston had to make it up to Lucas in other aspects.

However... he suddenly had a strange sense of uneasiness.

Chapter 340: Is There A Connection?

Lucas suddenly asked, “The Taylors own a large real estate development company, as well as a construction and renovation company, right?”

He still remembered that Scott Taylor, Preston’s brother, had once brought two of his bodyguards to his villa and demanded that he let him have the villa because it was developed by a real estate development company owned by the Taylors.

Preston froze in shock, a little puzzled by what Lucas meant. But he answered conscientiously, “Yes, Moon Palace Realty and Milton Interior Design belong to our family.”

Lucas smiled. “Since you own businesses in the real estate and renovation industries, and I have a logistics and transportation company, how about you consider cooperating with us, Mr. Taylor?”

Only then did Preston understand that Lucas didn’t want anything from him except the opportunity to cooperate with the Taylors.

In fact, Lucas’s request might mainly be meant for the development of his company, but it wouldn’t cause any losses for the Taylors, and Preston might even be able to use this opportunity to try and get closer to Lucas. He might even get the Ocean Bathhouse back from Lucas rightfully.

Unfortunately, he couldn’t agree to Lucas’s request.

“Mr. Gray, I’m really very sorry, but I can’t agree to your request.” Preston shook his head regretfully.

Then Preston quickly added an explanation, for fear that Lucas might have misunderstood something. “It’s not that I don’t want to agree to your request, but the Taylors own many businesses that various members of the family manage. There are clear rules on which industries each person is in charge of, and I happen to not be the person in charge of the real estate and construction industry, so I can’t interfere and agree to your request.”

Seeing how sincere Preston seemed, Lucas finally believed that he wasn’t just making up a random excuse but that there was indeed such a rule among the Taylors.

Given Scott Taylor’s behavior previously, Lucas reckoned that he should be the one in charge of the real estate business of the Taylors.

In that case, Preston indeed couldn’t agree to his request to cooperate.

So Lucas dropped the idea and said, “Forget it then. Since this person already has his limbs broken, I can’t be bothered to pursue this anymore. You may take him away.”

Seeing that Lucas didn’t seem to be angry, Preston heaved a sigh of relief and hurriedly guaranteed, “Please rest assured that I’ll definitely inform my subordinates not to get into a conflict with you again!”

“Okay.” Lucas then turned to look at the former senior executives of the company, who were kneeling on the ground.

After Lucas glanced at them, Adrian, Jimmy, and the rest immediately shuddered and begged, “Mr. Gray, we were wrong! We won’t make the same mistake again! Please spare us!”

“Yes, Mr. Gray. Please just forgive us this once!”

...

They were panic-stricken. Had they known earlier that Lucas was so terrifying, they wouldn't have listened to Adrian and let him tempt them into coming here to threaten Lucas.

Lucas said coldly, "I've already given you a chance just now, but unfortunately, you chose to give it up yourselves."

Then he turned to look at William and ordered, "Mr. Carter, it's up to you to deal with these people. Go investigate them and find out clearly if they've embezzled company funds or committed some other illegal acts!"

"Yes, Mr. Gray!" William immediately acknowledged.

Adrian and the others almost fainted after hearing what Lucas said.

They had stayed in the company for the sake of making money, so of course they had committed illegal acts. If Lucas decided to investigate them, none of them would be able to escape the law, and they would definitely be put behind bars!

At the thought of the consequences, they immediately decided to forgo any dignity and prostrated to Lucas.

"Mr. Gray, we have families to feed, and if we... go to jail, our families will be ruined!"

Lucas sneered. "Why did you do it in the first place then? Why didn't you consider this consequence when you were being parasites to the company and making money without a care in the world?"

The seven of them were deathly pale, and they were about to defend themselves further, but Lucas lost his temper and hollered, "Whoever speaks another word will be silenced forever!"

Lucas's domineering aura surged out like a beast, making them shudder and too afraid to speak.

Soon, William lodged a police report and had people come to take all the former executives away for a proper investigation.

Wanting to take the opportunity to leave, Preston hurriedly asked, “In that case, Mr. Gray, I’ll take my leave now, alright?”

Lucas glanced at him and suddenly asked, “How are you handling the task I gave you?”

Previously in the Ocean Bathhouse, Preston had promised Lucas to introduce him to the mysterious organization that supplied beauties to the Ocean Bathhouse. But Preston said that even the Taylors had no idea who constituted the organization and their contact info. So they could only wait passively for the organization to contact them. However, it had been a long time since then, but there was still no news.

In addition, there were no longer any more beauties being sent to the Ocean Bathhouse lately, so Lucas suspected that the Taylors might have already contacted them and perhaps even agreed to change the transaction location.

Suddenly questioned about this matter, Preston obviously became nervous as he hurriedly shook his head. “Well... they haven’t contacted me, so there’s nothing I can do!”

Lucas narrowed his eyes and stared at Preston without saying anything for a long time. His gaze was so intense that droplets of sweat appeared on the tip of Preston’s nose.

Lucas then questioned slowly, “Preston Taylor, do you think that you can fool me because I’m a little too nice to you?”

As soon as Lucas said this, Preston immediately remembered the fear he felt when Lucas strangled him. But he nevertheless shook his head and said, “I’m telling the truth! Think about it. The Ocean Bathhouse is now in your hands, and I desperately want to get it back from you as soon as possible. How could I possibly deceive

you? The truth is that no one knows the whereabouts of those people. I'm really anxious that they haven't contacted me, but there's nothing I can do except wait!"

With a sharp glint in his eyes, Lucas stared straight into Preston's eyes. "I'll ask you one last time. Have you really not been in contact with them?"