

The Formidable Son-In-Law: The Charismatic Lucas Gray -  
Chapter 1040 - A Different Kind of Life -

## Chapter 1040: A Different Kind of Life

After hearing what Carlos said, the Stones also spoke up. "Yes, Maddy, just return to the family. Carlos only spoke in anger previously. You two are father and daughter. There's no feud that you can't resolve!"

"That's right! Maddy, quickly come back to the family. You carry the blood of the Stones, and no matter what, you're one of us! Please forgive Carlos!"

"Maddy, the Stones need you, and you need the Stones too, don't you? Just stay with us, and we can take it that nothing has happened. When you come back, you will be the next helmsman!"

...

The Stones persuaded her one after another.

But they had forgotten that Geoffrey, the former helmsman, had once wanted to hand over the position of helmsman to Maddy. Since she had turned it down then, she wouldn't accept it now.

Besides, after seeing their shifting attitudes today, Maddy couldn't stand their coldbloodedness and heartlessness, as well as how they only cared about pros and cons.

Maddy felt that she didn't have the ability to return home and plan for the interests of these people so that they could lead a better life!

"You don't have to say anymore!"

"That's not what you said earlier when you thought I brought disaster to the family! At the time, did it occur to any of you that I'm a family member of yours?"

"In fact, before this, you even wanted to tie me up and hand me over to the Bransons or force me to marry Cody Williams!"

"If I didn't have anyone to help me and was just a woman with nothing, would you still let me return to the family? I'm afraid you would have asked me to apologize with my death, lest I implicate you."

Maddy looked at her former family members contemptuously. "So, stop acting like you care about and not your own interests! From now on, I will have nothing to do with the Stones!"

With that, Maddy took Jordan's hand and left the Stone residence with Lucas, not looking back at all.

The Stones were red with embarrassment.

But when they saw that Maddy had really left and had no intention of returning, they panicked again.

"No, Carlos, you can't just let Maddy go! If she doesn't return to the Stones, what will happen to us?"

"Yeah, Carlos, Maddy is your daughter. If you beg for mercy, she might relent and agree to come back!"

"Maddy has such powerful connections now. Not only is she the goddaughter of Florence, the helmsman of the Howards, one of the eight top families of DC, but her fiancé and Lucas Gray don't have simple identities either. If Maddy comes home, the Stones might become one of the top families!"

"Carlos, no matter what, you have to get Maddy to return. Otherwise, the Stones will lose a rare opportunity to ascend to greater heights!"

...

The Stones surrounded Carlos and kept talking. They could only see the benefits that Maddy could bring to the Stones now. Many of them had even thought of how the Stones could become one of the eight top families in DC in the future.

Carlos shut his eyes tightly and suddenly shouted, "Shut up!"

Everyone was shocked and immediately shut their mouths.

Carlos looked at the people surrounding him and suddenly felt an unprecedented sense of fatigue and misery.

No matter what, Maddy was Carlos's daughter, who he had raised for nearly thirty years. He did feel some affection for her, but he had no choice but to kick her out in order to save the family.

But it was because he didn't know that Maddy had such powerful connections.

If he had known, he wouldn't have chosen to do this!

So now, Carlos could only bitterly accept the fact that Maddy hated him.

Furthermore, Carlos understood Maddy's personality. She was as stubborn as her grandfather. He knew that she would never agree to return to the Stones even if he begged her.

At this moment, a member of the Stones suddenly thought of something and hurriedly said, "Carlos, Maddy has always been close to Geoffrey. If we can persuade him to come back and then convince him to persuade her, she'll definitely give in!"

Seemingly enlightened, Carlos's eyes immediately lit up. "Yes! Maddy has always been close to her grandfather since she was a child. If Father comes back, he'll definitely be able to convince her!"

The other members nodded in agreement. "Yes, Uncle Geoffrey is most concerned about the development of the family. I'm sure if he knows that we have an opportunity to soar to glory now, he'll definitely come back! As long as we can convince him, we can convince Maddy!"

"But... Geoffrey... where is he now?" a Stone suddenly asked.

After hearing this question, all the Stones fell into a deafening silence.

They all knew that Geoffrey had left the Stones, but none of them had bothered to find out where he went.

At this moment, immense guilt welled up in Carlos's heart, and he wished he could slap himself.

His father, Geoffrey, was already 73 years old this year. Yet he had left his family in disappointment, while Carlos, his only son, showed no concern at all. He didn't even send someone to escort Geoffrey. So now, he didn't know where Geoffrey went!

He was a failure of a son!

"Send people to look for him immediately! No matter what, we must find his whereabouts!" Carlos roared with clenched fists.

With his order, all the Stones took action and began to search all over DC for Geoffrey's whereabouts.

...

At this moment, in a small courtyard of a house on the outskirts of DC, far away from the bustling city...

Geoffrey, whom the Stones were searching high and low in the city for, was sitting in this small courtyard and focused on tending to a small vegetable garden.

There wasn't the slightest tinge of sadness on his face, only a sense of relief, as if a huge burden had finally been lifted.

"Indeed, I should have come here a long time ago."

After tidying up the small vegetable garden, Geoffrey wiped away the sweat on his forehead, feeling satisfied and relaxed.

This feeling was something he had never felt since he became the helmsman of the Stones decades ago.

"Grandpa, I'm here to see you!"

A clear voice suddenly came from outside the small courtyard, followed by a smiling face appearing in front of Geoffrey.

## Chapter 1041: A Humble Little Residence

Geoffrey turned his head in surprise and saw his smiling granddaughter Maddy walking over with Lucas and Jordan behind her.

"You... How did you know I was here?" Geoffrey said in surprise.

But he soon understood and smiled.

It was simply a piece of cake for someone as powerful as Lucas to find his whereabouts!

"Grandpa, did you arrange for this beforehand?" Maddy scanned the surroundings of the front yard.

In fact, on the surface, it did seem like an ordinary small residence. It was a one-story bungalow, and there were some vegetable patches in the front yard, with a few peach trees around.

But all the leaves had fallen, leaving only black and warped branches.

The rest of the facilities in the residence were also very simple.

This immediately made Maddy's eyes redden.

Although the Stones couldn't compare to the eight top families in DC, they were still wealthy and had at least billions in assets. The Stones' villas were also extremely luxurious and comfortable.

Geoffrey had been the helmsman of the Stones for years, but now that he was advanced in years, he was living in a simple farmhouse. The thought of it made Maddy feel really uncomfortable.

But Geoffrey smiled indifferently and said kindly, "Maddy, don't look like you're about to cry. Let me tell you. My greatest dream when I was a child was to have a yard where I could grow my own vegetables and bask in the sun in leisure!

"If your father didn't lack the ability, I would have long left the family residence and come here to live.

"Today, I've finally gotten my wish!"

Maddy reluctantly contained her emotions and asked, "Grandpa, do you plan to live here in the future?"

Geoffrey nodded. "Yes, I'm finally relieved of my burden and can live my life as I please. Isn't it quiet and peaceful here?"

Maddy could tell that her grandfather really liked this place. Otherwise, he wouldn't have bought this residence years ago. Besides, she could see that Geoffrey seemed to have been relieved of his burden and was now living in leisure.

"Grandpa, in that case, I'll live here with you so that I can take care of you!" Maddy immediately said. She couldn't be at ease letting Geoffrey live here alone.

"I can live well on my own. Why would I need you to take care of me? I don't need you here. Don't bother me." Geoffrey waved his hand, pretending to be disgusted.

This place was only suitable for an old man like him who had already reached retirement age, not a young woman like her. It wasn't the place for her to waste her time in vain.

But Maddy refused to give in. "That won't do. I must stay with you, Grandpa! If you don't let me live here, I'll buy the house next to yours and come over to annoy you every day!"

Maddy deliberately pouted her lips.

Seeing this, Geoffrey could only helplessly show a wry smile.

He knew that his granddaughter had the same temperament as him. As long as she made up her mind, she would never change it. He might really not be able to chase her away.

But Maddy smiled and held Geoffrey's arm affectionately. "I'll stay here with you until I get married next year. When the time comes, Grandpa, you can come live with us! Since you like a place with a yard like this, I'll get you one too."

"You're getting married next year?" Geoffrey smiled in surprise.

"Yes, we agreed on it after some discussion." Maddy looked at Jordan and blushed shyly.

"Haha, that's wonderful!" Geoffrey laughed with joy. The good news made him feel even more relaxed and eager to see his granddaughter getting married.

He looked at Jordan and sized him up. He looked away only when Jordan felt embarrassed. He sighed and said, "Jordan, I'll entrust my granddaughter to you from now on. I hope you will treat her well and never let her down!"

Geoffrey's voice was full of earnestness as he entrusted Maddy to Jordan.

Maddy was his most beloved granddaughter, so Geoffrey hoped that Jordan would treat her well.

Jordan nodded cautiously. "Grandpa Geoffrey, please rest assured that I won't let Maddy down. She's the love of my life!"

Lucas smiled. "Mr. Stone, don't worry. Both Jordan and Maddy are my close friends. If Jordan dares to mistreat Maddy in the future, I won't let him off!"

"Hahaha, that's great!"

Since Lucas personally assured him, Geoffrey had nothing more to worry about and burst into laughter.

On the contrary, Maddy felt embarrassed after hearing what they said. "I'll go see what there's to eat at home."

With a blush, she scurried into the house.

The few of them looked at each other and laughed.

It was almost evening, and Geoffrey had just moved into this bungalow, so there were many things that needed cleaning and reorganizing. They also had to prepare dinner.

Lucas and the rest didn't loaf around either. They tidied up the house well while Maddy went to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

At this moment, a black Rolls Royce slowly came closer and stopped outside the residence.

"My father's staying in this kind of place now?" Carlos opened the car door, got out, and immediately frowned.

There was dirt on the road in front of the shabby residence, and Carlos couldn't stand being here for another second longer. He couldn't believe that this was the place his father now called home.

The old butler at the side hurriedly said, "Mr. Carlos, I helped Mr. Geoffrey buy this place a few years ago, and he used to always say that he would come here to retire. So, I guessed that he must have come here."

"Alright, let's go in and take a look." Carlos frowned and then led a few family members of the older generation into the simple and humble residence.

## Chapter 1042: Repeated Persuasion

After pushing open the gate of the front yard, they immediately saw everything at a glance.

Looking at the mud on the ground and the farming tools scattered in a corner of the yard, Carlos found everything in front of him incredibly unfamiliar. Having gotten used to living in luxury, he found it difficult to adapt.

There was no one in the front yard, but there were a few voices coming from inside the house, followed by Geoffrey's gleeful laughter.

Carlos was stunned when he heard the laughter.

He could tell that it was his father's laughter, but this was why he was surprised.

Even when he lived with the Stones, Geoffrey had never laughed in such a joyous and relaxed manner.

*Is there some hidden treasure in this shabby place that's making Father so happy that he doesn't feel any discomfort?*

The thought of it made Carlos's heart sink. He quickly stepped forward and pushed open the door of the house.

The door wasn't locked, so Carlos's abrupt entrance interrupted the laughter and chatter inside. The situation in the house was displayed clearly.

Frankly speaking, the situation in the house wasn't as luxurious as Carlos thought. Instead, it was just as shabby and run-down as it seemed on the surface.

The white-painted walls were plain, and there was only some necessary furniture. It was similar to an ordinary farmer's home. Even the lights were cheap and ordinary, without a lampshade. So the house was extremely dim.

This scene left Carlos in disbelief!

He had never lived in such a shabby environment with such poor living conditions!

Just as Carlos was in a daze, the few people in the house, whose conversation Carlos's abrupt appearance had interrupted, looked over at him.

"What are you doing here?" Geoffrey frowned and questioned hostilely the moment he saw Carlos.

Carlos returned to his senses and stepped forward. He said awkwardly, "Father, I'm here to bring you home."

Geoffrey snorted coldly. "I'm living well here. This is my home!"

Carlos scanned the surroundings. "Father, stop being mad at me. Look at this small and shabby place. There's mud everywhere, and it's just like a garbage dump. You're the former helmsman of the Stones, and you've lived in a luxurious villa for decades. Isn't staying here an insult to you?"

"Don't be angry anymore and come home with me!"

Geoffrey's face became even gloomier, but Carlos was too busy criticizing and being disgusted with the interior and exterior furnishings of the house to notice his displeasure.

At this moment, Maddy, who heard the commotion, came out of the kitchen and saw Carlos at a glance. She frowned the moment she heard his disdainful remarks about her grandfather's small residence.

The Stones of the older generation, whom Carlos had specially brought along, said, "Geoffrey, you've worked hard all your life, and now that you're old, it's time for you to



enjoy yourself. How can you let yourself suffer in such a shabby house? The Stones will be really disgraced if word about this gets out!”

“Yes, Geoffrey, this run-down place is not where you belong. You should quickly come home with us! Be it the decor, size, or whatnot, the Stones’ villas are thousands of times better than this place. Hurry up and come home!”

“You’re the former helmsman of the esteemed Stone family. If others find out that you’re living in such a shabby place, Carlos will be criticized for being unfilial!”

...

The people were saying all sorts of things to convince Geoffrey to return to the Stone residence.

Although their ultimate goal was to get Maddy to return to the Stones, she was very stubborn, so they had already reached a consensus on the way here—they should never persuade Maddy directly. Instead, they should start by persuading Geoffrey.

As long as they could convince Geoffrey and get him to say a few things to convince Maddy, they would naturally succeed.

But their act of despising the small residence that Geoffrey liked had the opposite effect.

Geoffrey slammed the table and hollered furiously, “Shut up!”

The Stones instantly shut up in fright.

There was dead silence.

Seeing that things were going awry, Carlos hurriedly said, “Father, please stop being upset with me. I was wrong for what happened previously. Come home with me! I’m worried about you living in this shabby place alone at your age!”

“Hmph, I don’t think there’s anything you need to worry about! Besides, who says I’m living alone here?” Geoffrey looked at his son in disdain, his heart calm.

“I will live with Grandpa and take care of him!” Maddy walked out, held Geoffrey’s arm, and said calmly, “Mr. Stone, you can rest assured and go home. You don’t have to worry about Grandpa.”

Jordan and Lucas stood quietly by the side without speaking.

Since it was the Stones’ internal affair, they should resolve it themselves.

Of course, regardless of what Maddy's ultimate decision was, Jordan and Lucas would respect her choice.

"Maddy, I know I was at fault previously, and I shouldn't have treated you that way. But at the time, I didn't know that you were capable of solving the incident with the Bransons. I had no choice but to do that for the sake of our family. Please just forgive me once, okay?"

"Moreover, I know that you have always been a filial child, and you're the closest to your grandfather. Can you really bear to see him suffering and living in such a dirty and messy place at his age? Maddy, quickly help us persuade your grandfather to come home!"

"Now that we've just resolved our crisis, we will soon rise to glory if we can find a suitable opportunity! Father, haven't you always thought about making the Stones more prosperous? There's a great opportunity in front of you right now, and the Stones need your leadership!"

Carlos asked Maddy to persuade Geoffrey to go home. The next moment, he tried to make Geoffrey waver by constantly mentioning the future opportunities and prospects of the Stones.

However, although he said a lot, it only made the gaze in Geoffrey's eyes even colder, and he became even more disappointed in Carlos.

Geoffrey scoffed and interrupted Carlos mercilessly, "Carlos, you are my son. I know better than anyone what you are thinking deep down! Don't bother trying to fool me with those tricks!"

## Chapter 1043: Fruitless Return

Carlos's expression stiffened when he saw Geoffrey reach out, point at the door, and say, "I won't go back to the Stones. Drop your funny ideas!"

"I don't want to see you again. Immediately get lost with your people, and don't disturb me again!"

Maddy said, "Leave. Since Grandpa has decided to retire in this residence, stop coming to disturb him."

The Stones were all flustered and immediately looked at Carlos anxiously.

If the two of them were unwilling to return to the Stones, how could they use Maddy's connections to make the family stronger?

1

Carlos was under great pressure. He suddenly stepped forward and said loudly, "Father, I'm your son, but why are you always so unwilling to help me? You always used to tell me that your greatest dream is for the Stones to rise to greater glory! Why are you letting go of such a great opportunity when there's one right in front of you?"

"A lot of things happened in the Stone residence this afternoon. You probably don't know since you weren't around. But once you and Maddy come home, the Stones will soon receive a great opportunity that might bring us to the peak of success and turn us into one of the eight top families. Aren't you tempted at all?"

"I know that my previous behavior made you and Maddy sad, but I was doing it for the sake of the family! Why can't you understand my hardship?"

Carlos was extremely agitated, and his face was covered in self-reproach.

Everything he had done was for the sake of the family. He didn't know why his father and daughter refused to be understanding toward him and forgive him.

Even though he had swallowed his pride and begged them to come home, they were still unwilling to go.

Geoffrey looked at Carlos with deep disappointment in his turbid eyes.

"At this point, you still haven't realized where you went wrong. You're really a disappointment!" Geoffrey's tone was very gloomy, and there was a trace of contempt on his face. "You keep saying that you were forced into doing those things for the sake of the family. But is that really the case? Did you treat Maddy as your daughter when you wanted her to offer her life?"

"Did you treat me as your father when you accused me of slandering you for the sake of power?"

"I don't want to say anything to you anymore. You're now the head of the Stones, and all authority and responsibilities lie in your hands. Regardless of whether the family prospers or declines, it's all your responsibility. It has nothing to do with me!"

"Get lost!"

Geoffrey closed his eyes in fatigue and ordered him to leave again.

Jordan stepped forward and was about to chase Carlos away, but Lucas stopped him and stood in front of him.

Jordan was Maddy's fiancé. No matter what, Carlos was his father-in-law. Lucas didn't want Jordan to be caught in this dilemma.

Thus, he would do the job of chasing Carlos away.

"Mr. Carlos Stone, I advise you to take your people and leave quickly. If I find out later that you still have the audacity to disturb Geoffrey from resting, don't blame me for being impolite!

"You should have already seen it clearly this afternoon. Don't think I'm just trying to scare you. If I want to, I can easily destroy the eight top families, let alone the Stones. Trust me. You won't be able to pay the price for going against me!"

Lucas's tone was extremely threatening, like a cold blade that immediately made the Stones shudder.

They had seen how respectful and deferential a few heads of the eight top families of DC were to Lucas this afternoon, so they didn't dare to doubt the authenticity of what Lucas said!

Even people from the eight great families had kneeled and begged for forgiveness. The Stones were nothing to Lucas at all!

The Stones didn't dare to disobey Lucas's warning and could only leave the residence.

They were full of regret.

At one point, they had the opportunity to befriend someone as powerful as Lucas. But now that Maddy had been expelled from the family, this relationship had been completely ruined. It was utterly heartbreaking!

...

After the Stones left, peace was restored in the residence, but the people were no longer as relaxed.

Geoffrey stood still for a long while before suddenly saying, "Maddy, say, do you think I was wrong to secretly help your father settle the aftermath of his mistakes? Maybe I shouldn't have helped him in the first place and let him learn a few hard lessons so that he could grow!"

Previously, Geoffrey had tried to hand over several major businesses of the Stones to Carlos, but they had all incurred heavy losses.

If Geoffrey hadn't secretly ordered people to solve the problems, these major businesses might have long been ruined by Carlos.

Geoffrey could help him once or twice, but he couldn't help him for life.

At this moment, Geoffrey really doubted if he had made a mistake.

Maddy leaned on Geoffrey's shoulder and comforted him softly, "Grandpa, it's not your fault but Dad's. Don't hold it against yourself for the mistakes he has committed. Besides, we've left the Stones now, so let's not think about those troublesome things! Everyone, sit down. I'll continue to cook."

The group stayed in the residence for a long time, after which Lucas and Jordan proposed leaving.

Maddy had already decided to stay with Geoffrey, so she sent Lucas and Jordan out of the residence.

Just as Lucas was about to get into the car, he suddenly turned around and said to Maddy, "Tell your grandfather to rest assured that I won't let the Stones perish."

Then Lucas turned around, got into the car, and instructed Jordan to start driving.

Even until the car completely disappeared, Maddy stood still without moving. But there was a thin layer of tears in her eyes. She felt extremely touched.

"Thank you, Lucas!"

Maddy knew that although her grandfather had just said in front of Carlos that he would no longer care about the Stones and that it would have nothing to do with him even if the Stones perished, she knew that he wouldn't just ignore them. He had dedicated his entire life to the family. How could he really abandon them?

Lucas's promise was akin to a form of protection for the Stones, which would put Geoffrey at ease!

While driving, Jordan asked in confusion, "Lucas, both Maddy and Grandpa Geoffrey have left the Stones and don't plan to go back. Do you still plan to help them?"

Lucas smiled calmly. "I'm not helping the Stones. I'm just helping Maddy and Geoffrey."

“Although they’ve separated from the Stones, blood is still thicker than water after all, and it’s not that easy to cut familial ties.

“If the Stones really declined or perished, Maddy and Geoffrey would be the ones most saddened.

“I’m not really helping the Stones. I’m only planning to help them maintain the status quo and not let others go after them. That’s all.”

Hearing this, Jordan understood.

He remained silent for a while before saying sincerely, “Thank you, Lucas!”

“We’re buddies. Don’t mention it.” Lucas smiled and closed his eyes to get some rest in the backseat.

...

At the same time, in the Stone residence in DC...

Carlos had been sitting alone in his study in silence for a long time.

After returning from Geoffrey’s residence, he had locked himself up in his room and pondered over many things.

He was now in a study with a floor area of around 80 square meters. There were floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, a luxurious crystal chandelier, high-end mahogany furniture, imported leather sofas, and a variety of precious antiques and trinkets.

Even a tiny ornament on his desk was worth more than the house that his father was now living in.

This was the residence of the Stones, a family second only to the eight top families of DC.

Everything here was luxurious, comfortable, and extravagant.

But at this moment, the sounds of Geoffrey’s cheerful laughter in that humble and shabby house kept popping up in his mind.

At the same time, many memories he thought that he had forgotten long ago surfaced in his mind.

He remembered that when he was still a child, Geoffrey had also laughed with him happily and cheered him on when he was mocked.

Furthermore, he had watched his daughter, Maddy, grow from a baby to an innocent and puerile child, then to a svelte young girl, and now a composed and mature woman.

One was Carlos's father, and the other was his daughter. They were clearly the most important people in his life!

But why did things end up like this?

Why did he cause the matter to end up this way?

At the thought of the distant attitude of the two people who were supposed to be the closest to him, Carlos felt as if a thousand daggers were stabbing his heart, leaving him in utter misery.

For the first time, he felt that this luxurious villa he lived in was unbearably big, empty, and cold.

At this moment, the sounds of a ringtone broke the dead silence in the room and pulled Carlos out of his chaotic reminiscence.

"Mr. Carlos, Ms. Howard intends to sign a long-term cooperation with your family. If you're interested, please be at the Howard residence before noon tomorrow."

The person on the other end spoke very concisely and immediately hung up after saying his piece.

Carlos froze for a while before finally understanding what this person meant. His heart began beating wildly.

The Howards were extending an olive branch to the Stones!

The words 'long-term cooperation' was a guarantee of this relationship! At this moment, Carlos was ecstatic.

But at the same time, Carlos suddenly thought of a possibility that made the expression on his face instantly freeze.

Why would the Howards suddenly extend an olive branch at this juncture? It was undoubtedly because of Maddy and Lucas!

Even after being driven out of the family, Maddy still thought for him and the family!

At the thought of this, Carlos felt as if he had been struck in the head, and tears gushed out of his eyes!

“Maddy! I was wrong! I finally know my mistakes now! I’m not worthy of being your father! I’ve let you down!”

Carlos broke down with tears all over his face!

He had never felt so remorseful!

“Maddy! Father! I let you down! I was wrong!”

He had never wanted to see his father and daughter so badly.

“No, it’s not too late. They’re all still around. They only moved elsewhere. If I go over now and admit to my mistakes, there’ll still be time!”

This thought intensified in Carlos’s heart. He wiped his eyes with his sleeve, opened the door of his study, and ordered the bodyguards on standby outside, “Get the car ready! I’m going out!”

Forty minutes later, a luxurious black Rolls-Royce once again stopped at the entrance of the small farmhouse on the outskirts of DC.

It was already half past nine at night. Maddy was still playing chess with Geoffrey, and the two were having a whale of a time.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door outside.

“Who’s here so late?” Maddy frowned but still walked over and opened the door.

The wooden door opened, and Carlos’s familiar face immediately came into view.

“Why are you here again?” Maddy’s face immediately turned sullen.

She wondered if Carlos suddenly came again because his efforts this afternoon were fruitless, and he wanted to persuade them to return to come home again.

“You haven’t forgotten what Lucas said, have you? Aren’t you afraid that you’ll anger Grandpa again by coming over and disturbing us?” Maddy said coldly with a look of displeasure.

But to her surprise, she noticed that Carlos’s eyes seemed a little red and swollen, as if he had just cried. *Have the Stones encountered trouble again?*

“Did something happen at home?” Maddy asked as soon as she thought of the possibility.

Even though Maddy’s tone was impatient, she couldn’t fake her subconscious worry.



Carlos suddenly felt touched again!

“Maddy, I’m here to apologize to you and Father!” Carlos said sincerely with reddened eyes.

“What trick are you pulling this time? Hurry up and leave if there’s nothing else!” Maddy’s hand moved to close the door.

“Wait!” Carlos held the door to prevent Maddy from closing it. He said agitatedly, “Maddy, believe me. I really know I was wrong this time! I know now how wrong I was to have hurt the two more important people to me. It’s all my fault!”

“Maddy, I’m sorry. I won’t behave like that again. Will you please give me another chance?”

Carlos apologized repeatedly, almost becoming incoherent.

Maddy opened her mouth but couldn’t say a word.

She could tell that Carlos was serious this time. Her father was really apologizing to her!

Just as Maddy was a bit at a loss for words, Geoffrey came out of the living room.

As soon as Carlos saw the white-haired Geoffrey, he could no longer control himself and rushed over to him. He dropped to his knees and burst into tears. “Father! I’m sorry! I’m too unfilial!”

## Chapter 1045: Asking Her to Get in the Car

Initially, Carlos could still control his emotions in front of Maddy.

But when he saw his elderly father’s gray hair glistening under the dim yellow light, he could no longer control his emotions. He immediately fell to his knees in front of Geoffrey and burst into tears.

He finally realized that his father had aged so much that he might only have a few years left to spend with him.

But he was such a bastard. Today, he had blamed his father and even scolded him for being greedy for power. He had even forced his father to leave the family. He was truly inhumane!

“Father! This unfilial son has come to apologize to you! I’m so sorry. Please teach me a lesson and hit me!

“I was really a bastard earlier! Father, I know my mistakes... I’ve let you and Maddy down!”

Carlos hugged Geoffrey’s calf while crying. Although he was already in his fifties and had already become the helmsman of the Stones, he was now bawling like a child in front of Geoffrey.

Even Geoffrey couldn’t help having his eyes turn red. He reached out to stroke Carlos’s head and said sobbingly, “Alright. As long as you know your mistakes and correct them, you’ll still be my son!”

In his eyes, Carlos would forever be his son. How could he really hold it against him?

“Father!” Like a child, Carlos hugged Geoffrey’s calf tightly and cried even louder.

He originally thought that his father wouldn’t forgive him easily. But now, his father didn’t blame him at all. The fact that Geoffrey said he would always be his son made Carlos feel even more miserable.

Compared to his father, everything he had done previously was simply inhumane, and he had been worse than a beast!

Maddy also walked to them as tears gushed out of her eyes.

Although she didn’t know why her father had suddenly come to his senses, truly realized his mistakes, and drastically changed his attitude toward her and her grandfather, Maddy knew that it must have something to do with Lucas.

“Thank you so much, Lucas!”

With tears in her eyes, Maddy looked distantly in the direction of downtown DC, her eyes filled with gratitude.

...

Meanwhile, Lucas had already returned to his newly purchased villa in DC.

It was already half past nine at night, but Cheyenne had yet to return.

He called her twice, but all he heard was the notification that her mobile phone was off. He started to get worried.

They were in DC, and he had already offended many people. It would be terrible if someone wanted to harm her.

To make matters worse, Cheyenne had tagged along with him to DC this time. So Lucas had told Stanley, who used to protect Cheyenne, to look after William and Amelia in Orange County. Thus, there was no one to protect Cheyenne at this time.

While Lucas was restlessly using his connections to start searching for Cheyenne's whereabouts, she had just left a cocktail reception.

It was the one that the Stones had organized.

Lucas and the others had gone shopping in the afternoon to buy clothes for the reception. But due to Mark's provocation, which led to his eventual death, Lucas, Jordan, and the Stones were busy settling the matter. But the reception, which the Stones had spent a long time arranging, couldn't be canceled at the last minute, so Cheyenne had attended it on her own.

At the reception today, Cheyenne had met many well-known entrepreneurs in DC, which would be extremely beneficial for her to develop the Brilliance Corporation in DC in the future.

Due to the frequent incoming calls and text messages that she kept receiving during the reception, her phone had run out of battery and turned off automatically.

At the end of the reception, Cheyenne walked out of the venue and wanted to hail a taxi to go home. But just as she did, a black Lincoln car slowly pulled over beside her.

"Ms. Carter, our boss wants to give you a ride. Please!" A young man in a black suit and white gloves got out from the back of the Lincoln and politely asked Cheyenne to get in.

Cheyenne was vigilant and often kept her guard up, so she naturally wouldn't get into a stranger's car.

"No, thank you. Please thank your boss on my behalf. I'll just take a cab home on my own," Cheyenne politely declined and then took a few steps to the side.

"Ms. Carter, our boss absolutely doesn't have any ill intent. He just wants to send you home. Please don't worry!" The young man panicked and immediately stepped forward to block Cheyenne.

Cheyenne became even more vigilant.

She clutched her purse tightly and refused again with displeasure, "As I've said, I'll be taking a cab home on my own. I don't need your boss to give me a ride!"

Cheyenne was honestly flustered at this moment.

She was born and raised in Orange County, so she wasn't quite familiar with DC, much less the people here. Moreover, her phone was out of battery, so she couldn't call Lucas to ask for help even if she wanted to!

If the other party really forcibly dragged her into the car, she might have to use the small fruit knife in her purse to defend herself.

While Cheyenne was feeling nervous, the door of the Lincoln opened again, and a middle-aged man in his fifties got out and greeted her politely. "It's a pleasure to meet you, Ms. Carter."

When Cheyenne saw the middle-aged man's face, her eyes widened in surprise.

The middle-aged man standing in front of her was none other than the head of the Huttons, Michael, who was also Lucas's father!

Cheyenne never thought that the person who wanted to give her a ride home was Lucas's biological father!

"Ms. Carter, you don't need to be nervous. You should know about my relationship with your husband, Lucas. I have no ill intent, and I just want to have a casual chat with you. Is that okay?"

Michael's voice was extremely low, and his tone had a powerlessness, as if he was sick. But he had a gentle and kind look on his face.

Cheyenne suddenly felt a little nervous and awkward.

This middle-aged man was Lucas's biological father and her father-in-law.

Prior to this, Cheyenne had only seen Michael once at her grandfather Felix's funeral. But she hadn't spoken with him before.

But she knew very well that Lucas didn't want to acknowledge Michael as his father or have anything to do with him. So Cheyenne honestly didn't want to have any contact with him.

Seemingly seeing Cheyenne's hesitation, Michael smiled and said, "Since you're Lucas's wife, I'd like to have a chat with you. I don't have any other intentions."

