

The Formidable Son-In-Law: The Charismatic Lucas Gray

- Chapter 490 – 520

Malicious Humiliation

Chapter 490: Malicious Humiliation

At this moment, Grace's face was stained with tears and was all red and swollen, but her eyes lit up with surprise and joy. She looked just like a vibrant and delicate rose, so beautiful that she seemed to be glowing.

Lucas had seen everything that happened just now.

Lucas had also met Gisele, the other person involved in this incident.

More than half a month ago, Grace had suddenly been abducted by the Wallaces and brought to the auction in Club Splendor. When Lucas rushed to save Grace, he had run into Gisele at the entrance of the auction.

At the time, Gisele had wanted to force Lucas to pose as her boyfriend so that she could use him as a shield to get rid of Kyle Kingston and make him stop pestering her. After Lucas had turned her down without hesitation, Gisele had flown into a rage and immediately framed Lucas by accusing him of insulting her. She had even made Kyle deal with Lucas.

Thus, Lucas loathed Gisele.

He looked at Gisele, who was sitting in front of him. She was indeed wearing a Prada dress, but it was clean and completely unstained by the soup.

Lucas glanced at the young man sitting across from Gisele, who looked just like a pretty boy with handsome features. But the gaze in his eyes seemed a little lewd, and he kept staring at Grace.

Almost in an instant, Lucas guessed what had happened.

He reckoned that the pretty boy sitting opposite Gisele must have started lusting for Grace because of her beauty. Moreover, he had also revealed his liking for Grace, which made Gisele jealous and thus deliberately set Grace up to make things hard for her.

Gisele was just trying to humiliate Grace on purpose by making her compensate for the dress and forcing her to eat the rice dirtied with saliva on the floor.

“Hah, that’s really funny. Your clothes are clean, and there are no soup stains at all. Yet you want my friend to compensate you with more than fifty grand. That’s such a low-level trick to scam and extort money from others,” Lucas said coldly as he stood in front of Grace, blocking the line of vision of the lecherous pretty boy.

Ever since Lucas suddenly appeared and stopped Grace from eating the dirty rice on the floor, Gisele had been wearing a hostile expression on her face. But when she saw Lucas, she immediately recognized him. Soon, anger was written all over her face. “You’re actually here too!”

The chubby lobby manager looked at Lucas and then at Gisele. He asked cautiously, “Miss Taylor, do the two of you know each other?”

Overwhelmed with fury, Gisele glared at the lobby manager menacingly. “I have such a high status. How could I possibly know such a penniless piece of trash?”

The lobby manager initially wanted to suck up to her and build some connections to her, but he ended up angering Gisele, so he was instantly frustrated.

After Gisele rebuked the lobby manager, she turned to Lucas and Grace, the two people who put her in a foul mood. She was infuriated.

“How dare you call me a swindler? I’m an heiress of the Taylor family. Why would I deliberately try to scam a restaurant waitress? My dress is from a high-end designer label, and it’s ruined after being stained a little. What do you know? You’re just a pauper.

“Seriously, do you people take this restaurant for a market? Can any Tom, Dick, or Harry come here? That’s so degrading! You even let this penniless man who can’t afford to have a meal come in. Do you plan to turn this place into a charity and feed poor people? Because it seems you’re not worried that they won’t pay up after eating!

“Hmph, but I still have a lot of leftovers here. If you really don’t have money to pay for your meal, I can do some charity and give them to you!”

With a malicious glint in her eyes, Gisele proudly poured the leftover fish scraps on the table onto the pile of soiled rice on the floor. Behaving like a queen, she said smugly, “Since you want to be a hero and save the damsel in distress, go ahead and be with her, you bottom-feeder! Finish up the scraps on the floor, and I’ll let you off!”

The lobby manager froze in shock for a moment. But in the blink of an eye, he hurriedly chimed in, “That’s right! You two, hurry up and come here to polish off all the food on

the floor. Miss Taylor has magnanimously decided not to pursue this matter against you and is even offering you such a delicious meal. You two should be grateful!”

After saying this, he even extended his leg and pressed the filthy soles of his leather shoes onto the food scraps on the floor to crush them. He then said to them like he was giving them great mercy, “Count yourselves lucky today. The Lion Restaurant is the most expensive restaurant in Orange County, and people like you won’t even get a chance to dine here!

“But now, Miss Taylor is generous enough to reward you with so much food. Do you know that this rice is top-grade rice imported from Thailand? Each small bowl costs close to three hundred dollars. And this broth and the crab shells may be leftovers, but they are from dishes that cost a few hundred dollars each. This makes the scraps on the floor worth a couple hundred dollars altogether! What are you two waiting for? Hurry up and eat it. After you do, remember to thank Miss Taylor!”

The chubby lobby manager’s eyes were glistening with malice as he mocked and humiliated Grace and Lucas. Although he had nothing against them, he thought that it was their fault for offending Gisele. *They really deserve it!*

After hearing Gisele’s and the lobby manager’s words, Grace felt aggrieved and humiliated, and she had an apologetic expression on her face when she looked at Lucas.

Although she didn’t know Gisele prior to this, she could tell from her outfit that she was definitely from a wealthy family. Besides, the lobby manager had also revealed her identity to be a member of the Taylor family, one of the four great families in Orange County. Thus, she knew that Gisele was definitely someone she couldn’t afford to provoke!

This matter initially had nothing to do with Lucas, but he got involved because he wanted to help her. As a result, he ended up incurring Gisele’s wrath.

Lucas had helped her out on several occasions, but she had only ever implicated him and become a huge burden. Grace felt really bad about it.

“Lucas, this matter has nothing to do with you. Leave quickly! Don’t get involved!” Grace said to Lucas anxiously.

Lucas smiled faintly. Grace was still the same as before. The first thing she would do was not to seek help to get herself out of trouble but to try her best not to implicate others. She was indeed still as kindhearted as before.

But before Lucas could respond to Grace, Gisele’s face turned sullen while the chubby lobby manager immediately stopped in front of Lucas. “Hah, are you trying to leave just

like that after offending Miss Taylor? You're being overly idealistic! If you two don't finish the food on the floor, neither of you will leave!"

Chapter 491: Taste of His Own Medicine

Grace looked at the fierce and hostile lobby manager and pleaded, "Sir, this matter really has nothing to do with my friend. I'll eat the scraps. Please just let him leave!"

Her beautiful face was still stained with undried tears, and despite wearing a waitress uniform, she was still as beautiful as ever.

Many people in the hall couldn't help but be amazed by her beauty and take pity on her.

They could also tell that Gisele abhorred Grace because of the latter's stunning looks and thus decided to humiliate her in public.

But everyone knew that Gisele was from a prestigious and formidable family, so no one was willing to stand up for a waitress at the expense of offending the Taylors.

Many people turned their faces away and stopped looking this way.

Gisele smirked complacently.

She had initially just wanted to deal with Grace, whom she felt was a vixen that went around seducing others. But she didn't expect this waitress to be friends with Lucas, who had embarrassed her before.

When she first met Lucas at the entrance of Club Splendor on the day of the auction, she had felt that Lucas was quite good-looking, and she had also intended to make him pose as her boyfriend. However, she didn't expect him to reject her without any hesitation at all. He had even avoided her when she threw herself at him, and there was even a trace of infuriating disgust in his eyes.

Gisele always had a bunch of men vying for her favor and buttering her up. Yet Lucas was blind and dared to reject her, which was a huge insult to her!

When she instigated the dimwit Kyle to deal with Lucas, Kyle had failed and even ended up being taught a lesson by Lucas together with his bodyguard.

From that day on, Gisele was really frustrated and also felt a strong urge to humiliate Lucas. Today, the chance to do so fell straight into her lap!

How could she easily let Lucas off?

After seeing Gisele's expression, Lucas was certain that they definitely wouldn't be able to settle the matter peacefully today. He narrowed his eyes and looked at the manager,

who was putting on airs. “Did you just say that the food on the floor is worth a couple hundred dollars and it’s our blessing that Miss Taylor is willing to reward us?”

The lobby manager immediately raised his head and said proudly, “That’s right! Otherwise, you paupers wouldn’t be able to afford the food in the Lion Restaurant at all. I’m warning you, don’t be ignorant. You’d better gobble up all the food on the floor before I let you off!”

Lucas snorted coldly in contempt before raising his legs and walking toward the chubby manager.

Staring at the cold smirk on Lucas’s face, the manager suddenly had an ominous feeling.

“What... what are you trying to do? I told you to eat the food on the floor. Are you deaf?” he hollered again.

Grace also sensed something and looked at Lucas worriedly. “Lucas Gray, you... Please don’t do anything!”

Previously, she had seen with her own eyes that Lucas could knock over more than ten bodyguards mercilessly. If he was now furious at the manager, he would definitely beat the manager up. By then, neither the Lion Restaurant nor Gisele would let Lucas off!

Lucas smiled faintly at her. “Don’t worry. I won’t do anything to him.”

He continued walking toward the lobby manager.

As the distance between them got closer and closer, the chubby manager’s heart became more and more nervous. He subconsciously took two steps backward and yelled in a moment of panic, “Stop! You’re not to come closer again! If you come closer, you... you’ll then be deliberately creating trouble, and I’ll get security to beat you up!”

Lucas sneered and suddenly moved before appearing directly in front of the lobby manager.

Under everyone’s horrified eyes, Lucas grabbed the manager’s hair and then dragged him directly to the dining table where Gisele was. Then he kicked the lobby manager in the bend of his knee, causing him to fall onto his knees.

Holding the manager’s hair, Lucas pressed his head onto the food scraps on the floor that had been spat on by Gisele and dirtied by the filthy soles of the manager.

“Didn’t you just say that this meal is worth hundreds of dollars and it’s a blessing to be able to eat it? I’ll now give you this blessing. Polish it off for us!”

The lobby manager's face was pale, and he was desperately struggling to break free from Lucas's hand. But Lucas's hand was like an iron clamp secured tightly around his head, making it impossible for him to get up.

Lucas's gaze was cold, and his face was expressionless as he was exuding a terrifying aura. Everyone got the chills.

This young man is so domineering!

After seeing his behavior, many people felt a sense of relief and comfort.

Just now, the lobby manager was like a dog barking for Gisele, and his fawning look made others feel like throwing up.

Moreover, the words he said were really inhumane. He had deliberately stepped the food thrown onto the floor and forced them to eat it using the excuse that it was a blessing. It was absolutely disgusting!

Many people had already cursed at the manager furiously, but they didn't dare to speak out because of Gisele's identity.

Lucas happened to do something they didn't dare to do, which was simply a tremendous pleasure!

Many people secretly cheered for Lucas because they felt that this was exactly how the vile and mercenary manager should be dealt with!

When Gisele saw the manager being pinned to the ground in front of the food like a dog, anger surged in her heart, and a grimace of fury appeared on her face.

But she soon glanced at the staff at the back of the restaurant with an icy cold gaze. *Hah, Lucas Gray, you punk, just continue being smug. In no time, you won't be able to cry at all!*

The manager's face was being pressed on the pile of dirty food, but he naturally refused to eat it, so he desperately moved his head to the side while spitting out the rice that had touched the corners of his mouth. He roared in rage, "Punk! You... Hurry up and let go of me! Otherwise... I'll teach you a lesson!" He started retching.

The pile of food on the floor had not only been soiled by Gisele's saliva but also dirt from the soles of his shoes, as well as the leftover food scraps. It was absolutely revolting, and after some of this food mixture was forced into his mouth, the manager couldn't help but throw up.

"You're the one who concocted this upscale dish, and you also said it yourself that it's a blessing to be able to eat such a meal. So, gobble it all up!" Lucas said coldly.

The manager was practically on the verge of collapsing. He had planned to humiliate Lucas, but it backfired, and he ended up having a taste of his own medicine. It simply felt horrible!

“You... Don’t act like a madman! Cleve! Cleve, help!” The manager suddenly yelled for help.

When Grace heard this name, she shuddered and immediately said to Lucas, “Oh no! Lucas, leave quickly! Now! Leave right now!”

But it was already too late.

As soon as she finished speaking, several burly men with their arms exposed walked out of the staff aisle not far away and surrounded Lucas aggressively.

“Punk, you’re trying to leave after beating someone up? Have you asked for our permission?”

The moment Grace saw these people, her heart sank to rock bottom!

Chapter 492: Blocking Cleve

Although Grace had only worked at the Lion Restaurant for a few days, she had heard of Cleve before.

The Lion Restaurant was the most high-end restaurant in Orange County, so there would inevitably be some gang bosses to guard the place. Cleve and his underlings were in charge of guarding the restaurant.

These people had arrived so soon, probably because someone had gone to inform them. When they came, they happened to see the scene of Lucas pressing the manager’s head onto the pile of food scraps on the floor.

Grace’s face instantly paled as she muttered, “Oh no... This is terrible! Lucas, I’ve implicated you again...”

After seeing these people come, the people nearby all became grave.

“Cleve is actually here too. Seems like he is in deep trouble. He won’t be unable to bear the consequences of his actions!”

“Who is Cleve? Why does everyone look so frightened and flustered? Is he that terrifying?”

“You’ve never heard of Cleve? He’s a big figure. Not only is this Lion Restaurant under his protection, but many of the businesses belonging to Ethan Sawyer, the richest man in Orange County, are too. Don’t you think he’s impressive?”

“What? The businesses belonging to the richest man in the county are under this man’s protection? Ethan Sawyer must admire and value him greatly, huh? This young man has already offended a Taylor heiress, and now he’s offended the Sawyers too. He’s offended two of the four major families in Orange County. I bet he’s doomed!”

“Exactly! I think this young man is definitely dead meat. It’s such a pity. I thought he was quite brave just now, but it’s such a shame that he can’t deal with the Taylors and the Sawyers.”

Many people felt extremely sorry for Lucas. Although he had just pressed the manager’s head directly onto the filthy food on the floor, which was very much to the pleasure of the other patrons that felt unjust for Grace, Lucas was alone after all. Besides, they also assumed, based on Gisele’s words, that Lucas was extremely poor and didn’t have a powerful background or identity to rely on.

They felt that this young man would definitely end up in a miserable plight in Cleve’s hands!

The manager, who was being pressed to the floor, started begging Cleve for help when he saw him, as if he had found his savior. “Cleve! Cleve, quickly save me! I...” *Retch!* “I’m going to be bullied to death by this punk! You... you must do me justice!”

The person addressed as Cleve merely glanced at the manager contemptuously before turning away without bothering to save the pig-like manager being pinned onto the ground.

When he glanced at Grace, a trace of obvious amazement immediately appeared in his eyes, and when he saw the waitress uniform she was wearing, his eyes began to look a little lewd.

What a gorgeous babe! Why haven’t I discovered her in the restaurant before? Cleve thought lustfully.

Grace had naturally discovered that Cleve was gawking at her in a repulsive manner, and she was so scared that she couldn’t help cowering behind Lucas.

Cleve’s fiery sight was blocked by Lucas, and only then did he begin to look at Lucas, the young man who caused the commotion in the restaurant.

“Kid, you’ve got some nerve. How dare you cause trouble in my territory? You must have a death wish!” Cleve narrowed his eyes, and his arm muscles began twitching with an intimidating aura.

Generally, people would shudder in horror when sensing his aura, and those who were timid would even be frightened to the point of peeing their pants, exposing the unsightly sides of themselves.

But the young man in front of him was not the same as the others. Despite facing his tyrannical and intimidating stance, Lucas kept a straight face, as if he couldn’t feel it at all. He was still pressing the manager’s head against the floor as he said in a flat and composed tone, “You had the nerve to say that in front of me. You’re the one with a death wish.”

Cleve was stunned, and immediately after, he laughed out loud. “Hahahaha, interesting. You’re the first person who dared to talk to me like that!”

The others began whispering to each other.

“Damn it. I thought he was a smart guy, but I didn’t expect him to be stupid enough to mock Cleve right in his face! He’s really brazen!”

“Cleve has the grounds to say such arrogant things! He’s backed by the Sawyers, and Cleve and his underlings all have extraordinary combat skills. You can tell from their strong muscles! But what exactly does this young man have? He has nothing, and yet he has the audacity to be so arrogant in front of Cleve. I bet he has no idea what he has to face!”

“Too bad! I was just thinking that if he pleaded with Cleve and begged for mercy, Cleve just might let him off. But nothing good will come out of offending Cleve!”

In the eyes of the people familiar with the hierarchy of notable families in Orange County, Cleve was not to be trifled with.

No one thought that Lucas, who spoke arrogantly in front of Cleve, would still be able to walk out of this place in one piece.

The manager laughed out loud and said with a menacing expression, “Kid, you must be tired of living. How dare you speak to Cleve like that? You’re dead meat!”

Just now, Cleve just casually glanced at him without showing any intention to rescue him. So the manager had thought that Cleve had given up on him.

Yet Lucas completely disregarded Cleve. In that case, Cleve would definitely teach him a lesson that he would never forget!

At the mention of the tragic state that Lucas would soon face, the manager was suddenly full of hope and expectations!

Sitting at the side, Gisele smirked smugly, feeling triumphant that her plan had succeeded.

She knew that Cleve had gotten used to being arrogant and proud all the time. Moreover, he was extremely lecherous, so she was certain that he would definitely get his hands on the beautiful, vixen-like Grace. Furthermore, Lucas was standing up for Grace, so he would surely go against Cleve. This way, Cleve would teach Lucas a lesson for her.

But now, it seemed that things were going better than she planned because Lucas, who didn't know any better, actually had the audacity to mock Cleve in his face. This was simply a death wish! *Hmph, let's see how Lucas Gray dies later!*

Chapter 493: Stop Immediately

Grace was extremely anxious as she tugged the corner of Lucas's shirt with a pale expression on her face.

Cleve narrowed his eyes. "Punk, you've got some nerve! But on account of your girlfriend, I'll let you off for now. Get lost immediately!"

Lucas's eyes lit up, and he pretended to be happy. "Thank you so much, Cleve. We'll leave now."

Then he pulled Grace and walked toward the entrance of the restaurant.

But the two of them had just taken a few steps when they were stopped by Cleve, who had flown into a rage, and his underlings.

"Stop!" Cleve roared in fury. "Punk, are you an idiot, or are you deliberately pretending to be stupid in front of me? I told you to get lost and leave the woman behind! If not for your girlfriend's sake, I would have broken both of your legs by now!"

Then he looked at Grace threateningly. "Babe, a woman like you should find a man who can protect you. This punk next to you can't protect you at all. If you stay with him, you're going to suffer all the time. So you might as well be with someone else sooner!

"If you follow me, I guarantee that you'll live in luxury, and you won't have to be a waitress here anymore. How about it? You just need to sleep with me. Hahaha!"

Cleve squinted and looked at Grace lewdly with a fiery gaze.

Grace was infuriated. "You... you're shameless!"

Cleve laughed out loud. "Hehe, I like how aggressive you are when scolding others. Hahaha!"

A trace of icy cold murderous intent appeared in Lucas's eyes.

He regarded Grace as a friend, and she was also the savior of his daughter. Now that she was being insulted by this insolent man in front of them, Lucas really felt an urge to kill him. *Based on the way Cleve is behaving, he must have done such things countless times in the past. Such scumbags deserve to die!*

"You're just a gangster, but you're quite boastful, huh? Who are you to do that?" Lucas sneered mercilessly with contempt.

Cleve's arrogant expression stiffened, and he immediately stopped guffawing.

No one had ever dared to say something like this in front of him!

The chubby manager snickered in joy. "Bastard, how dare you say that to Cleve? It seems that you definitely won't be able to leave here alive today!"

He was extremely aggrieved when Cleve told this punk to get lost just now because he had been bullied by Lucas, yet Cleve didn't speak up for him and even planned on letting this bastard leave. In that case, wouldn't all his grievances be for nothing?

But when he thought about how brazen Lucas was to contradict Cleve, he thought that Lucas was definitely dead meat!

Cleve's face was gloomy.

He had been working for the Sawyers for so many years and often leveraged their power and authority, so he had never been insulted like this before!

He swore that he had to kill Lucas!

"Punk, you must have a death wish. In that case, I'll be kind and fulfill your wish! I'll definitely crush all your bones and make you suffer endlessly. I'll make you regret what you've said today!"

"Hmph, didn't you say that I'm not worthy of having your woman? I'm going to have her and show you how I toy with your woman!"

With a twisted and menacing expression, Cleve started ogling at Grace even more unscrupulously. If not for the fact that this was a public place and the Sawyers' restaurant, he would have gotten intimate with Grace on the spot!

“To hell with that!” Lucas roared furiously with murderous intent in his eyes, no longer able to stand Grace being humiliated by this scumbag.

“Damn it. Punk, do you dare to fight?”

“Cleve, just let us go cripple this punk and teach him how to speak to you!”

“We’ll beat the shit out of him! This punk doesn’t know where he stands at all! Let us bros break his bones!”

The burly men under Cleve all began to yell arrogantly.

Cleve was just as furious. He swung his hand forward and shouted, “Go! Break his limbs and make him get on his knees to beg me!”

“Yes, Cleve!” The muscular men chorused in unison, clenched their fists impatiently, and rushed at Lucas.

Grace’s face immediately turned pale.

She knew that these people were all Cleve’s capable subordinates, and they were all much more brawny than Lucas. Moreover, they were all ruthless gangsters, so Lucas would definitely be in danger under their siege!

Sitting at the side, Gisele immediately had a trace of excitement and expectation.

She had long been waiting to see Lucas get beaten up!

She even stood up to find the best view as she waited for Lucas to be beaten up.

“Stop!”

The moment both sides were about to start fighting, a sudden violent shout rang out from the entrance of the restaurant.

A trace of displeasure surged in Cleve’s heart, but he immediately realized who the voice belonged to. He shuddered and roared, “Stop! All of you, stop! Didn’t you hear me? No one is to move again!”

After stopping his underlings, Cleve immediately put a smile on his face and scurried toward the angry middle-aged man standing at the entrance. He nodded and greeted the middle-aged man. “Mr. Sawyer, why are you suddenly here?”

He was now feeling extremely anxious and flustered.

Ethan had already warned him several times to keep a low profile and not get physical at every turn like before unless as a last resort.

Cleve had given Ethan his promise and also behaved well in front of him. But now, Ethan chanced upon him trying to hit someone in the Sawyer's restaurant!

The only thing he was thankful for was that he had yet to hit anyone himself.

He decided to tell Ethan that Lucas had been causing trouble, so he sent his subordinates to take Lucas down in hopes that Ethan would let him off.

Just as Cleve was coming up with an excuse to complain to Ethan about, Ethan didn't even look at him and walked straight toward Lucas.

Afterward, Cleve watched as Ethan walked up to Lucas and suddenly bent forward respectfully. "Mr. Gray, sorry to have kept you waiting! I haven't been strict enough with my subordinates! I'm really sorry that he has offended you!"

"What?!" Cleve's eyes were about to fall out!

All the people in the lobby on the first floor of the Lion Restaurant were astonished and fell silent.

There was instantly dead silence in the lobby!

Chapter 494: Just Deserts

The cold sweat on Cleve's face immediately trickled down.

He was just thinking of putting all the blame on Lucas and framing him in front of Ethan. But the next instant, Ethan ran toward Lucas to apologize to him in a particularly respectful manner.

As long as his brains were working fine, he'd be able to figure out instantly that he had definitely offended the wrong person this time! Lucas wasn't someone he could afford to provoke at all!

At this moment, Lena walked in behind Ethan toward Lucas with a smile. "Hey, Lucas, it's been a while!"

Lucas nodded at her slightly.

In fact, only a week had passed since the two of them had parted in LA.

At this moment, Lena suddenly discovered to her surprise that there was a young woman dressed as a waitress standing still. She was absolutely gorgeous and stunning!

The beauty's face was still stained with tears, and she looked delicate and timid as she held the corner of Lucas's shirt with worry and panic written all over his face.

Lena couldn't help frowning and looked curiously at her a few more times. Who... exactly is this pretty woman?

But Lucas didn't bother paying much attention to Ethan or Lena and instead looked at Cleve, whose forehead was drenched in cold sweat.

"You just said that you were going to break my limbs and make me kneel on the floor and beg you?" Lucas questioned expressionlessly.

"No, no... It was all just a misunderstanding! A misunderstanding! I... just said it casually. I definitely wouldn't really dare to do it!" Cleve stammered as cold sweat flowed down his face, no longer as overbearing as he was just now.

Lucas sneered. "Misunderstanding? Just now, you said you wanted to crush all the bones in my body and make me wail in pain endlessly. You even said that you wanted to insult my friend right in front of me. Is this considered a misunderstanding?"

Cleve was utterly panicked. But before he could say a single word, someone at the side suddenly roared, "Bastard!"

Ethan flew into a rage. "Cleve, who gave you the guts to speak to Mr. Gray in such a manner?! Who allowed you to act so waywardly in my restaurant?!"

He knew that Lucas actually bore a slight grudge against him because of the Owens, so he was trying his best to help Lucas in every way. It wasn't just because of the instructions given by Chad Kennedy, the Huttons' butler, but also because he wanted to get closer to Lucas.

He knew that Lucas had been in the military before and that he absolutely hated evil, as well as those who bullied others. He especially hated people who bullied weak and vulnerable women. But when he invited Lucas to dinner at his restaurant, Lucas actually got insulted by his subordinate. What would Lucas think of him then?

The image he painstakingly maintained in front of Lucas had now been ruined by Cleve!

When Cleve saw how infuriated Ethan was, his heart skipped a beat, and his knees immediately went weak as he knelt down in front of them. "Mr. Sawyer, I know I was wrong! I'll apologize to this gentleman. Sir, please forgive me!"

Cleve was behaving like a completely different person from before. He was now kneeling on the floor and shivering in fright while kowtowing incessantly. He was hitting his head so hard on the ground that his forehead started bleeding, but he didn't dare to stop at all.

Cleve was well aware that Lucas was right about him being merely a lackey that many feared and tried to suck up to only because he was backed by the Sawyers.

But once he offended the Sawyers and Ethan's honored guest, his power and status would all vanish.

Moreover, nothing good would come out of offending the Sawyers!

So Cleve was really scared, and he would rather kneel and beg for mercy in front of so many people than be abandoned or killed by Ethan.

Seeing this scene, many of the guests in the lobby were dumbfounded.

They saw Cleve as an arrogant and formidable person earlier. But now, he was just like a dog in front of Ethan as he begged miserably on his knees. He was completely disheveled and embarrassing.

Apart from Cleve and his underlings, the most disappointed person present was Gisele.

She originally thought that Lucas would be beaten into a pulp by Cleve and his underlings. But before she could rejoice, Ethan had suddenly arrived and stopped everything. He even treated Lucas with so much respect and deference.

She couldn't understand why Ethan was suddenly treating Lucas with so much respect because he was just a good-for-nothing to her.

Facing Cleve's kowtowing and pleas for mercy, Ethan didn't have the slightest bit of forgiveness. If he hadn't arrived in time, this bastard would have completely offended Lucas!

He decided that he had to settle this score clearly with Cleve!

Ethan gritted his teeth and ordered ruthlessly, "Brazen dog, how dare you say you want to crush Mr. Gray's bones? Come, crush all of his bones and dump him at the entrance of the restaurant so that everyone can see his fate! And for all those people who dared to touch Mr. Gray earlier, break one leg of theirs each and throw them out. We'll see who dares to do this again in the future!"

Since he could be the richest man in Orange County, he was definitely not a kindhearted person.

The lobby was instantly full of cries for mercy.

These arrogant and muscular men all began kneeling on the ground like Cleve was.

“Mr. Sawyer, please let us off! We were just following Cleve’s orders!”

“Yes, Mr. Sawyer. We’re just Cleve’s subordinates. We didn’t dare to defy his orders to hit Mr. Gray!”

“Mr. Sawyer, please have mercy and let us off! I promise I won’t dare to lay a finger on Mr. Gray again!”

“Mr. Sawyer, I really know my mistakes. Please give me another chance! I promise that I’ll treat Mr. Gray well in the future and serve him to the best of my abilities. Please let me off and let me redeem myself!”

...

Ethan remained unmoved as he instructed coldly, “Do it immediately!”

Soon, a large group of agile bodyguards rushed in from outside the restaurant and immediately pinned Cleve and his underlings onto the ground. Then they pressed down on them.

Snap! With the sounds of bones cracking, Cleve let out a miserable cry. “Ah!”

All his joints and limbs had all been crushed!

But the punishment wasn’t over yet because he had made outrageous threats to crush all of Lucas’s bones. So now, it was his turn to bear the consequences of this.

Snap!

Crack!

Crack!

With several more cracking sounds, the few elite bodyguards pinning Cleve onto the floor crushed all the bones in his body except for his skull and spine.

At this moment, Cleve couldn’t even scream, and his body was drenched in cold sweat, looking as though he had been fished out of water.

His underlings didn’t escape the punishment either. Each of them had one of their legs broken and was dragged to the entrance of the restaurant.

After the bodyguards threw all these people out of the restaurant, Ethan carefully asked Lucas, "Mr. Gray, those people have all been taken care of. Do you think this is fine?"

Lin Chen nodded casually.

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Cleve and his underlings were crooks who often got up to malicious misdeeds, so they deserved this fate.

But... there was still another person.

Lucas suddenly looked at Gisele, who immediately became flustered.

Gisele suddenly felt as though a menacing beast was staring at her, and her body stiffened!

Chapter 495: Slapping Herself

Gisele didn't dare to look at Lucas again and hurriedly said to the pretty boy sitting opposite her, "We've finished eating. Let's leave quickly!"

Then she stood up with her purse in hand to leave.

Seeing how flustered she was, Lucas sneered. "Miss Taylor, we're not done with the matters here yet. You want to leave just like that?"

Gisele's face was extremely sullen, but she pretended to be calm. "Ahem, it's just a dress. Since it's ruined, I'll just get another one. I won't hold it against this woman! Let's go now!" She quickly tried to leave again.

"Hold it!" Lucas stopped her again. "Weren't you really arrogant just now? You even tried to force the two of us to eat the food scraps soiled with your saliva. You want to leave just like that?"

"What exactly do you want?" Gisele was angry and ashamed. "Lucas Gray, don't go too far! I'm an heiress of the Taylors, and now, I've decided not to hold the waitress liable. What else do you want?"

Ethan walked over and said with hostility, "Oh, the Taylors have really given you a good upbringing. Their descendant actually forced a waitress to eat soiled food on the floor of a restaurant. I'll have to ask your father just how he raised you!"

From the moment he heard Lucas's words, he had noticed the small pile of rice and food scraps beside Gisele's table.

He initially thought that the food was accidentally spilled by customers. Only now did he learn that the soiled food had been thrown onto the floor by Gisele to force others to eat it to humiliate them.

If Gisele wanted to insult others, Ethan wouldn't necessarily bother to intervene, but he would never allow her to humiliate Lucas!

Although the Sawyers and the Taylors were two of the four major families in Orange County, Ethan actually was on equal footing as her grandfather since he was the head of the family. To him, Gisele was just a junior who needed to be taught a lesson!

Gisele really didn't dare to behave tyrannically in front of Ethan. Her face turned pale, and she didn't dare to say a single word at all.

Lucas said indifferently, "According to the punishment Cleve received, I should make you gobble up this pile of food on the floor. After all, it's your masterpiece."

Gisele's expression instantly changed drastically.

What? He wants me to eat this dirty food on the floor?

I will never eat it no matter what. Over my dead body!

She was certain that if Lucas dared to force her, the Taylors would never let him off!

But Lucas also knew that she definitely wouldn't eat it, so he suddenly turned around to look at Grace.

"Grace, this woman slapped you, right?" Lucas asked.

Grace was shocked, and she instinctively reached out to place her hand on her face. She stammered, "No... no one hit me."

Although she desperately wanted to cover up, her skin was fair and tender, so the red fingerprints on her face were particularly obvious.

The reason Grace didn't dare to admit it was that she knew that Gisele was an heiress of the Taylor family. She didn't want Lucas to go against them, so she chose to subside the conflict.

Lucas's plan to let Grace slap Gisele back seemed to be impossible.

In fact, this was good too, lest Gisele held a grudge against Grace.

Lucas stopped looking at Grace and said to Gisele, "On account that you're a woman, I won't make you eat the soiled food. But since you've slapped her once, slap yourself ten times, and I'll let you go."

"What did you say?! You want me to slap myself? Are you out of your mind?!" Gisele screamed in disbelief.

Lucas sneered. "If you're not willing, I can do it myself!"

With that, he slapped his hand hard against an empty dining table beside him.

Bang!

A dent in the shape of a palm immediately appeared on the wooden dining table.

When those nearby saw this scene, their eyes were about to fall out!

As one of the most expensive restaurants in the county, the Lion Restaurant had a plethora of carefully chosen hardware and facilities.

For example, although the dining tables in the lobby weren't as good as the mahogany tables in the luxurious private rooms on the top floor, they were made of high-grade solid wood. Even if someone ground the blade of a sharp knife against the tables, there wouldn't be obvious traces.

But Lucas actually left an almost two-centimeter deep palm-shaped dent in the table with his hand. How terrifying must his strength be?!

He was just like a martial arts expert of action moves, for he had impeccable martial arts that were just too exaggerated!

Gisele, who was right in front of the table, gasped in horror and turned pale when she saw the obvious palm print on the table.

She staggered backward in horror and grabbed the pretty boy she had brought with her tightly as if she had found a straw to clutch at.

But the pretty boy was extremely timid and cowardly even though he was quite tall and muscular.

When Ethan ordered his subordinates to break the bones of Cleve and others, he merely remained sitting. He was shivering so hard that he couldn't even stand up.

But Gisele had provoked such a terrifying enemy who could easily leave a deep mark on the solid wood table. If his palm landed on his head, it would definitely be crushed like a watermelon.

The thought of the scene just now made the pretty boy so frightened that he was about to pee his pants.

Seeing Gisele grabbing his arm, the pretty boy screamed in horror before immediately shaking her hand off.

“Ah! What happened today has nothing to do with me! I-I just happened to accompany her out for a meal. The other matters have nothing to do with me, sirs!” The pretty boy cried out in fear and then ran toward the exit.

But he was just an insignificant person, so no one stopped him.

Soon, only Gisele was left standing in the middle of the lobby.

Although she seemed a bit wretched and pitiful at the moment, none of the people present sympathized with her.

Just ten minutes ago, this heiress of the Taylor family had arrogantly and overbearingly forced a waitress to eat the dirtied rice mixed with her saliva on the floor. The scene was still fresh in the minds of the onlookers.

Now that she was being made to slap herself, she brought it upon herself.

Gisele’s face turned pale.

She didn’t want to do such a humiliating thing as slapping herself. But if she didn’t do so, Lucas’s terrifying slap would land on her face. Even if it didn’t kill her, it would definitely disfigure her!

Gisele’s face was extremely sullen, but Lena still added fuel to the fire by mocking her, “Wasn’t it really enjoyable when you slapped her just now? Now that it’s your turn to slap yourself, you don’t dare to do it?”

“You!” Gisele was furious, but now that Lucas had the support of the Sawyers, she had no choice but to suffer the loss!

So she could only endure her anger and look at Grace. While bearing with the grievances, she said, “Miss, previously... it was indeed my fault, and I shouldn’t have slapped you or made you compensate me just because you spilled some soup on me. I hereby apologize to you!”

Then she immediately rolled her eyes up, looking as though she was being forced to bear the humiliation of apologizing.

Grace looked at her, then at Lucas, and said softly, “Lucas, I think we should just let it go.”

Chapter 496: Today's Humiliation

Grace obviously wanted to put things to rest and didn't want to let Lucas get into a conflict with Gisele.

Although Lucas understood her intentions, he didn't intend to let Gisele off according to her wishes.

"No, it's not the first time this woman has come looking for trouble with me. If I let her off this time, she won't learn her lesson! If you're worried that I will offend the Taylors because of this, that's unnecessary. A mere Taylor family doesn't mean anything to me," Lucas said firmly.

Grace immediately recalled that when Lucas had helped her deal with Liam Wallace pestering her, he seemed to have also said that the Wallaces meant nothing to him.

In the end, Liam died. But Lucas was still well and alive, without having to face the revenge of the Wallaces.

She also thought of the fact that Lucas could donate millions of dollars to the hospital, as well as the respectful attitude of Ethan, the richest man in Orange County, when facing Lucas. This just went to show that Lucas was a wealthy person who held a certain level of power and authority.

In that case, he indeed wouldn't have to worry about being targeted by the Taylors.

Ethan stood out and said, "Mr. Gray is right. There's indeed no need to be afraid of the Taylors! If the Taylors have an issue with it, they can come to me!"

As soon as he said this, Gisele's face became even more sullen.

Ethan was clearly standing on Lucas's side too, and he didn't mind supporting Lucas at the expense of falling out with the Taylors!

Atrocious!

Why does this bastard deserve such treatment from the Sawyers?

The restaurant lobby wasn't that large, and their conversation was soon heard clearly by the onlookers, who were waiting for the matter to develop further.

"Who exactly is this young man? Ethan Sawyer is on his side, and he doesn't mind going against Miss Taylor for this young man!"

"I don't know, but I reckon he must be someone with an incredible identity! No wonder he insisted on confronting Cleve and Miss Taylor. It turns out he really has what it takes to do so!"

"Hehe, do you guys think Gisele Taylor will slap herself? Just look at how arrogant she was. Now, she's finally defeated. I'm so happy!"

"Hahaha, why don't we have a bet? Let's see if Miss Taylor will slap herself or not."

"Shh, shut up! Keep your volume down. Be careful they might take revenge on you! You're not like that young man who has the power to go against the Taylors!"

...

All sorts of whispering spread to Gisele.

She was so enraged that her face flushed, and she felt a strong urge to nab these gloating people to beat them up. But she was now alone and vulnerable, so she had no choice but to swallow her anger.

"I'm giving you ten seconds. If you still don't slap yourself, I'll do it myself!" Lucas urged impatiently.

"Don't be such a bully! I've already apologized. What else do you want?" Gisele said furiously.

Lucas sneered. "I've already said that as long as you slap yourself, I will let you off. This isn't something resolvable with just an apology. It's what you said previously! You have to pay the price for your mistakes. My patience is limited. You have five seconds left!

"Five..."

"Four..."

"Three..."

"Two..."

There were a bunch of outsiders in the restaurant interested in the gossip, and they helped Lucas count down.

Gisele was simply about to collapse.

What should I do?

What exactly should I do now?

Lucas would definitely not let her go, so her only options now were to slap herself or let Lucas slap her. The former would make her feel insulted, but the latter would cause her to be disfigured. She didn't want to choose either option!

But the passage of time didn't stop under Gisele's determination. The few people had already reached the last second of the countdown, and Lucas had also raised his arm. Gisele finally couldn't withstand the fear any longer and closed her eyes tightly as she raised her arm to slap herself.

Smack!

Her face was numb and in pain, but what hurt more than the pain was the humiliation.

Gisele had never been so aggrieved in her life before.

She wished she could vanish immediately, but there were still nine slaps she had to give herself.

Gisele gritted her teeth and raised her arm to slap herself again.

Smack!

Smack!

...

The crisp sound of slapping echoed in the restaurant lobby, and everyone was staring at the spectacular scene of Gisele slapping herself.

Soon, she finished delivering all ten slaps.

With flushed and swollen cheeks, Gisele yelled furiously, "Can I leave now?"

Her eyes were full of humiliation and resentment.

Lucas glanced at her coldly, and Gisele hurriedly lowered her head to cover her look of resentment.

"Get lost. The next time I see you bullying others, it won't be as simple as today!" Lucas said coldly.

Gisele gritted her teeth and scurried out with her hand on her face.

Ahhhh! Ahhhh!

I must return the humiliation today!

After dealing with those people, the only person who was yet to be dealt with was the chubby manager.

The manager, who had been putting on airs, had long been terrified ever since Cleve and his underlings had their bones broken. He was frightened to the point of being paralyzed on the floor, not daring to move at all.

After watching Gisele slap her more than ten times before she could leave, the manager was even more horrified.

It turned out that this young man actually had such a powerful background, so much so that even Ethan defended him like this.

When he thought of the insults he had hurled at Lucas and the fact that he had wanted to force Lucas to eat the soiled rice on the floor that he had stepped on with his shoes, he felt like he was really going to die!

Had he known that things would have turned out like this, he would never have offended Lucas for the sake of sucking up to Gisele!

“Mr. Gray... Mr. Gray, I was blind to have offended you! Please forgive me!” The manager no longer cared about anything else and crawled toward Lucas to beg him.

Lucas kicked him away coldly. “Didn’t you have a good time being Gisele Taylor’s lackey just now? It’s too late to regret now!”

Seeing this, Ethan immediately understood that the lobby manager was also one of the people who had deliberately bullied Lucas.

“Bastard! Mr. Gray is my honored guest. You’re really daring! Bodyguards, break this man’s limbs and throw him out!” Ethan roared in fury.

Soon, the vile manager, who had been willing to be a loyal lackey to Gisele only because she was powerful, was brought away by the bodyguards.

After all the ignorant people had finally been dealt with, Ethan heaved a sigh of relief. He then turned to look at the woman in the waitress uniform. He said amiably, “Mr. Gray, is she your friend?”

Chapter 497: Lena’s Intentions

Grace recognized Ethan to be the biggest boss of the restaurant and immediately greeted, “Mr. Sawyer!”

Lucas smiled slightly and pointed to Grace as he introduced, "Her name is Grace, and she once saved my daughter."

Ethan and Lena were both greatly surprised.

They both thought that there might be some other relationship between the beautiful Grace and Lucas. But they didn't expect that Grace had saved Amelia.

It was no wonder that Lucas had helped her just now and had even forced Gisele to slap herself ten times in the face in order to help her get justice.

Lena's heartstrings, which were tensed up, suddenly eased up as a smile bloomed on her face.

"So you once saved Amelia. That's great!" Lena said smilingly as she held Grace's hand.

Grace felt a little embarrassed. "Actually... I didn't help Amelia with anything. I'm not really considered her savior."

Lucas said firmly, "You helped Amelia, and you did indeed save her life."

He deliberately said this for the Sawyers to hear.

Although he didn't know why, Grace was now working in Ethan's restaurant after all. If he said the reason, Ethan might value Grace even more.

Lena asked curiously, "Miss Keller, why are you working in our family's restaurant? Ah, I don't mean to offend you, but I just feel a little curious. With your looks and capabilities, surely you should be able to find a more suitable job, right?"

Lucas was also a little curious because Grace was definitely capable of more than just being a waitress.

Grace seemed a little embarrassed, but she didn't state the reason.

Since it wasn't convenient for her to reveal the reason now, the crowd naturally had the awareness not to probe any further.

After looking at Grace, Ethan suddenly asked, "Miss Keller, since you are the savior of Mr. Gray's daughter, it'd be such a waste for you to be just a waitress! How about this? It just so happens that I have to replace a batch of service staff now. From today onward, you'll be the general manager of this restaurant!"

Naturally, Grace was extremely surprised and hastily declined.

But Ethan's attitude was extremely resolute, and Lucas didn't object either, so the matter was thus settled.

...

In a luxurious private room on the top floor of the Lion Restaurant...

Lucas, Ethan, and Lena were sitting around the large round table, on which was a spread of specialty dishes of the Lion Restaurant. There were also two bottles of fine wine that had been stored in the cellar for several years.

Ethan was the one who invited Lucas here for dinner tonight. And if he hadn't been held up along the way due to a traffic jam, Lucas probably wouldn't have gotten involved in that altercation.

Ethan poured a glass of wine, brought it to Lucas, and bowed. He then poured another glass for himself and sincerely thanked him. "Mr. Gray, I invited you here today mainly to express my gratitude to you.

"When Lena suddenly encountered a motorcycle assassination in front of my villa, it was all thanks to you for saving her in time that she managed to survive. A week ago, Lena again met with someone who tried to kill her by running her over with a car, but you happened to be there and rescued her from danger. You've saved my daughter's life twice!

"Moreover, you helped us find the culprit behind the assassinations and brought the evil Owen family to justice! Mr. Gray, I really can't thank you enough or repay you for the great kindness you've done for Lena!"

After toasting Lucas, Ethan downed the full glass of white wine in one go.

Lena also raised a glass of wine with a grateful expression on her face and said with a smile, "Lucas, thank you so much! You've truly saved my life. If not for the fact that you're already married, I would have wanted to give myself to you in thanks!" Lena said jokingly.

Lucas smiled slightly. "You two are being too polite. It's all just a coincidence. Besides, Miss Lena is Cheyenne's best friend. I naturally won't leave her in the lurch."

Ethan laughed out loud, "Mr. Gray, you coincidentally saved my daughter's life during both incidents. You two are really fated! Come, I'll toast you again!"

Although Lena was smiling, she wasn't genuinely happy. Instead, she seemed a little despondent and resigned. Hah, what am I feeling lost about?

She knew from the start that Lucas had been helping her only because she was Cheyenne's close friend.

With a self-deprecating smile, Lena raised the glass of wine in her hand and covered the feelings of indignation within her.

Since the time that Lucas had rescued her by pulling her into his arms to save her from the fatal impact of the speeding motorcycle, she found a strong sense of peace in his embrace.

She had never been attracted to any man in the past twenty years of her life, and the only time she fell in love was with her best friend's husband.

She knew she shouldn't be doing this, but she couldn't control her feelings.

Even though she had desperately suppressed these feelings in her heart, she would always think of him from time to time, unable to forget him at all.

About a week or so ago, she had suddenly encountered another crisis in LA that put her life in danger, and Lucas had once again appeared by her side like a deity from heaven. He had once again saved her from the brink of death.

Since then, she could no longer suppress her feelings!

She had suffered two death crises. Lucas had saved her once in Orange County and once in LA, a place they both rarely went to, so she believed that fate had brought them together.

Unfortunately, Lucas cared only about his wife, Cheyenne. He didn't like her at all.

Even if he helped her, it was only because she was Cheyenne's best friend.

How pathetic! Lena had a bitter smile.

Both men at the other side of the dining table didn't notice Lena's emotions.

Ethan gleefully toasted Lucas while speaking to him.

He had always wanted to find an opportunity to get closer to Lucas, and the meal today was the best opportunity.

After three rounds of toasting, Ethan suddenly said, "That woman from the Taylor family definitely won't let the matter rest since she got humiliated today. The Taylors are very protective of their children. You have to be careful!"

He continued, "Of course, if the Taylors really dare to deal with you, the Sawyers will be the first to stand by your side. Even if the Sawyers' lives are at stake, I won't let the Taylors lay a single finger on you!"

Lucas said with a faint smile, "I don't take the Taylors seriously, but now, I wish they'll come looking for trouble with me sooner!"

Chapter 498: Can't Wait To Meet

The Ocean Bathhouse, which formerly belonged to the Taylors, was now still in Lucas's hands, and he had yet to find out the origins of those mysterious beauties.

If he wasn't worried about alerting the Taylors and causing him to lose the clues, he would have long seized and destroyed a dirty family like the Taylors.

Ethan naturally understood that Lucas had nothing to fear from the Taylors, given his background and strength. After some thought, he nonetheless reminded softly, "Mr. Gray, the Taylors are actually not as simple as they seem on the surface. Although the Taylor family isn't the top family of the four major families in Orange County, and they even allowed me to take the title of being the richest person in Orange County, much of their power is hidden. And it's very likely that they're far more powerful than the Sawyers, Brookes, and Wallaces!"

Lucas immediately thought of the mysterious organization that sent beautiful women to the Taylors.

"Is it because of the influence of that mysterious organization behind the Taylors?" Lucas asked with a frown.

Ethan was surprised. "Mr. Gray, do you also know about the organization behind the Taylors?"

Lucas nodded. Bruce Hale had told him before that the mysterious organization had done a flawless job in dealing with those trying to investigate them, and it had even deterred the Brookes and other families. This was why no one knew its exact identity even after so many years.

"Do you know where this mysterious organization comes from?" Lucas asked.

Ethan shook his head regretfully. "I couldn't find out, and they've only ever had contact with the Taylors. The rest of us tried to investigate their details, but we all failed in the end and received a stern warning instead. In the past few years, this mysterious force has never appeared again.

"However, when I say that the Taylors' power shouldn't be underestimated, I mean that it very likely has something to do with this mysterious force behind them. For more than

a decade, the Taylors were just a small second or third-rate family in Orange County, but they've now become one of the four major families alongside us."

Ethan sighed. "In fact, becoming one of the four major families of Orange County is possible only with a certain power behind you. For example, the Wallaces managed to do so only because they are good friends with the Kingstons, from whom they've received a lot of help. For my family, we've also managed to rise to this level because of the help we got from Mr. Kennedy of the Huttons. As for the Brookes, it's because of their ancestors, so they had a head start.

"The Taylors are the only ones who started with a weak foundation and didn't have a clear supporter. The reason they managed to be one of the four major families is also due to the help of this mysterious force. Therefore, the power the Taylors have shown on the surface doesn't represent their true strength.

"So, Mr. Gray, you have to be very careful when dealing with the Taylors," Ethan advised earnestly.

After hearing Ethan's words, Lucas fell into deep thought.

Among the four great families of Orange County, the Brookes were the only family that rose to become one of the four great families by relying entirely on their own strength and heritage.

Ethan managed to get Chad's help only because they were longtime friends, and the relationship between the Sawyers and Chad probably didn't have to be maintained with money and interests.

Since the Wallaces obtained help from the Kingstons, the Wallaces probably also gave some benefits to the Kingstons, though they might not be much.

Only the Taylors had risen to their current status with the help of the beauties whom the mysterious force had supplied to them. They were undoubtedly the most reliant on the organization, so they had to be giving a large portion of their profits over the years to the mysterious force.

But even so, the Taylors were still able to firmly occupy a position as one of the four major families, so the mysterious force was certainly of great help to them.

This force definitely wouldn't only supply beautiful women to the Taylors.

If this organization was also supporting several other families in other cities and even other states and likewise received a portion of their revenue, how terrifying would the wealth they had amassed over the years be?

Previously, Lucas had conjectured that the mysterious organization behind the Taylors shouldn't be a wealthy family from San Francisco. And it was even likely to be one of the eight major families of DC because only a force of this size was large enough to handle such great financial profit!

Lucas collated the information he had in his mind.

But no matter how powerful this force really was, Lucas wouldn't be afraid at all, much less have any scruples about the Taylors because of it.

Having spoken enough and eaten his fill, Lucas looked at the time to see that it was almost 9 p.m.

He stood up and said goodbye to Ethan, "It's getting late. Let's stop here today!"

"Okay. Thank you for the honor, Mr. Gray! If you ever need me in the future, feel free to ask me. I am ready to risk life and limb at any time!" Ethan also hurriedly stood up with a smile and diligently sent Lucas to the entrance.

After watching Lucas get inside his car and leave, he happily brought Lena home.

Along the way, Ethan was in high spirits, as his meeting with Lucas was fruitful today and he had achieved his goals. Lucas was now closer to the Sawyers. Uh, at the very least, he was a lot less distant.

However, in contrast to Ethan's cheery appearance, Lena was obviously much more silent than usual.

"What's the matter, Lena? Are you not happy?" Ethan asked with concern.

Lena shook her head. "I'm really happy too. I just... feel a little tired."

"Oh." Ethan didn't care too much about her attitude and merely instructed, "You must contact Lucas more in the future. You know, he..."

Halfway through his sentence, Ethan suddenly stopped. He had just momentarily forgotten that he had to keep the truth about Lucas being a Hutton under wraps for the time being, even though she was his daughter.

He coughed and rephrased his words. "Anyway, you and Lucas are about the same age, and you're close friends with Cheyenne too. You must get closer to him."

Lena nodded silently.

Ethan suddenly thought of another idea and looked at the youthful and pretty Lena while thinking to himself that it would be wonderful if she could be with Lucas!

Unfortunately, Lucas was already married.

Ethan couldn't help letting out a long sigh. "Ah, it would be great if you could have met Lucas a few years earlier!"

Lena felt as if her heart had been stabbed by a knife. *Yeah, if I had met Lucas before Cheyenne did, that would be great...*

Meanwhile, Lucas was driving home. When he reached the road leading to his pearl lake villa, a figure suddenly dashed out and stopped in front of his car!

Chapter 499: Weak Descendant

Screech!

Lucas slammed on the brakes, and the car came to an abrupt halt as the tires rubbed against the ground with an ear-piercing screech.

This road led straight to his pearl lake villa, so there shouldn't be anyone else on the road except for the owner of the villa, who was Lucas.

Lucas looked at the black figure blocking the road, stepped out of the car door, and said coldly with a hostile expression, "I let you off last time. Do you have a death wish this time?"

This road was the one closest to Lucas's family, so the fact that she chose to take action here immediately made Lucas develop a murderous intent toward her.

"I'm not here to seek revenge on you. Return the Bladeless Sword to me, and I'll leave immediately!" A woman's voice came from under the black tight-fitting clothes.

This woman was none other than the assassin Tristan had hired to kill Lucas on the summit of Caldo Mountain in LA.

At the time, Lucas had let her off in the end because she held the Bladeless Sword, which weighed 23 kilograms. He had merely knocked it out of her hand and confiscated it.

He didn't expect this woman to rush to Orange County from LA to ask for the Bladeless Sword from him.

"I've already told you the last time we met that those who work for evil are not worthy of owning this sword left behind by a martyr of the Falcon Regiment! Get lost, or I can't guarantee that I'll let you off this time!" Lucas roared angrily.

The woman in black stayed silent for two seconds before walking toward Lucas. "My grandfather left this sword behind for me. You must return it to me!"

Light shone on her face, revealing her features.

The last time they met, she had been wearing a mask, concealing her face completely. But this time, her face was not covered, and Lucas could tell that she was probably around 27 or 28 years old. She wasn't very pretty, and her sharp and indifferent gaze, as well as her lips that were tightly pressed together, made her seem extremely cold.

"What if I don't give it to you? You should know very well that you are no match for me. Even if you try, you won't be able to snatch the Bladeless Sword from me!" Lucas said coldly with raised brows.

"I will fight with all my might. I must get the Bladeless Sword back even if it's at the expense of my life!"

Then the woman charged straight at Lucas with a look of determination in her eyes. Just as she said, she went all out and tried to knock Lucas down to snatch the Bladeless Sword back from him.

Bang!

She quickly threw a punch at Lucas, who raised his hand to catch it. When she tried to pull her hand back, she discovered that Lucas's strength was beyond her imagination as he grasped her fist tightly in his palm.

When the woman in black realized that she couldn't pull her hand back, her expression changed rapidly, and she quickly switched tactics. She raised her long and powerful leg that resembled a steel rod and then kicked Lucas.

Bang!

There was an exchange of blows, and Lucas caught the woman's ankle, rendering her immobile.

With one hand and one foot caught tightly in place, the woman finally maintained her balance and didn't fall down.

But she was now in an extremely awful position.

"Let go!" She couldn't break free from Lucas's restraint and could only curse at him furiously.

"I've already told you long ago that you're no match for me and that you can't snatch your sword back from me! Come back to me when you're worthy of the Bladeless

Sword!" Lucas's voice was icy cold, and his face was expressionless as he pushed the woman backward.

The woman in black was caught off guard and flung several meters away. But she ignored the pain from falling onto the ground and immediately got up. She then continued to shout at Lucas, "I told you, I want you to return the sword to me!"

After Lucas effortlessly threw her away again, the woman still stubbornly got up from the ground with her hand clutching her gut, as she had yet to recover from the previous injuries. But she still wanted Lucas to return the sword to her.

Lucas suddenly asked, "Did you just say that the Bladeless Sword was given to you by your grandfather? What is your name?"

"My name is Skylar Creed," the woman in black said through gritted teeth.

Lucas remembered that the martyr of the Falcon Regiment who had used the Bladeless Sword back then indeed also had the last name Creed.

In that case, it seemed that this woman in front of him was indeed the heir of this martyr.

But Lucas was not going to return the sword to her just because of this.

"Back then, your grandfather was a heroic martyr of the Falcon Regiment in Calico, and this Bladeless Sword of his was used to kill the enemy. Unlike him, you've become someone else's lackey, and you even tried to use this sword to kill someone innocent!

"That's why I said that you aren't worthy of this sword at all!

"I told you last time that you could come to me when you could one day figure out the significance of this sword and become worthy of it! You can leave now!"

Lucas spoke sternly.

He would never leave the items left by martyrs in the hands of their descendants who got up to malicious acts that would tarnish the prestige of the martyrs and that of their items.

Skylar's body stiffened, and she bit her lip tightly with a somewhat ashamed and miserable expression.

"I..." She seemed to want to say something. But after only saying one word, she once again tightly shut her mouth.

Lucas felt that, in a certain sense, she was not quite the same as she was when they had met before. After thinking about it, he suddenly asked, "Do you have any difficult

reasons? Or is there some problem you can't solve? If you tell me, I might be able to help you once on account of your grandfather."

However, after Skylar heard this, her face moved a little. But she didn't speak anymore and instead turned around to leave quickly!

"Hold it right there!" Lucas roared. "Don't you want this sword anymore?"

Skylar slowed down a little and said in pain, "You're right. The current me is indeed not worthy of this sword!"

With that, she quickly dashed forward a few steps. Just as her figure was about to vanish into the dark shadows of the night...

Whoosh!

A wave of unusual footsteps suddenly rang out all around, and several people clad in black suddenly appeared and surrounded Skylar.

"Hah, Skylar Creed, where else do you want to run off to now? You've made us look for you for such a long time. You're really something!"

Skylar's expression changed drastically, and she immediately put her guard up.

"You people are really everywhere! I've already told you before that I've already quit. I have nothing more to do with you guys!" Skylar hollered with a cold expression.

"Hah, you want to quit just like that? Dream on! The chief has already instructed us to tell you that he will give you another chance if you come back with us obediently. If you don't know any better, the only thing you'll face is death!" the leader, a man clad in black, said coldly.

"Give up! I won't go back there even if I die!" Skylar yelled furiously through gritted teeth.

"Hmph, since you're so stubborn, prepare to die!" The leader issued an order, and five people around him immediately gathered to surround Skylar.

As soon as Skylar moved her foot, she dashed in a certain direction to break free.

Unfortunately, she had just been seriously injured, and her wounds had yet to recover. Now that she was outnumbered, she didn't have a chance to escape at all. Soon, she was pinned to the ground.

"I'll ask you one last time. Will you come back with us or not?" the man in black interrogated in a condescending manner.

Skylar shut her eyes tightly. "I won't return even if I have to die!"

"Okay, you said it yourself. I'll make your wish come true now!"

The leader roared and struck at the back of Skylar's head with the side of his palm.

They were all martial arts experts, and the strike would directly shatter the back of Skylar's head, as well as her spine!

"Stop it!" A thunderous shout suddenly filled the air!

Chapter 500: Bloodbath Late at Night

These few people in black had long discovered that there was a passerby nearby. But they didn't care because most passersby would immediately be frightened after feeling their murderous aura and leave far, far away.

But to their surprise, this passerby not only did not have the self-awareness to get lost, but he even had the audacity to tell them to stop.

After hearing the loud shout, Skylar immediately opened her eyes with a fleeting trace of surprise in them. *Why is he...*

"Punk, you'd better not poke your nose into our business, or you'll die without even knowing why!" A man in black sneered and threatened Lucas.

Lucas stood still without moving and said expressionlessly, "Let go of her, and I'll let you leave safely. Otherwise, you'll all die!"

The men in black were stunned. Then they realized that the young man in front of them wasn't a brave and righteous passerby but a lawless and arrogant punk!

"Haha, where did this fool come from?"

"How dare you threaten us? You said we'll die? Punk, you must have a death wish!"

"It's been a long time since I've seen someone so impudent. I suddenly want to play with him. I must rip off his limbs and head and kick it like a ball!"

"Don't be so eager to kill him. This punk doesn't seem too old, so his organs should be able to fetch a high price. We'll kill him after we sell his organs!"

"Psht, he'll die by the time we sell the organs. That's no fun at all!"

The few men started discussing what to do with Lucas's organs, completely treating him as a dead person.

Lucas sneered. "You people are thinking of touching me with those lousy skills of yours? I'm afraid you aren't enough! I repeat. Let go of this woman, and I'll let you leave in one piece."

"You're too arrogant. Who do you think you are?"

The leader sneered. "You want to save this woman, huh? I'm going to slap her to death in front of you!"

Then he once again smacked Skylar's neck with his palm!

"Pfft!"

Just before the black man's palm was about to strike Skylar's neck, a silver ray of light darted out like a shooting star, and a bullet-like object immediately pierced through the middle of the man in black's wrist.

"Ah!" The man cried out in pain and instantly lost strength in his wrist. He could no longer cause any harm to Skylar, who was on the ground.

The few people around them were stunned by this sudden twist in events. When they heard the sounds of metal clanking, they came to a sudden realization that the item that pierced through their captain's wrist was not a bullet but a coin!

"Punk, how dare you attack him?!" another man shouted.

At this moment, Skylar opened her eyes.

Truth be told, she thought she was really going to die just now. When she felt the strong wind coming at the back of her neck, she was already prepared for death.

But the sudden scream, the sound of metal landing on the ground, and the commotion caused by the men in black all told her clearly that she had been saved!

The person who saved her was the same person who had just fought with her!

"Punk, report your name! Who exactly are you?" The man in black held his bleeding right wrist pierced by the coin while clenching his teeth and glowering at Lucas.

Lucas raised his eyebrows.

Most people would be overwhelmed with immense pain when they received such an injury, and very few would be able to remain so calm and only let out a short cry of pain at the start.

This was enough to show that he definitely wasn't an ordinary person.

Lucas guessed that these people probably came from the same organization as Skylar did. However, Skylar suddenly wanted out of the organization for some reason, but they weren't willing to let her go, so they sent people to capture her.

As for the chief these men in black had mentioned, Lucas reckoned that he was probably the head of one of the organization's branches.

Lucas glanced at them calmly and said in a frigidly composed tone, "You're not qualified to know who I am! You just need to remember that if you still don't get lost in a minute, you will have to stay here forever!"

Lucas didn't take them seriously at all, immediately making these men in black greatly agitated.

"Punk, you're too arrogant! Bear this in mind. As long as you offend the Peerless Martial Association, we'll hunt you down to the ends of the world!" the captain of the men in black roared resentfully through gritted.

"Peerless Martial Association?" Lucas raised his brows.

It was his second time hearing the name Peerless Martial Association.

The last time he had heard this name was during the interrogation of the person who killed Tristan in LA.

"Yes! We have branches all over the world, and there are dozens of branches in the US alone. Even if you have some skills, you will never be a match for our entire Peerless Martial Association!"

"This woman is a traitor of the Peerless Martial Association, and we're just getting rid of her as a matter of course. Who are you to intervene?"

"Hmph, how dare you injure the wrist of our captain? Now, no one in the association will spare you! Just wait to fight to the death with us!"

The other men in black smirked and looked at Lucas mockingly.

Lucas sighed and said rather regretfully, "It seems like it's impossible for us to make peace with each other, huh?"

"That's right! Punk, just wait to die! You guys, hold this woman down and stop her from leaving. The rest of you, come with me! I don't believe he can handle all of us alone!"

A man in black roared and rushed at Lucas with the remaining three!

A trace of anxiety finally appeared on Skylar's face.

Although she and Lucas were enemies before, and Lucas had snatched away the only item her grandfather had left to her, be it in LA or during the fight just now, Lucas didn't kill her, showing her mercy several times.

Now, Lucas was even going against the people of the Peerless Martial Association to save her!

She wasn't someone who didn't have any morals, and her grandfather had always taught her to be grateful to those who helped her.

So Skylar was now extremely anxious. When she saw the four people quickly surrounding Lucas, she wanted to rush forward to help him. But unfortunately, she was held down firmly by two people and couldn't break free from them at all!

"You... you won't be able to fight them alone! Run away quickly!" Skylar shouted.

Reminding Lucas to flee while he still could was the only thing she could do now!

She was well aware of the abilities and strength of these men in black. Each one of them was almost as powerful as she was before she was injured. Although Lucas's combat skills did seem to be better than hers, he was now besieged, and she was certain that he had no chance of winning!

The only way to survive was to run as far away as possible!

But less than two seconds after Skylar's shout, the emotion in her gaze turned from worry to extreme shock!

The four men in black charging at Lucas suddenly froze and then collapsed onto the ground.

Immediately afterward, puddles of red blood gushed out from the bodies of these people, staining the ground red.

They actually all died without even touching Lucas!

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Chapter 501: Killing Seven People in Seconds

Skylar widened her eyes in utter shock!

As a former member of the Peerless Martial Association, she naturally knew that the four dead people were not ordinary people but martial arts experts.

But Lucas had killed such powerful opponents in seconds!

This was enough to show that Lucas's strength was far beyond her imagination!

It was simply inhuman...

The two men in black responsible for guarding Skylar and the leader with the wounded wrist all had drastic changes of expressions. They couldn't describe the shock in their hearts in words!

At the same time, an intense sense of fear and horror toward Lucas surged in their hearts.

Their strengths were all almost on par. Since Lucas could easily kill their four peers effortlessly in merely a second, he could of course easily kill them too!

When they saw Lucas looking at them, their hearts trembled violently, and they subconsciously cowered with timid gazes.

“You’re really something, punk. Let’s withdraw for now!” The leader of the men in black quickly thought things through and then shouted at his companions beside him.

With such a powerful enemy, they could no longer worry about killing Skylar. They thought it was better to retreat first and then find an opportunity to kill the two of them!

The few of them moved quickly, wanting to retreat immediately.

“Did I say you could leave?” Lucas looked at them expressionlessly as a few shiny coins appeared between his fingers once again.

The pupils of the three men in black constricted, and one of them immediately yelled, “What else do you want? We won’t catch this woman today!”

Lucas smiled mirthlessly. “It’s already too late.”

As soon as he finished speaking, the coins in his hand immediately darted out, and the shiny metal surface of the coins reflected the panic-stricken faces of the three men trying to dodge. But the next instant, the coins accurately penetrated through the throats of these three people.

Three jets of blood spurted into the air as the three men in black froze in place. A few seconds later, they collapsed onto the ground with loud thuds and could no longer move.

Blood gradually spread across the ground with an intense iron odor.

Skylar sat on the ground in a daze, staring at the corpses on the ground. All of them were killed in seconds!

It was incredible!

Skylar’s jaw dropped as she looked at Lucas in disbelief. She moved her lips, but she couldn’t say a single word.

The power of this man in front of her far exceeded her imagination!

Seven experts from the Peerless Martial Association were actually killed in seconds without any way to resist!

Initially, Skylar should have felt terrified and horrified. But Lucas killed these men only for the sake of saving her, so she was feeling extremely complicated.

“Uh... I have to tell you that these people are from the Peerless Martial Association, and the other members are definitely going to find out. When the time comes, you’ll be in huge trouble.”

Lucas remained unmoved. "So what? If they really come looking for me, then I don't mind making the Peerless Martial Association disappear from this world!"

"What did you say?!" Skylar looked at Lucas with a dumbfounded expression, wondering if he was joking or being serious.

The Peerless Martial Association wasn't a small organization but a behemoth that had gathered countless martial arts experts and was in control of various forces all over the world!

The young man in front of her, who seemed to be only in his twenties, actually said that he could destroy the entire Peerless Martial Association!

If she hadn't heard it herself, she would definitely not believe such arrogant words.

But she now believed that this young man wasn't an ordinary person who liked blowing his trumpet. In other words, he was being serious!

Skylar was so astounded that she forgot she was still sitting on the ground.

Lucas glanced at her without saying anything and then returned to his Jaguar to retrieve the Bladeless Sword. He tossed it to Skylar, and it landed on the ground with a clang.

"I'll return the sword to you for now. But if I find out that you use it to get up to nonsense and ruin your grandfather's reputation, I won't let you off!"

Skylar looked at the long Bladeless Sword inserted into the ground in front of her in a daze before looking at Lucas quietly with a complicated gaze.

"If you really want to break free from the Peerless Martial Association, come look for me at the Stardust Corporation tomorrow morning."

Then Lucas turned around and drove away.

Skylar stared at the light from the front of Lucas's car shining on the road ahead, forming a ray of extraordinarily bright light in the darkness. Gradually, the light drifted away. She couldn't stand up for a long time.

When the bright light was no longer visible, Skylar stood up and touched the thick and heavy Bladeless Sword in front of her. She said softly, "I don't know your name yet, but I'm really grateful to you!"

After driving the car far away, Lucas immediately made a call to arrange for people to take care of the corpses and bloodstains on the road, lest others became scared, resulting in unnecessary chaos.

As for why he suddenly wanted to help Skylar, one reason was that she was the granddaughter of Tom Creed, a martyr of the Falcon Regiment. Second, her persistence and determination had gained his appreciation.

Third... The reason Skylar agreed to assassinate Lucas on Caldo Mountain was probably related to the Peerless Martial Association. Moreover, he had a better impression of her when he saw that she would rather die than go back to the organization to help it do evil. At the very least, he reckoned that her character shouldn't be that bad since she was aware that her actions were wrong and wanted to turn over a new leaf.

So he might as well help her.

In addition, if possible, he would also have another helper.

Stanley had now gone to DC with Flynn, and Lucas now lacked manpower. If Skylar was willing to help him, he could nurture and train her.

Soon after Lucas arrived home, he received a call from Jordan informing him that the traces had been cleaned up.

Lucas responded and hung up. Then he picked up Amelia in his arms to tell her a bedtime story.

The night passed silently.

When Lucas went to the Stardust Corporation early the next morning, he saw Skylar waiting at the building.

Although she was still dressed in black, her clothes were much looser than before and didn't attract much attention.

As soon as she saw Lucas, her eyes lit up, and she immediately walked toward him.

Lucas brought her to the chairman's office on the top floor. "Have you thought about whether you want to break free from the Peerless Martial Association or not?"

Skylar nodded firmly. "Yes! However, it's easy to enter the Peerless Martial Association but extremely difficult to leave.. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been chased by those people they sent yesterday. Can you really solve this matter?"

Chapter 502: Unexpected Clues

Lucas could hear the expectant tone in Skylar's voice, but there was also a tinge of obvious anxiousness in it as she looked at him nervously. He raised his eyebrows and asked, "Do you not believe that I have the ability to do so?"

Skylar pursed her lips, but she nevertheless said, "I don't know how much you know about the Peerless Martial Association, but it's actually a colossal organization. There is not only an enormous amount of experts, but it also has forces and branches all over the world. They're not to be trifled with. My abilities aren't considered extraordinary, and there are many people much better at martial arts than I am. So even the eight major families of DC are trying their best to cooperate with the Peerless Martial Association. They don't dare to be hostile to them either.

"So..." Looking at Lucas with a complicated expression, she said cautiously, "Going toe-to-toe against the Peerless Martial Association will bring about a huge tragedy if you're not careful. I have to inform you about this. Actually, I'm very grateful to you for saving my life yesterday, so you don't have to..."

Before Skylar could finish speaking, Lucas interrupted her. "It's just a Peerless Martial Association. It's no big deal. What I said last night still stands. If they come to me on their own, I don't mind just destroying them altogether!"

Lucas was not being arrogant.

In fact, Jordan had already found some information about the Peerless Martial Association and sent it to him. Although the Peerless Martial Association indeed had a lot of forces and branches all over the country and even the world, there were actually not that many experts in this world.

Those on par with Lucas were few and far between.

If there was really such a powerful opponent, Lucas would actually be a little interested.

Skylar was once again shocked by Lucas's assertiveness and confidence.

But the strange thing was that even though it sounded extremely far-fetched and unbelievable, she didn't have the slightest doubt that the man in front of her could really do such a thing!

She stood still and pondered about it for a moment before suddenly saying, "I want to know how you know about the Bladeless Sword. Did you and my grandfather... know each other?"

Previously, on Caldo Mountain, Lucas had kicked the Bladeless Sword toward her, and while doing so, he had mentioned its name and said that it was an item left behind by a martyr. Skylar was very concerned about this.

A trace of reminiscence and nostalgia appeared in Lucas's eyes before he shook his head. "I've never met the senior who wielded the Bladeless Sword before, but I'm aware of his name and his heroic deeds because I'm from Calico just like him. He's considered a comrade of mine whom I've never met. Do you understand now?"

A look of surprise appeared in Skylar's eyes. She didn't expect the young man in front of her to also be from Calico, this mysterious and sacred place.

She immediately felt a little more affection for Lucas, and she relaxed too. The decision she had been pondering over for a night became clearer.

"I was wrong about assassinating you previously, and I'm very sorry for it! You saved me yesterday and even thought of helping me. I hope that I can stay by your side and be at your disposal!" Skylar suddenly said firmly.

Lucas was slightly surprised.

Although he did think about recruiting Skylar, he didn't expect her to take the initiative to pledge allegiance to him so soon.

Lucas naturally didn't decline and merely asked, "What's going on with you and those people last night? Why did they say you're a traitor and want to take you back with them?"

A touch of remorse appeared on Skylar's face, and she didn't bother hiding it at all. "For some reason, I joined the Peerless Martial Association a few years ago. I initially thought that it was just a loose organization that held sparring sessions between people skilled in martial arts. However, I didn't expect to have gradually discovered that the scale of the Peerless Martial Association is so enormous. Furthermore, there are lots of sordid businesses going on, which includes assassination.

"I initially didn't want to do these kinds of things, but I already mistakenly got myself into trouble, so I couldn't leave easily. I had no choice but to take on some tasks, lest they continued compelling me. One of those tasks was the assassination you faced on Caldo Mountain that day.

"But that night, your warning awakened me and made me realize that my cowardice of not daring to resist was simply helping villains do evil. If my late grandfather knew about it, he would probably be ashamed of me!"

Skylar smiled self-deprecatingly. "In short, from that day on, I made up my mind that I had to break away from the Peerless Martial Association and leave with a clean slate so that I wouldn't disgrace the reputation of the Bladeless Sword my grandfather left behind!

"However, the Peerless Martial Association has very strict management of its members, and I couldn't leave that easily. I had no choice but to leave on my own, but it was seen as a betrayal of the Peerless Martial Association. That's why they sent people to capture me and take me back. If it wasn't for your help yesterday, I'm afraid that I would have become a corpse left in the wilderness."

Lucas nodded and continued to ask, "Do you remember them saying that the chief won't let you off if you don't return? Who is the chief?"

Skylar quickly explained, "The Peerless Martial Association has several forces all over the world, and those people who came to kill me last night but ended up getting killed by you are from the branch in San Francisco.

"In addition, there are other branches in various cities and counties. In each branch, there are other subordinate organizations. The person in charge of each branch is called a chief and directly under the orders of the president of the Peerless Martial Association. Of course, because the Peerless Martial Association places great emphasis on strength, each chief is very strong."

Lucas didn't care much about this and instead asked, "The Peerless Martial Association forced you to do some disgusting things like assassinating others. Was there anything else?"

Skylar nodded and said honestly, "Yes, apart from assassination, there are many other terrible things. As long as it's a task that offers easy money, the Peerless Martial Association will basically agree to it. They're also secretly supporting a lot of powerful families and forces.

"Oh, right, and they also ask members to go around to solicit beautiful women and send them to powerful families and forces as social escorts used in exchange for benefits. Although I haven't done such a thing, I've witnessed it several times."

Chapter 503: Person Knocking on the Door

After Skylar spoke, a look of guilt and shame appeared on her face.

She had once been in such a filthy organization, and she had never done anything to stop those malicious things, making her despise herself greatly.

At the same time, a trace of gratitude and joy also rose in her heart. If not for Lucas, she would probably still be trapped in that mire-like abyss of filth until she completely lost herself.

Lucas was surprised to hear Skylar's words.

The supply of beautiful women to powerful families by the mysterious organization was the very thing that he had been wanting to investigate.

Although Bruce and Ethan had both said that they had sent many experts to track down the mysterious organization that sent beautiful women to the Taylors, none of their investigations was fruitful, and they had even been warned. Since then, they didn't dare to pursue this matter again.

However, since Lucas learned about the Taylors, he had been determined to investigate the matter. But after he acquired the Ocean Bathhouse, the mysterious organization supplying beauties never appeared again, so he couldn't find a clue even if he wanted to investigate.

So later, Lucas had arranged for people to keep an eye on the Taylors' actions to try to find if they still kept in contact. He wanted to search along the clues to get closer to the mysterious organization.

But it was unknown whether it was because they acted too carefully or that the organization had temporarily abandoned the Taylors. Lucas's subordinates had been keeping an eye for a long time, but they didn't manage to find any useful information.

Now, he suddenly obtained a possible clue from Skylar.

"What's the address of that branch?" Lucas asked.

"It's in San Francisco."

Lucas pondered for a moment and said, "Stay in Orange County for the time being. No one can take you away here. After some time, I will personally go to the Peerless Martial Association's San Francisco branch to settle this matter."

Astounded, Skylar hurriedly said, "No, you'd better not go! The chief of the San Francisco branch has solicited experts from all over the state, and many experts are there. Even if you're powerful, you'll be at a huge disadvantage if you're besieged by numerous experts at once!

"Moreover, even if you can deal with the people of the San Francisco branch, such a serious matter will definitely be reported to the headquarters of the Peerless Martial Association. When the time comes, all the experts of the hundreds of branches around the world will besiege you. No matter how powerful you are, you won't be able to handle it!"

Lucas said indifferently, "Let's talk about this matter another time."

Although he hated the behavior of the Peerless Martial Association and was determined to deal with it, Lucas knew that its forces and influence were widespread, and the people of the various organizations within the association would amount to an enormous force.

Even if Lucas had the best martial arts in the world and didn't need to be afraid of anyone, there was no way he would be able to deal with the entire Peerless Martial Association that was tens of thousands of people strong.

Moreover, Lucas was no longer alone and single. He now had an Achilles' heel—his wife, Cheyenne, and daughter, Amelia. So he definitely wouldn't do something as reckless as killing the Peerless Martial Association's San Francisco branch.

Therefore, he couldn't be rash about this and could only leave it for the future.

Skylar stopped talking because she knew that Lucas was a decisive person with his own ideas. Since she had already pledged allegiance to him, she just had to obey his instructions and act accordingly.

This was due to her faith in Lucas after being saved by him and coming to her senses.

In the apartment on the fifth floor of Block 26, Golden Garden Estate...

It was the apartment William was renting.

Karen was sprawled across the couch in the living room and snacking on some watermelon while watching TV all by herself and switching channels out of boredom.

Since she moved to this apartment, she had been full of resentment toward William for forcing her to move out of the spacious and luxurious villa to this tiny and cramped rented apartment.

Besides, Karen had never worked a day in the past two decades or so and was currently unemployed. She wasn't concerned that William had been leaving home early and coming home late every day, nor did she bother to do any household chores. She didn't even make the effort to cook her own meals and instead ordered delivery.

Whenever she saw William, she would completely ignore him and treat him as if he didn't exist.

Suddenly, someone knocked on the door.

"Who's there?" Karen grunted in annoyance and slowly walked over to open the door in her slippers, only to see a familiar figure standing outside.

The expression on her face immediately changed from impatience to surprise, and she greeted her warmly. "You're here. Quick, quickly come in, Nikki!"

The person at the door was none other than Nikki.

Nikki entered the apartment with Karen, and she immediately felt her senses being assaulted by an extremely foul odor. When she saw the garbage, takeout boxes, and

food scraps strewn all over the table, she couldn't help wanting to turn around and leave.

She forcibly resisted the urge and walked in with Karen, who was pulling her in enthusiastically. Before Karen sat down again, Nikki said impatiently, "Aunt Karen, last time you said you had a way to deal with Lucas Gray. Is this true?"

Since Dylan's wedding in LA a week or so ago, there had been many great happenings.

Damon, the head of the Parkers from LA, and Matthew, the head of the Bensons from San Francisco, had both wanted to deal with Lucas. But they had been stopped by Edmund Cole.

She didn't know how Lucas got lucky enough to have happened to save Edmund, the head of the Coles, which was why Edmund chose to stand on Lucas's side.

Nikki and Justin, who had disrespected Lucas, were immediately used as a warning to others. Not only had they embarrassed themselves in front of so many top LA families, but they had even offended the Coles and lost the help of the Morgans. All of a sudden, everyone shunned the Herons like the plague. The Herons were suppressed by the wealthy families wanting to please the Coles and Lucas and almost went bankrupt.

Furthermore, everyone avoided Nikki and no longer wanted to have anything to do with the Herons, for fear of being implicated.

Thus, Nikki's hatred for Lucas was even more intense, and she only wanted Lucas to die now!

This incident had also dealt the Turners a severe blow.

Initially, Eddie was extremely proud of having so many big shots attending his grandson's wedding. He had even wanted to take the opportunity to build some connections with them, in hopes that it would give the Turners a boost.

Unfortunately, all his hopes were dashed, and the Turners even became the biggest laughing stock of LA.

Still, the Turners were originally a family of farmers and didn't own any companies, so they weren't that affected. But all the Turners knew that their hopes of becoming wealthy were completely ruined.

Karen put all the blame on Lucas. If not for him, how could the Turners have suffered such embarrassment? She wouldn't have been scolded by her family, who almost severed ties with her.

The two people who hated Lucas hit it off well and immediately got together.

So when Nikki came over today, she eagerly asked Karen about it because Karen had told her before that she had a way to get Lucas killed.

“Aunt Karen, how exactly are you going to get him killed? Hurry up and tell me!” Nikki asked eagerly, full of hatred.

Chapter 504: Malicious Plot

At the mention of Lucas, Karen immediately gritted her teeth. “Hmph, I’ve wanted to kill him a long time ago! But he now has the protection of the Coles and seems quite skilled in martial arts too. Even if we get someone to kill him, I’m afraid it won’t be of much help. That’s why I asked you to come over. If we work together, we’ll definitely make him die!”

This was exactly what Nikki wanted. She quickly asked, “What solution do you have? Aunt Karen, quickly tell me!”

The thought of the impending death of the culprit of her suffering made Nikki’s face twist into a grimace of hate.

Karen said with a sinister expression, “I’ve naturally thought of the best solution. But before that, we have to think of a way to kill another person!”

Nikki was a little surprised and asked doubtfully, “Who? Are you referring to the bodyguard or expert who has been following Lucas around?”

Karen shook her head and said slowly, “No, it’s William Carter!”

William Carter? Isn’t he her husband, the father of Cheyenne and Charlotte?! Nikki was so astonished that she couldn’t utter a single word. She actually said that we have to kill her husband first?!

“Wh-what exactly is going on here?!” After a while, Nikki barely managed to suppress her shock. “Why do you want to kill him? Besides, the person we want to kill is Lucas Gray. What does it have to do with William Carter?”

She was really puzzled as to why Karen would suddenly want to kill her husband. Besides, how would William’s death even impact Lucas?

She really couldn’t understand what Karen was thinking.

Karen said with a ruthless and menacing expression, “No, you’re wrong. There’s a great connection between the two!”

She looked at Nikki. “Well, you now know what kind of place I’m living in, huh?”

Nikkie scanned her surroundings, the messy and filthy rented apartment, and then shrugged without saying anything.

What else could she say about such a horrid place?

Karen continued, "I'm not afraid to tell you the truth. Lucas Gray previously saved the life of Ethan Sawyer. So in order to repay him, he showered Lucas Gray with loads of expensive gifts, including an extremely luxurious villa, which I used to live in before moving here.

"But God knows what happened to that idiot William's brain. He insisted on moving out of the villa and into this shabby and tiny apartment. Not only is he stupid, but he even forced me to move out with him! I bet he's determined not to let me live a good life!

"In that case, I no longer have to care about our marriage. Once he dies, I can just move back to the villa! This way, I will have the opportunity to be in more contact with that bastard Lucas Gray. It will then be much easier to kill him secretly!"

Karen had an evil expression on her face as she talked about her scheme.

She had spent decades with William, but she had never gotten to enjoy any luxury, so she saw no reason for her to suffer with him. Besides, he had tried threatening her with a divorce several times before, which was simply atrocious!

As long as William was dead, Karen would no longer have to worry about his threats, and she would be able to enjoy the things she should have enjoyed with peace of mind. Once William was dead, she would become a widow, and she was confident that Cheyenne, Charlotte, and Lucas wouldn't throw her out of the villa regardless of how overboard she was in the future.

To her, William was just an eyesore and a stumbling block!

Nikki cocked her head to the side. "Aunt Karen, are you saying that the two of us should get rid of Uncle William so that you can take the opportunity to move back into the villa they're living in before finding the opportunity to take action against Lucas Gray? But if your motive is just to return to the villa to find a chance to come into contact with him, there shouldn't be a need to kill Uncle William, right?"

With a delirious expression on her face, Karen exclaimed, "No, you don't understand. That despicable man William Carter is bonkers and refuses to let me move back into the villa. He even threatened to divorce me if I did so! So I have no choice but to do this!"

The hatred and menace on her face made Nikki's heart shudder.

In order to go back to living in the luxurious villa, Karen didn't mind killing her husband. She was truly ruthless!

It was as if this was Nikki's first time seeing Karen. She found Karen's supposedly familiar face somewhat unfamiliar and terrifying.

But Nikki didn't particularly care about it. After all, they were now on the same side and shared the common goal of killing Lucas. In fact, Karen's character had nothing much to do with her. At worst, she would keep a distance from her in the future.

"But Aunt Karen, how do you plan to kill William Carter?" Nikki asked.

Karen immediately smiled. "That's why I need your help with this, Nikki!"

"Uh... I'm just a young woman. How can I help you? Besides, you and he spend time together every day, so you should have more opportunities to take action against him." Nikki kept trying to turn her down tactfully, but she immediately became wary. *Surely this evil aunt of mine isn't intending to ask me to kill William Carter, right?*

She wasn't that foolish as to commit such a crime!

Karen grinned and quickly said, "Don't worry. I just need you to give me some money. Leave the rest to me!"

"You need money? Are you thinking of hiring a killer...?" Nikki immediately asked.

Karen nodded and said sinisterly, "That's right. After all, we're both women, and it's really difficult for us to kill a man ourselves. Besides, if William dies at home, I will be the first one suspected, so we can only hire an outsider to do it. Of course, this will require a lot of money.

"Nikki, as you can see, I'm living in a tiny and shabby apartment, and I don't have much savings. I'm really poor, and according to the information I've inquired, we'll need at least a hundred and fifty grand to hire a reliable killer. I'm counting on you!"

Only then did Nikki understand the reason Karen had asked her to join forces. It turned out that she needed money to hire a killer.

"Got it, Aunt Karen. But the Herons have been having a hard time lately, and the Heron Corp. is about to go bankrupt. How can I possibly take out so much money?" Nikki was naturally not too happy about this.

Karen took her hand and persuaded glibly, "Don't worry, Nikki. Like I just said, Lucas Gray has received lots of monetary gifts from Ethan Sawyer. As soon as I return to the villa, I can immediately return all the money you lend me!

"Moreover, as soon as Lucas Gray dies, those big families in LA will naturally stop suppressing the Herons in order to please the Coles. When the time comes, your family

will naturally be able to get through this crisis. You can have as much money as you want in the future.

“By then, you’ll get the most credit for this, and your grandfather and your father will definitely be impressed by you. All you have to do is cover a part of the cost in advance. Soon, you will be able to recover it and obtain tremendous benefits. Wouldn’t that be great?”

What Karen said was really convincing. At the very least, Nikki was really tempted.

Chapter 505: Car Accident

Yeah, I just need to take out a hundred and fifty thousand in advance. Once William Carter dies, Aunt Karen will be able to pay me back soon.

Once Lucas Gray dies, I’ll not only be able to take revenge, but I can also help the Herons tide through this crisis. It’s indeed a good deal.

While she was carefully calculating the gains and losses in her head, Karen added, “Of course, if you have a better idea that will save us from spending so much money, that’ll be much better.”

Nikki quickly thought through the plan in her head and discovered that Karen’s plan was indeed feasible.

She really couldn’t think of a way to get a person killed quietly without arousing any suspicion.

However...

“But if you have to hire an assassin to kill William, then how can you guarantee that you will be able to kill Lucas Gray quietly after returning to the villa?” Nikki quickly asked when she sensed something amiss.

Not flustered at all, Karen said, “Don’t worry. I’ll find a way to get some drugs when the time comes and make that bastard Lucas Gray get into some kind of accident. That will do the trick.”

Nikki pursed her lips and asked in bewilderment, “If this method of yours works, there isn’t a need for us to spend so much money to hire a killer to kill William Carter. You can just kill him on your own.”

“Ahhhh!” Karen let out a long sigh before saying, “You can’t use the same method to kill two people one after another in a short period of time, right? If you want to see Lucas Gray die quickly, we have to get someone to kill William Carter and make sure he dies in an accident.”

Only then did Nikki come to a sudden realization.

They chose not to get someone to deal with Lucas right away purely because Lucas's martial arts seemed superb, so they weren't sure if they could kill him directly.

But William was just an ordinary person who was almost fifty, and he definitely wouldn't be able to escape their clutches.

Nikki thought of her bank account balance. Although the Herons were now facing the crisis of becoming bankrupt, they weren't exactly poor yet. She had more than \$200,000 in her account left, so it should be enough.

Nikki finally made up her mind and said to Karen, "Okay, I will transfer money to you later, but you have to do a good job, Aunt Karen. There better not be any blunders!"

"Haha, rest assured. Just wait for my good news at home!" Karen laughed heartily with satisfaction.

The two of them settled on the plan. But William, whom they were plotting against, was completely clueless.

He probably would never have thought that the person who had been sleeping on the same bed beside him for nearly the past three decades would want to kill him.

At this moment, William was still busy working in the Solar Corporation.

When he was about to leave work, he suddenly received a call from Cheyenne.

"Dad, let's have dinner together as a family after you get off work!" Cheyenne's voice came from the other end.

She had just inadvertently learned that her mother didn't show her father any concern at all. After work, William wouldn't get to eat a hot meal at all and could only order takeout or have some instant noodles. It really broke Cheyenne's heart to see him like this.

But there was no way she could change her mother's mind, so she could only ask William and the others out for a meal.

Cheyenne also called Karen, but for some reason, Karen didn't answer her phone nor reply to any of her messages, so Cheyenne could only give up.

William was extremely touched, and he agreed gleefully. "Alright, I'm getting off work now. Thanks to you, I'm going to have a feast today! Where do you guys plan on eating? I haven't seen Amelia for a while, and I miss her. Text me the address after, and I'll rush there..."

William chuckled and spoke while leaving the office building and heading toward the parking lot across the road.

Suddenly, a red car came out from the corner, and seemingly out-of-control, it sped straight at him from behind!

Bang!

William, who was chatting with Cheyenne, was immediately caught off guard and hit flying by the car!

With the sound of a loud collision, William's body was flung nearly twenty meters away like a broken kite.

The surrounding people were all stunned!

But just a few seconds later, the red car ran straight into a building nearby like a cannonball and slammed into it with an even more violent impact. The front of the car was completely stuck in the wall, and the chassis was utterly warped. It was unclear if the driver was alive or not!

Everyone was astonished as they looked at the tragic car accident, and some even screamed at the top of their lungs.

Cheyenne was talking to William on the phone, and her expression changed drastically when she suddenly heard a loud noise followed by complete silence. She yelled into her phone, "Dad? What happened?! Say something, Dad!"

But there was no longer any sound coming from the other end.

Cheyenne's body began shaking, and she feebly dropped the phone in her hand. Lucas happened to grab it quickly.

Noticing something off, Lucas immediately asked in concern, "What's wrong, Cheyenne? What's wrong?"

Charlotte, who was playing with Amelia at the side, also noticed something wrong, especially when Cheyenne's expression became extremely terrified. She hurriedly asked, "Cheyenne, what happened? Weren't... weren't you calling Dad and asking him out for dinner?"

Cheyenne was swaying from side to side as she muttered softly, "No... Impossible. Dad will definitely be fine! Nothing will happen to him!"

Then she immediately dashed out.

At this time, even the most daft person would be able to guess that William must have had an accident.

Lucas put Amelia into Charlotte's arms. "Charlotte, stay here and take care of Amelia. I'll go check out the situation!"

With that, he ran out after Cheyenne, not having time to say anything else.

Cheyenne was so flustered that she just ran toward William's workplace by instinct, but she was at least several kilometers away, so how could she reach it on foot?

Lucas rushed forward and pulled Cheyenne into his embrace.

"Cheyenne, calm down! No matter what has happened, I will face it with you! Don't panic," he said softly to Cheyenne.

Only when Cheyenne was in his embrace did she snap out of her panic. As soon as she saw Lucas's concerned gaze, she burst into tears. "Lucas! I-I-I just heard a sudden loud noise from Dad's side, and there were people screaming near him. He fell silent afterward. He must have had an accident! I'm so scared!"

Lucas said comfortingly, "It's okay. We'll rush over there now!"

He brought Cheyenne into his car and sped all the way toward the Solar Corporation's Orange County branch.

But halfway there, he suddenly received a phone call.

"Lucas, my subordinates just received news that William just had a car accident in front of the office and is now being rushed to the nearest hospital!"

Chapter 506: Outside the Emergency Room

Lucas was shocked to receive this call. *How did William suddenly get into a car accident in front of the office?*

He immediately instructed the person on the other end, "Immediately find out how the accident happened. You must find out clearly if it's purely an accident or deliberate murder! Also, immediately contact the best doctors in Orange County and send them all to the hospital!"

Jordan agreed right away.

After hanging up, Lucas applied the emergency brakes, turned around, and drove toward the hospital.

Cheyenne grabbed Lucas's sleeve nervously. "Lucas, how... how is my dad?"

From the moment she heard the words 'accident', 'murder', and 'hospital', her heart seemed to have sunk into an abyss, and her face turned deathly pale.

She stared deep into Lucas's eyes, afraid that she would hear an unacceptable answer from him.

Lucas patted her hand gently and comforted, "It's just a car accident. William has been brought to the hospital, and we're heading there now. Don't worry. William will be fine!"

Only then did Cheyenne heave a sigh of relief, but she was still extremely nervous and anxious.

Soon, the black Jaguar arrived at the entrance of the Orange Coast Medical Center. But William had already been sent to the emergency rescue room. No matter how anxious they were, they could only wait for the result outside the door.

Lucas looked at Cheyenne being fidgety and ill at ease. "Don't worry too much. At least William is still alive. All the best surgeons in the city have rushed here too. He'll definitely be fine!"

After giving it some thought, he decided to call Charlotte, gave her a brief explanation of the situation, and asked her to come to the hospital as well.

After all, as his daughter, Charlotte definitely should be informed of such a major accident.

"What did you say?! My dad actually got into a car accident?! Okay, I'll head there right now!"

Charlotte was flabbergasted and panic-stricken. She quickly hung up and rushed to the hospital.

But Lucas was somewhat surprised that Karen arrived sooner than Charlotte.

Lucas didn't expect it because he and Cheyenne had tried to call Karen, but they couldn't get through to her, so they had no idea how she had learned of the accident.

With two streams of tears on her face, Karen scurried from the elevator to the entrance of the emergency room, looking extremely worried.

But the light at the entrance of the operating theater was still red, and they didn't know what the situation inside was.

Karen stood at the door for a while before suddenly leaping at Lucas, extending her arm, and smacking him. "It's all your fault, you bastard!"

"William was doing fine at home. It's all your fault for making him go to work every day. That's why he met with a car accident in front of the company. You're such a scourge!"

"I told you long ago that you're a jinx who's specially here to harm us! Now, William has gotten into a car accident and ended up in the hospital. We don't even know if he can be rescued. This is all your fault!"

"I'm telling you, if anything happens to William, I won't let you off!"

Karen was like a mad demon as she slapped Lucas's body with all her might and glowered at him with a menacing gaze as if he was her enemy.

Facing the crazy Karen, Lucas could only choose to avoid her, but he still ended up getting hit several times.

"Enough!" Cheyenne finally had enough and shouted at the top of her lungs to stop Karen's shrewish behavior.

"Dad is still lying in the emergency room. If you keep throwing a fit and disturbing the doctors, you may get out of here!" Cheyenne yelled in exasperation with bloodshot eyes. It was rare of her to lose her temper, so she immediately shocked Karen.

Lucas's phone suddenly started ringing.

Lucas looked at the caller ID and walked toward a quiet and secluded corridor before answering. "Speak."

The phone call was from Jordan. "Lucas, according to the information I found, the driver who hit your father-in-law didn't slow down after hitting him and instead quickly drove into a building nearby. He died on the spot."

Lucas's face turned gloomy. "Even if he's dead, you still have to find out the exact cause of the accident and whether or not there's someone behind the driver. I want a clear report of his identity, family situation, and financial transactions!"

Lucas truly felt that there was something fishy about this matter.

William had encountered the accident in front of the Solar Corporation's Orange County branch office. But that road was very wide, and it was rare for car accidents to occur there.

Lucas had a gut feeling that this accident wasn't as simple as it seemed to be.

After hanging up and returning to the emergency room, Lucas discovered that Charlotte had also brought Amelia here.

The two of them were standing at the entrance of the emergency room, their faces as pale as a sheet. They tried to look into the room anxiously, eager to hear the results but also afraid to hear any bad news.

Karen's face was stained with tears, and her eyes were full of anxiousness. Her behavior now was a stark contrast to her usual attitude toward William.

Lucas looked at her with surprise, not expecting that she still seemed to show some concern as William's wife now that his life was on the line.

Unfortunately, Lucas guessed wrongly this time because he never thought that Karen could be that evil. In fact, the reason Karen had hypocritically appeared here all of a sudden was that she just wanted to find out immediately if William had died in the car accident or not.

William had sustained severe injuries, so the emergency surgery would take at least more than ten hours. Lucas, Cheyenne, and Charlotte naturally wouldn't leave the emergency room to get some rest. But Amelia was still young, and she couldn't possibly stay here for so long.

But Lucas and Cheyenne didn't feel safe leaving her alone at home.

At this moment, Lucas inadvertently saw Grace walking down the corridor a short distance away.

Grace's mother was diagnosed with severe kidney failure and happened to be receiving treatment in the hospital. So Grace would take some time out to visit her mother every day.

After giving it some thought, Lucas bent down and said, "Amelia, do you remember Aunt Grace?"

Amelia nodded obediently. "Yes! Aunt Grace is very nice. She even said she would teach me how to bake a cake last time. I remember!"

Lucas gently stroked his daughter's soft and tender hair. "Okay, tonight, we'll wait here for Grandpa to wake up while you go to Aunt Grace's house. She'll keep you company, and we'll pick you up first thing in the morning, okay?"

Amelia pouted and said aggrievedly, "I like Aunt Grace a lot, but I also want to stay here with you and Mommy to wait for Grandpa to wake up!"

Chapter 507: Becoming A Vegetable

Seeing how cute and well-behaved Amelia was, Lucas became softhearted. "We know that you're obedient, Amelia, but you're still young and need to grow up. You have to rest well at night. Be good and go stay with Aunt Grace tonight!"

Cheyenne's eyes were red as she said to Amelia, "Amelia, listen to Daddy. Mommy and Daddy can't leave the hospital today, so stay with Aunt Grace so that we can feel at ease."

Amelia considered it for a long time before saying reluctantly, "Okay then. I'll go to Aunt Grace's place tonight. But you guys have to come and pick me up early tomorrow! But where is Aunt Grace now?"

Lucas caressed her hair again before going to Grace's mother's ward and calling out to Grace.

"Hey, Lucas, what are you doing here?" Grace looked at Lucas in surprise.

Generally, people would show up at the hospital either to visit their sick relatives and friends or to have their illnesses treated.

Lucas briefly told her about William getting into a car accident and undergoing surgery in the emergency room, as well as how they couldn't leave. "We don't feel comfortable leaving Amelia to other people, so I hope you can help us take care of her tonight."

Grace smiled. "No problem. I like Amelia a lot, and I'd be more than happy to keep her company!"

Thus, the matter was settled.

Amelia left with Grace. Of course, Lucas didn't completely leave Amelia in Grace's care and sent Jordan to keep an eye on Amelia and protect her.

After all, Amelia was his only daughter, and he couldn't let anything happen to her.

Time seemed to be crawling by while they waited anxiously. At daybreak, William was finally pushed out of the emergency room.

"Dad!" Cheyenne and Charlotte rushed forward. When they saw William being connected by tubes to some machines instead of covered by a layer of white cloth, they seemed to come back to life again.

Great!

Dad's still alive! Thank god!

The two burst into tears of joy.

The moment the door to the emergency room opened, Karen was jolted awake from her nap. But a trace of disappointment quickly appeared in her eyes when she saw that William was still alive.

How can William Carter still be alive?

This jerk is too lucky!

Did I waste my money in vain?

While Karen was thinking evil thoughts, Cheyenne anxiously asked the doctor, "Doctor, how is my father's condition? Is it serious? How long will it take for him to recover?"

The main surgeon pushed his glasses up his nose wearily and said in an apologetic tone, "I'm very sorry. Although your father's life is temporarily out of danger, the injuries he sustained are too serious, and he suffered a large impact to his brain. He's very likely..."

"Very likely what?" Charlotte asked agitatedly.

"The patient's injuries are too serious. We've already done our best, but it's still very likely that he will remain bedridden forever, which is known as being in a vegetative state. Of course, if the situation turns for the better, he might still be able to regain consciousness."

The doctor comforted them helplessly and then dragged his exhausted body away.

Cheyenne and Charlotte stood rooted to the ground for a long time before realizing what the doctor meant, after which they immediately burst into tears of misery.

Looking at the sisters crying miserably and then at William lying lifelessly on the hospital bed with the ventilator and lots of tubes attached to him, Lucas felt rather sorrowful too.

William was just his father-in-law, and they didn't share a very close relationship in the past. In fact, it could be said that William had been extremely hostile to Lucas.

But he was still the biological father of Cheyenne and Charlotte after all. After William decided to turn over a new leaf, his attitude toward Lucas changed drastically too. He was almost about to become a real family member of Lucas.

But William was now in a vegetative state after the sudden car accident, and it was almost impossible for him to regain consciousness ever again.

Lucas had a heavy heart, but he suddenly heard an exclamation from the side.
"Cheyenne!"

Lucas abruptly looked up, only to see that Cheyenne had gone limp and fallen to the floor.

He immediately reached out and caught Cheyenne's slumping body. Holding her in his arms, he saw that her eyes were tightly shut and her face was pale. She had passed out from all the crying.

The few of them sent the seriously injured William and the unconscious Cheyenne to the ward.

There were no major issues with Cheyenne, and she had merely passed out because she was too sad. She woke up after ten minutes.

But after waking up, she immediately looked to the side at William, who was lying lifelessly on the hospital bed. She teared up uncontrollably.

Charlotte's face was also covered in tears. She was incredibly grief-stricken.

Karen, who had been sitting at the side, wiped her eyes and lamented tearfully, "William, you must wake up! What is going to happen to me if you die?!"

But no one noticed the absence of a single trace of grief in her eyes, as well as the smug smirk that flashed across her face.

A vegetable... He didn't die, but this is a good outcome too.

Since he can't regain consciousness, he won't be able to get in my way.

Moreover, these two unfilial girls can't possibly leave William Carter to fend for himself, can they? They'll definitely take us back to the luxurious villa.

Lucas's heart ached when he saw how devastated they were, especially Cheyenne, who was crying so badly that she was about to lose her balance.

He walked out of the ward and went to a secluded area to make a call.

Soon, a woman on the other end asked in surprise, "Huh? I didn't think that you'd take the initiative to contact me, Lucas. That's so rare of you! But you've never liked catching up with old friends and reminiscing about the past. Are you calling me this time to ask for help?"

Lucas didn't beat around the bush. "Maddy, I'm indeed calling you because I need your help with something. My father-in-law got into a car accident last night and just came out of the emergency room. There's a very slim chance that he'll wake up again. I'd like to ask if there's any way to treat his condition?"

Chapter 508: Scheming Mother-in-Law

“What? Father-in-law? Lucas, you’re already married? When was it? How come I didn’t know?”

As soon as Lucas finished speaking, a series of exclamations and questions came from the woman.

“...” Lucas was speechless.

Fortunately, she realized that this wasn’t the time for gossip and quickly said professionally, “There are many kinds of conditions that can lead to a vegetative state, and your description alone might not be accurate. I have to see the details of the patient in person before making a decision. But I’m currently on a medical rescue mission abroad and can’t leave now.

“How about this? Communicate with your father-in-law’s attending doctor and the hospital, then send me all the reports of his physical condition so that I can take a look.”

Maddy was extremely conscientious, and she didn’t dare to make any promises before looking at the details of the patient’s condition.

Her name was Maddy Stone, a member of the Falcon Regiment who had extremely high attainments in the field of medicine. She had rescued wounded comrades from death on the battlefield in Calico several times before.

Thus, Lucas called her and asked her for help.

Knowing that she said this out of prudent practice as a medical practitioner, Lucas immediately agreed and said genuinely from the bottom of his heart, “Maddy, I’m counting on you for my father-in-law!”

Maddy replied with utmost seriousness, “Lucas, it’s rare for you to ask me for help, so I’ll naturally do my best to help you! You don’t have to worry too much. As far as I know, it’s not rare for people in a vegetative state to awaken. Besides, your father-in-law’s condition is due to getting hit in a car accident. Moreover, he was injured a short while ago, so maybe the situation will still take a turn for the better.”

Lucas knew that Maddy was just comforting him, but he nevertheless thanked her, “Okay, thank you, Maddy. I’ll go look for the doctor right now and send you his examination reports.”

Without further ado, Lucas quickly got the complete and detailed examination reports from the doctor and immediately sent them to Maddy.

After around twenty minutes, Maddy called him again. "I've just carefully studied his examination reports, including his brain nerve response data, severity of injuries sustained after the collision, and so on... Ah, forget it. You won't understand these terms and jargon. I'll put it this way. His situation is fine, and if treated properly, there's still great hope for him to be able to regain consciousness."

After receiving a positive reply from Maddy, Lucas let out a huge sigh of relief. "That's great news, Maddy! I feel much more relieved."

Maddy chuckled. "I will send you some of the preliminary treatment plans I've drawn up, but I'll have to do a detailed examination of the patient's situation after I come back. And it's your business to convince those doctors to adopt my plan!"

Lucas nodded and smiled. "Naturally. Thank you so much!"

Maddy laughed out loud before saying jokingly, "Haha, I'm really flattered to be able to receive a thank you from you, Lucas. My mission will soon be over, and probably in seven or eight days, I will go home to help you with the treatment. You can buy me a meal afterward! Oh, by the way, I also want you to introduce your wife to me!"

"That's for sure!" Lucas immediately agreed.

Once Maddy came back to personally treat William, there would be a large possibility for William to wake up.

It was indeed a really joyful thing.

Maddy's medical attainments were extremely high, and she definitely wasn't just paying lip service. Lucas was extremely confident in her.

However, because Maddy wouldn't return from abroad for at least another week, and there was only some hope, Lucas didn't break the news to Cheyenne and Charlotte in order to avoid them gaining hope only to be disappointed.

Soon, two days passed.

In these two days, Cheyenne and Charlotte were by William's side almost every single second round the clock. They were anxiously paying close attention to his recovery and even took turns to go to and get off work in order to spend more time with him.

Lucas had been rather busy during the past two days. He was mainly trying to investigate William's traffic accident. Although the driver of the car had died on the spot, so there was no verbal evidence from him, Lucas was sure that there would be many clues if it was a premeditated accident.

In these two days, Karen's attitude had changed a lot too. Not only was she staying by William's side with a grief-stricken expression, but she even personally wiped William down. She would even show concern to Cheyenne and Charlotte and tell them not to be too hard on themselves. She stayed in the hospital and was acting completely like a virtuous wife and mother.

Even Cheyenne, who had been disappointed with Karen's actions, couldn't help being moved.

Maybe Mom only realized that she loves Dad deeply after he almost died in the car accident. Maybe that's why she's suddenly showing us so much concern too, Cheyenne thought and immediately felt much more relieved.

But the moment she left the ward to go to work, Karen's expression immediately changed from a gentle, loving mother to menacing.

Karen was the only one left in the ward at this moment.

She closed the door and walked to the unconscious William with a maniacal smile.

"Hahahaha, William Carter, I bet you never thought this would happen to you one day! When you threatened to divorce me, weren't you very proud of yourself? Now stand up and continue being arrogant!

"Hah, you're now just like a dead dog. You have to die when I want you to die! I'm telling you, I've put up with you for many years, and now I can finally get my revenge!"

Then she raised her hand and gave the defenseless William a hard slap on his face!

Smack! An obvious red mark appeared on William's pale face.

But one slap was obviously not enough for Karen, and she slapped him again left and right another ten times before stopping.

"Hah, worthless man, you slapped me before, so I'm just giving these slaps back to you!"

Karen finally felt a little more relieved after saying these vicious words.

At this moment, both of William's cheeks were red and swollen from her slaps.

Karen wasn't afraid of being caught. After all, there were still several hours before Cheyenne and Charlotte returned from work.

During this period of time, William's swollen face reduced to the extent that it was almost invisible.

Even if someone noticed that his face was swollen and warm, no one would suspect that she had slapped him because he was a severely wounded patient.

Karen sat in the ward leisurely and rested for a while before lifting the thin blanket covering William. She then pinched the parts of his body covered by the blanket.

“Dog, you’ve ruined my youth for so many years, and I’ve long wanted to kill you, wastrel!”

Karen wantonly abused the immobile William and vented all the anger hidden in her dark personality over the years.

But she didn’t notice that William’s little finger moved slightly twice.

Meanwhile, Lucas, who had been keeping close tabs on the news, finally got the information he wanted. “Lucas, we’ve found that there’s indeed a problem with the family of the driver who caused the accident!”

Chapter 509: Asking For Clues

The phone call was from Jordan, who quickly explained what he had discovered.

The driver who had hit William two days ago was named Craig Valis. After losing control of his car and hitting William, he died in another tragic car accident nearby.

Of course, Lucas suspected that this was very likely not purely an accident, and the information Jordan had found out proved this.

Craig’s wife and daughter had suddenly vanished from their apartment the day before the accident.

So over the past two days, Jordan had targeted his investigation here to get a clear explanation from Craig’s wife and daughter.

Now, he finally found their whereabouts.

“Lucas, do you need me to go bring these two people back so that you can question them? Their hiding place is nearby. It’s a private house near the outskirts of the city,” Jordan said.

Craig wasn’t very old, so Lucas reckoned that his daughter must be rather young. If they suddenly brought them over, they might frighten them.

Luca thought about it and said, “Let’s go over together.”

“Yes!” Jordan naturally acknowledged.

Soon, Jordan drove to Lucas’s side, picked him up, and then went to a somewhat chaotic area where low-income people lived.

It was a shabby district with lots of disorderly and short buildings, narrow and dirty alleys, and many miserable-looking people.

During the journey, Jordan said to Lucas, “Lucas, Craig’s wife is named Sarah, and their daughter is now six years old. Due to time constraints, we haven’t found much detailed information. We only know that the place they’re living now is allegedly a residence belonging to a distant relative of theirs.”

Lucas nodded slightly.

He suspected that someone had instigated Craig, but he couldn’t be convicted now.

So he came here today to ask about this.

The alleys here were extremely narrow and cramped, and cars couldn’t even fit inside.

Lucas and Jordan got out of the car and walked in.

Perhaps because there was a large number of low-income residents here, the walls on both sides of the alley were full of all kinds of miscellaneous objects, making it difficult to walk.

Lucas followed Jordan all the way to a small house in front of the deep alley.

This was basically the innermost part of the alley, which was even shabbier and more dilapidated than the streets outside, and there were no pedestrians.

In front of the small house were a wood pony and a pale-faced girl sitting on it, staring at the sky with a blank expression.

For some reason, Lucas’s heart suddenly wrenched up when he saw the crestfallen expression on the face of the little girl who should have been full of vitality.

The little girl noticed the movements here. As soon as she saw the two strange men approaching, a trace of panic immediately appeared on her face, and she leaped off the small pony in a flustered manner and ran toward the door at the back.

They could clearly tell that she wasn’t in good health. Not only was she gaunt, but she almost fell onto the ground after just running a couple of steps.

Jordan raised his brows and pointed at the house the little girl ran into. He said with a trace of surprise on his face, "What a coincidence. The Sarah we're looking for is living in this house."

Lucas didn't say anything and only signaled Jordan to go over and knock on the door.

Jordan walked to the half-hidden door and was about to knock on it when the door suddenly opened from the inside to reveal a middle-aged woman in her fifties.

Looking at the two strangers outside the door, she immediately became vigilant and grabbed the door frame warily. She asked in a deep voice, "Who are you?"

Jordan smiled. "Ma'am, we're here to see Sarah."

When the middle-aged woman heard the name 'Sarah', a trace of panic flashed across her face, and she quickly said, "You've come to the wrong place. There's no one here named Sarah."

Then she wanted to close the door.

But her speed was naturally no match for that of Jordan, who had extremely quick reflexes. As soon as she moved her hand, he immediately grabbed the door frame, making it impossible for her to close it.

"You... what are you doing? I... I'm warning you. This is my home. If you dare to trespass and get up to anything funny, I'll definitely sue you! If you dare to do anything in broad daylight, as long as I shout, someone will immediately come here and grab you! Hurry up and leave!" The middle-aged woman was obviously panicking, but she still pretended to be calm and threatened him.

Jordan grinned. "Ma'am, we're not crooks. We're here to look for Sarah. We just have some questions for her. We won't do anything bad, so rest assured!"

Although Jordan usually had a roguish smile, he now wanted to get into the good books of this middle-aged woman to reduce her vigilance, so he smiled obediently.

The middle-aged woman was a bit skeptical, but she was still clutching the door frame tightly, not daring to let anyone in.

Lucas walked over and handed a stack of bills from his pocket to the middle-aged woman. "Ma'am, we really don't mean any harm. We just want to ask Sarah some questions. Please ask her to come out."

Jordan had casually taken this stack of bills from the car just now, and it happened to come in handy now.

There were around 50 bills.

The middle-aged woman's eyes were immediately glued to the stack of bills.

Most people living in such a shabby place were struggling to make ends meet and earned meager wages. This stack of bills was worth about a thousand dollars, enough to cover a few months' worth of living expenses for the woman.

All that was required of her was to ask someone to come out. It was really effortless.

For people used to being poor, such a temptation was really difficult to resist.

Thus, after being conflicted for a while, the middle-aged woman finally opened the door, reached out to accept the money, and said with some slight embarrassment, "Ah, you are so polite. It's just a small favor. You're being too kind, haha."

After smiling, she yelled inside, "Sarah, come out!"

Two seconds later, a female voice sounded inside the house, "Aunt, you called me? Wait a minute. I'll be right out!"

After about eight seconds, a woman in her thirties came out from behind the rusty iron door. She was wiping the water and foam on her hands against her apron. She seemed to have been washing clothes.

"Aunt, what's wrong?" the woman asked in bewilderment.

After receiving the money, the middle-aged woman became much more enthusiastic. She pointed at Lucas and Jordan and said with a cheerful grin, "These two people are here to look for you. They said that they have questions for you."

Sarah finally saw the two tall men standing behind the middle-aged woman. She immediately panicked and waved her hands. "I... I don't know them, and I have nothing to say to them! I... I don't know what they want to ask either. I still have lots to do, so I'll get going now!"

Seeming terribly frightened, she immediately turned around, wanting to go back inside.

But the next instant, Jordan suddenly appeared behind her and blocked her from going back into the house.

Chapter 510: Don't Want Any Compensation

Sarah immediately appeared horrified as she took two steps back. "You... what are you trying to do?"

Jordan grinned. "We just need to ask you a few questions. Why are you so scared?"

"I-I don't know anything. Don't ask me!" Sarah said right away.

"Haha." Jordan chuckled. "We haven't asked you anything yet, but you're already saying that you don't know. In that case, I guess you must know what we want to ask about, right?"

Sarah was just an ordinary housewife. Hearing what he said, she instantly panicked and was at a complete loss for words. She could only pinch her fingers.

But Jordan and Lucas didn't urge her any further and instead just looked at her quietly.

The atmosphere became rather tense all of a sudden.

The middle-aged woman couldn't stand it any longer either. She could tell that Jordan and Lucas really seemed to have no evil intentions and merely wanted to ask Sarah some questions.

"Sarah, they just want to ask you a few questions, or else they wouldn't have come all the way here. Just tell them what you know," she said.

Sarah stayed silent for a long time before finally lowering her head.

Since they had found her within such a short time even though she had moved to such a shabby place, she figured that she wouldn't be able to escape even if she tried to.

Moreover, she also roughly guessed what they wanted to ask her about, for she knew that this day would come sooner or later.

After a long time, she said quietly, "Okay, since you want to know, come inside. I'll tell you everything."

Then she walked toward the door of the house. Jordan, who had been stopping her at the door, moved aside and let her in before following Lucas in.

The middle-aged woman sighed and didn't follow them. Instead, she stood outside.

The house was small, gloomy, and narrow, with only a tiny room that doubled as a living room and bedroom. The little girl who had just run in from outside was sitting on a stool against the wall.

Seeing these two strangers, she subconsciously huddled up, revealing only half of her pale little face.

Lucas's heart softened when he looked at her.

Sarah said softly to the terrified little girl, "Chloe, don't be afraid. These two men aren't bad guys."

The little girl was a lot more relieved, and she sat on the stool quietly. She was so obedient that it was heartbreaking.

After they all entered, Lucas cut straight to the chase. "Two days ago, your husband ran his car into my father-in-law before his fatal car accident. My father-in-law is now lying unconscious in the hospital, and the doctor said that he's very likely to become a vegetable and never wake up again. I'd like to ask if you're aware of this matter."

Sarah immediately clenched her fists.

She was feeling extremely conflicted, and she eventually knelt on the ground.

"I... I don't know how to explain this, but we... we really don't have money to pay for your medical expenses. I'm sorry!"

She burst into tears uncontrollably, and large drops of tears rolled down her eyes and hit the floor.

Seeing her mother kneeling on the ground, the little girl next to her began to bawl loudly. She was terrified as she stumbled over to hug her mother.

"Mommy, Mommy..." The little girl didn't know what was going on, so she simply hugged Sarah's legs tightly in panic and burst into tears.

Sarah pulled the thin and feeble girl into her arms as tears streamed down incessantly.

"I really don't know how to apologize to you, but my daughter has cancer, and we can't afford such expensive medical expenses. Chloe's condition is getting worse and worse. We really have no way out!

"Just a few days ago, someone found my husband and instructed him to run over someone for fifty thousand dollars. We were very reluctant at first, but we really had no other way. Chloe's treatment can no longer be delayed, and we really can't bear to see our obedient and sensible daughter passing away just like that..."

"But this is murder after all. I persuaded my husband not to do it, but he also had serious lung cancer. His cancer cells had metastasized and spread. He said that since he couldn't live for long anyway, he might as well use his life in return for Chloe's medical expenses!

"So... so my husband accepted the offer. I-I'm really sorry for what happened to your father-in-law! But we really don't have any more money to compensate you. The fifty thousand is for saving Chloe's life. I beg you not to take it away... I... I know that we've

let you down, and if possible, I can give you my life to compensate for it. I just hope you can let Chloe live!"

Sarah's miserable crying was heartbreaking.

In particular, she said at the end that she was willing to compensate with her own life in hopes that her daughter could be saved. This was really heartbreaking and admirable.

From Sarah's words, Lucas finally determined that William's car accident was not an accident but a premeditated act.

Moreover, he also learned that the reason Craig had tried to kill someone in such a tragic way where he died was that he had been terminally ill and wouldn't live long. So he wanted to use his own life in exchange for money that could sustain his daughter's life.

He had just seen outside that the five or six-year-old girl in front of him was indeed extremely thin and weak, clearly very unwell.

Looking at their clothes and the environment they lived in, Lucas could see that they were indeed living on a very tight budget. For an ordinary family, a seriously ill person could destroy the entire family, let alone this poor family where two people were seriously ill at the same time.

In that case, it seemed understandable that they decided to use this way in exchange for money in a desperate attempt for their daughter's treatment.

Lucas's mood became extremely complicated at this moment.

He had come to investigate the reason behind William's car accident. Craig had hit William with his car and made him almost a vegetable. From now on, he would probably be lying in bed for the rest of his life, never to wake up again.

His wife, Cheyenne, was very sad that her father had suddenly suffered such misfortune.

So after learning that Craig had deliberately tried to run over William because he had accepted money from someone who had instigated him to do so, Lucas should have hated such people who lost their bottom line for money.

But he couldn't develop any hatred when he looked at the weeping woman and the sick and vulnerable little girl. Instead, he felt really upset.

Although Craig was the culprit who had injured William, Lucas still had to admit that Craig was indeed a good father who deserved respect.

But this didn't completely absolve him of his sins.

Craig had long since died in the car accident that day, and Lucas could no longer hold him responsible. But he wouldn't put this responsibility and sins on the poor orphan and widowed mother in front of him.

The one he should hold responsible was the one who had paid Craig 50 thousand dollars and instigated him to kill!

This person was the true culprit behind this plot, and Lucas swore that he would find out their identity.

He looked at the mother and daughter who were hugging and bawling in front of him and sighed. "Ma'am, please get up. I'm not here to ask you for compensation, and I can also help with your daughter's medical expenses."

Sarah suddenly raised her head in shock, unable to believe what she just heard! "What... what did you just say?"

Chapter 511: Pleasant Surprise

Lucas pulled Sarah up from the ground and said to her once again, "I said I won't make you pay for it. Instead, I'll help you cover the expenses of your daughter's treatment."

His clear voice reached Sarah's ears, and after she was dumbfounded for a while, a look of joy and disbelief appeared on her face.

"Re-really? You're not kidding me, are you?" she asked cautiously to confirm it while staring intently into Lucas's eyes.

Lucas nodded. "Yes, since I've said so, I'm serious."

Sarah appeared to be in a daze, and even after getting up from the ground, she still seemed to be in a dream. "But... why? My... my husband did something terrible to your family. Why aren't you making us compensate for it? Instead, you're helping my daughter treat her illness."

Lucas looked at the little girl hugging Sarah tightly. She was emaciated, feeble, and extremely pale, looking as though she was about to fall at any moment.

This poor little girl immediately made Lucas think about his daughter, Amelia.

Both of them were almost the same age, and yet this little girl was so pitiful that Lucas couldn't help feeling a trace of sympathy for her.

Lucas admired Craig and Sarah as parents.

They might not necessarily be good or capable people, but they were indeed a pair of good parents who loved their daughter greatly.

Moreover, Lucas didn't want to see yet another person face impending death just because they couldn't afford to pay their medical expenses.

This was why Lucas decided to help this family—so that this little girl could live healthily in the future.

He reckoned that this little girl's illness shouldn't have reached its worst yet. Besides, tens of thousands meant nothing to Lucas now.

"Your daughter is about the same age as my daughter," Lucas said lightly and then stopped talking about this subject. He then said, "As I said before, I came to you to ask you some things."

Sarah quickly wiped the tears flowing all over her face with her sleeve and then looked at Lucas with immense gratitude in her eyes. "Okay, what do you want to know? I will definitely tell you everything I know without hiding anything!"

In fact, even if Lucas hadn't offered to help her, Sarah would still tell him everything she knew out of the guilt flooding her heart. Now that Lucas had become Chloe's savior, all the more she wouldn't hide anything from him.

Lucas asked, "You said before that someone contacted your husband and gave him fifty thousand to run over my father-in-law with his car, right? Who is that person?"

Sarah shook her head with an apologetic expression. "I'm sorry, but I don't know who that person is. That person contacted my husband outside, and I only learned about this matter on the night before the accident, so I don't know how and where that person contacted my husband..."

Lucas wasn't surprised to hear this, nor had he expected Sarah to be able to give him a clear answer. "In that case, was the money given to your husband via cash or bank transfer? Or was it through some other method?"

"My husband received the money in cash," Sarah said while pulling out a small and inconspicuous backpack from under the bed in the corner of the house. She handed it to Lucas so that he could have a look at it.

"The fifty thousand in cash is all here. I haven't had time to take Chloe to the hospital yet, so it's all still unused." She hesitated for a moment before adding, "If this money will help you find some clues, you... can take it with you!"

Lucas could tell that she was feeling very conflicted at this moment. She wanted to do her best to help him, but she was also reluctant to give away the money meant for

saving her daughter's life. Although he had just assured her that he would pay for her daughter's treatment in the future, they had just met after all, and she didn't even know his name and identity, so doing this was really risky.

Lucas could tell how sincere she was about giving help. He smiled and shook his head without reaching out to grab the small backpack containing fifty thousand dollars in cash.

Since the other person was very cautious with the payment, it would be harder to investigate and find out their identity. Even if Lucas brought the money back with him, it would be almost impossible to investigate using the serial numbers of the bills.

"Just put this money away for now. How did that person contact your husband? An in-person meeting, a call, or was it online?" Lucas asked again.

Sarah thought about it and said sadly, "I think it should be through mobile because of my husband's limited literacy. He... doesn't use his phone much to access the internet, and people usually contact him by calling him. Moreover, the other day, my husband's condition became more serious. Due to the pain, he could barely straighten his back, so he stayed at home for a few days. But later on, he suddenly went out again, so someone should have called him."

"Do you still have your husband's phone?" Lucas asked.

If he could find the call records made in the past two days from Craig's phone, maybe the search scope for the mastermind could be reduced.

But Sarah said with a sorrowful expression, "No, I didn't see his phone when I packed his belongings at home. I think he must have carried it with him, and it ended up getting destroyed in the car accident that killed him."

"..."

The phone was destroyed, and this clue was naturally broken.

"So, did he reveal any other information to you?"

"I... don't think so," Sarah said, feeling extremely guilty and ashamed.

Lucas pondered about it quietly.

He could tell from the fact that the other party had paid for the murderous act in cash that they weren't a fool.

But what baffled him was that William wasn't one to cause trouble. So who exactly would be willing to spend so much effort and money to hire someone to kill him?

According to the information obtained from Jordan's investigation, William had been going to work and getting off work on time every day. He didn't go to gambling dens or have any conflict with anyone.

Logically speaking, no one should have spent so much money to get him killed.

Seeing Lucas remaining silent, Sarah felt extremely guilty. "I'm sorry, I... I'm not of any help to you. If I had known earlier that this would happen, I should have asked my husband about it clearly!"

Lucas shook his head. He was well aware that since Craig was willing to trade his life for money that could save his daughter's life, he would certainly also protect the safety of his wife and daughter. Thus, he would never have taken the initiative to disclose any information about the person who had paid him for murder.

Lucas was somewhat disappointed that there wasn't much useful information from Sarah.

But since he had given his promise to Sarah and her daughter, Chloe, he naturally wouldn't forget about it.

He pointed to Jordan beside him. "Jordan, please help me settle Chloe's treatment and arrange for her to be treated at the best hospital by the best doctor as soon as possible."

"Yes, Lucas." Jordan immediately agreed.

Then Lucas said to Sarah, "Sarah, he'll help you with arranging Chloe's treatment. You guys exchange numbers later."

Only then did Sarah dare to be certain that Lucas was really going to help them. She was overjoyed and thanked Lucas profusely.

Lucas merely smiled lightly. "You're welcome. I'll give you my number too. If you think of any clues, please inform me."

He handed a business card to Sarah.

After one last look at the thin and pitiful little girl, Lucas and Jordan left.

On the way back, Lucas could barely hide his dejection.

Without sufficient clues, trying to find the person who had tried to kill William was like finding a needle in a haystack.

Jordan suddenly said, "Right, Lucas, I suddenly remembered something. My subordinates sent me a message earlier that said they found that Nikki Heron has gone to your father-in-law's apartment several times lately. When he got into the accident, she also left the apartment before Karen did... Ah, I mean, your mother-in-law."

Boom!

The news was like a bolt of lightning illuminating in Lucas's heart.

Chapter 512: Wicked Mother-in-Law

Lucas seemed to catch something.

In fact, he found it strange that Karen had rushed to the hospital on the day of William's accident even though no one had informed her about it. But he didn't think much about it then.

But after hearing the information from Jordan, he couldn't help developing a terrifying conjecture.

Who was Nikki?

She was Cheyenne's cousin and Karen's niece.

Lucas wouldn't have cared if Nikki had been showing up at the apartment frequently because they were close relatives.

But more than a week ago in LA, Nikki had repeatedly targeted and framed Lucas and Cheyenne. If Cheyenne hadn't chosen to put the past behind her and plead for mercy for Nikki on account that they were relatives, Lucas would have long allowed Matthew's subordinates to teach her a lesson.

However, Lucas could long tell that Nikki was just an ingrate. Since she failed to get what she wanted and had even suffered a loss because of Lucas and Cheyenne, she would definitely put all the blame and responsibility on them and not remember the multiple times they had saved for her.

On the day of the wedding, Nikki had even tried to sow discord to get Edmund to deal with Lucas in the hotel, which angered Edmund and also caused the Herons to be suppressed by many families in LA, resulting in heavy losses.

So Nikki had to hate him very much.

And it just so happened that Karen also resented Lucas very much.

It was very possible that the two had joined forces to deal with him.

But the problem was that if William's car accident was really part of their scheme, there were lots of doubtful points.

They should be targeting him instead. There was no reason to kill William...

Lucas's phone suddenly rang. It was a call from Sarah, who he had just parted with not long ago.

"Mr. Gray, I suddenly remembered something. Just two hours before my husband's accident, I heard him answering a call, and the person on the other end was a woman. My husband seemed to have called her Miss Turner!"

Miss Turner?!

Apart from Karen, he almost couldn't think of anyone else who had the last name Turner and was also related to William!

Lucas found it extremely incredible. *Karen and William have been married for nearly thirty years. She couldn't have tried to kill William, right?*

Since William sustained severe injuries from the car accident, causing him to be hospitalized, Karen's attitude had changed drastically. It seemed she had finally understood her true feelings for William, so she was no longer as cold and uncaring toward him.

This thought had made Lucas feel slightly awful before, so he hadn't dared to think much about it.

But the name Sarah mentioned made him stop imagining any other possibilities.

Now, he began to ponder over Karen's various actions lately, and the more he thought about it, the more he felt that there were quite a few clues.

First of all, Karen and William were not a loving couple, and it could be said that their relationship was extremely strained for some time now. William had initiated a divorce several times before, but Karen had refused to agree.

Even Lucas could feel that Karen was not only unwilling to divorce William, but she was even afraid of him initiating a divorce.

The most obvious thing was that Karen had been unwilling to move out of the villa in the middle of Pearl Lake. But William had used divorce to threaten her, so she had no choice but to agree to it with great disgruntlement.

Previously, during the wedding in LA, Karen had refused to admit to lending their money to her siblings and paying for Alex's villa. She had admitted to it only because William had threatened her with divorce.

Why was this so?

There had to be some secret he didn't know.

The second thing was that Karen's arrival at the hospital that day had been too early.

Lucas and Cheyenne had heard the accident from the phone call with William, so they had rushed to the accident site and then quickly headed to the hospital. They had traveled very quickly, but Karen had arrived only a little later than them. It was as if she had received the news first or that she had been informed in advance.

In addition, Nikki had appeared several times in the apartment where Karen lived. Lucas was basically sure that William's accident was premeditated and that it had something to do with Karen and Nikki!

A chill emerged in his heart.

Lucas didn't know why Karen would do this to William, and at present, he didn't have any evidence to prove that those two were the masterminds, but he was furious.

It was not only because of William, who was seriously injured and likely to be a vegetable for the rest of his life, but also because of Cheyenne and Charlotte.

They were still feeling glad because Karen suddenly changed her attitude and became like a real gentle mother. If they knew the truth of this matter, how could they accept such a cruel reality?

Now, was it still necessary to investigate Karen's crimes?

Jordan looked at Lucas's dark face and didn't say anything.

He also guessed that the mastermind behind the murder was most likely Karen, William's shrew-like wife. *Tsk, what a crazy woman! She even tried to kill her husband. How terrifying!*

At this moment, in Orange Coast Medical Center...

After getting some rest, Karen began experimenting with various methods on William's body with great enthusiasm again.

She stretched out her long nails, lifted his hospital gown, and pinched his body extremely hard, leaving crescent-shaped marks all over.

While she was pinching, she was thinking that she should probably go and buy some needles tomorrow so that she could stab him with them.

Creak! Suddenly, the door of the ward opened.

Karen was greatly startled, and she reflexively covered up William immediately.

When she turned around and saw that the person who entered the ward was none other than Lucas, she raised her eyebrows and started cursing, "Is there something wrong with you? You didn't even knock before entering. You almost frightened me to death!

"Everyone says you're a good-for-nothing freeloading off your wife, and it's indeed true! Both my daughters are working hard to earn money, yet you just idle around all day. Looking at you makes me furious!"

Lucas ignored her insults. When he saw the messy blanket and William's crumpled clothes, his heart sank. He frowned and asked in a deep voice, "What were you doing just now?"

Chapter 513: About To Be Exposed

Karen was shocked, and she quickly pretended to be angry. She questioned, "What could I have done? Of course, I wiped his body and changed his clothes! He's my husband. Even if he's seriously injured and unconscious now, I still have to take good care of him. I'm not like you. You don't care about anything at all, and all you do is wander around all day!"

Lucas stared at Karen for a long time before suddenly asking, "Why did Nikki visit you on the afternoon of William's accident?"

Karen's expression changed drastically. She had a guilty conscience, so when she heard Lucas ask about that day, she immediately became nervous.

But she came back to her senses the next moment and thought that it was impossible for Lucas to know what she and Nikki had talked about in her apartment that day.

"Hmph, Nikki is my niece. How is it any of your business that she came to talk with me?" Karen rolled her eyes in disdain.

Lucas said coldly, "It seems that you two have a really good relationship. In the past few days, you two met several times, and she had to travel here all the way from LA each time. You two really have endless things to talk about, huh?"

Karen's heart dropped and skipped a beat. *How does this bastard know that I've met Nikki several times lately? Did he investigate me?*

No, that's impossible. My plan with Nikki is extremely secretive and well-hidden. No one should have found out!

He must have gone to ask the security guards at the entrance of the complex.

But she began to feel a little afraid and less confident. She snapped, "What are you poking your nose into my business for? I can meet and talk with anyone I want. You're just a good-for-nothing husband. Are you trying to teach me what to do?"

"I'm telling you, I've been displeased with you for a long time. If you keep creating trouble, I'll definitely make Cheyenne divorce you one day!"

Lucas smiled faintly. "I was just asking a few casual questions. Why are you so upset? Could it be that you and Nikki have really done something against your conscience?"

"Bullshit! You're the one who did something against your conscience!" Karen immediately cursed. But at the same time, she subconsciously clenched her fists and looked at Lucas with a wary expression.

It can't be. Does this punk really know something? She couldn't help being a little worried.

Lucas saw all her actions and sneered in his head.

He had been worried that he might have wronged Karen. But now that he saw her reaction, he knew that William's accident was obviously and definitely very much related to her!

He really didn't have anything to say to a woman like Karen.

The only question now was, if Karen was indeed the one who had tried to get William killed, now that William was still alive, though comatose and nearing a vegetative state, would she find another opportunity to strike again?

Numerous thoughts immediately flashed through Lucas's mind, and he subconsciously walked toward William's bed.

In a moment of panic and shock, the frightened Karen hurriedly covered William's body with the bedsheets. But if someone took a close look now, they would immediately find something wrong with his clothes under the sheets. They would also discover the numerous pinch marks all over his body that Karen couldn't cover in time.

Karen immediately took two steps forward and pushed Lucas away. "What are you doing? Stay far away. Don't come close. I get annoyed when I see you!"

Lucas kept his eyes fixed on William for a while, but he remained standing a little farther away and didn't go nearer to him. He said in a clear voice, "William, just sleep well here. I've already looked for a very competent medical expert and invited her over. You'll soon be cured and regain consciousness."

Karen's fingers immediately trembled for a moment. *What? This bastard even found some medical expert to cure William Carter?*

She started to panic, but she soon felt that it was impossible.

"Hmph, what are you bragging about? A medical expert? What kind of expert can a good-for-nothing like you find?" Karen mocked mercilessly.

Lucas said with a faint smile, "It's a medical expert that the Coles found for me. They should be considered reliable, right? Karen, don't you want William to wake up sooner?"

As soon as she heard that it was someone the Coles of San Francisco invited, Karen, who was thinking that she would definitely chase away any doctor that Lucas found regardless of who they were, was immediately speechless.

Karen would never dare to chase away an expert the Coles invited!

At the same time, Karen began to get flustered.

She reckoned that the person the Coles invited had to be an excellent doctor who was at least better than the doctors here.

If William was rescued and regained consciousness, what would happen?

If William was rescued, all her plans would be foiled, and the tens of thousands of dollars she had spent would go to waste.

Moreover, Karen had also heard that most people in vegetative states could still hear and feel everything. They just couldn't move their bodies.

Over the past two days, she had thought that William would never be able to regain consciousness, so she had physically abused him whenever there was no one around. She would even hurl vicious insults at him and whisper into his ear that she was the mastermind who had planned his accident.

If William regained consciousness, he would expose all her misdeeds!

It went without saying what William would do to her then.

No, I can't let this happen! Karen thought nervously, her heart full of fear, her hands trembling.

Lucas watched coldly as she slipped into a panic because he had mentioned saving William. He snorted coldly and turned around to leave the ward.

After exiting, he immediately called someone. "Arrange for a few reliable people to come here and protect my father-in-law."

If he guessed correctly, Karen would definitely act against William again out of fear that he would regain consciousness now that she had heard what he said.

Lucas would then be able to grasp evidence of her attempting to kill William again.

As he expected, shortly after he left, Karen was so anxious that her forehead was drenched in sweat. But she couldn't think of a solution for a while, so she had no choice but to call Nikki.

"Nikki, bad news!" she said in a panic. "Lucas Gray just came to the hospital and said that he found a medical expert to treat William Carter, and it is very likely that he will regain consciousness! He also knows that you've come to my place several times. Do you think he's started to suspect us? What should I do now?!"

Chapter 514: Murderous Intent

Nikki was shocked to hear Karen's words. But soon, anger arose in her heart, and she snapped furiously, "You told me that I just had to give you a hundred and fifty thousand and that you'd get everything settled. But now that I've given you the money, you're telling me that there are so many problems! You even have the nerve to ask me what to do. How would I know?!"

Feeling just as indignant, Karen explained, "It's not my fault. I've gotten the job done well. Even though William Carter isn't dead, he has become a vegetable who's immobile and incapable of speech. This should have achieved our goal. But who knew that bastard would suddenly pop up out of nowhere with this? Nikki, you've always been a smart girl. Quickly help me think of a solution!"

Although Nikki was upset with Karen for failing to carry out the task, they were now in this together, so they had no choice but to work together to find a solution to this matter.

Like Karen, she was also angry at Lucas for suddenly popping up and foiling their plans. The hatred in their hearts intensified.

"Aunt Karen, isn't William Carter still unconscious? Kill him now and make sure he can never speak again. Wouldn't that ensure that he can never expose this matter?" Nikki suggested with a fiery gaze in her eyes.

“Kill him? But... I-I have never killed anyone...” Karen’s voice trembled a little.

Nikki harrumphed in disdain. “I really don’t know what you’re still afraid of now! Weren’t you the one who suggested killing William Carter? Moreover, you were the one who found someone to kill him, but it just happened that he didn’t die. What are you hesitating for now? He’s right next to you, unconscious and unable to resist. You can kill him easily.

“Besides, he’s already seriously wounded and a comatose vegetable. For the past two days, he’s been relying on various machines to live. Even if something happens to him and he suddenly dies, no one will suspect you. This is a great opportunity, don’t you think so?”

Nikki’s words immediately made Karen freeze.

Yeah, I was the one who proposed killing William Carter, and my plan was for him to die. Now, I’m just making up for my failure.

Karen turned around to look at William, who was lying on the hospital bed not far away, feeling extremely conflicted.

She did want him to die, but hiring someone to kill him and killing him herself were fundamentally different.

After gritting her teeth, she said sobbingly, “No, Nikki. I... I don’t dare to do it.”

Nikki cursed her for being stupid and became impatient. “If you don’t dare to do it, what else do you want? Do you want me to do it? At this point, do we have another choice except to kill him immediately?”

“You know very well that once he regains consciousness, the matter of you hiring someone to murder him will come to light. I’m sure you don’t need me to tell you what will happen to you then! Forget it. Think about it on your own. If you don’t dare to do it, stop calling me. The consequences you’ll face in the end will have nothing to do with me either!”

“Nikki, what... are you saying? What do you mean it has nothing to do with you? Both of us are in this together. Are you trying to get rid of me?” Karen immediately understood the meaning of Nikki’s words and panicked.

Nikki rolled her eyes. “Don’t forget that you planned the murder. All I did was lend you some money. If this matter is really exposed and you try to implicate me, I can honestly say I knew nothing about it. Do you understand? So you’d better not do anything useless and foolish!”

After speaking in a stern voice, her tone became mellower. "Aunt Karen, don't blame me for speaking harshly, but this is the truth. Think about it. If William Carter wakes up and reveals what you've done, you'll be charged for being the mastermind of the murder. That'll land you in jail for at least twenty years! Do you want to go to jail, Aunt Karen?"

"So the most urgent thing to do now is to silence him forever. Think about what you should do!"

The blood in Karen's body went cold all of a sudden.

She had only thought of killing William secretly before, so she had never thought about the consequences of murder. Especially after the driver had died on the spot, she had felt that she could rest easy since there was no longer any evidence.

But she never imagined that Lucas, whom she thought was a good-for-nothing, dared to leverage on his relationship with the Coles in order to save William.

If she went to jail for more than two decades, she would be in her seventies by the time she got out. How could she accept this?! She didn't want to spend the rest of her life in prison!

"Nikki, I... still don't dare to do it, and I think that bastard is already suspecting me. I really don't dare to kill him! Why don't you get someone to kill Lucas Gray first?" Karen pleaded.

Nikki immediately burst into mirthless laughter. "Aunt Karen, have you been scared silly? Don't forget that you first asked me to join forces because you wanted to get Lucas Gray killed! I even lent you money to get William Carter killed because you said you could take the opportunity to go back to the villa and wait for a chance to kill Lucas Gray. If I had a way to get that guy killed, why would I need to cooperate with you?"

"Besides, you don't even dare to kill William Carter, who's lying in bed and completely immobile. Why should I trust that you can help me kill Lucas Gray afterward?"

"Anyway, I've already said what I should say. It's up to you to decide what to do!"

With that, Nikki directly hung up.

Karen held her phone in hand, out of sorts.

She had initially gone to Nikki for help because she was panicking and wanted Nikki to give her some ideas. But the thought of the terrifying consequences made her even more flustered.

What should I do?

The thought that William would soon wake up in a few days made Karen terrified.

This was probably the fear of having done something wrong and facing the risk of being exposed.

After Karen contemplated for a long time, a terrifyingly ruthless expression appeared on her face. She finally made up her mind. *Yes, I should take action and silence William Carter forever!*

She raised her head, walked to William's side, and looked at his lifeless face as he lay on the hospital bed. Soon, a maniacal expression appeared on her face.

She looked at the door of the ward and walked over to lock it, though it was normally prohibited to do so. Then she returned to William's side and adjusted his clothes to cover the pinch marks that she had left on his body.

Afterward, Karen looked at the oxygen mask on William's face and the infusion needles and other tubes. Her expression became even more hysterical.

"William Carter, I don't want to kill you with my own hands, but you forced me into this!

"I wanted to live a good life, but why did you have to force me to suffer? It's all your fault!

"You're always threatening me with a divorce too. Haha, let me tell you, when you die, the secret between us will never be exposed, and I will never have to worry about you threatening me again! Now, I just hate myself for not thinking of killing you earlier!

"Haha, you can go to hell now!"

Karen gritted her teeth and reached her hand toward the oxygen tube next to her.

Snap!

The moment her hand touched the oxygen tube, the sound of the door handle being twisted suddenly rang out.

"Huh? Why is the door locked?" A voice came from outside the door.

Chapter 515: Impeccable Acting Skills

The noise coming from the door was like a thunderclap to Karen!

Her heart started pounding rapidly, and she immediately retracted her hand as though she had been electrocuted. *That was close!*

She took several deep breaths and finally calmed herself down. Then she raised her hand to wipe the cold sweat on her face before turning her head to look at the door.

There was a small glass window on the door of the ward, and Karen could see Cheyenne standing outside. Only then did she heave a sigh of relief.

She was almost scared to death just now!

But it shouldn't be time for Cheyenne to leave work yet. Why is she here now?

Although there were doubts in her heart, Karen immediately put her acting chops to play and pretended to be motherly as she walked over to open the door. "Cheyenne, why are you back so early today? Are you done with work?"

Cheyenne walked in and placed the bag of fruit and snacks she was holding on the table at the side.

William was now severely injured and unable to eat anything. He could only rely on regular infusions to remain nourished. Cheyenne specially brought these fruits for Karen.

"Yes, things haven't been too busy at the office lately, so I can take some time out. It's the same for Charlotte. She and I have agreed to take an hour or two out of our schedule every day to accompany Dad. Mom, it's hard for you to take care of Dad here alone, isn't it? Your complexion doesn't seem too good. Are you exhausted?" Cheyenne asked out of concern.

Karen turned her head unnaturally and smiled. "Not at all! Your father doesn't need much care right now. I'm just sitting here to keep him company. Why would I get tired from this?"

"I think you and Charlotte should go back to work with peace of mind. Both of you have become the general managers. God knows how many people are coveting your positions and wishing that you'll make mistakes so that they can snatch your positions!"

"So you two should put more effort into your work. Work hard. I'll stay here in the hospital!"

Karen seemed to be very concerned about her daughters, but she was actually very anxious.

Cheyenne and Charlotte would come over to the hospital every day after work to accompany William. If they took turns, Karen wouldn't have a chance to strike.

Cheyenne smiled, but she didn't intend to change her mind. "It's okay, Mom. The company is doing very well, and there isn't much for me to do lately. Charlotte and I

won't affect our work even if we take the time to come accompany Dad. Besides, the doctor also said that there's a chance that he'll regain consciousness. If we talk to him more, Dad might wake up sooner!"

"No!" Karen yelled.

When Karen saw the look of astonishment on Cheyenne's face, she realized that she had a slip of the tongue just now. Her greatest fear now was that William would suddenly wake up and reveal everything that she had done.

"Ahem, I mean, you guys are still young. You are clueless about the scheming office politics that goes on in companies! Anyway, just listen to me and go to work. I'll accompany your father!" Karen insisted.

Cheyenne hung her head low, her eyes red and brimming with tears. "But Mom, now that Dad has suddenly ended up in this situation, Charlotte and I can't go to work at ease. Even if we stay in the company all day, we will be more worried about Dad. Rest assured. The company is running well."

If she worked in another company and took some time off every day for a long period of time, the higher-ups and her colleagues would definitely have an opinion about it. But Cheyenne knew that Lucas was the owner of both the Brilliance Corporation and the Stardust Corporation that she and Charlotte worked at respectively.

But Karen didn't know this, so she thought that Karen was just worried because she cared about them.

Karen looked at her with an aggrieved expression. "Cheyenne, do you think... I'm really useless? Even if I stay in the hospital, I can't take care of your father. Is that why you're so worried?"

Cheyenne was astonished and hurriedly said, "Mom, how could I possibly think that?! You've been taking good care of Dad these days! We're all aware of this!"

Karen teared up. "No, you just don't trust me! Otherwise, you wouldn't choose to risk losing your job over leaving your Dad to me!"

She wiped her tears. "I knew it. You're all grown up now, and I'm old too. I can no longer control you anymore, so you guys don't take me seriously!

"I'm here working hard to take care of your father, yet you suspect me of being inattentive. You're just like that good-for-nothing husband of yours!"

Cheyenne frowned. "Lucas? What's wrong with him?"

Karen complained sobbingly, “He dislikes me in the first place, and now that your father is unconscious, he doesn’t take me seriously anymore. When I was wiping your father’s body today, he suddenly barged in, said a bunch of strange things to me, and even accused me of having an ulterior motive. He accused me of wanting your father dead. I... I’ve really been wronged!

“Cheyenne, you’re my daughter, but now you’re doubting me too. Do you also suspect that I have an ulterior motive, like your husband does? Now that your father has become like this, I can only count on you and Charlotte, but you’re already treating me like this when your father is still alive. I’m really miserable!”

Karen wept miserably as if she was really aggrieved.

Cheyenne felt really uncomfortable watching her cry. While handing a piece of tissue to Karen, she asked softly, “Did Lucas really say such callous things?”

“Of course! Would I deliberately create rumors and sow discord between you and him? I’m really sad!” Karen cried even louder.

Cheyenne subconsciously frowned.

With her understanding of Lucas, she believed that he shouldn’t have said such things.

But the person accusing him in front of her was her mother, and it pained her to see Karen crying so sorrowfully.

But no matter what, it was a matter of fact that Karen hated Lucas, and it was possible that Lucas did say some mean comments. But she believed it definitely wasn’t as bad as Karen made it out to be.

Seeing that Karen was about to bawl her eyes out again, Cheyenne hurriedly said, “Mom, don’t worry. I’ll call him and tell him off. You’re my mother. How could he say such things about you? He’s gone overboard!”

She spoke furiously, pretending to be angered.

Chapter 516: Trust Between A Married Couple

Karen was pleased, but she still took a mile after being given an inch. “That’s more like it! But just scolding him a few times is too easy for him! I’ve been painstakingly taking care of your father here, but I can’t even get a thank you from him. Why do I have to endure this infuriation? I don’t want to see him at all. Tell him to stay away from the hospital for a while. I get really fed up when I see him. If I collapse from being provoked by him, there won’t be anyone to take care of your father!”

Karen deliberately made such a request and used the threat of falling sick from anger to keep Lucas away from the hospital.

She already hated Lucas enough, and now that he seemed to know something and became suspicious of her, she didn't want to see him anymore.

In particular, she was now planning to find an opportunity to make a move on William. She could find a way to convince Cheyenne and Charlotte to go back to work, thus easily grasping their work and commuting timings.

But in her opinion, Lucas was a loafer who idled around all day. She wasn't certain when he would suddenly appear in the hospital again, so she had no choice but to drive him far away and not let him come back to ruin things for her!

Cheyenne nodded and dialed Lucas's number directly in front of Karen.

Lucas smiled and picked up Cheyenne's call, only to hear a slew of angry accusations. "Lucas, what's wrong with you? My mom is taking care of my dad in the hospital day and night. Why did you have to go so far and say such callous things to her? She's my mom! I'm telling you, I don't want to hear any more from you. Anyway, from today onward, you're not allowed to come to the hospital and provoke my mom!"

With that, Cheyenne hung up abruptly.

Lucas held the phone with a bewildered look on his face, his heart full of bitterness.

Looking at this situation, he reckoned that Karen must have made up a lot of bad things about him and accused him in front of Cheyenne again.

He could ignore the fact that Karen had slandered him, but Cheyenne's attitude toward him made him feel extremely dejected.

He had thought that he had already established a tacit understanding with Cheyenne and that she would always believe him. But why...

But before Lucas could continue to think any further, his phone screen lit up again because of a text from Cheyenne.

"Hubby, I'm sorry!"

When Lucas saw these few words, the bitterness and dejection surging in her heart instantly vanished.

He understood that Cheyenne didn't mean to say those words just now.

Cheyenne was obviously helpless and had only called him because of Karen's request, which explained why she sent him an apology message immediately after berating him on the phone.

When he thought of what Karen had done and how she had just tried to use Cheyenne to forbid him from going to the hospital, he immediately guessed that Karen wanted to make a move against William again and was afraid that he would foil her plans.

A murderous intent shot out from Lucas's eyes.

He had arranged for some people in the hospital to keep an eye on Karen at all times. As long as she dared to lay her hands on William, she would immediately be caught red-handed.

She totally deserved to face this.

But if Karen's evil deeds came to light, it might be a tremendous blow to Cheyenne and Charlotte!

Their mother trying to kill their father twice was a difficult fact for anyone to accept.

But Karen's behavior was like a bomb. Even if Lucas didn't want Cheyenne to be sad and chose to cover it up, Karen wouldn't show the slightest tinge of remorse and would instead commit even more crazy and terrifying acts in the future.

In that case, it would be better to reveal Karen's viciousness early on while it was still possible!

At this moment, a knock on the door interrupted his contemplation.

"Come in!"

The door of the chairman's office opened, and Charlotte entered with a stack of documents.

As the general manager of the company, Charlotte was in charge of all affairs. But she still had to report some important matters to Lucas for him to make a decision.

But today, she seemed to be out of sorts and suppressing her anger.

"What's wrong?" Lucas asked in puzzlement.

Charlotte placed the stack of documents in front of Lucas. "Lucas, the secondary partners suddenly all want to terminate their recently signed contracts with our company. It's as if they agreed beforehand."

Lucas frowned.

Their secondary partners were medium-sized enterprises.

The Stardust Corporation had been developing smoothly recently and had expanded to the LA market because of their ties with the Sawyers and Hales, two of the four major families in Orange County. Thus, the overall situation was going well.

In this situation, several secondary partners suddenly wanted to terminate their contracts and even on the same day. It was simply bizarre no matter how he looked at it.

After some thought, Lucas said, "What are the contract amounts? Has the compensation for termination been agreed upon?"

Charlotte flipped open the documents on the table and let Lucas skim through them before saying, "Because it's the first time we're cooperating with them, the amount is not particularly large. They have also promised to follow the normal termination compensation procedures and pay us the full compensation for the breach of contract.

"However, we have already started these projects and invested a lot of manpower and material resources in the preliminary stages. Their sudden termination has resulted in heavy losses for us. Although their compensation for the breach of contract can probably offset our losses, the arrangements we've made in San Francisco will be almost all paralyzed. In general, the impact will be great."

This was exactly what Charlotte was upset about. The contract terminations of the other parties had made all the efforts of many people on their side go down the drain.

Lucas frowned. "Are all of these secondary partners enterprises in San Francisco?"

Charlotte nodded and said indignantly, "Yes, we spent a lot of money on expanding to San Francisco. But now, all our efforts and money will be going down the drain. Moreover, I suspect that there must be someone behind this matter. Otherwise, it's impossible for so many partners to terminate their contracts with us at the same time."

Lucas thought so too, but he really didn't have time to deal with it now. "Let's put this matter aside for now and put off the expansion to San Francisco for the time being too. When we resolve the matter about William, I will personally deal with this matter."

Refusing to give up, Charlotte said with some indignation, "But we've already invested a lot of money and resources into these projects. If we put them on hold, a lot of our efforts will be wasted! I..."

"It's alright. Even if we put this plan on hold temporarily, it won't have a huge impact on the company. It will just affect our profits. But the matter regarding William is far more important than making money," Lucas said calmly.

The Stardust Corporation was naturally very important to Lucas.

However, the development of the company could be done slowly. But William's life was at stake, and his safety was Lucas's main concern at the moment.

Gratitude appeared on Charlotte's face, but at the same time, she was also a little puzzled.

"Is there anything else... wrong with my dad?" she asked, blinking her eyes.

Although the fact that her father had been seriously injured and ended up in a vegetative state due to the car accident also made Charlotte extremely miserable, she felt that there seemed to be more to Lucas's words.

Lucas looked at her and hesitated for a moment, but he nevertheless asked, "If... and I mean if. If you find out one day that your mother is the mastermind of the accident that caused your father to end up like this, how would you feel?"

Chapter 517: New Conspiracy

"What did you say?!" Charlotte's eyes immediately widened in shock and disbelief. "How is that possible? My mom... How could my mom do such a thing?!"

Lucas hurriedly said, "I'm just saying what if. It's hypothetical."

Only then did Charlotte let out a huge sigh of relief and pat her chest. "You scared me. I really thought my mom did something like that! Why did you suddenly ask such a strange question?"

Lucas slowly sighed. "There are many things that seem unbelievable but have really happened. That's why I'm emotional about it."

Looking at Lucas's face, Charlotte suddenly felt a little panicked as her heart sank. "Lucas... d-do you mean...?"

Lucas shook his head. "No. Like I said, it's just hypothetical. I was merely asking a casual question. Okay, go ahead and do your work."

Before Charlotte could say much, Lucas had already gotten an answer from her.

No matter what, Karen was still their biological mother. Even if Charlotte's relationship with Karen had been strained, she still couldn't accept it when she heard what he said.

Needless to say, Cheyenne's reaction would be even more intense.

Lucas sighed slightly. At the same time, he felt rather angry at Karen.

She has such a good pair of daughters, so why on earth did she do such a terrible thing? Has she never spared a thought for Cheyenne's and Charlotte's feelings once the evil deeds she did to William are exposed?

How can a mother be so selfish and terrifyingly ruthless?

Charlotte lowered her head, walked to the office door, and suddenly said softly, "If she's really done such a thing, I'll be extremely upset and miserable, but I will never forgive her either!

"Everyone has to bear the consequences of doing wrongs and breaking the law. I will make sure she gets the punishment she deserves. And I believe my sister will make the same choice as me."

With that, she left the office without looking back.

Only, she bit her lower lip hard to hold her tears back.

She knew that Lucas would never ask her about such a terrifying thing out of nowhere. Since he did so, it must have already happened.

Thinking of this fact, Charlotte covered her mouth and dashed into the restroom while bursting into tears.

Lucas couldn't calm down at all.

At the end of the day, Karen was their mother. And after finding out what she had done, anyone in their place would definitely feel miserable and hopeless, as if the world had collapsed.

Even Charlotte was terribly upset, what more Cheyenne, who was much more delicate and even regarded Karen as a loving mother.

"Karen Turner, I'll give you one last chance. You'd better stop now... Otherwise, no one can save you," Lucas muttered to himself with an ice-cold gaze in his eyes.

However, he didn't ignore the collective termination of contracts with the Stardust Corporation by the companies of San Francisco.

If he guessed correctly, this matter was probably also related to that family.

Lucas picked up his cell phone and called someone. Then he commanded in a deep voice, "Several new clients that the Stardust Corporation have recently signed contracts with have all suddenly unilaterally terminated their contracts at the same time. Go find out what's going on and get to the bottom of this."

"Yes!"

Meanwhile, at the Kingston residence in San Francisco...

Marc was leaning against a couch languidly with his eyes closed, enjoying the shoulder massage given by a beautiful masseuse.

A middle-aged man in a suit walked in on with a light gait and bowed to Marc. "Mr. Kingston, as you have instructed, we've already severed the hands that the Stardust Corporation has extended to San Francisco. But those businesses have paid compensation for breaching the contract. I reckon they must have suffered heavy losses and won't be able to do much for the time being."

Marc narrowed his eyes slightly and acknowledged nonchalantly before saying, "Not bad, but that's far from enough. Speed up the execution of the plan. I want to see the Orange County branch of the Stardust Corporation completely become a thing of the past!"

"This..." The middle-aged man hesitated for a moment but nevertheless bit the bullet and said, "It's easy to overthrow the Stardust Corporation, but to do it within ten days... I'm afraid it's a Herculean task."

Marc opened his eyes with a cold glint in them. "Remember, I'm only giving you ten days. Come up with a solution on your own. And if you can't do it, you know what'll happen to you!"

"Yes! Mr. Kingston, I will do my best to get it done!" the panic-stricken middle-aged man immediately said in fear.

The man in front of him was the most outstanding heir of the Kingston family. He had a fickle and eccentric temper. If he upset him, the middle-aged man would definitely face an outcome worse than death.

"Get down. I hope you will bring me good news next time."

After the middle-aged man left, Marc waved his hand, instructing the woman behind him to leave too.

Sitting on the sofa, he snorted coldly. “Hmph, Jace Hutton actually wants me to destroy the Orange County branch of the Stardust Corporation within a month. Seems like the situation on the Huttons’ side isn’t going too well either. But no matter how they fight, it’s impossible for Lucas Gray, an abandoned son, to return to the Hutton family!

“A month’s time... But the sooner I complete the task, the more I’ll be valued.”

Marc took a sip of red wine and picked up the document on the table that he had already perused several times with a contemptuous smile on his face.

It was information about Lucas that the Huttons had given him.

“Hah, they all say that Lucas Gray is a good-for-nothing who sponges off his wife and is looked down upon by his mother-in-law. Yet no one knows that he’s actually a scion of the Huttons. How hilarious!

“However, I can use his mother-in-law, Karen Turner.”

A bloodthirsty and cold glint appeared in Marc’s eyes.

At this point, Karen naturally didn’t know that a terrifying person was targeting her, and she was still sitting in William’s ward, her eyes full of frustration that she was almost unable to hold back.

The reason was that Cheyenne was also in the ward and sitting beside William’s bed while speaking to him non-stop.

“Dad, I remember you love spicy pasta the most, but when Charlotte and I were kids, we couldn’t eat spicy food, so you had no choice but to cook tomato pasta for us while you secretly made spicy sauce for yourself.

“Let’s go have pasta together when you wake up. You can have it as spicy as you want. Now, Charlotte and I can enjoy spicy food with you!

“Oh, and Amelia has been really well-behaved these days, and she keeps asking about you and when you’re going to wake up so that you can play with her. She even made a clay figurine at school and keeps saying that she wants to give it to you!”

...

Cheyenne’s voice was calm, and she kept bringing up matters of their childhood and family in hopes that William could hear her and suddenly wake up.

Ever since the doctor said that it would help those in a vegetative state regain consciousness, she and Charlotte would come over whenever they were free and try their best to say some things to him.

But Karen was annoyed to hear it.

She was looking for an opportunity to take action against William, but Cheyenne was staying by his side and talking to him incessantly. She was anxious and worried that William would suddenly wake up as the doctor said!

Chapter 518: Finally Striking Treacherously

Karen finally couldn't help but interrupt Cheyenne. "Cheyenne, don't say anything. Your father won't wake up so soon. We'd better wait for some time. Hurry up and go home to get some rest!"

Cheyenne shook her head. "Mom, I'm just sitting here and chatting with Dad. I'm not tired. You should be much more tired than us since you've been staying in the hospital for the past few days! Let me stay by Dad's side tonight. Go home and get some rest!"

Karen immediately shook her head. "No, I'm not tired at all. I just help your father wipe his body and call the nurse. I'm not of much help. Unlike you two, I don't have to go to work in the day and come to the hospital at night to talk to your father. It's more tiring for you guys. Look at you. You've lost so much weight in the past two days."

She touched Cheyenne's face and seemed really heartbroken.

Cheyenne immediately felt touched. "Mom, it's been hard on you too!"

She said sincerely, "Once Dad's situation stabilizes, I'll speak to Lucas. You can move back in with us. Before Dad comes to, he might have to remain hospitalized. You can't stay outside alone for the long term, so you'd better move in with us."

Karen was instantly overjoyed. "Are you serious?"

The reason she wanted to kill William was precisely to find a chance to move back to the villa and live like the wealthy.

Cheyenne nodded seriously. "Of course I'm serious. But Mom, Lucas isn't like what you think. He's actually very nice. When we live together later, can you be nicer to him and not target him anymore? After all, the villa belongs to him, and if your relationship is strained, it won't be good for anyone."

Karen immediately shook her head but then nodded vigorously. "Definitely. Actually, I've figured out a lot of things during this period of time. Since you are already married and also have Amelia, I won't be mean to him anymore on your account. Rest assured!"

It's just a verbal promise anyway. Not a big deal.

Once I go back to the villa, I will make sure it gets transferred to Cheyenne. No, I'll transfer it to my name and then kick Lucas Gray out!

Cheyenne naturally didn't know these dark thoughts in Karen's mind, and she still thought that her mother had really repented.

When the sky turned dark, Karen started to urge Cheyenne to hurry home. "Cheyenne, it's late. It's not safe for you to go home alone too late at night. You'd better head home soon. Just leave your father to me."

She was thinking about how to kill William without anyone else finding out. But with Cheyenne here, she couldn't find any opportunity at all.

But after hearing what she said, Cheyenne insisted, "I'll stay by Dad's side tonight. Mom, go back and get some rest!"

The ward William was in was considered the best VIP ward in Orange County. But there was only one other bed inside for visitors, so normally only one person could stay the night.

"That won't do. I'll be alone even if I go home. It's better if I stay here with your father. At least I'll have peace of mind," Karen said.

Cheyenne hesitated for a moment but nevertheless said, "How about you move back to the villa tonight? Charlotte is tied up with work and doesn't have time to come over now, but she'll be at home at night."

During normal times, Karen would have immediately agreed to Cheyenne's offer of letting her return to the luxurious villa.

But she couldn't do so today because she had yet to get rid of William, who could wake up at any time. How could she give up such a rare opportunity?

Who knew when the medical expert Lucas invited would come? She had barely any time left.

In the end, neither of them convinced the other, and so they had no choice but to stay together for the night.

One of them had to sleep on a sofa on the other end of the ward.

It was soon late at night.

Karen naturally slept on the visitor's bed, which was closer to William, while Cheyenne slept on the sofa, which was further away.

Because Cheyenne had been busy in the company all day and had spoken a lot with William at night, she was already exhausted and quickly dozed off.

Laying on the bed, Karen quietly listened for any movement from Cheyenne. After a long time, she tried to test the waters by calling out to her and found that there was no response. Only then did she confirm that Cheyenne was already asleep.

She quietly sat up from the bed and looked at William lying on the bed not far away. A twisted and maniacal joy mixed with murderous intent filled her eyes.

It was finally her chance to kill William!

She stood quietly in front of her husband, whom she had lived together with for decades, without any emotion or feelings of attachment in her heart.

She hadn't married William because she loved him. After they got married, William not only failed to provide her with the luxurious life that she had imagined, but he was even a good-for-nothing, which made her feel ashamed all the time.

Even when she finally managed to live the life of her dreams in the luxurious villa thanks to Cheyenne, William had ruined it for her again.

She hated him!

During these two days in the hospital, Karen genuinely felt irritated.

She had no good feeling for William at all, let alone feel any desire to take care of him and help wipe him down.

But in order to pretend to be a qualified wife and mother in front of Cheyenne and Charlotte, she could only pinch her nose and bear with it.

Moreover, ever since Lucas said those words in front of her, Karen's heart was overwhelmed with panic and fear, afraid that William would suddenly wake up and reveal everything she had done!

So she had been on tenterhooks for the entire day, and time seemed to crawl by for her.

Now, she finally had a chance to kill him!

Karen slowly stretched out her hand, which was trembling, perhaps out of excitement or fear.

There were two thoughts running through her mind simultaneously. She had never killed anyone before, and she was so nervous and terrified that she almost wanted to give up. But if she didn't do it now, she would be ruined for the rest of her life once William woke up!

She eventually reached out her trembling hand and pinched the oxygen tube.

With one hard pull, it wouldn't be long before William would be dead!

"Go to hell!" Karen clenched her jaw as her heart thumped rapidly. Finally, she gave the oxygen tube a hard tug!

"What are you doing!?!"

Before Karen could even smile, an angry roar full of astonishment came from behind her.

Chapter 519: Crimes Exposed

"Ahhhh!" Karen was already feeling nervous and guilty because of her first murder, so the sudden roar scared her soulless.

Before she could turn her head, she was suddenly pushed to the side by a strong force.

Trembling with extreme anger and fear, Cheyenne looked at the oxygen mask on William's face with the unplugged oxygen tube.

With trembling hands, she gritted her teeth and immediately reattached the oxygen tube that Karen had just ripped away.

Although William's condition was not severe to the extent that he couldn't breathe immediately with the oxygen tube unplugged, he was seriously wounded and heavily reliant on the oxygen tube.

But Karen had actually just pulled out the tube keeping her father alive!

Cheyenne's eyes turned bloodshot as she stared into Karen's eyes and once again questioned word by word, "I'm asking you, what the hell were you doing just now?"

Karen, caught red-handed trying to kill William, was so shocked that she hardly knew what to say and could only splutter, "I... I-I was just checking to see if there was anything wrong with the oxygen tube! Yes, I was just checking it!"

Cheyenne seemed miserable and agonized.

“No, you’re lying! Why would you do such a thing? What exactly did Dad do to you to make you hate him so much that you want to kill him?!” she shouted in grief and anger, her face already stained with tears.

Just this evening, she had suddenly received a message from Charlotte, asking her to be more careful of Karen’s behavior. Finding it strange, she had asked Charlotte why, but Charlotte had told her to keep her guard up without saying anything else.

Due to the doubts in her heart, she had insisted on staying despite Karen’s request for her to leave. She had pretended to fall asleep and remained awake even though she was already exhausted just to see what Karen would actually do.

But she had never expected that Karen, who thought Cheyenne was asleep because she didn’t respond to her call, would actually get up and walk over to rip off William’s oxygen tube!

If she hadn’t seen with her own eyes, she would never have believed this truth in front of her.

Her mother actually tried to kill her father!

They are husband and wife. What on earth is this for?

Karen was completely panic-stricken as she hurriedly defended herself. “No, no, Cheyenne, you must have misunderstood! I just said I was just checking if there was anything wrong with the oxygen tube! I wasn’t trying to harm your father!”

Cheyenne shook her head with tears streaming down her face. “Do you think I’m still a child? No one will believe such a lousy reason! Check the tube? Do you keep the lights off when you check something? Why do you have to do this kind of thing while I’m asleep?”

“I was awake the whole time, so I saw everything from the time you stood in front of Dad! What else do you want to argue about? You... were trying to kill someone. I’m going to call the nurse and the police!”

Cheyenne sobbed and choked in agony as tears rolled down her face endlessly. She took out her phone to call the police.

This woman who dared to kill her father was too terrifying!

Karen grabbed Cheyenne’s wrist and begged, “Cheyenne, please don’t call the police! I know I’m wrong. I... just got carried away for a moment! In the future, I will never do such things again. Please forgive me this time! I am your mother and gave birth to you. Do you want to send me to jail? Can you bear to do that?”

She frantically used her mother-daughter relationship with Cheyenne while bawling her eyes out in an extremely pitiful manner. Seeing Cheyenne seeming to be conflicted, she hurriedly continued, "Besides, the reason I did this was all for you and Charlotte!"

"Your father is now in such a critical state, and he might end up bedridden forever and never regain consciousness again. If it's just for a day or two, you can still find time to spend with him and talk to him every day. But if he stays like this for months or even years, how heavy will the burden be on you? That's certainly not something your father would want to see.

"So I had no choice but to think of giving him relief and also ease the burden on you and Charlotte. I struggled for a long time before finally coming to this decision! You think I tried to kill your father because I really hate him? I've been married to him for so many years after all, and you two are already grown up. What reason do I have to do this?"

Karen was sharp and quickly made up a seemingly reasonable reason.

Indeed, in this world, it was also true that there were many people who had to pull the oxygen tubes of their loved ones as a last resort.

But Karen's words didn't convince Cheyenne.

She cried and said, "But Dad isn't dead. He's just comatose for the time being, and we all still have hope for him. Why do you have to take away the possibility of Dad waking up and deprive him of the right to live?"

Although she said so, she was undeniably softhearted and gradually put down the phone in her hand.

Seeing this, Karen was overjoyed and quickly struck the iron while it was hot. "Cheyenne, I really just made the wrong decision in a moment of folly. Don't worry. I now know I was wrong. I really didn't consider your thoughts and feelings before making that presumptuous decision. I was really wrong! I definitely won't do it again. Just forgive me this time!"

Cheyenne took a deep breath and said firmly, "I can let you off this time and not call the police, but you tried to kill Dad. There's absolutely no way I can forgive you either!"

"So go away now and don't appear in front of us again!"

This was already the limit of her patience.

Cheyenne didn't believe what Karen said because she knew what kind of a person her mother was.

Thus, letting her off and deciding not to pursue legal action against her for attempted murder was already the limit of what she could do.

The reason Karen wanted to kill William was so that she could return to the villa and live the life of luxury she had been looking forward to all her life.

But now that Cheyenne actually wanted her to leave, how could she accept it?

“Cheyenne, do you not want me as your mother anymore? Just because I had a moment of folly and made the wrong decision? Besides, nothing really happened to your father, and I won’t do it again in the future. Can’t you just forgive me once?” Karen asked anxiously and even went as far as to kneel down before Cheyenne.

But this time, Cheyenne, who had always been good-tempered and softhearted, didn’t agree even after seeing her kneeling. “No, I will never forgive you for what you’ve done to Dad. Letting you leave and not telling others about it is the best I can do. If you’re still not satisfied, I’ll have no choice but to call the police.”

Chapter 520: Pulling Up Beside A Black Car

Hearing Cheyenne say that she was going to call the police and seeing the serious look of determination on her face, Karen was finally sure that Cheyenne wasn’t going to change her mind.

The thought that she might be arrested and spend the rest of her life in prison made her shudder. She hurriedly got up from the ground and said eagerly, “Fine, fine. I’ll leave now. You can’t call the police!”

With that, she hurriedly dashed out, fearing that Cheyenne would change her mind if she ran slowly.

Cheyenne watched her figure disappear from the hospital shrouded in the darkness of the night. She finally couldn’t help but fall to the ground and hug her knees and cry sorrowfully.

At this moment, Lucas, who was far away in the villa, also received the news.

“Lucas, do you want to get rid of that woman?”

Lucas stayed silent for a moment before saying, “Since Cheyenne has decided to let her off, let her go.”

Then he hung up the phone.

But Lucas was a little worried.

He was worried about Cheyenne.

He reckoned that after witnessing the horrendous side of her mother, Cheyenne would definitely be miserable and break down.

Lucas closed his eyes for a moment before immediately getting up and rushing to the hospital.

Right now, he should be by Cheyenne's side.

It was close to midnight, and there was a black Nissan car parked quietly in front of the hospital.

It was hidden under the dim street lights, seemingly without a sense of presence at all.

Karen cursed all the way as she made her way out of the hospital.

She had just been caught red-handed trying to kill William, and Cheyenne didn't want to see her again. Now, there was nowhere else she could go, so she had to go back to the shabby apartment.

At the thought of Cheyenne's ruthlessness, she was even more resentful. *Hah, so much for raising you to adulthood. How dare you treat me like this?! Just you wait for me!*

When she walked by the black Nissan, the door suddenly opened, and two people came out and moved extremely quickly toward Karen.

Karen was terrified and wanted to shout for help, but her mouth was already covered by someone's hand.

"Mmph!"

She struggled desperately, but she was no match for the two burly men and was soon shoved into the car.

The black Nissan was like a phantom, silently parked in the hospital late at night.

No one knew what was happening here.

...

Only after Karen was dragged into the car did the hand move away from her mouth.

When Karen broke free, she immediately yelled, "Who the hell are you people? What are you trying to do by dragging me into this car?"

"I'm telling you, this is abduction and illegal detention. It will get you sentenced to jail. Do you understand?"

"If you let me go right now, I promise I won't sue you and hold you responsible. If you're smart, let me out of the car now!"

The two burly men who had forced her into the car glanced at each other, and both tacitly remained quiet.

Karen's intimidation had no effect on them.

"Hah, you're really funny!" A woman dressed in black sitting in front suddenly snickered. "You just attempted to kill someone, and you even hired someone to kill the same person before. Yet you're talking to me about the law now?"

Karen was instantly astonished, and her heart was in her throat.

Why does this woman know what I've done?

I just left William Carter's ward. How does she know about the attempted murder?

Could this woman have been watching every move of mine?

Karen's heart went cold, and she forced herself to feign ignorance as she said, "I don't know what you're talking about! I don't know anything about hiring a killer or attempted murder! You... Who are you people? Have you... been following me all this time? I don't remember ever offending you!"

As she spoke, her face became terribly pale, and even her voice trembled.

The woman in black sneered. "You don't need to care about who we are. You just need to know that you yourself are a scumbag who even has the heart to kill your own husband. That's enough!"

Karen suddenly felt as if her heart had plunged into an abyss. *Oh my god!*

They really know what I've done!

She had always thought that she had done it very secretively, but where exactly did it go wrong?

Who are these people?

She was panic-stricken, but now that she had been pulled into the car, it was impossible to escape.

God knows where they're taking me...

While thinking, she suddenly realized that the car hadn't moved and was quietly parked in place. Even the engine wasn't started.

"You... what exactly are you doing?" Seeing this situation, Karen immediately began to struggle again.

"Shut up. Don't move, or I'll kill you now!" The woman in black in front suddenly turned around with terrifying killing intent in her eyes. Like a ferocious beast, she instantly made Karen shut her mouth in fear, too petrified to move.

Soon, a black Jaguar drove over and slowly stopped in front of the Nissan.

The woman in black immediately opened the door, got out, walked to the Jaguar, and respectfully welcomed a tall young man.

"Lucas, Karen has been controlled by us and is now in the car," the woman in black said respectfully to the young man.

"Okay, thanks for your efforts," the young man said indifferently.

The tall young man was naturally Lucas, while the woman in black was Skylar, who had only started being Lucas's subordinate two days ago.

The person Lucas had arranged to secretly protect William was Skylar, so she naturally knew every move of Karen like the back of her hand.

Karen, who was extremely nervous in the car, was terribly frightened when she saw Lucas, and her eyes widened in horror! "You! Lucas!"

After she saw Lucas get inside the car, she immediately stretched out her finger and lashed out at him. "How dare you! I'm your mother-in-law. How dare you get someone to kidnap me? Do you believe that I will inform Cheyenne of this and make sure that you can't bear the consequences?"

She was afraid of others, but she had gotten used to facing Lucas, who often let her curse at him without saying a word in the past. So she not only didn't feel the slightest fear toward him, but she even reflexively scolded him without hesitation.

"How dare you!" Skylar shouted and slapped Karen hard on her face. "If you dare to insult Lucas one more time, I will kill you immediately!"

