

## **Chapter 361: Already Settled**

This was the second time that Stanley faced this situation. The last time was when the Brookes forced him to make a choice by holding him at gunpoint at their mansion in LA.

In fact, Stanley couldn't guarantee that he could retreat safely from the storm of bullets. According to the experience and knowledge he had gained over the years, Lucas was the only one who could easily dodge bullets fired simultaneously by multiple gunmen. Stanley could hardly imagine just how terrifying Lucas's strength was.

Thus, he just said those words to deter the Wallaces from shooting.

The expression on Pierre's face changed rapidly, and Stanley could tell that he was having an extremely complicated mental battle.

From his point of view, he certainly didn't want the Wallaces to gain such a powerful enemy.

Even the formidable Henry had been killed by a fatal slash to his throat. How could ordinary people like them be able to resist or even retaliate against such a terrifying and murderous figure?

However, Henry was a guest they invited from the Kingstons, yet he suddenly died in the Wallaces' manor. If the Wallaces chose not to do anything about it and just let the murderer leave scot-free, they would definitely have to face the Kingstons' wrath!

If the Kingstons became enraged, it would no longer be something the Wallaces can solve easily. The entire family might even perish!

The gaze in Pierre's eyes changed, but in the end, he gritted his teeth and said, "No, you can't leave!"

Stanley's eyes were quickly full of murderous intent. "In that case, you're choosing to become my enemy, huh?"

He moved his fingers, and the dagger he just used to kill Henry began to rotate at his fingertips again while flickering with an icy cold light.

At the same time, Stanley scanned his surroundings quickly to plan his next move.

Looking at the sharp dagger on Stanley's fingertips, many of the Wallaces seemed terrified. The scene of Henry having his throat slit was way too gruesome and shocking, so much so that they couldn't forget it at all.

Pierre once again seemed to be conflicted, but he soon suppressed his feelings of hesitation and said resolutely, "You killed Henry Salve, who worked for the Kingstons. I can't let you go just like that! We won't just kill you. We only want to keep you behind and take you to the Kingstons so that you can explain to them yourself!"

Stanley sneered. "You want to keep me behind? Let's see if you have what it takes! But you better think this through carefully. Once you decide to open fire, it means

you've chosen to become my enemy, and I will absolutely not show you any mercy!

“This dagger I'm holding will definitely pierce through your throats when you shoot! You'd better think carefully about what exactly you want to do!”

The dagger in his hand flashed with cold glints of light as he waved it through the air.

Pierre immediately felt an extremely cold sensation on his neck, as if Stanley had already placed the dagger against his throat.

He was stuck in a tough dilemma. As the helmsman of the family, his decision concerned his own life, as well as those of the entire Wallace family. So he had no choice but to consider carefully before making a decision.

At this moment, Darren inched close to Pierre and said eagerly, “Dad, you can't let him off! Otherwise, the Kingstons will definitely hold us responsible. When the time comes, none of us will be able to escape!”

“I don't believe that there's really someone in this world who isn't afraid of getting shot by guns! He must be lying and boasting just to scare us. Any one of us here can fire several bullets through his body! Even if we can't kill on the spot, he will definitely sustain injuries. Even if he can fly, he won't be able to escape our premises!”

“I don't believe that he can really hurt you! There are so many bodyguards in front of you to protect you. No matter what, he can't do anything to you!”

Pierre quickly thought about his words and nodded lightly. But at this moment, Stanley suddenly stomped his foot against the ground and began moving!

“Shoot!” Pierre immediately yelled, his heart skipping a beat.

But humans are not machines after all. From the moment they received Pierre’s command to the time they pulled the trigger, only a split second passed.

But in this split second, Stanley had already darted past them and vanished without a trace.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

...

A series of gunshots that sounded like firecrackers filled the air, but none of the bullets hit anything.

During this very short period of time, Stanley didn’t retreat and instead charged straight toward Henry’s villa.

He had already observed the terrain outside and the layout of the houses. Because they were at the entrance of the villa, there was plenty of space and very few obstructions. The object nearest to him that could provide cover was the large marble statue more than ten meters away.

So the villa, which was only a few meters away from him, was the best choice.

After dodging into the villa extremely quickly to evade the bullets, Stanley ducked into the corner of the wall where the bullets wouldn't be able to reach him.

Pierre knew they were in trouble and hurriedly roared in exasperation, "Chase after him!"

The gunmen immediately acknowledged the order and dashed into the villa with their pistols in hand. Then they fired several shots in a row at the corner that Stanley was hiding in.

But Stanley obviously wouldn't stay in place. He was a former leader of the assault team of the Falcon Regiment and an expert in assassination and quick escapes. He had long moved away from his initial spot, causing the gunmen to miss again.

"Quick! Find him immediately. You must seize him no matter what. I want him dead or alive!" Pierre hollered furiously at the top of his lungs.

If they couldn't find Stanley and kill him immediately, none of the Wallaces would be able to fight back against him, given how Stanley had been able to kill the formidable Henry.

The thought of having such a terrifying enemy that could kill them at any time made Pierre turn pale and break out in a cold sweat.

But after searching the villa and even the entire Wallace estate, they still couldn't find Stanley, which was frustrating and to their dismay.

Stanley had escaped!

...

Lucas, who had just bathed Amelia, received a short text message on his phone. There were only four words—"It has been settled."

## **Chapter 362: A Sleepless Night**

After taking a glance at his phone, Lucas put it away.

The outcome was within his expectations. If a former leader of the Falcon Regiment's assault team couldn't even deal with a lackey of the Kingstons, he would seriously wonder if Stanley had been slacking off all these years.

Knock-knock.

Someone suddenly knocked on the door of the room. Lucas walked over, opened it, and saw Charlotte standing there.

"Lucas, I'm not disturbing your rest, am I?" Charlotte asked.

Lucas smiled. "No, what's the matter?"

Charlotte then waved at Amelia, who was rolling around on the bed, all clean and fresh after a bath. She chuckled. "Amelia, do you want to hear the background story of Mulan? If you do, come sleep with me tonight!"

"I do!" Amelia immediately got up from the bed and ran to the door with her little pillow in her arms.

After watching the Mulan movie today, Amelia kept asking Charlotte about the background story. Now that Charlotte offered to tell her about it, she leaped up gleefully right away.

Cheyenne was about to say something, but Charlotte quickly pulled Amelia out of the room and even winked at them smugly. “I’ve brought the little gooseberry away for you two. You’d better work hard and strive to give Amelia a younger sibling soon!”

With that, she hurriedly left with Amelia before Cheyenne and Lucas could say anything.

“...” Lucas was speechless. This sister-in-law of mine is quite... sensible!

Lucas couldn’t help smiling. He sneaked a glance at Cheyenne and noticed that she was blushing. Even her ears had turned red. She looked extremely shy and adorable.

Sensing Lucas’s gaze, Cheyenne glared at him, but there was no aggression in her eyes. Instead, she even seemed to be pouting coyly and timidly.

She didn’t show any intention of bringing Amelia back and simply said, “I-I-I’m going to take a bath now!” Then she hurriedly dashed to the bathroom.

Lucas was rather surprised, but he was soon overjoyed.

This meant that Cheyenne was willing to...

Lucas’s heart began beating rapidly, and he even felt a rare sense of nervousness.

But at the same time, he also felt elated and got the butterflies, causing him to be at a loss for what to do.



During the two-hour date with Cheyenne earlier, their relationship had already improved by leaps and bounds.

But Lucas didn't have any experience in some things. Even if he was the esteemed captain of the Falcon Regiment, who was known for his brutal and invincible combat abilities, he was really a newbie when it came to relationships.

While Lucas was feeling nervous, Cheyenne, who was sitting in the bathroom, was also so nervous that her heart began to pound quickly.

Sitting in the bathtub, she hugged her knees, and various scenes appeared in her mind.

Without exception, they were all scenes of Lucas helping her, comforting her, protecting her, and speaking to her gently.

In fact, Cheyenne knew that she had unknowingly fallen in love with Lucas.

Just a few months ago, Lucas had proposed to her in the flowerbed garden of the roof of the Intercontinental Hotel, but she had turned him down at that time. But he said that he hoped that she could give him a chance to truly fall in love with him.

Now, she had indeed fallen in love with Lucas and wanted to see him every day.

So they should genuinely become a married couple now!

And a real couple...

Cheyenne seemed to think of something. Her face turned even redder, and she quickly buried her face in the warm bathtub.

“Ahhh! What the hell am I thinking about?! This is so embarrassing!”

...

When Cheyenne finally came out of the bathroom, she was wearing a thin and lightweight silk nightdress.

Her smooth and fair shoulders were exposed, and so were her calves because the hem of the nightdress ended at her knees. The nightdress was hugging her body, accentuating her beautiful and svelte figure.

In fact, Cheyenne had already worn this nightdress once.

At the time, Lucas had just brought William, who had turned over a new leaf, home. Cheyenne was so grateful to Lucas in her heart that she decided to dedicate herself to him and take the final step to consummate their marriage. Unfortunately, she dozed off unknowingly, and being the gentleman he was, Lucas didn't do anything to her.

But today...

Lucas glanced at Cheyenne with fire in his eyes.

While Cheyenne was getting shy and embarrassed from the way he was staring at her, she also felt proud and gleeful.

“Ahem!” Cheyenne coughed twice softly. Seeing that Lucas was still staring at her, she chided, “What are you still standing there for? Hurry up and go take a shower.”

Then Cheyenne's face became even redder.

“Oh... okay! I’ll get to it immediately!”

Lucas returned to his senses, but he actually seemed a little flustered, which was rare for him. He then hurriedly dashed into the bathroom.

In the bathroom, there was still a lot of steam in the air and the lingering scent of body wash from Cheyenne’s bath.

Feeling his body getting warmer, Lucas turned the faucet on and turned it to cold water. Only then did some of the heat get washed away.

But when he thought about what might happen soon, he felt that no matter how much cold water he rinsed himself with, it wouldn’t be of any use.

After he prepared himself mentally and stepped out of the bathroom nervously with some anticipation, he saw a scene that made his raging hormones calm down immediately.

Amelia, whom Charlotte had just taken out of the room, was lying on the large bed in their room with her arms wrapped around Cheyenne’s neck. She shouted at him with a pure and innocent smile, “Daddy, you’ve finally finished taking a bath! Quick, come here and tell Mommy and me a story~”

“...” Lucas couldn’t describe his mood at this moment.

But there was nothing he could do because Amelia was his precious daughter, so of course he had to pamper her!

Caught between laughter and tears, Lucas walked over and knocked his finger very gently against Amelia’s round head. “Haven’t you heard enough stories from Aunt Charlotte?”

“No, I want to hear another one from Daddy!” Amelia said coquettishly.

Cheyenne blushed a little and whispered in Lucas’s ear, “I don’t know why she came back all of a sudden...”

Lucas looked really aggrieved, but all he could do was say helplessly, “Well then... let’s go to bed early!”

...

It was destined to be a sleepless night.

## Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 363

### Chapter 363: Don't Go On

Bright early next morning, both Lucas and Cheyenne headed downstairs with conspicuous dark eye circles.

Smiling, Charlotte walked toward them with a carton of yogurt drink in hand and apologized insincerely, "Cheyenne, Lucas, you two didn't get a good night's sleep, huh? I'm really sorry I couldn't keep an eye on the little gooseberry and failed to stop her from going back to disturb you guys!"

Amelia asked with bewilderment, "We have gooseberries at home? Where are they? I want to see them!"

Charlotte burst into laughter, picked Amelia up in her arms, and gently tapped the tip of her little nose twice. "Hahaha, it's just some adorable gooseberry. I'll take you to see it some other day when we have the chance."

Amelia was confused, but she nevertheless nodded obediently, making the playfully evil Charlotte laugh even louder.

"Charlotte, are you itching for a beating?" Cheyenne chided, her face as red as a tomato.

Charlotte smiled. "Fine, fine, Cheyenne, it's all my fault for failing to keep an eye on her yesterday. I promise I'll watch her properly next time and give you guys ample time to 'interact' properly so that you can give Amelia a little brother or sister soon!"

"Huh? Little brother?!" Amelia immediately caught the keyword. She quickly turned around and exclaimed excitedly, "I want a little brother!"

Charlotte said wickedly, “Amelia, if you want to have a little brother sooner, you have to sleep beside me every night from tonight onward!”

“Why? Why will I get a little brother if I sleep beside you every night?” Amelia asked in confusion, her eyes and mouth wide open.

“Uh... because your Daddy and Mommy have to sleep with each other alone to give you a little brother!” Charlotte explained with an evil grin.

“Why?” Amelia frowned, feeling extremely vexed. “I want a little brother, but I also want to sleep beside Daddy and Mommy.”

Her thin little eyebrows furrowed into a frown, and she was feeling extremely conflicted while pondering seriously about this troubling issue that left her in a dilemma.

Seeing this, Charlotte chuckled even more gleefully.

Cheyenne glared at her playful sister, who was often up to mischief. Just as she was about to say something, Amelia suddenly clapped her hands and exclaimed loudly, “I know what we can do!”

“From now on, I’ll sleep with Mommy while Daddy can sleep with Aunt Charlotte. That way, I’ll get to sleep with Mommy and have a younger brother too!”

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

The three adults were all astonished and at a complete loss for words.

Cough Cough

Charlotte choked on her yogurt drink and began coughing violently to the extent that her face was completely flushed. She then picked up her purse and scurried out of the house in panic after saying, “I-I’m going to work now!”

Amelia stared at Charlotte’s back in confusion. “Is Aunt Charlotte skipping breakfast today?”

Cheyenne seemed to be extremely uneasy too. But when she saw the innocent gaze in her daughter’s large, clear eyes, she was at a complete loss for words. She could only glare at Lucas and then say to Amelia, “Don’t say such things again in the future. Your aunt is mischievous. Don’t be like her!”

Amelia tilted her head, her large eyes full of confusion.

Lucas coughed and hurriedly said, “Okay, let’s have breakfast! Let’s see what delicious food there is today.”

Soon, the family of three finished their breakfast. As usual, Lucas was in charge of driving Cheyenne and Amelia to the Brilliance Corporation and the kindergarten.

...

At this moment, in the Wallaces’ manor...

The Kingstons arrived in the morning.

After searching the manor for most of the night, the Wallaces' efforts to find Henry's murderer had been futile. At daybreak, they had no choice but to report the matter to the Kingstons fearfully.

After all, Henry had worked for the Kingstons, and now that he was dead, they had to inform the Kingstons about it no matter what. Otherwise, they would be blamed even further when the Kingstons pursued the matter.

In the living room of the main villa where Pierre, the Wallace family head, resided, a young man in his thirties was sitting on the master seat, exuding a noble and dignified aura.

On the other hand, Pierre was sitting at the side, with his body leaning forward a little in a respectful manner.

Next, Darren, Bryant, and the rest of the Wallaces took seats as well.

There was a stiffened corpse that had already turned cold laying on the ground in the middle of the guest hall. His bald head was still shiny, and his eyes were wide open, seemingly in unrest. There was also a slash wound on his neck.

The corpse belonged to Henry, who had been slashed fatally in the neck in a single move by Stanley last night.

"I want you to tell me honestly what exactly happened last night," the young man on the master seat ordered indifferently.

Although his tone wasn't harsh, it was authoritative and gave off a sense of oppression, making the Wallaces tense up subconsciously.

A layer of sweat instantly seeped out from Pierre's forehead, as the young man opposite him made him feel genuine fear from the bottom of his heart.



The young man was Marc Kingston, the most highly regarded direct descendant of the Kingstons.

Although he was Kyle's cousin, their statuses in the Kingston family were worlds apart.

For example, Kyle had to try marrying Gisele Taylor, someone of the four major families in Orange County, in order to gain a stable foothold in his family. But Marc had never regarded the Taylors highly.

Marc was the most respected descendant of the Kingstons.

Of course, the reason for Marc's formidableness was not only his identity but also his character. Legend had it that while Marc might seem gentle and soft-spoken on the surface, he was actually very temperamental and extremely brutal. He had killed at least ten people by beating them to death and other means.

Of course, those were just rumors, and Pierre had never witnessed any of those acts of violence before. But he was nonetheless genuinely afraid of Marc.

After hearing Marc's question, Pierre hurriedly answered, "Yes, Mr. Kingston! At about ten o'clock last night, a man suddenly broke into the villa that Henry was staying in. By the time we rushed there, Henry... was... he was already dead!

"Moreover, Henry was in extremely low spirits yesterday because of his apprentice's death, and he forbade us from going near his villa. So... so we didn't get to see who the murderer was..." Pierre said with his head hung low, after which he wiped the cold sweat off his forehead.

Marc sneered. "Hah, he was already dead when you rushed over, but none of you saw who the murderer was? Is that what you're trying to tell me?"

Pierre's heart tensed up, but he bit the bullet and said, "Yes, that's indeed the case! We also want to find the murderer and avenge Henry, but there's nothing we can do... We only know that the murderer must be related to that scoundrel Lucas Gray!"

## **Chapter 364: Ruthless Deterrence**

Pierre deliberately chose not to reveal Stanley's name, but not because the Wallaces wanted to protect him.

Rather, they actually had the chance to shoot Stanley dead right on the spot last night, but due to their hesitation, they had let Stanley take advantage of the opportunity to escape.

If Wallaces gave the Kingstons an honest confession of what had actually happened last night, the Kingstons would definitely put the blame on them and hold them responsible. So after a discussion among all the core members of the family, they reached a consensus to hide what had happened yesterday from the Kingstons and just say that the murderer had already escaped by the time they arrived.

Marc glanced at Pierre and warned with a sinister expression, "I said, I want to hear the truth! Don't make me repeat myself!"

Pierre suddenly broke out in a cold sweat, and large sweat droplets trickled down his wrinkled face.

Could Marc Kingston already know something? Various thoughts flashed through Pierre's mind as he quickly tried to think of what to say.

But Marc's patience was wearing thin. He pulled out a Beretta 92FS pistol and started fiddling with it.

Seeing that the situation was turning awry, Pierre could no longer worry about anything else. He hurriedly said, "Mr. Kingston, actually, last night..."

Bang!

The loud and sudden gunshot startled everyone.

Before Pierre could finish his sentence, his expression stiffened and would remain that way forever. A bloody hole had appeared in his forehead, and blood was still gushing out of it. Immediately afterward, his old and frail body weakened completely and collapsed onto the ground with a loud thud.

This scene made everyone in the guest hall fall silent, and only the sounds of their hearts pounding rapidly and the gulping of saliva could be heard.

None of them had expected that Marc would be so brutal as to shoot Pierre dead right on the spot!

Although they had heard a little about Marc's temper and character, it was their first time witnessing his violence in person. And to make matters worse, the person he killed was the head of the Wallace family, who held the highest authority.

Since Marc didn't even hesitate to kill the family head, the rest of them were obviously insignificant to him!

“This is what happens to those who try to lie to me.”

Marc fiddled with the pistol in his hand and glanced coldly at the Wallaces without even looking at Pierre's corpse on the ground. He said in a relaxed tone, “Now, I want to know the truth about what happened last night. The first person to speak up will be the next helmsman of the Wallace family.”

Marc now held absolute power over their lives. Since Pierre was dead, the position of family head was vacated. Although Marc was an outsider, he did have enough power to decide who succeeded it.

Simply put, anyone who refused to comply would die!

After a brief silence, the direct descendants of the Wallaces vied to speak up. “I know. I’ll tell you!”

“I’ll speak up!”

“I’ll go first!”

...

They all began scrambling to be the first to speak.

With a contemptuous smile on his face, Marc pointed his finger at the first person who spoke. “Okay, you will be the one.”

The person Marc pointed at was none other than Darren, Pierre’s son.

Darren shot a triumphant glance at his brother, Bryant, who turned as deathly pale, before quickly saying, “Henry’s apprentice went to assassinate Lucas Gray yesterday, but he ended up getting killed, and his corpse was dumped in front of our place. Henry was so furious that he sent more than ten people to hunt Lucas Gray down. Last night, we waited for the news together, but there was suddenly a loud, explosive sound outside the villa. We quickly rushed out and discovered that a man had come for Henry...”

Darren then gave a detailed recount of what had happened inside and outside Henry's villa, including the conversation he had with Stanley, how things got physical, and how Stanley killed Henry with a single move. He also included the fact that they sent their gunmen to deal with Stanley.

Sitting comfortably on the chair, Marc listened quietly to Darren's explanation.

While Darren was feeling extremely anxious, Marc said leisurely, "That is to say, if you didn't hesitate at that moment, you wouldn't have missed the great opportunity to kill the murderer named Stanley Ray, and there was no chance he could have gotten away unscathed. But you guys were afraid of getting punished by me for this, so you made up a random excuse to deceive me by saying that you didn't see who the murderer was. Is that so?"

Darren broke out in a cold sweat immediately. He hurriedly lowered his head and apologized, "That... that was my father's decision. We all felt that it would be inappropriate to do that, but we couldn't convince my father. After all, he's the head of the family! Please rest assured. None of the Wallaces had the intention of trying to deceive you!"

He put all the blame on Pierre because he was already dead anyway, and there was no way he could refute it.

Marc snorted coldly but surprisingly didn't continue to probe further. "I'll forget it this time. But if I ever find out that you have the audacity to deceive me again in the future, your fate will be the same as this person on the ground in front of you!"

Then he kicked Pierre's corpse without the slightest respect.

All the Wallaces watched Marc disrespect Pierre's corpse, but none of them, including Pierre's sons, dared to say a word.

If they said something wrong and ended up provoking Marc, they might end up dying too. None of them wanted to be shot by Marc's pistol.

Anyway, Pierre was already dead. They used his death as comfort for themselves.

Darren nodded profusely and exclaimed, "Yes! I promise that the Wallaces will never dare to deceive you again in the future!"

Only then did Marc nod in satisfaction, but he soon frowned again. "Stanley Ray? Why do I find this name somewhat familiar?"

The young man who had been standing quietly behind Marc and resembled a bodyguard said, "Mr. Kingston, Stanley is a top expert who used to work for the Brookes in LA. He's very skilled in combat, and assassination is his forte. Back then, the Kingstons once tried to recruit him, but he turned us down."

Marc immediately narrowed his eyes. "How dare he turn down our offer... Hah!"



He sneered and ordered, “Immediately investigate all the information about him and report to me. Make sure to find out every single detail!”

“Yes, Mr. Kingston!” The young man immediately acknowledged.

Marc stood up, and all the Wallaces immediately bent forward a little to bow to him respectfully.

After taking a glance at them, Marc pointed at Darren and declared, “From today onward, you are the head of the Wallace family. You have my permission to kill anyone who disobeys you.”

Darren was overjoyed, and he immediately thanked him, “Thank you so much, Mr. Kingston!”

With Marc’s declaration, he was now the rightful helmsman of the Wallace family, and no one would dare to question his eligibility for the position!

This included Bryant, whom Pierre had originally set to be the successor of the family. He could no longer make any comments!

Marc glanced at the Wallaces and instructed, “This matter will come to an end here. None of you are to deal with Lucas Gray again. Do you hear me?”

## **Chapter 365: Qualified Lackey**

Although Darren was baffled as to why the Kingstons forbade them from dealing with Lucas even after Henry's death and even seemed to have the intention of letting him off, he had no choice but to obey Marc's orders and quickly agreed, "Yes, Mr. Kingston!"

After leaving the Wallaces' manor, Marc raised his head to look into the distant sky with a vicious gaze in his eyes. "Hmph, Lucas Gray, I'll let you live for a few more days. Soon, you will die without a grave!"

Soon, the news of Pierre's death spread throughout Orange County.

The Wallaces merely told everyone that Pierre had died because of a sudden cardiac arrest resulting from the shock of the tragic death of his grandson Liam.

But only ordinary people would be fooled by this explanation. The people of the top families all found his death to be very bizarre.

After all, even though Pierre was almost 70 years old, he had always been in good health and had never suffered from any heart diseases. So they found it unlikely that he would suffer from a sudden cardiac arrest.

More importantly, Pierre's grandson Liam had died only two days ago, and his corpse was still lying in a coffin in the middle of a hall in the Wallaces' manor. Yet

Pierre had suddenly passed, and the new head of the family was now Darren and not Bryant.

All in all, everything was bizarre.

At this moment, many people in Orange County were secretly discussing this matter and directing their suspicions at Lucas, suspecting that he might have something to do with everything that happened to the Wallaces.

After all, Lucas and Liam had gotten into an altercation over the auction of a beautiful girl at the auction venue in Club Splendor the other day, which everyone present had witnessed with their own eyes.

But afterward, the news of Liam's death spread on the very same night of the auction.

Although it wasn't stated explicitly, many guessed that it must have something to do with Lucas.

Now that Pierre had also died, all kinds of rumors about Lucas became even more rampant.

Bruce, the head of the Hales, was extremely cautious when he mentioned this matter to Lucas. "Mr. Gray, I've already gotten the exact news, and they say that... Pierre Wallace has already died."

Lucas was stunned for a while, but he immediately understood Bruce's purpose for calling. He laughed and asked, "Surely you don't think that I was the one who did it, right?"

Bruce immediately understood that Lucas wasn't the culprit, but he didn't admit to his previous suspicions. Instead, he hurriedly said, "How is that possible? I just

think that there's something really strange about this matter. Pierre Wallace is several years younger than me, and he has always been in good health. How did he just die all of a sudden? There must be something more to this."

Lucas agreed calmly, but he immediately thought of the Kingstons.

Henry, whom Stanley had killed last night, worked for the Kingstons, and now that Pierre had suddenly died a day after Henry's death, Lucas was certain that this matter had something to do with the Kingstons.

The Kingstons... A sharp glint flashed across Lucas's eyes.

In fact, Lucas didn't have a feud with the Kingstons in the first place, nor had he ever crossed paths with them. But for some reason, the Kingstons had decided to stoop low and let themselves be reduced to becoming the lackeys of the Huttons. They obeyed the Huttons and went against Lucas all the time.

First, they spread the news that Lucas was abandoned by the Huttons and that the Huttons were going to suppress the Stardust Corporation, causing the status of the Stardust Corporation in Orange County to be much lower than before.

Later on, they also secretly incited Oliver Harvey, a senior executive of the Stardust Corporation, to spread false rumors about an affair between Flynn and Charlotte. Afterward, he even jumped to his death and caused the media to shed a negative light on the Stardust Corporation, resulting in public outrage. Although Lucas found out later that the culprit was Dave Lewis, the Kingstons were actually the true mastermind.

The person who secretly took photos of Lucas and Amelia at the amusement park was also sent by the Kingstons.

Scott Taylor even leveraged the power of his family and declared that he would seize Lucas's villa in Pearl Lake, all for the sake of pleasing Marc Kingston.

Of course, in addition to these matters, they had also carried out many underhanded tricks secretly.

The Kingstons put in plenty of effort to become excellent lackeys of the Huttons.

Lucas snapped out of his thoughts and said over the phone, "How much do you know about the Kingstons?"

Bruce was stunned and said carefully, "The Kingstons are a large family from San Francisco whose power is definitely among the top. Even though the Hales are one of the four most powerful families in Orange County, we're worlds apart from the Kingstons. It's safe to say that the Kingstons can annihilate us effortlessly.

"As far as I know, the Kingstons should have gotten the support of one of the eight greatest families in DC and have developed even more rapidly in recent years. But I'm not clear which specific family is helping them."

Lucas acknowledged. Seems that it's not an absolute secret that the Kingstons and the Huttons are related.

During the next few days, Lucas thought that the Kingstons would continue to attack him. But they were surprisingly quiet, which he felt was bizarre.

But Lucas didn't take the Kingstons very seriously and merely asked Wade and Stanley to continue protecting his family.

The past few days, Amelia had been pestering Cheyenne to tell her bedtime stories, and neither Cheyenne nor Lucas could bear to disappoint their precious daughter, so they never had the chance to get intimate with each other.

But apart from not being able to do the deed, their relationship was getting better and better. They were really just like a true married couple.

It was Friday. After getting off from work in the evening, Cheyenne hesitated for a while before suddenly saying to Lucas, “Lucas, it’s my cousin’s wedding day the day after tomorrow. My mom said that we should go there tomorrow to add a touch of liveliness and see if there’s anything we can do to help.”

After thinking about it, Lucas nodded. “Okay, let’s go together then.”

Cheyenne said with a trace of worry on her face, “Do you... really want to go?”

Lucas naturally understood what Cheyenne was worried and concerned about.

Karen’s harsh attitude toward Lucas just went to show that she had always been displeased and prejudiced against him.

Karen’s family members were also just as mercenary and materialistic as her. They would look up to the rich and despise the poor. In the past, they would make lots of nasty remarks about Lucas right in his face.

Just like those who met Lucas in the Carter residence after he returned to Orange County, they all treated him like garbage.

So Cheyenne was worried that Lucas would face the humiliation of those relatives at the wedding.

Lucas said nonchalantly, “It’s up to them to say whatever they want. It doesn’t affect us anyway. As long as you know that I’m not like what they say, I don’t care about the opinions of others.”

Cheyenne was touched to hear this and took the initiative to hug him. “Okay, let’s go together tomorrow then!”

## **Chapter 366: Mother-in-law's Maiden Home**

Bright early next morning, the family of four left their home, dressed to the nines.

Charlotte drove the Lamborghini that Lucas had given her to Golden Garden Estate to pick up William and Karen, while Lucas drove his black Jaguar as usual.

They headed to Cheyenne's cousin's home in two cars.

To Lucas's surprise, Karen's maiden home was in LA.

So he reckoned he should be able to take some time out to check on the properties acquired from the Brookes that Flynn was in charge of managing.

During this period of time, Flynn had been busy with organizing the companies Lucas acquired from the Brookes, so Lucas had decided to promote Charlotte from the acting general manager to the official general manager. Meanwhile, he had other arrangements for Flynn.

Orange County was only about an hour's drive away from LA.

Lucas was driving in a relaxed manner because he was familiar with the route, but beside him, Cheyenne was surprised. "Lucas, have you been to LA before?"



There were no outsiders in the car, so Lucas answered honestly with a smile, “Yes, and the Solar Corporation in LA belongs to me now too.”

Cheyenne immediately widened her eyes in shock. “Really? You mean the Solar Corporation that belongs to the Brookes?!”

Lucas smiled quietly and continued to stare at the road ahead of him while driving.

But Cheyenne couldn’t calm down.

The Solar Corporation could be considered one of the most well-known enterprises in LA, and it operated on a large scale and had massive funds. In fact, the power of the Solar Corporation alone was enough to rival a first-rate family.

The Brookes basically relied on the Solar Corporation to become one of the top families in LA.

But a short while ago, rumor had it that the Brookes had offended a mysterious big shot who caused the entire Brooke family to fall. All their businesses had been taken away from them and transferred to someone else while all the family members had left LA without a trace.

At the time, Cheyenne was shocked that such a behemoth had been destroyed just like that. Clearly, nothing in this world was predictable.

But she would have never imagined that the legendary mysterious person who had destroyed the Brookes turned out to be her husband.

All of a sudden, Cheyenne had countless questions for Lucas, such as why he wanted to destroy the Brookes, how and when he did it, and so on.

But after some contemplation, she decided to keep quiet instead of asking him about it.

It was enough for her to know that her husband, Lucas, was powerful but would never bully or plunder others' properties for no reason.

Soon, under Cheyenne's directions, they arrived at the entrance of a farmhouse situated between the core city area and the countryside.

It was an extremely spacious farmhouse with two three-story houses adjacent to each other. Although the decor wasn't considered exquisite, the houses occupied a large area.

There was a large concrete ground in front and a yard in the back, which added up to more than a thousand square feet in area. For those used to living in city apartments that were only a few hundreds of square feet, this place was naturally extraordinarily spacious.

Lucas stopped the car and got out together with Cheyenne and Amelia. Charlotte, Karen, and William had already arrived.

"Cheyenne, Lucas, you guys are here!" Charlotte greeted them with a smile while a couple behind her walked forward together with her.

The lady was about 24 or 25 years old and had thin lips. She was also a little sulky and didn't seem to be a nice person.

But the man beside her seemed to be an elite. He was clad in an immaculate suit and had his hair combed back neatly. He was also wearing a pair of shiny leather shoes and an expensive Patek Philippe watch.

As soon as the woman saw Cheyenne, she walked over quickly and hugged her in an exaggerated and dramatic manner. “Cheyenne, I haven’t seen you in a long time. I missed you so much!”

The woman was Nikki Heron, Cheyenne’s cousin, the daughter of Karen’s younger sister.

“Nikki, it’s indeed been a while. Amelia, come greet your Aunt Nikki.”

Amelia greeted Nikki obediently. Nikki immediately grinned and squatted down to hug Amelia. After giving her two pecks on her cheek, she exclaimed, “Amelia, you’re getting prettier and prettier!”

Amelia wasn’t used to Nikki’s affectionate behavior and quickly dodged by retreating backward.

Cheyenne moved her hand toward Lucas and was about to say something, but Nikki immediately acted as if she didn’t see Lucas at all and grabbed Cheyenne’s arm to pull her forward. “Come on, Cheyenne. Let me introduce a friend to you!”

She pulled Cheyenne to the elite-looking man and introduced enthusiastically, “This is my cousin, Cheyenne. Everyone calls her the most beautiful girl in Orange County. She’s pretty, isn’t she?”

She then introduced to Cheyenne, “This is Kenneth, a direct descendant of the Parkers, one of the top families in LA. His family is extremely wealthy, and he graduated from an Ivy League college. He has even recently started his own company called Urban Culture Co., and it’s developing very well. Kenneth is a bona fide affluent CEO of every girl’s dreams!

“Most importantly, Kenneth didn’t establish his company with the help of his family. Just like you, he struck out on his own and became a successful

entrepreneur at a young age. If you date each other, you'll definitely have a lot of common topics to talk about!"

After the introduction, Kenneth extended his hand in a gentlemanly manner and said with a smile, "Hello, Miss Carter. I've heard a lot about you. You really are so much more elegant and pretty than I imagined! It's a pleasure to meet you!"

Cheyenne didn't shake his hand and instead nodded at him before turning to ask Nikki, "Nikki, is he your boyfriend?"

Nikki immediately seemed embarrassed, and she glanced at Kenneth. With some envy and jealousy, she giped, "I wish! But Kenneth doesn't fancy me! Only a beautiful woman like you is worthy of Kenneth."

She sounded extremely bitter and disgruntled. If she were as pretty as Cheyenne, she would have long tried to woo Kenneth instead of saying nonsense here.

But Cheyenne pretended not to catch what Nikki was driving at and instead wrapped her hands around Lucas's arm. "Honey, let's go in to greet Grandpa, Grandma, and my uncles and aunts."

Lucas nodded. "Okay."

A fleeting trace of displeasure quickly appeared on Kenneth's face.

Nikki hurriedly caught up with them and stopped them from entering.

"Cheyenne, all the people invited to the wedding are from our family, so you can go in. But for him..." Nikki pointed at Lucas. "He's an outsider! No one here wants to see him, so he won't be allowed inside, lest he becomes an eyesore to everyone and make us feel uncomfortable!"

## **Chapter 367: Coveting**

Nikki's behavior made Cheyenne and Charlotte sulk.

Cheyenne had mentally prepared herself beforehand because she knew that Karen's relatives disliked Lucas, and Lucas had also said that he wouldn't care about their opinions of him. But she still felt that they were going overboard by saying such callous things in front of everyone and stopping Lucas from entering!

Next to them, Kenneth began smiling a little.

Cheyenne snapped furiously, "Nikki, Lucas is my husband, and you should show him some basic respect. We're all here to attend Dylan's wedding and give him our sincere blessings. Why won't you let him in?"

Nikki glanced at Lucas disdainfully and retorted, "I don't see him as family. He's just a good-for-nothing who freeloads off of others. We don't acknowledge him at all! When you two got married, Grandpa was infuriated. He didn't agree to your marriage at all, and he didn't even attend your wedding!"

"Frankly speaking, if this person has some self-awareness, he should have just divorced you. Yet he's clinging onto you stubbornly and refusing to let you go. How shameless of him!"

Nikki was extremely harsh with her words, and she didn't spare Lucas from any humiliation at all.

In her opinion, Lucas was just a good-for-nothing shamelessly clinging onto Cheyenne. Whenever Karen returned to her maiden home, she would complain about Lucas to her family and criticize him harshly, wishing he would die sooner.

But the last time Karen had tried to set Cheyenne up with someone, Lucas suddenly came running over and destroyed their marriage.

Thus Nikki was displeased with Lucas.

Cheyenne was extremely upset.

She and Lucas had indeed gotten married rather hastily, and they didn't have any feelings for each other at the time. It was all for the sake of covering up the scandal and stopping the rumors from spreading.

Besides, after learning that Lucas was just a penniless man, her grandfather was dead set against the marriage because he felt that it was very embarrassing.

But Cheyenne was a Carter after all, and Dominic Carter was the one who agreed to it. Even though Karen's father objected to it, there was nothing he could do. In fact, Karen's father didn't even attend the wedding or acknowledge Lucas as Cheyenne's husband.

Now that Cheyenne had already genuinely acknowledged Lucas as her husband, she naturally hoped that her family members could stop being prejudiced against him and sincerely accept him.

"Nikki, Lucas is my husband. Don't say that about him," Cheyenne said with a sullen expression.

Nikki was so exasperated that she stomped her feet and snapped, “Cheyenne, are you stupid? Or did this man bewitch you in some way? Why are you so biased toward him? You’re already the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation, but this man still has nothing to his name. He’s just a nobody!”

Nikki was furious, and she pointed at Kenneth beside her. “Look at Kenneth. He’s one of the Parkers, who are one of the most powerful families in LA. In the future, he will take over the entire family. Besides, he’s young, wealthy, and capable. Eligible bachelors like him are few and far between!

“I’ll tell you the truth. Grandpa has long agreed to letting you marry Kenneth, and his plan this time is for you two to spend time with each other. If possible, you two should settle on a date to get married. When the time comes, you’ll be the esteemed Mrs. Parker and get to live in the lap of luxury. What can this good-for-nothing give you?

“Lucas Gray, you’d better be more sensible and divorce my cousin as soon as possible. Don’t get in the way of her potential marriage and happiness!”

Nikki said everything that her grandfather had instructed her to.

Lucas sneered inwardly.

From the moment Nikki pulled Cheyenne over and introduced her to Kenneth, he had already sensed that Nikki was up to something, but he didn’t expect it really to be the case. Karen’s maiden family wanted to break Lucas and Cheyenne up so that they could arrange for her to marry a rich man.

Charlotte had been suppressing her anger, but she could no longer contain it now. “Nikki, shut up! Lucas is my brother-in-law. You are not allowed to insult him like that! Also, Cheyenne has already gotten married a long time ago, so you don’t have to try and matchmake her with another man! If you’re so eager, get married yourself!”

“You!” Nikki was so furious that her face flushed red, especially because Charlotte had struck a sour note within her!

She wasn’t as pretty as Cheyenne and Charlotte, so even though she had tried to attract and woo Kenneth, her efforts were all futile. Instead, she had to act as his wingman and matchmake him with another woman.

She had always wanted to marry a rich man, but she hadn’t been able to win the heart of one!

Charlotte’s words were like daggers to her heart.

Nikki subconsciously wanted to lose her temper and lash out at them. But when she thought of the fact that Charlotte was now the general manager of the famous Stardust Corporation in Orange County, which was far more powerful than the Brilliance Corporation, she changed her mind.

Charlotte had already become someone whom she couldn’t afford to provoke!

“Charlotte... H-how can you say that about me? I’m doing this for Cheyenne’s sake! Besides, you clearly hated him as much as I do. Why are you acknowledging him as your brother-in-law?” Nikki asked aggrievedly.

Her words immediately reminded Charlotte of her ‘disdainful past’, where she used to look down on Lucas. This was something that she was really ashamed of!

But at the time, she was young and ignorant. When she saw how everyone detested Lucas and discriminated against him, she decided to follow suit. After having experienced so many things, Lucas was already an indispensable family member to Charlotte.

She wouldn’t allow anyone to insult Lucas like that.



She would only ever acknowledge Lucas as her brother-in-law. In her opinion, Kenneth wasn't even qualified to be compared to Lucas!

“Anyway, Nikki, listen carefully. Lucas Gray is my brother-in-law. If you dare to insult him again, you'll get it from me! By the way, my brother-in-law isn't to be trifled with either. If you end up provoking him, don't blame me for not warning you beforehand!” Charlotte said coldly.

Cheyenne said with a cold and stern expression, “Nikki, I repeat. Lucas is my lawful husband, and I will never divorce him in this life! If you have any funny ideas in mind, you'd better drop them!”

With that, Cheyenne held Lucas's arm tightly and pulled Amelia with her other hand. “Come on. Let's go in and see Grandpa and Grandma. Don't bother about what they say.”

Soon, the four of them entered.

Nikki, left outside the gate, looked at the scene in front of her in disbelief.

She thought that Cheyenne and Charlotte detested Lucas, but they actually rebuked her for his sake! Why?! There must be something wrong with them!

Nikki was indignant and disgruntled, while a gaze of determination appeared in Kenneth's eyes. “Hah, I've never failed to win the heart of a woman I fancy!”

## **Chapter 368: Tea Leaves Saga**

When the Turners tried to get close to Kenneth and told him that there was a ravishing beauty in the family, Kenneth was indifferent because he thought that they were just exaggerating.

But now that he had met Cheyenne in person, he was indeed rather tempted because he finally saw how gorgeous she was.

But he didn't expect that she would ignore a dreamboat like him and insistently defend her husband, whom he thought was a freeloading good-for-nothing.

He wasn't bothered because he had gotten used to seeing women who liked throwing themselves at him, so a little challenge would be interesting!

Although he wouldn't marry a divorced woman, he wouldn't mind playing around with her for the sake of her beauty.

"Kenneth, don't worry. That man is just a good-for-nothing. My grandparents will never allow them to stay married. We'll soon be able to watch a good show!" Nikki said gloatingly.

Kenneth smiled. "Since there's going to be a good show, we can't miss it."

Then he took the lead to enter through the gate while Nikki tagged along behind him.

There were two almost identical villas inside.

The one on the left was occupied by Cheyenne's maternal grandparents, while the one on the right was occupied by Cheyenne's uncle.

Cheyenne's maternal grandparents had a total of three children, with the eldest being Cheyenne's mother, Karen; followed by Nikki's mother, Gretchen; and lastly, Cheyenne's uncle, Alex.

The groom-to-be was Alex's son, Dylan Turner.

The wedding was tomorrow, but many of the Turners lived in other states, so they had all arrived a day in advance so that they wouldn't miss the wedding.

At this moment, they were all chatting merrily in the farmhouse villa belonging to Cheyenne's maternal grandparents.

Cheyenne brought Lucas and Amelia into the villa, and as soon as they entered, the relatives immediately looked at them.

"Hey, it's Cheyenne!"

"Cheyenne, we haven't seen each other in a few years. You've gotten prettier and prettier, just like your mother!"

"Quick, Cheyenne, Charlotte, and this adorable daughter of yours... Her name is Amelia, right? Quickly, come in and have a seat!"

...

Many of the relatives greeted them warmly while showering them with compliments.

After all, these relatives had already heard that both Cheyenne and Charlotte were really competent, as they had become the general managers of large corporations. So they were much more enthusiastic about greeting them than before.

But none of them paid any attention to Lucas, who was following them, as if he wasn't present at all.

Cheyenne greeted all the elders in the room one by one. "Grandpa, Grandma, Aunt, Uncle..."

The few of them smiled and greeted Cheyenne and Charlotte with benevolent expressions.

But they similarly pretended not to notice Lucas' presence and didn't bother looking at him at all.

Cheyenne smiled bitterly in helplessness. Then she took the gifts from Lucas's hand and distributed them one by one.

"Grandpa, Lucas knows you love coffee, so he specially bought you some superior-grade Civet coffee beans. He went to great lengths to get some. Please try them." Cheyenne presented a bag of exquisitely packaged coffee beans to her grandfather.

"Grandma, Lucas knows you're a devout Buddhist, so he has specially brought you a finely carved Buddha statue from Angkor Wat." Cheyenne handed the Buddha statue placed in an exquisite sandalwood box to her grandmother.

“Uncle, this...”

...

Lucas had specially asked someone to prepare these gifts yesterday after learning that they were going to visit Cheyenne’s maternal grandparents. He had even deliberately asked Cheyenne about the hobbies and interests of her relatives.

Cheyenne handed Lucas’s thoughtful gifts to the elders and even explained clearly that Lucas was the one who had prepared them in hopes that they would change their minds about him on account of the value of these gifts.

But after hearing that the gifts were prepared by Lucas, the faces of the elders, who had just received the gifts enthusiastically, immediately turned sullen. They even showed looks of great disgust.

The bizarre tension immediately made everyone in the living room fall silent.

Cheyenne bit her lower lip and looked at the elders in front of her nervously. Seeing how displeased they were, she subconsciously grabbed Lucas’s hand.

“Haha!” Cheyenne’s grandfather suddenly sneered and threw the bag of coffee beans into the garbage bin!

“Grandpa!” Cheyenne was immediately astonished that her grandfather threw away such an expensive bag of coffee beans!

Of course, Cheyenne was not feeling the pinch. But rather, her grandfather’s behavior was a clear insult to Lucas!

“Cheyenne, did you get a random bag of lousy coffee beans to fool me because you think I’m old and can’t distinguish between fine-grade and inferior coffee beans?” Cheyenne’s grandfather, Eddie, said disappointedly with a look of exasperation.

“Grandpa, how am I fooling you?” Cheyenne said aggrievedly.

“Hah, you claimed that bag of coffee beans is Civet coffee beans, yet you say that you’re not fooling me!” Eddie snorted with an austere expression, “Civet coffee is the most expensive coffee in the world. It is produced in rare amounts because the production process is very tedious. The highest price it has ever fetched is thirteen hundred dollars per kilogram!

“That bag of coffee beans you just gave me weighed at least several kilograms. How can a good-for-nothing like him who sponges off his wife afford to spend thousands of dollars on coffee beans?!

“Yet you still have the cheek to say that you’re not deceiving me with some lousy coffee beans?”

Eddie Turner was an avid coffee drinker and had done adequate research on expensive coffee types, so he was stating facts.

After hearing Eddie’s analysis, many people in the living room looked at Lucas in disdain.

Hah, of all things, they tried to deceive Grandpa with coffee beans and claimed that they’re of the best grade. Now they’re getting exposed, huh?

Such an embarrassment!

Cheyenne was shocked too. Of course, she knew that Lucas definitely wouldn’t have bought fake Civet coffee. She was shocked because Lucas had actually spent

so much money on those coffee beans, which she originally thought were just ordinary store-bought coffee beans.

Seeing that her grandfather had tossed the coffee beans into the garbage bin like they were rubbish, even Cheyenne, who wasn't a coffee lover, felt immense heartache. "Grandpa, these are definitely genuine coffee beans!"

"Enough!" Eddie smacked the table and hollered furiously with a frown, "Cheyenne, stop speaking up for this man and deceiving me! Do you think everyone believes that he can afford to spend a few thousand dollars on coffee beans?"

The relatives sneered contemptuously.

They would have believed it if Lucas had brought a gift worth a few hundred dollars. But they would never believe that he could afford to spend a few thousand dollars on a gift!

"I believe that those coffee beans are real!" At this moment, someone suddenly stood out and said this sentence.

Everyone in the living room immediately looked over.

## **Chapter 369: Family of Bloodsuckers**

The person who spoke was none other than William.

Everyone watched in shock as William walked forward and said seriously, “Eddie, I’m very sure that what Lucas gave you is definitely authentic Civet Coffee of the best quality. It absolutely isn’t fake!”

William was naturally aware of Lucas’s character and assets. Lucas had a few hundred million on hand, so how could he possibly give a fake gift?

The fact that William was also supporting Lucas immediately made Eddie fly into a rage.

Anyone could tell that Eddie threw the bag of coffee beans into the garbage bin because he disliked Lucas. Yet William was now standing against Eddie to defend Lucas.

Many of the relatives began to change their expressions.

At this moment, Charlotte stood out too and said with a look of determination, “I believe that those coffee beans are authentic too!”

The young Amelia didn’t quite understand what was going on, so she simply held onto Lucas’s hand tightly and said in a puerile voice, “Daddy never lies!”



“ ... ”

Cheyenne, Charlotte, William, and Amelia all stood on Lucas's side because they believed that the coffee beans were authentic.

Eddie got even more infuriated and glowered at Karen.

Although he didn't say anything, it was obvious what he meant. "Keep an eye on your husband and daughters!"

Karen panicked and stood up to holler at William, "William Carter, what nonsense are you saying? No one will think you're a mute if you don't say anything!"

She turned to look at her daughters and berated, "All of you are helping an outsider. Have you forgotten that I'm your biological mother? Lucas is just a good-for-nothing. How can he afford to give my dad a gift that costs a few thousand dollars? It's obviously impossible! I wonder what he's done to bewitch you and make all of you stand up for him?!"

Karen criticized Lucas in front of everyone again.

Although Lucas was now living in the most luxurious villa in Pearl Lake in Orange County, Karen still thought that Ethan Sawyer had given the villa to Lucas as a thank-you gift for saving his life and that there was no way Lucas could have afforded it on his own!

Lucas and the rest were now living in a large and comfortable villa, but Karen was made to live in a shabby apartment with William, making her feel even more resentful toward Lucas. So she started cursing out loud with no regard as to what the occasion was and the fact that many relatives were watching from the side.

“Hmph, Lucas is a good-for-nothing who sits around waiting for death all day. How can he afford such an expensive gift? He’s never bought a decent thing for me in the past few years even though I’m his mother-in-law, let alone give my parents any expensive gifts! He’s just clinging onto my daughter now that he knows that both my daughters have become the general managers of large corporations! How shameless!

“And you, William Carter, you’re not any better! You’ve been idling at home and doing nothing for the past few decades. Now that we’ve finally raised our daughters to adulthood, you chose to create some trouble and demand that I move out with you to live in poverty! You’re so heartless! I’m really unlucky to have married you!”

Karen’s cursing made many relatives of the Turners turn to look at Lucas and William with even more disdain and contempt.

“Tsk, ts. These two men aren’t decent human beings at all!”

“Hah, I’ve heard before that William isn’t the biological son of Dominic Carter, so he’s been sponging off the family for years. He even makes Karen provide for them!”

“Is that true? Poor Karen! I thought she’d get to live a good life after marrying!”

“Hah, I heard that the Carters are on the verge of bankruptcy and that they even kicked Karen, William, and their daughters out. Tsk, ts! So ruthless!”

“In that case, they all rely on Aunt Karen to make ends meet, huh? Her son-in-law is the same. He sponges off Cheyenne. He really takes after his father-in-law!”

...

Everyone began gossiping and going more and more overboard. Not only did they make Lucas sound like a good-for-nothing, but they even made William seem like he was freeloading off Karen.

“All of you, shut up! Don’t spout nonsense!” William suddenly roared furiously, giving the Turners and their relatives a great shock, and they immediately stopped talking.

In the hall, there was once again a peculiar silence.

The Turners and relatives all looked at William in shock and disbelief.

William and Karen had been married for around three decades. Apart from his ambitiousness in the beginning, he gradually became more and more incompetent in the later years. Not only did he obey Karen all the time, but he wouldn’t retort even when Karen scolded him.

But William now hollered at her in front of all her family.

It was completely unlike his usual behavior!

After William yelled at her, Karen immediately felt ashamed because she felt that he made her look bad.

“William, how dare you? This is the Turners’ home. Why are you being so fierce to me in front of my parents?! Do you think I’m being too nice to you?” Karen immediately shouted at William furiously.

William pointed at Karen and yelled even louder, “Bitch, shut up!”

His words immediately stunned Karen on the spot.

She was about to throw a fit to regain her lost pride, but William beat her to it.

“I don’t know what Karen has said to you to make you look down on me and my son-in-law, but I’m going to make it clear to you today. Karen and I have been married for decades, but I’ve never spent a single cent of hers! I even let her bring all the betrothal gifts and money home after our wedding!

“You say that I live off the Turners’ money? Hah! Why don’t we calculate how much money you have taken away from the Carters?!

“Come, let’s do the math. When Cheyenne and Lucas just got married six years ago, Cheyenne’s company, the Brilliance Corporation, had a bad reputation and faced countless crises. It was on the verge of closing down several times before. At the time, Alex Turner took his son, Dylan, to my home and asked for a loan. He said that he suffered heavy losses in investments and asked Karen to steal more than fifty thousand dollars from us. Later, she even made me accuse Lucas of being the one who stole the money!

“Five years ago, Dominic Carter took the Brilliance Corporation away from Cheyenne just after she gave birth to Amelia. Gretchen, when we were in need of money at the time, you said that your husband contracted a terminal illness and duped Cheyenne out of all her savings of more than forty thousand dollars. Afterward, you said it wasn’t enough and even made Karen transfer more money to you!

“These two villas were also bought with the money that Karen took from me and my daughters and secretly transferred to you!

“You took money from us several times. But just because I don’t want to say it out loud, it doesn’t mean that I don’t know! You call it a loan every single time, but have you ever returned a single cent? All of you are like bottomless pits that just keep taking money like nobody’s business! Now, you actually have the cheek to turn the tables and say that we rely on you to provide for us. Hah, this is hilarious!

Karen Turner, have you ever asked your family to return me the money they took in the past few decades of our marriage?

“You people are just bloodsuckers who use your daughter to leech off of others. What right do you have to scold me and my son-in-law?”

William had probably been suppressing his anger for a long time and thus vented it all out now.

Karen’s jaw dropped, and she was at a loss for words.

Meanwhile, the Turners all became gloomy.

### **Chapter 370: Stuck in a Dilemma**

Karen had always thought that William wasn't aware of these things because she would often make up excuses and lie that the money had been misplaced or stolen.

But to her surprise, William remembered every single time it happened. She didn't expect him to expose everything now.

Cheyenne and Charlotte finally learned that Karen had made Lucas take the blame for the missing money and accused him of absconding with it just so she could take the money to her maiden family.

They also realized why Karen forced them to give her a large portion of their monthly salary but had never bought them anything nice...

It turned out that Karen had given all the money to her siblings and their children.

Cheyenne and Charlotte had extremely complicated emotions.

The atmosphere in the living room once again became exceptionally bizarre.

Alex, whom William had called out just now, stood up immediately and retorted, "William Carter, what nonsense are you saying?! We bought these two villas with our own money. It has nothing to do with Karen, much less you! Don't spout nonsense!"

“When have I ever asked you and Karen for money? Six years ago? Nothing of the sort! Do you have any IOUs to prove that I took money from you?”

After saying this, Alex was confident and self-righteous.

He was certain that William couldn't produce any evidence at all! He was Karen's brother, so she would never make him sign an IOU whenever he took money from her!

Gretchen hurriedly chimed in, “William, don't malign me! I... I indeed borrowed some money from Cheyenne before, but I've never taken any money from Karen!”

Seeing that they were all refusing to admit it, William didn't continue speaking and instead turned to look at Karen. “Tell me in front of your family. Was anything I said just now untrue?!”

Karen looked around anxiously and tried to avoid the question. “Those things happened so many years ago. Who would remember?! I... I've long forgotten about them!”

“Mom, did you do those things or not?” Charlotte asked while biting her lips hard and staring into Karen's eyes.

Cheyenne's eyes were red too as she looked at her mother stubbornly and quietly.

The last time William and Karen had a tiff in the villa, he had once mentioned that Karen had secretly stolen the money meant for Cheyenne's and Charlotte's college tuition and gave it to her family.

At the time, they already found it unbelievable. But after hearing what William said today, they felt that it was harder to accept than what they had found out previously!

At a time when their family was in a difficult predicament and needed money the most, Karen nonetheless ignored their problems and gave all the money to her family. How could a mother do such a thing?

She kept taking money from her daughters and gave it all to her siblings, niece, and nephew. How could a mother do something like that to her children?

Cheyenne and Charlotte stared at Karen, waiting to hear her answer.

At this moment, Alex frantically urged, “Karen, quickly tell him that I’ve never taken a single cent from you!”

Gretchen immediately chimed in, “Yes, I didn’t take a single cent from you either. You must clarify this and vouch for us!”

With a dark face, Eddie said in a deep voice, “Karen, you are my daughter. You have to think carefully before saying anything. If you dare to malign your younger brother and sister, I won’t acknowledge you as my daughter from now on!”

Eddie was clearly threatening her.

As the head of the family, he was naturally aware if his other two children had ever taken money from Karen in the past few decades.

But if Karen admitted that she had indeed been constantly taking money from her husband and daughters and giving it to her siblings, that would mean that she had used this money to pay for the villas they were living in now, which would be a huge embarrassment to him!

The Turners were not the only ones present. There were many other relatives too. If word about it spread, they would definitely be deemed as bloodsuckers who lived off their son-in-law.



All the Turners, including Karen, would become huge laughing stocks!

So he would never let Karen admit to it!

Seeing this, Lucas sneered.

He had long known that Karen was a distasteful person who had no bottom line. But he never thought that she would go that far.

They had initially come here with the intention of bringing some wedding gifts to the newlyweds and other members of the family. Lucas wanted to do Cheyenne proud so that the Turners would know that she was not a laughing stock who had to be subject to the ridicule of others just because she had married a good-for-nothing. So he had specially chosen to buy expensive gifts for the Turners.

Unfortunately, his kindness wasn't appreciated. And in turn, the Turners even humiliated him. As a result, William even exposed all of Karen's and their misdeeds because he could no longer tolerate it any further.

But Lucas didn't have a good impression of Karen and the Turners. He felt that they had all brought it upon themselves.

Hearing what her siblings and father said, Karen seemed hesitant.

William Carter wanted her to tell the truth, but her family obviously wanted her to deny it.

She hesitated for only a brief moment before deciding to say what her family wanted her to.

At this moment, William said coldly, "You really should think clearly before you say anything. If you tell a single lie, we'll get a divorce immediately!"

Karen immediately closed her mouth! No, I can't divorce William Carter!

If she got a divorce now, she would be left with nothing, and she would no longer have a share of William's and her daughters' money, as well as Lucas's villa!

Besides, at her current age, it would be difficult for her to find another man to marry after divorcing William. She couldn't go back to her maiden home and live off her family either...

Once she got a divorce, she would really end up with nothing!

Karen began feeling extremely conflicted, as she was truly at a loss for what to do. What should I say?

If she admitted to the accusations and told the truth, she would definitely offend her parents, siblings, sister-in-law, and brother-in-law. She would also embarrass herself in front of all her relatives and end up being blamed for everything!

But if she denied it, William would divorce her... She would then end up with nothing!

In the hall, it was so quiet that even the sound of a pin dropping on the ground would be audible.

Everyone stared at Karen, waiting to hear her answer.