

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

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Waves Rise Again

Chapter 521: Waves Rise Again

Skylar had been saved by Lucas, and now that she had decided to follow Lucas, she would naturally be biased toward him.

More importantly, Skylar was responsible for monitoring Karen's behavior during this period of time, and she had witnessed with her own eyes Karen's terrifying and menacing true colors. She had seen Karen repeatedly abusing her seriously wounded husband, who was still comatose and lying on the hospital bed, and even trying to kill him with her own hands.

So in Skylar's eyes, Karen was an extremely vicious wench who was in no place to scold Lucas!

Karen was not afraid of Lucas, but Skylar's murderous eyes just now were still fresh in her memory, leaving her terrified. She immediately kept quiet in fear after taking a slap from Skylar.

At the same time, a rare sense of scrupulous fear toward Lucas arose in her heart.

This terrifying woman in black in front of her actually seemed very respectful to Lucas...

Even when Lucas saw Skylar slapping Karen, his expression didn't change in the slightest.

In fact, if not for the fact that he was concerned about Cheyenne's feelings, Lucas would have long stopped tolerating Karen.

He remained sitting and said indifferently, "Don't think that no one knows about those evil things you've done. I have concrete proof. Initially, I should have sent you to prison for trying to harm my father-in-law twice!

"But for the sake of Cheyenne and Charlotte, I'm choosing to let you off once more. But remember, this is the last time. If you show up in front of us unrepentant and upset the both of them again or provoke me, you'd better think about what will happen to you!"

After speaking, Lucas grabbed a stainless steel wrench from the equipment box in the car and bent both ends lightly. The stainless steel sturdy tool instantly formed an arch!

Everyone watched in shock as his hands twisted and crumpled the wrench into a ball as though it was dough. Finally, he threw it onto the ground, and it landed in front of Karen with a loud clang.

Karen's eyes were about to fall out!

When she heard the loud clang, she finally realized that it was a genuine wrench that weighed several pounds.

If Lucas used this force on her body, her neck and bones would definitely break since they were obviously not any more durable or harder than the wrench!

At the same time, she also saw the murderous intent buried deep in Lucas's eyes. She suddenly shivered violently, and her teeth started chattering.

At this moment, she finally felt an unprecedented fear toward Lucas, her son-in-law she had always despised!

Lucas glanced at her one last time in disgust and said to Skylar, "Send her to the Turner residence in LA. Tell them to keep an eye on her and make sure that she never shows up in front of us again!"

"Yes, Lucas!" Skylar immediately agreed.

Karen naturally didn't dare to say no.

Lucas got out of the car and watched Skylar and the others leave the hospital in the Nissan before walking toward the hospital impatiently.

But at this juncture, Lucas had no idea that Cheyenne had witnessed everything from upstairs.

She had just exposed Karen and stopped her from trying to kill William, but Karen was still her mother after all. Although she had told Karen to never show up in front of her and Charlotte again, she couldn't help but go to the window to see her off for the last time.

This was most likely the last time she would be seeing Karen as a mother...

Cheyenne's face was stained with tears as she watched Karen slowly walk toward the hospital's main entrance.

But at this moment, Cheyenne was surprised to see Karen being pulled into an inconspicuous-looking car on the side of the road. Cheyenne was so frightened that she shrieked in horror and almost called the police.

Fortunately, she soon saw the familiar black Jaguar belonging to Lucas and finally heaved a sigh of relief.

She trusted Lucas and knew that he would never hurt Karen. She also guessed that he had probably already found out about Karen's actions tonight, so he came here on purpose to give Karen a warning.

Soon, the car Karen was shoved into left while Lucas walked toward the hospital.

Although Lucas's figure seemed rather small from above, he was still tall and reliable. Cheyenne suddenly felt aggrieved and miserable.

When the door of the ward opened and the upright figure walked in, Cheyenne immediately dashed over, hugged Lucas, and burst into tears.

The tears she had been suppressing for a long time rolled down her face.

Cheyenne cried her heart out in the embrace that made her feel at ease the most.

Since William got into a car accident and was diagnosed to be a vegetable, she had been really miserable, but she had still tried her best to suppress her feelings. Whenever she talked to William, she would try her best to talk only about happy things.

But this evening, she had witnessed the terrible act of her own mother trying to kill her father, putting her on the verge of breaking down!

Only when she was in Lucas's embrace could she finally vent all her emotions.

Lucas hugged her back and wrapped his arms around her waist, allowing her to cry in his arms.

They hugged each other in tears, but their hearts became closer than ever.

At this moment, in a villa belonging to the Taylors in Orange County...

A chubby man in his forties or fifties was lying on a bed and snoring loudly in his sleep. There was a woman lying naked beside him, cuddled up in his arms.

Suddenly, an ear-splitting ringtone came from the cell phone he had placed on the bedside table, disrupting the silence of the night and jolting the man awake.

He picked up his phone in annoyance and lashed out at the person who called. “Why did you call so late at night? Do you want me to kill you immediately?”

The person on the other end didn’t dare to delay any further and hurriedly said, “Mr. Taylor, I have something important to report! Our people just found out that the woman named Karen Turner has been taken away from the hospital. I’ve sent someone to keep an eye on her whereabouts!”

This chubby man was none other than Scott Taylor, who belonged to one of the four most powerful families in the county. He was also the one who had tried to snatch Lucas’s villa to suck up to Marc Kingston.

Today, he had received a task from Marc’s subordinate—to destroy the Stardust Corporation within ten days.

Scott naturally learned from the Kingstons that Lucas was the true owner of the Stardust Corporation, and with a hint from them, he soon thought of a wonderful idea.

The people he sent to keep tabs on things at the hospital finally brought him some good news!

After Scott heard this piece of news, his annoyance diminished, and he immediately sat up straight on the bed. “Okay, immediately bring that woman Karen Turner to me! I need her for something!”

Chapter 522: Midnight Interception

At this moment, the *inconspicuous* black Nissan that Karen was in was traveling on the road from Orange County to LA.

Karen was sitting in the backseat, her heart in a mess.

She hated that her plan failed and that she had been exposed by Cheyenne. She hated the fact that that bastard William Carter didn’t die in the car accident. She hated Cheyenne for being so ruthless as to chase her out.

Of course, the person she hated the most was still Lucas.

If Lucas hadn’t been an eyesore to her, she wouldn’t have decided to cooperate with Nikki or tried to kill William in order to move back to the villa. It could be said that one mistake of hers had led to many other mistakes, but the cause of it all was Lucas!

But she didn’t dare to show her hatred for Lucas now, and the mere thought of it made her feel extremely horrified.

At this point, many of the details she had deliberately chosen to ignore before surfaced in her mind.

Lucas, the son-in-law she had always despised, had now proven himself to be really capable, and he was no longer the penniless good-for-nothing who had needed to borrow money from the Carters for his ill mother's treatment.

Had I known, I would have been a little nicer to him, and things wouldn't have come to this... Karen was full of regret!

Squeak!

Just when she was immersed in her own regretful emotions, the Nissan came to a sudden stop with the screech of the tires.

Caught off guard, Karen hit her head against the seat in front of her, causing her to fall into a dizzy spell. "What's going on..."

Karen put her hand on her head and raised her head. Just as she was about to complain, she suddenly saw that another car had stopped in front of the car she was in. There were also several burly men standing in front of this car. They seemed rather aggressive and obviously had hostile intentions.

She immediately fell silent and cowered in the corner of the backseat, not daring to utter another word.

Meanwhile, the woman in black, Skylar, who was sitting in front, and the other two men in the car had solemn expressions on their faces.

These people in front of them must have a motive for blocking them.

The burly man in the driver's seat asked in a low voice, "Skylar, what should we do?"

Skylar gripped the hilt of her long Bladeless Sword and said softly, "I'll go out to ask them what they want and control them. You guys immediately turn around and leave. You must ensure the safety of this woman! Also, remember to inform Lucas and the others!"

The mission Lucas had given her was to safely deliver Karen to the Turners in LA, so she couldn't let anything happen to her.

After speaking, Skylar grabbed the Bladeless Sword and got out of the car.

The other two people in the car were members of the Hales, and they had been learning martial arts from Jordan recently. So they naturally knew who Skylar was referring to.

Because they hadn't expected people to stop them, they only had the three of them, and they even had to protect a woman who couldn't do anything at all.

They were facing six people and outnumbered.

Now, the best thing to do now was indeed what Skylar said.

But before the two of them had time to turn around, several rays of bright lights darted over from the road behind them. Another three cars drove over and lined up in a row, completely preventing them from leaving.

Even Skylar's expression became extremely gloomy.

Karen was just an ordinary woman with no common sense or much knowledge. So after seeing this situation, she immediately trembled in fear.

"Aaahh! Who are these people? Are they enemies you provoked?" Karen cried out in horror.

Standing in front of the Nissan, Skylar asked in an icy cold voice, "Who are you? What are you trying to do by blocking us?"

A bald and burly man walked out and spat the gum in his mouth onto the ground. He said slowly, "Leave the woman in your car and get lost or die!"

With an intimidating aura and a muscular body, he looked to be their leader.

Skylar was a bit surprised. She initially thought that these people might have been sent by the Peerless Martial Association to track her down, but it turned out that their target was Karen!

To be honest, Karen was just an ordinary woman who, though vicious, neither had a powerful background nor the chance to offend other big shots. In that case, who would want to capture her?

Inside the car, Karen also heard those words, and she immediately shrank and huddled up, wishing she could embed herself into the seat.

"I... I didn't offend anyone. Why are they looking for me?" Karen cried as she sneaked a glance at these people, but she was quickly frightened by their terrifyingly well-developed muscles.

Although Skylar disliked Karen, Lucas had instructed her to send Karen back to the Turner residence, so she naturally wouldn't compromise.

“That won’t do. I can’t hand this woman over to you!” Skylar refused outright and continued, “If you have other demands, either money or something else, we can discuss it amicably. How does that sound?”

Skylar and the rest were at a disadvantage, so they naturally had to come up with a solution instead of rushing up recklessly to die. They at least had to stall for some time

The people in the car must have informed Lucas by now. If they were lucky, they might be able to hold out until reinforcements came.

The bald man, however, had no intention of negotiating with Skylar. “If you don’t hand her over, all of you will die here!”

He issued an order, and several people around him, as well as those who got out of the cars blocking the road behind, surrounded the Nissan.

Skylar immediately raised her huge Bladeless Sword and confronted the enemies.

The two members of the Hale family in the car naturally didn’t sit by idly. They gritted their teeth and got out of the car, leaving behind only the clamoring Karen.

Just a minute ago, Lucas, who was holding Cheyenne in his arms and comforting her in the hospital, suddenly received an urgent call. “Lucas, bad news! More than ten people have intercepted us along the way, and their target is Karen. We need support!”

Lucas’s expression immediately changed.

He hadn’t expected his subordinates to be intercepted while sending Karen back to LA.

But there was no time to think about it now. He had no choice but to pat Cheyenne’s back and say regretfully, “I’m sorry, Cheyenne. I have some urgent matters to deal with now, so I have to get going.”

Cheyenne stood up from Lucas’s embrace. Although she was still a bit reluctant for him to leave, she had always been an understanding woman. She asked in concern, “What happened? Is it serious?”

Afraid that she would be worried, Lucas didn’t tell her that people had intercepted Karen and merely said, “It’s alright. Just some small matter at the office I can resolve quickly. Rest well!”

“Okay, you too!”

Lucas nodded and left William's ward. Just as he walked away, he immediately took out his phone and made a call. "Gather people to support Skylar's group on the section of the road leading from Orange County to LA near Pyramid Lake!"

Chapter 523: Blade Battle

Bruce Hale, who had already fallen asleep, was awakened by this call from Lucas, but he didn't dare to delay at all. He immediately gathered all his men as quickly as possible and rushed to the location that Lucas had informed him about to provide support.

At the same time, Lucas himself started his black Jaguar and sped all the way to where Skylar and Karen's group was.

Although he didn't know who the people trying to capture Karen, a woman of little value, were, he wouldn't be able to bear the consequences of losing Karen. Cheyenne would definitely misunderstand him when she found out.

Just as both Lucas and the reinforcements he had sent were speeding to the scene, the fight there had already reached the climax.

Despite being a woman, Skylar managed to carry the heavy and long Bladeless Sword and wield it with one hand, keeping all the enemies trying to approach the Nissan beyond the blade.

Her fighting style was extremely menacing and ferocious. She slashed all those trying to rush past her without the slightest hesitation. From time to time, severed limbs would fly and blood would splash out, but Skylar's eyes were full of determination and ruthlessness. She was fighting with all her might, shocking everyone and leaving them with no guts to charge forward recklessly.

Restraining their fear, they surrounded Skylar.

The bald man had also put away his confidence and contempt as he glared at Skylar with a much more solemn gaze.

He hadn't expected that a woman could achieve such a feat and cause his subordinates, who were used to bloodshed, to be too scared to approach.

"Who exactly are you? I, Bald Lee, am a powerful figure in this area, but I've never seen a woman as incredible as you. Tell me your name!"

Bald Lee stared at Skylar and suddenly licked his lips. He became interested in this powerful woman.

It was the first time he had seen such a powerful woman in his life. If he could get his hands on her, it would definitely be more fun to toy with her than other women!

Skylar looked at Bald Lee's sinister gaze and immediately felt disgusted. "You're not fit to know my name!"

"Bitch, don't be so shameless!" Bald Lee flew into a rage after being put to shame. He raised his sword and took a few steps forward while instructing his subordinates, "Let me deal with this woman. Get rid of the remaining two and get that woman out of the car too!"

"Yes!" The remaining ten or so people immediately rushed toward the two experts of the Hale family. Some went to smash the glass windows of the car to take Karen away.

Skylar was anxious. She immediately raised her Bladeless Sword and caught up with them to drive them back. But another heavy sword suddenly collided with hers.

Clang!

The Bladeless Sword and the heavy sword collided violently, instantly emitting a crisp metallic clang. At the same time, Skylar felt a tingling vibration in her hand.

She gritted her teeth. It seemed that the bald man in front of her wasn't just burly, but he was good at wielding a sword too!

The blades of their weapons bounced back upon collision. But the next instant, they swung their weapons and exchanged blows back and forth.

But Skylar was held up by Bald Lee, and the other two at the side were no match for the ten or so people. They were beaten into a pulp and soon fell to the ground, covered in blood.

The windows of the black Nissan had also been smashed. Karen screamed as she was dragged out. "Ahhh! Ahhh! Help...! Let me go! I don't know you! You must have gotten the wrong person! Please, please let me go!"

Skylar was extremely anxious. She tried to go over to provide support and get Karen back on multiple occasions, but Bald Lee's sword kept stopping her.

"Get lost!"

Seeing how critical the situation was, Skylar could no longer worry about anything else. She shouted and charged forward to slash Bald Lee.

Whoosh!

The long blade instantly formed an afterimage with the momentum of a thunderbolt as it slashed at Bald Lee's head!

Bald Lee didn't dare to be careless. He forcefully waved the sword in his hand and put it above his head to block the thunderous blow.

Clang!

The two blades once again collided violently as a deafening clang and sparks immediately emerged from the point of collision, which were especially obvious in the dark.

Although the Bladeless Sword didn't strike Bald Lee's head, the invisible sword pressure that emerged from an expert of Skylar's caliber cut Bald Lee's head. Blood flowed down from the top of his head and down his forehead.

"Ah!" Bald Lee roared in anger when he saw that he was injured.

Skylar gritted her teeth with all her might and pressed her sword down. Although she was much stronger than the average man, the difference in physical qualities between men and women couldn't be negated easily, especially when she was facing a powerful opponent like Bald Lee.

Bald Lee gritted his teeth and suddenly bellowed. His muscles bulged all over as he pushed Skylar's sword away with his instantaneous explosive power.

Pushed back, Skylar subconsciously moved two steps backward. But before she could stand still, Bald Lee kicked her in the gut and sent her flying.

Immediately afterward, he gripped his sword, quickly caught up with her, and slashed at Skylar, who had fallen to the ground.

This time, he no longer treated Skylar as a plaything like before. He decided that he had to kill this woman who could injure him!

Skylar's pupils constricted. She couldn't get up in time, so she rolled on the ground twice to dodge Bald Lee's sword.

While dodging, she saw the opportunity to swing her sword hard against the ground, aiming at Bald Lee's calf.

Bald Lee hadn't expected Skylar would still be able to counterattack at this moment, so he couldn't block it in time. He had no choice but to leap up in an attempt to dodge this attack.

But he jumped too soon and didn't manage to dodge at all. Although he was lucky enough to avoid being cut in the calf, the bottom of his foot was ruthlessly struck by the long Bladeless Sword. He immediately yelled in pain and took several steps backward.

He painstakingly regained his balance, but his calf and foot were still trembling slightly from the intense pain.

If word about him actually getting wounded by a woman got out, Bald Lee's reputation would be ruined in a few days!

His gaze was gloomy, and he wished he could kill Skylar right away. But unfortunately, his foot was now injured, and it was inconvenient to move. If the fight continued, he would probably be the one to lose!

He quickly scanned around the battlefield. Karen had already been caught by his subordinates and shoved into the car. They had completed the mission, so there was no need for him to stay here and continue being embroiled with this atrocious woman.

"Just you wait!" Bald Lee spat a mouthful of saliva and then limped toward the car.

"Let's go!"

The group quickly started the cars and left the scene.

Skylar propped herself up against the ground and tried to get up. Just as she was about to pursue them, blood suddenly spurted out from her throat!

Chapter 524: Kill to Silence

The kick Bald Lee had just thrown at Skylar caused her to suffer a severe injury.

She raised her hand and wiped the blood from the corner of her mouth while still struggling to stand up and chase after Karen.

But they were driving and vanished without a trace in no time. Even if she restarted her car to catch up now, it would definitely be too late.

Damn it! Skylar slammed her fist hard against the hood of the car with bloodshot eyes.

It was the first mission Lucas had given her, yet she actually failed... She was really indignant!

Screech!

At this moment, a black Jaguar car sped from the depths of the darkness of the night and pulled over beside Skylar. The next moment, Lucas appeared in front of Skylar.

Immediately upon seeing Lucas, Skylar quickly lowered her head and half-knelt down in front of him to seek forgiveness. "I'm sorry, Lucas. It's all my fault for being too incompetent to stop them!"

When Lucas saw her covered in blood and dirt, he immediately frowned and helped her up. "Are you alright? Did you get hurt?"

A look of surprise quickly appeared in Skylar's eyes.

When she was in the Peerless Martial Association, everyone would only care about whether she had completed the mission or not. No one had ever cared if she had been injured or not. The first reaction Lucas had was not to berate her for failing her mission but to show her concern and ask if she was hurt. It was a fresh yet touching experience for her.

"I'm fine. I just got kicked... *cough!* There are no other problems," Skylar answered, barely able to conceal her agitation.

Lucas scanned the surroundings and found the obvious traces of a fight on the ground. There were bloodstains and even some severed limbs. In addition, the Nissan had been smashed up. The two martial arts experts of the Hales were also lying on the ground, covered in blood.

Lucas checked their condition and found that both of them were still alive, but their bodies were battered with wounds. Clearly, they were severely injured.

It was enough to show how intense the fight had been.

It wasn't that surprising since there were only three of them, while the other side had more than ten people. The disparity in manpower and strength was too much.

At this moment, a few more cars dashed over. They were the reinforcements Bruce Hale personally brought over with him.

But when he saw how gloomy Lucas, as well as the traces of a violent fight around him, he immediately understood that they were too late.

"Mr. Gray..." Bruce Hale called out cautiously, not daring to say anything more.

Lucas ignored him and didn't blame him for being late. Instead, he asked Skylar, "Do you know who did it?"

Skylar replied, "The leader called himself Bald Lee. As his nickname suggests, he's bald, and he's very burly too. He brought more than ten people with him and took Karen Turner away."

"Bald Lee?!" Bruce seemed a little astonished as soon as he heard this name.

Seeing Lucas and Skylar both looking at him, Bruce didn't beat around the bush. "He's a notorious gangster in Orange County who's famed for using swords. He's been using

swords for more than two decades and is superb at using them. But he doesn't belong to any family and simply accepts money to work for others like a mercenary."

Lucas said coldly, "In that case, find him immediately! I want to see who had the audacity to snatch someone away from me!"

An intimidating aura emerged from his body as his eyes flashed with cold light.

"Yes!" Bruce didn't dare to look at Lucas more than once and immediately agreed as a thin layer of cold sweat seeped out on his forehead.

Now that Lucas was enraged, Bald Lee and the person who had instigated him would surely have a hard time!

The Hales acted quickly. Before Bruce returned to Orange County, the order to search the county for Bald Lee's whereabouts had already spread throughout the family.

But at this moment, the target of the search, Bald Lee, was limping painstakingly with an injured foot while escorting Karen to the Taylors.

In the middle of the hall, Bald Lee threw the frightened Karen directly on the floor and said to Scott, who was sitting on the couch, "Mr. Taylor, I've brought this woman to you as you've instructed. I even got injured!"

He grinned and even deliberately revealed some bloodstains on his body and the swollen sole of his foot.

Scott exclaimed exaggeratedly, pretending to be shocked. "They actually injured you. That must have been tough!"

Bald Lee nodded. "Indeed. I met my match today. She was so difficult to deal with. Not only was I injured, but my underlings were too. Some of them have severed limbs, and it's over for them now. Since I'm their boss, I must compensate them in some way. So, Mr. Taylor, what do you think?"

Scott sneered in his heart, but he was still smiling. "Of course. How can I let you suffer a disadvantage? How about this? We originally agreed on a remuneration of four hundred thousand. How about I give you a million? What do you think?"

Bald Lee was immediately overjoyed, and he grinned widely. "Thank you so much, Mr. Taylor!"

In fact, he had lost a bit today. He had initially thought that it would be easy for him to deal with a random defenseless woman, so when Scott offered him \$400,000, he had felt like it was a godsend and accepted it immediately.

But now, Skylar had injured his subordinates and severed their limbs, so the compensation definitely wasn't a small sum.

This was why Bald Lee wanted to increase the amount.

But he didn't expect Scott to more than double the remuneration without saying much at all.

Scott handed a check to Bald Lee. "This is a check for a million dollars. Thank you and your brothers!"

Bald Lee grabbed the check and laughed out loud. "No problem, no problem! Mr. Taylor, if you ever need help with something like this again, feel free to come to me! I'll definitely help you!"

"Haha, great. I'll call you again next time!" Scott also responded with a big grin.

After the two finished handing over Karen and the money, Bald Lee turned around and walked toward the villa entrance.

But just as he turned around, a hole appeared in his heart with a loud bang, and blood immediately gushed out of it along with a bullet!

Bald Lee widened his mouth in disbelief and turned around with difficulty. "Why... Why did you...?"

Scott raised his eyebrows and said with a smug smile, "Of course, it's to... silence you! Don't you do such things all the time? Why? Have you forgotten how things are now that it's your turn?"

Bald Lee had a trace of remorse in his eyes, but it was all too late!

The light in his eye dimmed as he fell to the ground with a muffled thud.

Scott looked at his corpse without blinking and instructed the person next to him, "Drag the corpse out and dispose of it!"

"Yes!" Two men immediately came over and carried Bald Lee's corpse out of the house, leaving a bright red trail of blood on the floor.

Karen had long been so frightened that she almost passed out!

Although she had tried to kill William, she had never witnessed such bloody scenes before!

More importantly, what was she about to face?

She huddled up in a ball, wishing she could vanish from Scott's sight.

Unfortunately, things didn't go her way, and Scott was already holding the pistol in his hand while looking at Karen. "Next, it's time to deal with you!"

Chapter 525: Worse

Seeing the black pistol in Scott's hand and the trail of blood on the floor left behind by the corpse that was dragged away, Karen was scared out of her wits.

She looked at Scott slowly walking toward her and quickly retreated backward as if she had seen a ghost.

She was now so scared that her arms and legs turned limp, and she could barely stand. She could only crawl backward like a dog. On all fours, she begged, "I beg you, don't kill me! I... can do anything you want me to!"

Panicked, she scanned her surroundings and looked at the people around her with a pleading gaze in her eyes. But they were all Scott's subordinates, so no one would come to her rescue.

Karen desperately hid in the corner since there was nowhere else to hide, and she could only watch the chubby Scott walk toward her with a suffocating sense of oppression.

"You... Ah!" Karen was finally overwhelmed with fear. She rolled her eyes and passed out.

This was probably her body's instinctive protective mechanism when overwhelmed with fear.

With a look of disgust and annoyance, Scott immediately picked up a fruit knife and stabbed Karen's palm ruthlessly.

Pfft! Blood splattered everywhere.

"Ah!" The intense pain in Karen's hand immediately made her wake up and remember the situation she was in. She screamed shrilly.

"If you dare to faint again, I'll cut your face immediately!" Scott threatened coldly, immediately making Karen shut up.

Karen's face was so pale that there was no trace of blood at all. She was so frightened and afraid of the man in front of her that she knelt on the ground without any dignity and begged for mercy sobbingly, "Sir, please let me off! I beg you! As long as you can let me off, I will be willing to be a dog and slog my guts out for you!"

Scott sneered. "You want me to let you off? How is that possible! You just saw me kill someone. If I let you off, wouldn't I be finding trouble for myself?"

Karen hurriedly assured, "No, no, no! I definitely won't say a word about it! I didn't see anything! I really didn't! I don't even know who you are, so how could I possibly say anything about you? Besides... I... really don't know you. You've caught the wrong person..."

She was really about to go crazy. She had been living a mediocre life, and at most, she only knew a few rich women with whom she often played cards and went on shopping trips. The last time she saw a lot of big shots was at Dylan's wedding. She really didn't know when she offended such a terrifying person!

Scott had a sinister look on his face as he said, "Hah, it's true that we don't know each other. But you can only blame yourself for being Lucas Gray's mother-in-law. If you want to blame someone, blame him. When you die, look for him. Don't get the wrong person!"

Then he raised the pistol in his hand again and aimed the muzzle at Karen's head. Once he gently pulled the trigger, Karen's head would immediately be blown up like a watermelon.

Karen's hatred for Lucas rose to the peak at this moment. She never thought that the hopeless disaster she was now facing was also caused by that damn Lucas Gray.

But she was really wronged!

"Wait... wait! I'm wronged!" Karen yelled in panic, afraid that Scott would immediately shoot her dead. She frantically said, "Although Lucas Gray is my son-in-law, he's also my enemy! I've always looked at him with displeasure and always wanted to drive him out of my family. I'm definitely not on his side!"

"You hate him too? It just happens that I can help you deal with him! Please don't kill me because of him!"

Only then did Scott deliberately say, "Is that so? But I don't trust you. Besides, you're just a stupid woman. What can you do to help me?"

Karen was really anxious because she knew that if she couldn't show how useful she was, she would only die.

The man in front of her was like a menacing ghost who killed without hesitation. He wouldn't care about her life at all.

"I... I can do whatever you want me to! I... know some things about Lucas Gray, and I can tell you all about them! And I can also be your slave and dog! I'll do whatever you

want! Please don't kill me!" Karen begged bitterly, afraid that Scott wouldn't believe her. She even knelt on the ground and began kowtowing.

"Want to be my dog? Haha, interesting. Try doing it. If I'm not satisfied, I'll kill you immediately!" Scott said with great interest.

Seemingly finding a straw to clutch at, Karen immediately knelt on the ground and barked like a dog. "Woof! Woof woof!"

Karen's barking was really realistic, and she did sound like a dog.

"Hahahahaha!" Scott burst into laughter while the others in the hall guffawed too.

At this moment, Scott's heart was full of a twisted sense of satisfaction. *Lucas Gray is so arrogant and aloof. If he finds out that his own mother-in-law is acting like a dog and wagging her tail in front of me, how would he feel?*

With an inflated and distorted sense of satisfaction, Scott sat down on the couch next to him with one leg crossed over the other. "On account of your sincerity, I'll spare you. But from now on, remember that you're just a dog to me!"

Hearing that she finally had a chance to live, Karen didn't care about anything else and simply nodded in agreement. "Yes, yes! From now on, I am your dog, Master. I will do whatever you tell me to do!"

Scott was naturally very satisfied.

The reason that he went through all the trouble of capturing Karen from Lucas was naturally not because he just wanted to kill her.

She was an extremely crucial part of his plan to deal with Lucas from now on.

What he did just now was meant to frighten Karen and make her feel too scared to disobey him!

Sitting on the couch with his legs crossed, Scott commanded, "Shameless dog, immediately crawl over and lick my shoes clean!"

At this moment, Karen had completely lost all her dignity, and she obediently crawled over like a dog on all fours while barking. After crawling to Scott, she hesitated for a moment before immediately sticking out her tongue to lick his leather shoes.

As Scott looked at the cheap and shameless woman in front of him licking his shoes vigorously, an evil fire surged in his heart.

Although Karen was almost fifty years old, she had never suffered much in her life and usually lived comfortably. She spent loads of money on beauty products to upkeep her youth and looks, so she was still rather pretty. He was quite attracted to her.

Chapter 526: Good Show

Scott grabbed Karen's hair and barked at the underlings beside him, "All of you, get lost!"

Soon, only Scott and Karen were left in the villa.

"You know how to serve me well, right?" Scott cupped Karen's chin and reached his hand into her shirt.

"Yes! I promise to serve you comfortably!"

Several hours later, Lucas stood on the upper floor of his villa and watched the darkness of the night fade away as the faint light of dawn slowly rose. But a hint of anxiety lingered in his heart.

The people who went to search for Bald Lee and Karen had yet to return with good news.

This meant that Karen was either still in his hands or had already met with a mishap.

Although he didn't care whether Karen was dead or alive, he wouldn't know how to explain it to Cheyenne and Charlotte if something happened to her after she was taken away from him.

But Lucas had already sent all the subordinates he could, so he could only stay at home to wait for news.

Just as the first rays of sunlight in the morning shone into his eyes, which were full of weariness because he hadn't slept all night, the cell phone in front of him suddenly rang.

"Mr. Gray, we've found Bald Lee!" Bruce said over the phone.

"Where is he?" Lucas immediately asked.

Bruce's voice lagged for a moment before he continued, "Uh... Bald Lee is already dead. We only found his corpse."

“What? Dead?” Lucas revealed a look of great surprise, but his face soon became gloomy. “Where’s Karen?”

Bruce said carefully, “Sorry, we haven’t found her yet…”

Lucas frowned.

He didn’t care that Bald Lee was dead, but he had an ominous feeling because he didn’t know if Karen was dead or alive.

Since last night, there had been several questions hovering in Lucas’s heart.

Karen was just an uncouth and vicious woman. Although she was detestable, she knew to pick her battles wisely and often bullied the weak while fearing the strong. So it was unlikely that she was facing the revenge exacted by a powerful person she provoked.

Of course, in order to rule out this possibility, Lucas had also asked people to check if Karen had offended any big shot with a powerful background in recent years. In the end, the only thing discovered was Karen’s feud with James Wilson’s wife, Sharon, because of the jade bracelet incident.

However, Lucas had chased Sharon out of Orange County later, and James Wilson had also been behaving himself. He thought that it was unlikely that they took revenge on Karen.

In addition, Karen’s maiden family was just an ordinary farmer’s family. Moreover, she and William had been disowned by the Carters, so she shouldn’t have been implicated even if the Carters’ enemies were striking them.

So the only possibility was that they were targeting him by abducting Karen.

Moreover, Bald Lee was an expert at using the swords, and Bruce’s words last night also confirmed that the people who could hire him were definitely affluent.

Bald Lee’s death also proved that the force behind the person who snatched Karen had to be powerful. Its strength should at least be similar to that of the four major families.

In that case, he could only use the elimination method to think about who the mastermind behind it was likely to be.

Of the four major families in Orange County, the Sawyers and the Hales were on his side, while the Taylors and the Wallaces were not.

Of course, the Kingstons and Bensons from San Francisco both had grudges against him too, so they were likely suspects as well.

As for the Huttons in DC, they were also very likely to attack him. But they were extremely powerful and should disdain to do such trivial things. Even if the Huttons wanted to use Karen to deal with him, they should have gotten another family to do it on their behalf.

So Lucas soon figured out a few suspects.

“Focus on the Taylors and the Wallaces. Don’t let off the Kingstons and Bensons of San Francisco either. Let’s start from them!” he ordered in a deep voice.

“Yes!” Bruce immediately answered.

After Lucas hung up the phone, his mood still didn’t improve. The fact that Karen was missing was like a gloomy cloud looming over his head.

At this moment, in the Taylors’ villa in Orange County...

Scott was lying on a comfortable bed, sound asleep and snoring slightly.

In the corner of the room was an iron cage half the height of a human. Karen was locked up in it, stark naked, without a single piece of clothing to cover her. There was even a heavy iron collar hanging around her neck, making her look like a real dog.

Scott’s phone on the bed suddenly rang, disturbing his beautiful dream.

He picked up his phone in annoyance and answered the call without even looking at it. He immediately cursed, “Do you have a death wish? Who the hell is calling so early when I’m sleeping? Do you believe that I’ll immediately kill you?!”

“Scott Taylor, do you have a death wish?” An icy cold voice came from the other end.

After hearing this voice, Scott was immediately frightened awake, as if a pot of ice water had been poured onto his head.

“M-Mr. Kingston! I’m sorry. I was muddled and didn’t know it was you. Please forgive me!” he said in horror while quickly getting up and kneeling on the bed.

“Hmph, you’re actually in the mood to sleep? If you don’t carry out the task I’ve given you well, you won’t have to live anymore! Got it?” Kyle’s voice was full of a merciless, murderous aura, immediately causing a dense layer of cold sweat to emerge on Scott’s forehead.

Scott hurriedly nodded and said, "Don't worry. I've already got Karen Turner in my hands, and I'll soon be able to put her to use! When the time comes, there will be no way for Lucas Gray and his company to make a comeback. He will definitely die!"

"I hope so. Otherwise, you know what will happen to you!" With that, Kyle immediately hung up.

Scott was full of lingering fears.

Ever since he knew how perverted and violent this successor of the Kingston family was, he was extremely nervous every time he spoke to him, fearing that he might provoke him with a slip of the tongue.

Scott got off the bed, went to the iron cage where Karen was, and kicked it. "Bitch! Why are you still lying in there? Immediately come out and help me wash up!"

Karen was startled and immediately woke up. As soon as she saw Scott, she subconsciously put on a deferential expression and began to bark like a dog.

There were numerous whip marks and pinch marks on her naked body, as well as some undried blood stains too unbearable to look at. Karen had clearly had an extremely unforgettable night last night.

But Scott was not satisfied. Not wanting to have a hideous monster lying beneath him yesterday, he had only slapped Karen's face, leaving only some red and swollen palm prints.

But this didn't bring about the effect he wanted.

Scott pulled Karen out of the dog cage and punched and kicked her in the head and face.

Amid Karen's incessant screaming, her originally well-maintained and still somewhat charming face was completely beaten into a pulp, leaving it swollen and bruised.

Only then Scott was satisfied. He retracted his hand and smiled sinisterly. "This looks more like it. Now, it's time for a good show!"

Chapter 527: Livestream Trap

Two hours later, outside the door of a remote and dilapidated old house in Orange County...

Three vans drove over slowly and pulled over at the entrance of the old house. A large group of people carrying cameras, light boards, and other filming equipment got out

together with four fashionably dressed young men and women wearing exquisite makeup on their faces.

After seeing that everyone had arrived, Scott finally got out of a white Porsche at the side.

As soon as these young men and women saw Scott, they immediately surrounded him and said with respectful expressions, "Mr. Taylor, you're actually waiting for us here personally. We're really flattered!"

The Taylors' business in the entertainment industry was running well, and various livestreamers had become popular in recent years, so there were quite a few streamers signed with the Taylors' company.

The young men and women in front of him were the most popular streamers that the Taylors had promoted so far.

Scott smiled casually and asked, "I'm sure you all know why I've asked you to come here today, right?"

The streamers nodded hurriedly. "Yes, we all know. Everything will be done according to your instructions, Mr. Taylor!"

"Okay, that's good." Scott smiled in satisfaction and said to these streamers who were determined to make a name for themselves, "Perform well! Once today's business is done, I'll give each of you a bonus!"

The young streamers were overjoyed. "Yes, Mr. Taylor! We all have millions of fans, and the company has been actively promoting us. When the streams start later, the data will definitely soar, and the event will immediately shock everyone and grab attention!"

"That's right. You can rest assured, Mr. Taylor!"

The streamers vied to speak.

Scott nodded in satisfaction and then took the lead to walk into the old house.

This old house could probably be considered a dangerous building, as it was dilapidated and shaky. There was nothing inside except some simple wooden beds and a brick stove. It looked like a house from nearly a century ago.

Karen was standing and trembling in fear in this old house, looking at Scott anxiously.

"Later, you must perform well and act like the dog that you are in front of me. Do you hear me? If you do well, I will set you free and reward you with some money. But if you

perform poorly, you'll face the same fate as that baldy yesterday! Do you hear me?" Scott walked up to her and threatened in a low voice.

Karen trembled and immediately nodded her head repeatedly. Two of her teeth had been knocked out, so air moved through her teeth when she spoke. "Yes, I understand. I will definitely do a good job!"

Scott pinched her twice unrestrainedly before turning around to yell at the people outside, "Come in!"

Soon, the group of streamers and staff carrying cameras immediately came in and started the pre-filming preparations in an orderly manner.

They set up the cameras, attached the microphones, put up the light boards, and so on. Soon, the place turned into a small shooting site.

According to their arrangement, Karen sat on a shabby wooden bed. She looked extremely miserable and out of sorts, her hair all messed up and her face bruised.

"Begin!" Someone nearby clapped the clapperboard once, and the shooting officially began.

"Dear fans and friends! Hello everyone! I'm your most adorable streamer, Little Black Cat!"

"Hello, I'm TigerWhoLovesEatingFish!"

"Long time no see my fans. I am your beloved streamer, Green Grass!"

"Hello everyone, I'm Amy. Are all my fans watching now?"

The four popular streamers appeared on their streams at the same time and greeted the viewers, immediately causing their fans to scream in a frenzy.

All the fans were ecstatic and began spamming comments.

"Ahhhhh! My baby baby actually suddenly went live at this time! And it's together with three other major streamers. How shocking!"

"Oh my god! Little Black Cat, TigerWhoLovesEatingFish, Green Grass, and Amy have appeared at the same time. What an epic and dream collaboration!"

"Impressive! They're actually doing a stream together. The content must be really shocking. I'm already eager!"

"I'm going to call my buddy to come over. This is such a rare scene. If he's not here, he will definitely regret it!"

"Ah, me too. I have to hurry up and inform my besties so that they can hurry over to watch the four of them doing a stream together!"

...

All of a sudden, there was a huge uproar on the internet because of the four streamers, and countless people tuned in to see the stream produced by these four big names.

A few minutes later, the number of viewers of each of their streams exceeded two million, and only then did they finally introduce the content of the stream today.

"Dear viewers and fans, I'm sure you're all aware that the four of us rarely get together for a stream. But today, we're making an exception for a poor lady.

"This lady has a husband who loves her and two beautiful and gentle daughters who are both working adults. One of them has gotten married and has a child, so it can be said that this lady's life is very successful. She should soon be able to enjoy familial bliss.

"But such a happy family was soon ruined! And the person who caused it is this lady's son-in-law!

"Just over a week ago, this lady's husband unfortunately met with a car accident that left him seriously injured and unconscious. This should have been a time for the family to comfort each other and cheer each other up, but none of them expected that this lady's son-in-law would develop evil thoughts!

"In order to seize the property belonging to this lady's family, he found the opportunity to drive her out of the house and even viciously beat her up! He even threatened to break her legs if she went against his warning and revealed this matter to her daughters!

"Desperate and penniless, this lady had no choice but to end up living helplessly on the streets. She eventually found her way to this shabby place where she sought shelter to barely shield herself from the wind and rain.

"Now, let's hand over the microphone to this pitiful lady and listen to what she has to say!"

With that, the streamers handed a microphone to Karen, and at the same time, the cameras next to them all immediately panned to her.

A bruised, swollen, and almost distorted face appeared on the screens of cell phones and computers belonging to countless people.

Chapter 528: Excellent Acting Skills

At this moment, in the chairman's office on the top floor of the Stardust Corporation building...

Lucas was holding a few reports in his hand, but he wasn't focused on them. Instead, he seemed slightly lost in thought.

He was pondering about something.

In the past few days, William had suddenly met with a car accident that left him seriously wounded and even hospitalized. It was unknown if he could regain consciousness. Even Maddy might not be certain about curing him when she returned from abroad to take a look at his condition.

Cheyenne and Charlotte would take time to go to the hospital and chat with William every day.

At the same time, things seemed to be rather chaotic at the Stardust Corporation as well.

Since two days ago, several secondary partners had all unilaterally terminated their contracts with the Stardust Corporation, thus causing many of the already formulated plans and strategies to be greatly affected.

They had to redo and lay down many of the crucial steps all over again.

Of course, finding out the mastermind behind this was the most important thing.

Lucas had a nagging feeling that the contract terminations were only one part of the plans and that there were very likely further plans.

Lucas's phone suddenly rang. It was a call from Cheyenne.

"Cheyenne..." Lucas picked up the phone. Just as he spoke, she anxiously interrupted him.

"Lucas, where is my mom now?" Cheyenne asked with an unprecedented austerity in her voice.

Lucas was stunned, but he soon felt a little guilty. He touched his nose and could only say, "I-I don't know."

Yesterday, he had wanted to send Karen back to the Turners and warn them to keep a close eye on her. But some people suddenly attacked and snatched Karen away on the road. When Skylar's group called to inform Lucas about it, he was still with Cheyenne.

In order to prevent her from worrying, he chose not to tell her about it and planned to wait until he managed to get Karen back.

But Lucas hadn't expected to be unable to find Karen even until now.

So when he heard Cheyenne ask about it, he was naturally at a loss for words.

He couldn't tell Cheyenne that her mother had been abducted and was missing. So he could only tell her that he didn't know.

"Do you... really not know where my mom is?" Cheyenne's tone seemed a little off, with a tinge of fragileness. She seemed to be gritting her teeth too.

Lucas could tell something, but he kept his lips sealed and only said, "I really don't know. Cheyenne, did something happen to you?"

He heard Cheyenne take a deep breath and say, "I'm fine."

Then she hung up.

Lucas looked at his phone with a bitter smile.

He didn't want to deceive Cheyenne. But now, William was still lying on the hospital bed, and who knew when he would regain consciousness. Cheyenne and Charlotte were already extremely miserable, grief-stricken, and emotionally and physically exhausted.

If the news of Karen's disappearance was revealed, Cheyenne definitely wouldn't be able to accept it.

Lucas really couldn't bear to do so.

The only thing he could do was to send as many people as possible to try and get the abducted Karen back as soon as possible!

But the somewhat bizarre tone of Cheyenne's voice still bothered him. *She... isn't aware of anything, is she?*

Meanwhile, Cheyenne, who was sitting in the general manager's office of the Brilliance Corporation building, burst into tears immediately after hanging up.

But she bit her lower lip to prevent herself from crying loudly as large teardrops landed on her desk.

On the monitor in front of her was a stream playing, and the protagonist of the stream was her mother, Karen!

Although her face was beaten up and so swollen that it was almost beyond recognition, Cheyenne was her daughter and had been living with her for decades, so she could definitely recognize her face!

At this moment, Karen, who was in a horrible state on the monitor, was looking at the camera and telling everyone about her tragic experience.

“Yes, I actually had a blissful family at first, and my daughters have both become competent adults with successful careers. One of them is the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation, and the other is the general manager of the Stardust Corporation’s Orange County branch. And my husband is also working as a manager of a company. It could be said that our family’s income and financial situation were quite good.

“But all of this was ruined by my son-in-law, Lucas Gray!

“Lucas was just a penniless punk with no background. But later, he wooed my daughter and became her live-in husband.

“I thought he was a good man. Although he was poor and my daughter was out of his league, I thought that I’d just bite the bullet and let him become my live-in son-in-law as long as his character was acceptable.

“But I never thought that Lucas Gray was just a wolf in sheep’s clothing!

“God knows what tricks he resorted to to become the person in charge of the Stardust Corporation’s Orange County branch, but he knows nothing about managing a company. He just likes pretending to be mighty, so he ended up offending lots of companies. They’ve all decided to terminate their contracts with the Stardust Corporation!”

Hearing this, many of the Orange County audience burst into an uproar in front of their screens.

The Stardust Corporation was quite a large enterprise in Orange County. And previously, it had the support of the Huttons, so many of the large and small businesses were all proud to cooperate with it.

Even those who didn’t care about wealthy families and businesses had at least heard of the Stardust Corporation.

But they only knew that there was a general manager with the last name Davis, and they didn't know that there was another person in charge named Lucas Gray. This was new information to them.

As for what Karen said about the contract terminations, some people had indeed heard about it. It seemed what she said was probably true.

But what Karen said next immediately caused all the people watching to be in disbelief.

Weeping miserably, Karen said, "Because of Lucas's recklessness, the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch has suffered heavy losses. He's afraid that he won't be able to explain it, so he tried to collect money to fill the deficit. But he doesn't have enough money himself, so he tried to take it from us!

"So just a few days ago, he deliberately got someone to run a car into my husband and turned him into a vegetable so that he would become the only man in our family and could rightfully call the shots!

"When I accidentally found out about it, this black-hearted Lucas Gray beat me up into a pulp, causing me to end up in this state. He even fabricated lies claiming that I caused my husband's car accident. He even threatened me not to talk to anyone about it, or he would beat me to death!

"I was going to suck it up, but I'm really worried about my daughters! They have no idea that the man they live with is a wolf in sheep's clothing!

"Cheyenne, Charlotte, you must believe me and realize the true colors of this sinister and ruthless man as soon as possible! He's truly inhumane!

"If I really die one day, it will definitely be because Lucas Gray killed me! But it doesn't matter if I die. I just can't bear to let my dear daughters continue being deceived by that beast!"

Karen teared up as she spoke, pretending to be a loving mother who was willing to expose the villain Lucas at the expense of her own life, despite having suffered lots of abuse and aggravation.

Countless viewers wept in front of their screens.

At the same time, more people were full of rage toward Lucas!

Chapter 529: I Trust You

Once Karen's stream aired, it immediately sparked a great reaction on the internet.

Apart from the streams on the major platforms, there were also many people who took screen recordings of the stream and uploaded it onto the internet. Even the major news media platforms in Orange County immediately released reports about it.

“Oh my god! That lady is really pitiful! Her son-in-law named Lucas Gray is really a scoundrel!”

“That’s right. I heard he’s a live-in husband who sponges off his wife. How dare he maliciously want to kill his father-in-law and encroach on their family assets? He even beat this lady up into such a terrible state. How vicious!”

“Lucas Gray is the person in charge of the Stardust Corporation’s Orange County branch. Since the Stardust Corporation has such an immoral helmsman, let’s all boycott the Stardust Corporation from now on!”

“Yes! The Stardust Corporation is also an accomplice! Boycott it and let it go out of business!”

“Get lost from Orange County, Stardust Corporation!”

...

Gradually, the comments began to sway toward a general direction, and they were all clamoring about boycotting the Stardust Corporation.

Cheyenne quietly looked at Karen’s miserable face, which had been beaten up terribly, and large teardrops rolled down incessantly.

Cheyenne quietly listened to Karen’s words, which were full of false and untrue information. But it was an irrefutable fact that she had ended up in this miserable state.

After making Karen leave last night, Cheyenne still couldn’t allow herself to be completely ruthless toward Karen. So when she watched Karen leave the hospital, she unexpectedly saw Lucas’s subordinates pulling Karen into a car.

She thought that Lucas just wanted to give Karen a warning before getting people to take her away.

But she could have never imagined that Karen would end up in such a sorry plight less than a day later.

So she immediately called Lucas to ask about it, but he actually said that he didn’t know where Karen was.

“Lucas... why did you lie to me? Why did you... do such a thing to my mom...”
Cheyenne slumped onto her desk in agony and began crying in pain.

At the same time, her heart was full of remorse.

If she hadn't made Karen leave last night, this wouldn't have happened to her now!

When Karen wept and said that she was doing it all for her daughters and even said that she might die there, it made Cheyenne even more grief-stricken.

Lucas's decision to hide it from her and her mother's tragic situation made her feel devastated and miserable!

At this moment, Lucas received a sudden phone call from Bruce, the helmsman of the Hale family.

"Mr. Gray, Karen Turner has suddenly appeared on a livestream. You can watch it by tapping the notification on your phone. The content is extremely disadvantageous to you!"

Hearing this, Lucas immediately opened the app.

But at this moment, Karen's stream had just ended.

Due to the great impact and influence of the public opinion caused by this matter, there were lots of recordings of the stream available on the homepage of Twitter even though it had already ended.

Lucas immediately clicked on the video. But the more he watched, the more sullen his expression became.

Karen had totally twisted facts and made up stories. Moreover, when Lucas saw the tragic state she was in, he immediately understood that Karen must have been instigated or forced into this by someone.

This also meant that Karen was in an extremely dangerous situation at the moment!

Lucas couldn't help frowning.

Besides, he thought about the phone call from Cheyenne just a few minutes ago, during which she had asked him where Karen was. Given the unusual tone of her voice, he reckoned that she had probably already watched the stream.

Lucas didn't dare to imagine what kind of mood Cheyenne was in at the time...

Karen was Cheyenne's mother, but the former even degraded him and smeared him on the internet. He thought that Cheyenne would also probably more or less believe what Karen said...

At the same time, Karen's words had not only left a tremendous lethal impact on Cheyenne and his relationship, but it also dealt a destructive blow to the Stardust Corporation.

The power of the comments online was imaginable.

Karen's stream had just ended, but the videos had already spread across all the major media platforms in Orange County. It was also the current hot topic of discussion.

Due to Karen's words and her deliberate attempt to mislead the public, the Stardust Corporation was about to face an unprecedented crisis. The company's stock price and market value would plummet immediately. This would be a massive blow to the future development of the Stardust Corporation.

Without a doubt, the person who snatched Karen away last night had deliberately resorted to so many tactics in order to target Lucas and the Stardust Corporation.

Moreover, there was another issue that couldn't be ignored—Karen's safety.

If Karen was still of some value to the mastermind, killing her and then framing Lucas for it was undoubtedly their plan.

When the time came, be it the Stardust Corporation or Lucas himself, they would undoubtedly receive flak and be ostracized by the public. The Stardust Corporation might even face the crisis of annihilation!

With a gloomy expression, Lucas clenched his fists tightly. "Damn it! No matter who is behind all of this, I won't let them off!"

Bang!

Suddenly, the door of the chairman's office opened from the outside, and Charlotte stumbled in. Panic-stricken and flustered, she looked at Lucas and asked incoherently, "Lucas, is all that... true? My mom... That's not true, is it? Where is she now?"

The bottom of Charlotte's eyes was red, and she was about to break down entirely.

Just a moment ago, she had watched the stream on her phone. She had initially wanted to just turn it off, but she was still Karen's daughter, so she had instantly recognized that the woman beaten into a pulp was her mother, Karen!

Although her relationship with Karen was strained lately because of Karen's actions, the latter was still her mother, so how could she not show her any concern?

After hearing all of Karen's accusations against Lucas, Charlotte was instantly astounded.

Of course, she knew that many of the things Karen had said were untrue. But how could Karen, who was supposed to be taking care of her father in the hospital, suddenly end up in such a state?

So she immediately called Cheyenne, who told her that it was indeed Lucas's subordinates who had taken Karen away last night.

Charlotte felt that her views of life had been severely impacted!

She always knew that her mother and Lucas had a bad relationship, but she didn't expect it to be so terrible!

Lucas looked at Charlotte's panicked look and disbelief and let out a long sigh. He said softly, "If I say that I didn't do all of that and that Karen was just making things up to spread rumors, would you believe me?"

Charlotte tightly bit her lower lip and remained silent.

Just as Lucas felt a little disappointed, he suddenly heard Charlotte's answer.

"I believe you!"

Lucas glanced at Charlotte in surprise and found that her gaze had become firm. She repeated, "I trust you, Lucas!"

Chapter 530: Great Influence

The feeling of being trusted made Lucas feel a great sense of relief. At the same time, he also felt heartened.

Since Charlotte was willing to believe him, Lucas stopped hiding the truth from her and gave her a brief explanation of everything that had happened last night.

"She did something unforgivable, so I arranged for people to send her back to the Turner residence in LA. But she was suddenly abducted by some people along the way. I've been checking her whereabouts, but I haven't been able to find her until she appeared on the stream just now and said those things."

Charlotte frowned. "Who could be trying to harm my mom? And why did she suddenly say those things... Ah!"

She suddenly shrieked, and her expression immediately changed drastically as she grabbed Lucas's arm. "I know! Someone is deliberately going against you and the Stardust Corporation. That's why they abducted my mom and even forced her to say those things on the stream. Is this the case? This means my mom is definitely in danger now! Don't you think so, Lucas?"

Lucas comforted seriously, "Charlotte, I can't guarantee anything now, and I can't say that I'll be able to bring your mom home safely either. But I'll definitely do my best to find her!"

Charlotte understood that Lucas had searched for Karen for an entire night, which meant that the other party should have hidden their tracks very well. Since they could target the Stardust Corporation as well, they also had to be extremely powerful. So she could understand that Lucas wouldn't be able to guarantee that he could bring Karen home.

"I know, Lucas. So, what should we do now? Are we supposed to just wait at home for news?" She gritted her teeth, feeling extremely indignant.

"Charlotte, there's no point in being so anxious now. Leave it to me to search for your mom.

"Moreover, don't forget that you're now the general manager of the Stardust Corporation. The stream earlier has already left a serious impact on our company's image, and the subsequent matters will also trigger a series of drastic changes. I'll leave it to you to handle everything!"

Only then did Charlotte suddenly realize that she had been too preoccupied with asking about Karen in a moment of panic, so much so that she didn't realize until now how tremendous a blow Karen's words had dealt the Stardust Corporation.

Indeed, since she was now the general manager of the company, she had to take responsibility and handle this matter properly!

"Yes, Mr. Gray. Just leave all the matters regarding the company to me! I'll definitely handle this unexpected crisis well and protect our company!"

There was determination written all over her face.

Since she couldn't help with finding Karen, she at least had to fulfill the responsibility required by her job and handle the company's situation well so that Lucas wouldn't have to worry. She could also foil the plans of those who abducted her mother!

"Okay, I'll leave the company to you." With that, Lucas turned around and left the office.

Seeing Lucas's slightly fatigued figure, Charlotte suddenly felt that he seemed even more noble to her now. At the same time, she felt a little more heartache.

Charlotte had seen how Karen used to treat Lucas, and it could be said that Karen simply treated him like an enemy. Even though she and Cheyenne had long accepted him, and even their father had also changed his attitude toward him, Karen's attitude was still as hostile as ever. It was as if she'd kick Lucas out of their home at any time.

Now that Karen suddenly encountered a mishap, he actually put the past behind him and sent people to find and save her. Besides, Charlotte had just seen how bloodshot his eyes were. She reckoned that he must have stayed up all night to wait for news about Karen!

How could Charlotte not admire a man like him?

...

After Lucas left the office, he called Bruce. "Have you found out anything from those streaming websites?"

Bruce didn't dare to delay and immediately said, "Yes! We've already investigated and found that the four streamers are signed to the Taylors' entertainment company. This matter must be related to the Taylors! However, I haven't been able to find where Karen Turner is."

"The Taylors... hmph!" Killing intent flashed in Lucas's eyes. "She definitely won't be in the same place. They must have already moved. The Taylors, hah!"

With a sneer, Lucas hung up and drove to the Taylors' villa.

On the other end of the phone, Bruce's eyes were full of immense joy.

It seemed that Lucas was bent on seeking trouble with the Taylors.

Therefore, the Taylors would no longer need to exist in Orange County!

The Hales might be able to rise and truly become the top family in Orange County!

The thought of the scene alone made Bruce extremely excited.

Meanwhile, Scott Taylor was holding his phone in his villa and reporting the situation on his side to Marc. "Mr. Kingston, have you watched the stream that just sparked an uproar on the internet? The effects were completely beyond our expectations, and the influence is far greater than we expected. Are you satisfied?"

Scott was smiling smugly as he tried to ask Marc for credit.

"Are you a fool?"

To Scott's surprise, Marc not only didn't show any joy or praise him, but he even lashed out at him, causing Scott to be stunned!

“I told you to destroy only the Orange County branch of the Stardust Corporation helmed by Lucas Gray. Who told you to draw ire to the entire Stardust Corporation? Great. Now the entire Stardust Corporation is implicated because of your idiotic plan. The company’s market value and image have been greatly affected. Even if you sell the entire Taylor family, you won’t be able to fill this hole!

“You’re utterly stupid. Trust you to have the cheek to ask me if I’m satisfied. I’ll rip your head off right now. Will you be satisfied?” Marc roared in fury.

Scott should really be grateful that the two of them were on the phone right now. Otherwise, Marc would definitely break his neck!

Scott failed to take credit and was scolded instead. He was afraid and aggrieved for a bit, but he hurriedly defended, “But Mr. Kingston, I didn’t say that Lucas is the chairman of the Stardust Corporation! I just got Karen Turner to say that he is the head of the Orange County branch...”

Hearing this, Marc was even more enraged!

“Are you really a fool? You made such a big stir online, and everyone only knows that Lucas is the head of Stardust Corporation. No one cares which branch it is! Your approach was ridiculous!

“You created such a big mess. All you idiots can go to hell! All the netizens are cursing the Stardust Corporation and want to boycott the entire Stardust Corporation. When the Huttons find out, they’ll skin you alive! You’re just deliberately giving me trouble, aren’t you?!”

“What?!” The thought that this matter would blow up to the extent of offending the Huttons made Scott instantly shudder and fall to the ground!

Chapter 531: Interrogating To Find Her Whereabouts

Scott’s body was drenched in cold sweat.

On the other end of the phone, Marc said, “I don’t care what you do. You must reduce the impact of this matter to the minimum in the shortest possible time! Make sure all the videos and news are deleted, and don’t get the entire Stardust Corporation involved again. Do you hear me? Otherwise, don’t come begging me to save you when the Huttons come!”

With that, Marc hung up.

Scott sat on the ground in a daze, panic written all over his face.

He initially thought that his method was extremely lethal to Lucas and would meet Marc's requirements as soon as possible. So he had used all his resources to spread this matter like wildfire.

But he didn't expect his plan to bootlick Marc by getting the matter done fast to backfire and result in the opposite effect.

Moreover, public opinion was spiraling out of control, and even if he wanted to withdraw his plan now, it would be extremely difficult.

"Damn it!" Scott clenched his fist tightly and punched the table with all his might.

Bang!

Suddenly, the sound of an explosion filled the air outside the gates of his villa.

"F*ck! What happened outside?" Scott hollered in exasperation.

Two of his subordinates hurried in from outside and reported, "Bad news, Mr. Taylor. A man suddenly barged in and even rammed his car through the gates of the villa!"

These words angered Scott further. "Damn it! I'm in a foul mood now. Who has the audacity to barge into my house? Come on! Let's go outside to take a look!"

They rushed out of the villa, only to see a black Jaguar parked in the yard in front of them.

The door of the car opened, and a tall figure slowly stepped out of it.

With his appearance, the temperature in the entire yard seemed to plunge by several degrees.

"Lucas Gray, it's you?!" Scott bellowed through gritted teeth.

It wasn't the first time he met Lucas.

In fact, he initially didn't have anything to do with Lucas. Previously, Marc had called him to say that he had taken a liking to Lucas's Pearl Lake villa, which the Taylors had developed, and instructed Scott to acquire it for him.

At the time, Lucas had already paid for the villa at the center of Pearl Lake. Although Scott was aware of it, he nevertheless tried to forcefully take it from Lucas to give to Marc.

This was why Scott got into a conflict with Lucas and even bore hatred for him.

Scott was more than happy to accept the task given by Marc to deal with Lucas and his company. In fact, he even felt a great sense of satisfaction when he insulted Karen yesterday.

Oh, Lucas Gray, weren't you really cocky in front of me? Your mother-in-law is just a dog that wails underneath me!

Now, Scott watched as Lucas walked straight in with a hostile expression. He immediately realized that Lucas had probably investigated and found out about Karen's current situation and was here to question him.

But he naturally wouldn't dare to admit to it.

Scott looked at the ten-odd bodyguards beside him. Feeling a sense of security, he glowered and shouted at Lucas, "Lucas Gray, you punk, you're really bold. How dare you barge into my villa? Since you've rammed through my gates, I won't let you leave easily!"

"Where's Karen Turner?" Lucas cut straight to the chase without wasting his breath.

Scott mocked, "Who? What Karen? I don't know who you're talking about! You're still so arrogant, huh? Don't forget that you're now on my territory. You'd better mind your manners when you're speaking to me!"

Lucas ignored the bodyguards who stepped forward and simply said coldly, "I'll ask you one last time. Where is Karen Turner? Tell me, and I'll spare your life. Otherwise, you will die!"

Lucas narrowed his eyes, and his aura became even more imposing.

Scott was frightened and subconsciously cowered a little.

But he soon thought, *This is my turf. With so many bodyguards around me, I won't be beaten up like I was at the Pearl Lake villa.*

"Punk, you're really arrogant. I'll let you know the consequences of being arrogant!"

Then he beckoned the bodyguards around him. "Go!"

But as soon as he issued his command, Lucas suddenly vanished from sight!

The next instant, Lucas suddenly appeared half a meter in front of Scott.

Scott was greatly taken aback and completely caught off guard, so much so that he couldn't even react in time before he took a strong blow in his stomach and was sent flying backward!

Bang!

Bang!

The first sound was from Scott's chubby body hitting the villa door behind him, slamming the sturdy stainless steel carved door wide open.

The second sound was the sound of Scott's body hurtling through the living room before slamming hard against the wall.

The distance between the two positions was almost ten meters, and Scott's body came to a halt only when he rammed into the wall.

The violent impact made him scream in pain. While falling to the ground, he opened his mouth, and blood gushed out.

The bodyguards didn't process what was going on until Scott began vomiting blood on the floor. Their expressions changed drastically as they glared at Lucas.

Scott's internal organs were almost displaced by Lucas's kick. After struggling greatly to get up from the floor, he shouted, "Kill... kill this bastard! I want him dead right now!"

The ten or so bodyguards immediately charged toward Lucas.

Lucas didn't even bother glancing at them and simply walked toward Scott at the back of the living room as if no one else was around.

"Go to hell!" A bodyguard swung his fist fiercely at Lucas.

Lucas merely raised his hand to block the fist before folding it effortlessly, instantly breaking the bodyguard's wrist.

"Ahhh!" The bodyguard cried out in pain.

After holding the bodyguard's fist, Lucas pushed him back five meters. He was in so much pain that he had already broken out in cold sweat and lost his power to fight.

Seeing this, the other bodyguards started being more cautious when attacking Lucas.

But no matter how hard they tried, all their moves were futile in front of Lucas. They were all like preschool children being beaten up by an adult, their strengths worlds apart.

Lucas knocked down the more than ten bodyguards one after another. During this process, not only did he not have the slightest change of expression, but there was no change in the rhythm of his gait as he walked forward!

At this moment, Lucas was just a terrifying killer to Scott!

There was finally some horror in Scott's eyes.

In particular, when he watched Lucas approaching him one step at a time, he began shuddering. "Lu-Lucas Gray, I'm a direct descendant of the Taylor family. If you dare to lay a finger on me, the Taylors definitely won't let you off... Ahhhh!"

Before Scott even finished issuing his threats, Lucas took a step forward and stomped on his chest.

"I don't have much patience. I'm asking you one last time. Where is Karen Turner?"

Lucas's eyes were brimming with icy cold murderous intent.

Chapter 532: Why Should I Spare You?

Scott was almost frightened to the point of peeing in his pants when he saw the murderous gaze in Lucas's eyes.

As a scion of the Taylor family, he had done countless horrible things such as torturous interrogations and murder. For instance, he had scared Karen to the point of peeing her pants by holding her at gunpoint. She had been so terrified that she obediently succumbed to becoming a shameless and cheap dog in front of him.

But now that it was his turn under Lucas's coercion, he finally realized how terrifying this feeling was!

He initially thought that it would be possible for him to take down Lucas with his ten or so bodyguards because they were all elites the Taylors had spent a huge sum to hire. It was completely possible for a single bodyguard to beat up around ten ordinary people without any problem.

But he never expected that Lucas had merely walked over casually and effortlessly defeated all his bodyguards.

It was simply inhumane strength!

In particular, since Lucas had spent several years in the army, experiencing many near-death situations and killing countless enemies, people like Scott, who only knew to use their power to coerce others, naturally couldn't resist Lucas's terrifying pressure.

Scott's body was now drenched in cold sweat, and he immediately wanted to tell Lucas everything the latter wanted to know in hopes of being spared.

But when he thought about how Marc definitely wouldn't spare him if he really talked, he was overwhelmed with fear again.

"I... I really don't know..." Scott was on the verge of bursting into tears.

Lucas was a formidable killer he couldn't afford to offend, but Marc was also a terrifying psychopath. If Marc found out that he had spilled the beans, he would definitely skin Scott alive!

"Since you don't want to speak up, die!" Lucas looked down coldly at him from above and stepped even harder on his chest.

"Ahh!" Scott immediately howled in pain.

He felt his ribs and internal organs creaking under an irresistible force and pain surging from the depths of his body. The air in his alveolar and trachea was squeezed out, making him open his mouth, but he couldn't utter a single word at all.

The fear of death made him completely break down.

His tears and mucus flowed out, and he was looking at Lucas with a pleading gaze full of regret.

He truly regretted his actions now!

If he offended Marc, he would just have to face the fear of Marc settling scores with him. But now that he had offended Lucas, he might just die right here on the spot!

Only when Scott's eyes rolled backward did Lucas move his foot away and shout in a deep voice, "Speak up! Tell me everything you know!"

Scott felt the immense pressure on his chest suddenly disappear and cool air re-enter his trachea. Only now did he feel rescued from death.

He gasped for air and breathed heavily, looking extremely distressed and repulsive with tears and mucus all over his face.

But he couldn't care less now. As soon as he heard what Lucas said, he immediately said frantically, "I'll tell you, I'll tell you! I'll tell you everything!"

"It was Marc Kingston from San Francisco. He also took Karen Turner away!"

He was terribly frightened and immediately revealed that Marc was the mastermind.

Although he would probably face Marc's wrath afterward, he felt that was better than being killed right now!

“Marc Kingston,” Lucas murmured, seemingly already expecting it.

Several years ago, the Kingstons had become subordinate to the Huttons from DC. The Huttons were also the instigators behind the various incidents in the past, such as the spread of the news of the Huttons abandoning Lucas, Charlotte and Flynn being slandered for having an affair with each other because of digitally-doctored photos, and Oliver Harvey’s suicide in an attempt to make the Stardust Corporation the target of public criticism.

It could be said that the Kingstons were just lackeys to the Huttons.

Although the Huttons had sent someone to bring Lucas back to DC to take over the Hutton family when he had just returned to Orange County from the Falcon Regiment, it was only the decision of the helmsman.

The other members of the family were definitely not willing to see him, a disowned member they had painstakingly driven out of the family for many years, return to the Hutton family to snatch their authority away.

Although Lucas didn’t intend to go back, the rest of the Huttons didn’t think so, so they just kept thinking about suppressing him outside so that he couldn’t do anything.

“Hah, the Huttons! You people are targeting me, but you actually also want to use the people around me to bring down the Stardust Corporation my mother left to me. Unforgivable!” A frightening killing aura glowed in Lucas’s eyes.

Scott had been staring at Lucas’s face, and when he saw his killing intent, he started shivering uncontrollably.

Lucas looked down at him. “Were you the one who snatched Karen away from my people last night?”

Scott didn’t dare to lie and could only bite the bullet to say, “Yes... but Marc Kingston made me do it! As you know, the Kingstons are one of the wealthiest families in the state, and the Taylors are currently dependent on the Kingstons for many matters. So I... I didn’t dare to disobey him! Please spare me!”

“Did he also instigate you to beat up Karen Turner badly and force her to lie and smear me on the stream?”

Scott’s face was covered in cold sweat, but he didn’t dare to say that it was all his own idea, fearing that Lucas would kill him right away. He gritted his teeth and said, “Yes! All of it is Marc’s idea. He sent me to capture Karen Turner to deal with you!”

Now, he could only try to put all the blame on Marc.

After all, it was Marc's idea for Scott to abduct Karen to deal with Lucas and his company.

Lucas sneered. "Even if the idea was his, the person who carried everything out was you. What makes you think I will spare you?"

He kicked Scott's fat body.

Scott shrieked miserably in horror, fearing that Lucas would kill him. He hurriedly said, "No! Y-you can't kill me! I am a direct descendant of the Taylor family, and my father is the head of the family. If you dare to lay a finger on me, the Taylors will definitely not let you off. The Kingstons won't take it lying down either!"

At this time, he could only bring up the Taylors and Kingstons in an attempt to deter Lucas.

Since Lucas returned to Orange County, he had heard such words no less than ten times, so he had already gotten sick of them.

What else could these good-for-nothings do except throw their weight around because of their family's power and authority?

"What can the Taylors and Kingstons do to me?" Lucas sneered imposingly.

Then he shouted at Scott, who was on the ground, "Why did Marc Kingston want to take Karen Turner away? What other instructions did he give you? What other plans do you have? Give me a clear and honest explanation! Otherwise, I will immediately send you to hell!"

Chapter 533: Sudden Gunshot

Scott had long been terrified of Lucas and didn't dare to play any more tricks. He answered Lucas's question truthfully.

"I... I actually don't know what other plans Marc Kingston has. He merely instructed me to destroy the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch within ten days and capture Karen Turner to use her against you. But... after the livestream incident today, he reprimanded me and instructed me to control the scope of public opinion. He wants me to destroy the branch while not affecting the entire Stardust Corporation itself.

"Also, shortly after the stream ended, about half an hour or so ago, Marc Kingston's subordinates took Karen Turner away, but I don't know where they took her!

"I... I swear what I'm saying is true! I was just acting upon Marc's orders. He didn't tell me anything else. So I really don't know much about the rest! Lucas, I've told you everything I know. Please just spare me this once!"

“She was taken away half an hour ago...” Lucas pondered quietly. He didn’t know where Marc would take Karen, but he reckoned that he would likely just kill Karen and then frame Lucas for her death so that he would be labeled a devil and become a public enemy. His reputation would then be ruined.

Lucas didn’t care about Karen’s life and death. In fact, if not for Cheyenne being her daughter, he would have long killed her himself.

Although she deserved to die, now wasn’t the time.

He had lost Karen when she was under his escort. So if she died, there would definitely be some discord between him and Cheyenne and Charlotte.

The only solution now was to go to the Kingstons as soon as possible to look for Marc and force him to speak up. Regardless of whether Karen was now dead or alive, he needed a clear answer!

The thought of it made Lucas not want to waste any more time here.

Lucas glanced at Scott coldly. “Even if you aren’t the mastermind, you can’t be spared from the punishment!”

Then he stepped on Scott’s arm and broke it.

Ignoring Scott’s miserable shriek, Lucas turned around and walked away.

At this moment, his heart was brimming with anger.

The Huttons owed him and his mother plenty to begin with, and he had yet to settle the score with them, but they had been offending him at every turn!

He had yet to develop his current foundation well and would still have to pay a tremendous price to destroy the Huttons. But the Kingstons from San Francisco were willing to be the Huttons’ lackeys and had repeatedly offended him. In that case, they shouldn’t blame him for being ruthless and destroying the Kingstons!

Clutching his broken arm, Scott got up from the floor with great difficulty, full of resentment toward Lucas.

At any other time, he would have thought about how to exact revenge on Lucas for his broken arm and leg.

But he somehow didn’t feel any urge to take revenge now because the thought of the murderous gaze in Lucas’s eyes made him subconsciously terrified!

It was as though Lucas was a giant that was impossible to defeat!

While thinking about this with his face deathly pale, Scott suddenly felt that he should tell the rest of the Taylors about this or at least inform his father, Frederick Taylor, the helmsman of the family, of how terrifying Lucas was. That way, they would be able to properly weigh whether it was worth it for the Taylors to go toe-to-toe against such a terrifying enemy because of the Kingstons!

With this thought, he tried to bear with the pain and picked up his phone to make a call.

“Dad, it’s me. I have something to tell you.” Scott’s tone became cautious in front of his father.

“What’s the matter? Speak up!” Frederick answered tersely as usual.

“Dad, just now, Lucas Gray, whom the Kingstons sent us to deal with, came over, and he...”

Before Scott could finish speaking, a whistling bullet instantly penetrated his heart!

Bang!

The bullet was still echoing, but Scott had already frozen in place. He lowered his head a little and looked at the black hole in his chest. He opened his mouth slightly, but he couldn’t say anything.

Scott’s phone slipped and fell to the floor as he collapsed quietly.

The bodyguards, whom Lucas had defeated earlier, were extremely shocked.

“W-what are you doing?”

“You...”

Two bodyguards immediately became alarmed and hollered furiously, but it was already too late!

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

...

With a burst of intense gunshots, the ten or so bodyguards crumpled down, all shot dead by the bullets that penetrated their heads and other vital parts!

Hearing the sudden bursts of gunshots coming from the other end, Frederick, who had always been composed and collected, was immediately frightened. His heart tensed up, and he suddenly stood up from his seat and shouted, "Scott! What happened?! Scott, hurry up and answer me!"

But there was no longer any sound on the other end of the phone.

Frederick's expression changed drastically, and he immediately realized that something must have happened to Scott!

Frederick flew into a rage and roared at the top of his lungs, "Send people to look for Scott immediately! Find out clearly what exactly happened!"

It instantly made all the Taylors panic as they started searching for Scott frantically, not daring to be negligent at all.

Standing alone in the room, Frederick felt his heart sink continuously.

Although he was still holding onto the hope that nothing had happened to Scott and that Scott could still be rescued, he was clear after hearing the gunshots that it was unlikely that he would survive.

But no matter what, he had to find out what had happened to avenge his son's death!

Soon, the butler hurriedly ran over and reported, "Mr. Taylor, one of the bodyguards with Mr. Scott has returned. He claims to have something important to tell you!"

Frederick immediately got up and barked, "What are you waiting for? Bring him to me immediately!"

Soon, a bodyguard with a broken wrist and a body battered with wounds stumbled in. As soon as he saw Frederick, he immediately got down on his knees and apologized. "Please forgive me, Sir! I failed to protect Mr. Scott. He... he was shot dead tragically by a vile man!"

Although he had long been prepared, Frederick still got a dizzy spell after receiving the news of his son's death.

After finally standing still, he immediately roared with reddened eyes, "I want to know what happened! Who did it? Tell me immediately!"

Only then did the bodyguard raise his head and say with great resentment, "It's Lucas Gray! He suddenly barged into Mr. Scott's villa and shot him dead!"

Chapter 534: Invitation To Form An Alliance

“Lucas Gray!” Upon hearing this name, Frederick roared with extreme viciousness and resentment.

As the helmsman of the Taylor family, he was no stranger to this name.

Moreover, Frederick was well aware that Marc had asked the Taylor family to cooperate with him to deal with Lucas.

But he could have never imagined that Lucas would have the audacity to kill his son!

At the thought of Scott’s last phone call to him before the gunshots, he suddenly realized that Scott seemed to be telling him that Lucas had just barged in. A second after that, the gunshots sounded!

Frederick had no doubt that his son had definitely been killed by Lucas for revenge!

He clenched his fist fiercely and said through gritted teeth, “Where is my son now? Even if he’s dead, his corpse has to be sent back to the Taylors!”

The bodyguard immediately said, “I’ve brought Mr. Scott back. He’s in the hall downstairs!”

Without saying another word, Frederick pushed open the door of the room and rushed downstairs, only to see at a glance the familiar body placed in the center of the hall.

His face was still the same as before, and his body was rotund as usual. In fact, it was still warm.

But the fabric of his floral shirt on his chest was already soaked with blood, and blood was still gushing out from the gunshot wound in his chest.

His eyes were still wide open, and his lips were slightly parted, as if at the moment of his death, he was extremely shocked and in immense disbelief.

“Scott!” Frederick shouted in extreme grief and indignation. The rest of the Taylors stood at the side, not daring to move at all, all seeming to be in disbelief.

After a long while, Frederick took several deep breaths and suddenly opened his eyes with a terrifying aura emanating from his body. “Lucas Gray! I want him dead! Bring him back to me alive immediately. I want to kill him myself to take revenge for my son!”

The Taylors didn’t dare to disobey the family head at all, especially now that he was enraged!

Although many of them usually didn't have any good feelings about Scott, they all felt that anyone who dared to kill a Taylor was making an enemy of all of them!

Lucas was just an abandoned son of the Huttons. But now, he had actually killed Scott, the son of the helmsman. This was an enmity of life and death!

After sending all the competent people in the family to track Lucas down, Frederick got increasingly furious as he looked at his son's face.

He took out his cell phone and immediately called Darren Wallace, the current head of the Wallace family.

Frederick didn't say much nonsense and immediately asked, "Mr. Wallace, I'm calling you this time to ask you if the death of your nephew Liam was the doing of Lucas Gray."

After the sudden death of the former helmsman, Pierre Wallace, Darren succeeded his position. In terms of age and seniority, Darren was a generation junior to Frederick, so Frederick was very straightforward with his words.

Of course, Frederick still didn't know that Pierre hadn't died of a sudden serious illness, but rather, he had been shot dead on the spot by Marc Kingston.

Darren frowned and then said, "Mr. Taylor, what exactly do you want to say? You can just say so."

Frederick said straightforwardly, "Just ten minutes ago, my youngest son, Scott, was killed by Lucas Gray! I've already made up my mind. I'm going to do my best to seize that punk. Previously, I heard that Liam was also killed by Lucas Gray. How about we join hands to capture that punk and torture him to death to avenge our murdered family members?"

Darren was surprised.

He didn't expect Lucas to have killed Frederick's youngest son too. In that case, Lucas's prospects were bleaker and bleaker!

But Darren didn't agree with the Taylors' decision to rope other forces in. Instead, he feigned ignorance and asked, "My nephew was killed by Lucas Gray? I had no idea. Mr. Taylor, how did you learn about it? This is definitely a rumor. I haven't even found out the cause of my nephew's death yet!"

Previously, the Wallaces had tried to work together with the Kingstons to deal with Lucas, but the experts they sent were useless. In the end, even the elite sent by the Kingstons had gotten killed by Stanley, Lucas's bodyguard.

Later on, the Kingstons told them to stop dealing with Lucas for some reason. Darren naturally couldn't ask for more.

Anyway, the one who died was Liam, his brother Bryant's son. Bryant was now going against him both openly and secretly because he was disgruntled over the fact that he was the new helmsman of the Wallaces.

Frederick had a look of surprise because he didn't expect Darren to refuse to admit to this matter. So he naturally knew that Darren wouldn't join hands with him to deal with Lucas.

He was also an extremely arrogant person. Since the Wallaces weren't willing, he wouldn't force them. He said coldly, "If that's the case, then forget it!"

With that, he simply hung up.

After thinking about it, Frederick called Ethan Sawyer and Bruce Hale, the helmsmen of two of the four major families, in hopes of finding an alliance. He even said that after Lucas's destruction, the company and properties under his name would be equally divided among them.

Of course, Ethan and Bruce had long been on Lucas's side, so they naturally wouldn't agree to his request to form an alliance.

After being rejected by the helmsmen of the other major families, Frederick couldn't help feeling enraged.

Frederick stared at his phone with a vicious and menacing expression as he muttered to himself, "Hah, do these idiots really think I need their help?"

The reason he decided to call the helmsmen of the other three families was undoubtedly to test them and see if they were willing to stand on the Taylors' side.

The truth had now proven that these three families were too ignorant for their own good. In that case, he decided that he didn't have to show them any respect from now on!

"Once the matter regarding Lucas Gray is settled, the Taylors will no longer have to conceal our strength and bide our time!"

Frederick had a domineering and tyrannical certainty in his eyes. "It will be a piece of cake for the force behind the Taylors to conduct a big wipeout of the forces of Orange County!"

At this moment, Lucas, who was driving to San Francisco, received phone calls from Ethan and Bruce one after another. They even reported to him that Frederick, the helmsman of the Taylor family, was trying to rope in the two of them to join forces against Lucas.

With an expressionless face, Lucas replied indifferently, "Since the Taylors are courting death, they'd better be prepared to be annihilated!"

His words immediately made Ethan and Bruce both excited and agitated.

The dynamic of the four major families in Orange County had been fixed for many years, and the Taylors, who had the support of that mysterious force behind them, definitely had a hidden agenda. The Taylors might one day bite at the other three families.

With Lucas's assurance, they could now anticipate the impending doom of the Taylors!

By then, the Sawyer and Hale families would rise greatly!

Just as Lucas hung up the phone and was about to drive away from Orange County, a white BMW suddenly drove up near the entrance of the highway and stopped directly in front of his car.

The door opened, and a slender young man stepped out of it. Staring coldly at Lucas sitting in the Jaguar, he smirked and got into a provocative stance.

Chapter 535: I Must See The Corpse

Lucas frowned.

He was a top expert to begin with, and he had a very keen sense of the aura of others.

When he saw the young man with an evil smile on his face, he immediately felt uncomfortable.

The bloodthirsty intent in the young man's eyes was extremely intense, and the uncomfortable aura he exuded was sufficient evidence that he had killed many people before.

Standing in front of Lucas's car with folded arms and a sinister smile, he ordered self-righteously, "If you immediately get out of the car and come back with me to the Taylors to admit to your mistakes, I can spare your life!"

Lucas got out of the car without uttering a single word. After taking a glance at the menacing young man, he commanded coldly, "Get lost!"

A look of bloodthirsty anger immediately appeared on the young man's face. "Hahahaha, punk, you are really arrogant! The last person who dared to speak to me like that is long dead!"

He glared at Lucas arrogantly, licked the corners of his lips, and chuckled sinisterly. "In that case, let me see just how hard your bones are!"

Lucas sneered. "Anyone can blow their trumpet. I just hope that your bones aren't too brittle!"

With a look of menace on his face, the young man roared, "Punk, how dare you mock me? I'll make sure you can never say a single word again!"

Then his figure flashed and immediately dashed toward Lucas.

Lucas had to admit that this menacing and bloodthirsty young man nicknamed Bloody Fiend was indeed deserving of being arrogant.

He was extremely fast, and the angle he had attacked from was particularly tricky. If someone wasn't careful, it would indeed be tough to dodge his attack.

Lucas clearly detected from the punch that Bloody Fiend threw that there were some almost imperceptible sharp objects resembling metal spikes between his fingers. An ordinary person would probably have a hard time defending against his move and end up being struck.

It could be said that this man was indeed worthy of being a powerhouse who had taken countless lives. His combat skills and killing techniques were far superior to those of the people Lucas had met before.

But the fact that he met Lucas predetermined that his killing techniques would never work!

Just as the young man was about to strike Lucas between his waist and abdomen from an extremely tricky angle, Lucas lifted his long leg at lightning speed and threw a flying kick at Bloody Fiend. He immediately crumbled like a broken sandbag and flew backward before colliding into his BMW.

Bang!

The hood of the BMW was dented while the sturdy front windshield shattered and fell to the ground.

Bloody Fiend kept vomiting blood under the immense force and instantly lost consciousness.

"It seems that your bones are really not that hard," Lucas said coldly and turned to return to his car.

But at this moment, his phone suddenly rang, and an unfamiliar number appeared on the screen.

Lucas glanced at Bloody Fiend, who was lying unconscious on the hood of the BMW. He swiped the screen on his phone and answered the call.

"Lucas Gray? I'm Marc Kingston. You must have heard of my name before." A young man's voice came from the other end. Hearing his voice for the first time, people would think that he was a refined and easy-going person.

Lucas frowned. He was now intending to go to San Francisco to ask Marc about Karen and settle scores with him at the same time. But he hadn't expected Marc to take the initiative to call him instead.

It was indeed beyond Lucas's expectations.

"Since you've called me, you must know why I'm looking for you, right?" Lucas asked coldly.

"Ah, of course I do." Marc chuckled. "I was initially waiting for you to come to me on your own. After all, killing you when you're on my turf seems more interesting.

"But now, I've changed my mind. No matter what, you're still a descendant of the Huttons, and I'm sure they'll be displeased if I kill you directly. They might even bring me some trouble.

"I know that you're coming to ask me something. In that case, I don't mind telling you directly. That woman named Karen Turner is now dead!"

Lucas's pupils constricted. *Karen is dead?*

Before Lucas could even say anything, Marc continued speaking in a seemingly nonchalant tone, "What? Do you hate me so much now that you can't wait to come here and kill me?"

"Unfortunately, you can only think about it because I, Marc Kingston, am the next successor of my family!"

"If you're not stupid, you should be able to find out how powerful the Kingstons are. I might as well tell you that if you want to come to San Francisco to kill me now, you'll just be courting death!"

“So I kindly suggest you get lost back to Orange County immediately, and I can guarantee that I won’t harm you. Sparing you is considered being benevolent to you, right?”

After Marc spoke, Lucas’s face was incredibly gloomy.

He didn’t take Marc’s threats seriously at all.

But he kept thinking about what Marc said.

Karen is dead?

Karen is actually already dead?!

How do I explain this to Cheyenne?

How do I explain this to Charlotte?

Murderous intent surged in Lucas’s heart.

“Did you say that Karen Turner is dead?” Lucas asked in an icy cold voice.

Marc chuckled. “Of course she is! I’m sure you know that only when that woman is dead can she be of the greatest value to me!

“I’m going to use her death in exchange for the destruction of your reputation and the Stardust Corporation’s Orange County branch. It’s a really good deal, isn’t it?”

There was some complacency and smugness in his tone.

Initially, he had called Scott and scolded him because the matter had spiraled out of control and escalated to the point that the entire Stardust Corporation’s reputation had been ruined, displeasing the Huttons.

But Marc didn’t expect Jace Hutton to praise him for doing a good job instead of scolding him when he reported this matter to him and asked for forgiveness.

After this matter, Marc understood that as long as he could destroy Lucas, the Huttons wouldn’t mind the consequences.

So Karen’s remaining value was her death, which he could use to smear Lucas as a despicable villain according to Scott’s plan and deal with him using the shame of being a heartless person!

Lucas closed his eyes and asked calmly, “So, where is her corpse?”

Marc burst into laughter. “Are you going to tell me that you want to see her, be it dead or alive? Well then, I’ll tell you. That woman’s body is of no use to me, so I sent my men to feed it to the dogs. Even if you want it, you can’t get her corpse. Haha!”

Bang!

The concrete pavement beneath Lucas’s feet shattered with a loud bang as an invisible and raging aura emerged from his body!

He was truly enraged!

Chapter 536: The Taylors’ Powerhouse

Marc seemed to sense Lucas’s anger, and his voice became even more joyful. “Haha, you must be furious now, huh? Unfortunately, it’s already too late to be angry. After all, the woman you want to see has already become a feast for my beloved dogs!

“I called you this time to give you a kind reminder. After all, not any Tom, Dick, or Harry is allowed into the residence of a noble family like ours! Although I don’t intend to kill you, the Huttons can’t blame me if I do if you insist on barging into my home!”

With that, he hung up.

After hearing how arrogant and condescending Marc was, Lucas boiled with fury.

Lucas found it really difficult to accept that Karen’s corpse had been fed to dogs.

Even if he hated Karen, he didn’t want her corpse to be desecrated.

Moreover, Karen was Cheyenne and Charlotte’s biological mother, so they would definitely break down if they heard this news!

He had no doubts about what Marc said because he knew that the most useful thing about Karen was her death.

He clenched his fist in chagrin, and his gaze became firm.

Even if Karen was dead and her corpse was incomplete, he would still go to the Kingstons to make Marc hand over her remains!

At the same time, he had to punish Marc for all his crimes!

Just as Lucas was about to get into his car and continue driving to San Francisco, several cars suddenly drove over and stopped around Lucas simultaneously, completely surrounding him.

It was yet another group of people with evil intentions!

Lucas stood quietly in place with a hostile expression on his face. Nearly twenty people clad in black fighting gear alighted from the cars one after another. They were also holding daggers, swords, and other weapons while surrounding Lucas.

The leader of the group, a middle-aged man, came forward. He looked at Lucas as if he was an object at the mercy of others and said indifferently, "Punk, I'm sure you know that you've offended someone, so you'd better behave yourself and give up. If you do, we may still let you live. Otherwise, your only option left will be to die here!"

In his opinion, under the siege of the twenty or so experts at his side, it was absolutely impossible for this young man in front of him, who was less than thirty years old, to escape unscathed.

Lucas raised his head to look at them with an icy cold gaze. "I'm not in a good mood now."

The middle-aged man froze for a moment before bursting into laughter. "Haha! What a joke! What does it have to do with us if you're not in a good mood? Don't be mistaken. We're here to capture you and take you back to the Taylors, not to please you!"

Lucas ignored him and continued, "During normal circumstances, I might consider letting you go. But I'm in a bad mood now, so if you don't want to die, get lost right now!"

These people didn't take his stern warning seriously.

In their opinion, Lucas was just issuing an empty threat, which was just a joke to them!

"Ahhh, I'm so scared. Boss, he actually said he could let us off the hook? Haha, that's hilarious!"

"Punk, you're really too blind to realize what's going on! There are twenty of us here, and we can easily turn you into a fool! What are you still pretending in front of us for?"

"Boss, let's hurry up and teach him a lesson. Let's see if he can continue blowing his trumpet in front of us!"

...

The men in black had probably never seen anyone like Lucas, who still arrogantly issued threats even while being badly outnumbered. They all started mocking him.

The middle-aged man was also full of contempt for Lucas. "Oh, since he has a death wish, we don't have to be kind to him! Mr. Taylor said that we just need to bring him

back alive, and it doesn't matter if he's disfigured or his limbs are broken! Brothers, hit him now!"

At his command, the twenty or so powerhouses of the Taylor family immediately charged at Lucas with weapons in their hands!

Anger surged in Lucas's eyes, and his entire body seemed to be covered in frost. He raised his head abruptly with a menacing aura, causing the breath of a few experts of the Taylor family to freeze!

"Kill him!" the experts said through gritted teeth and charged at Lucas, using their best moves.

Lucas raised his hand expressionlessly and grabbed the wrist of a man brandishing a dagger. He then twisted his wrist and snapped it like a twig!

"Ah!" The man let out a miserable cry. Next, Lucas launched a kick at his gut, causing him to fly backward immediately and completely lose his combat power.

Then still moving as quickly as lightning, Lucas turned slightly to the side to dodge a machete slashed by another man. Likewise, he twisted his wrist hard to snap it into two.

"Ah!" The man screamed miserably. Lucas lifted his entire body and used him as a shield to block the military knife of another man trying to stab him.

The sharp knife stabbed directly into the second man's stomach. Blood gushed out everywhere as the second man let out a miserable shriek.

The Taylor family expert holding the knife was stunned for a moment. He had waited for an excellent opportunity to stab Lucas, but he hadn't expected him to be much faster than he thought. And before he had time to react, he had stabbed the knife in his hand straight into his companion's body!

Lucas shuttled through the group of more than twenty people like a phantom. Everywhere he passed, there would be a burst of screams as he broke their limbs. But the Taylor family experts didn't get a single chance to land a hit on Lucas. Instead, they ended up striking their companions.

Of course, it was naturally all due to Lucas.

After less than a minute, these twenty or so experts almost all collapsed on the ground as crimson blood spilled all over. The revolting odor of blood pervaded the air.

However, their wounds were not caused by Lucas but by the weapons in the hands of their companions.

In the blink of an eye, the twenty or so experts, including the middle-aged man taking the lead, all lay on the ground, clutching their wounds and wailing incessantly.

Lucas was the only one who remained unscathed and stood still in front of them.

“Go back and tell Frederick Taylor that after I return from the Kingstons, it will be the Taylors turn next. Get him to wash his neck and wait!” Lucas said coldly. Then he got into his black Jaguar and headed for San Francisco.

Chapter 537: Pondering About The Future

This time, no one dared to stop him again.

Lucas made up his mind to bring Karen’s corpse back no matter what!

He wouldn’t let Marc and the Kingstons off either!

Just as Lucas was speeding toward San Francisco in his Jaguar, a pair of brothers were sitting in a luxurious living room, completely relaxed and leisurely enjoying a massage given by two beautiful women.

“Marc, do you think Lucas Gray will come here, or will he be scared out of his wits and run back to Orange County to hide?” asked a lustful-looking young man of about 27 or 28 years old.

This young man was Kyle, who had previously formed a feud with Lucas at the entrance of Club Splendor in Orange County because of Gisele’s instigation.

Although Kyle and Marc were cousins, their statuses in the Kingston family were worlds apart because of the great disparity between their aptitudes.

Marc was valued by everyone in the family, who all had high hopes for him, and he was the next successor of the Kingston family, while Kyle was just a scion in name. In terms of power and authority, even other wealthy families couldn’t compare to Marc at all.

Just as Marc said, in the Kingston family, he was the only one deserving of being addressed in a respectful manner and deemed as the scion.

This was also why Gisele Taylor didn’t fancy Kyle at all and had wanted to use Lucas as a shield.

Marc narrowed his eyes and said confidently, “With my understanding of him, he definitely won’t go back to Orange County obediently. He will definitely come here!”

“But Lucas Gray is highly proficient in martial arts. During the auction in Orange County, he managed to kill Liam Wallace just by flicking a button at him from nearly twenty meters away. Are you sure you can take down such a strong enemy?”

Kyle was feeling a little worried and looked up at the middle-aged man in his late forties standing behind Marc like an iron tower.

Marc looked up a little without saying anything much. He merely said to the middle-aged man behind him, “Coby, my cousin doesn’t seem to have much faith in your ability, so show him your skills.”

Coby nodded indifferently. He took a step forward and picked up a decorative solid bronze statue on the small table next to him. He then twisted and kneaded it into a ball as if it was dough. Finally, he grasped it, and five deep pinch marks appeared on the ball!

Coby tossed the distorted copper ball into Kyle’s hand and then stood behind Marc.

Holding the heavy copper ball in hand, Kyle realized that the pinch marks on it were extremely clear. Even if he exerted all his strength, he wouldn’t be able to leave any traces on it. Only then did he finally understand just how powerful this expert was!

“Marc, he... is really strong,” Kyle exclaimed in shock.

Marc laughed out loud. “Of course! As long as Coby is around, Lucas Gray will be crushed into pieces and die in pain once he comes here!”

Kyle couldn’t help getting excited.

Ever since he had gotten into a conflict with Lucas in Orange County and ended up getting kicked out by him instead, Kyle utterly hated him.

But before he could think of a way to get back at Lucas, he learned that Lucas had killed Liam effortlessly with a button, which immediately made him drop the idea of taking revenge on Lucas.

Now that Marc had found such a competent expert to take Lucas’s life, Kyle was naturally more than pleased!

But because Kyle still feared Lucas, he was worried that Coby would make a blunder and suggested, “Marc, I think we should prepare some backup plans in addition to Coby. In case Lucas Gray gets away, all our planning will be in vain!”

Marc glanced at him and said indifferently, “Lucas Gray is just a small fry. I’m already being nice enough by sending an expert like Coby to deal with him! What? Do you think Coby can’t defeat him?”

For some reason, Marc loathed Lucas greatly the moment he heard his name. He didn't want to hear others praising Lucas either.

Kyle hastily denied, "No, no, no, no! I just thought that it's better to take precautions. But on second thought, Coby is powerful enough, so there's indeed no need to arrange for others to deal with him!"

Only then did Marc nod in satisfaction. "Yes, it's just a mere Lucas Gray. How can he be worthy of the Kingstons?"

He suddenly asked, "Have you done what I told you to?"

Kyle replied proudly, "Rest assured, Marc. I've already made all the necessary arrangements. The news of Karen Turner's death has been spread on the internet, and I've also gotten people to stir up public opinion. Everyone is saying that Lucas Gray killed Karen Turner out of anger, and the online discussions are really heated now. Everyone is definitely going to slam Lucas Gray!

"Marc, you should achieve your goal of annihilating the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch soon!"

Hearing this, Marc smiled in satisfaction.

The Huttons gave him a month to complete the mission, but only a few days had passed since he started, and he was already about to complete the task. If Jace heard about this, he'd definitely be impressed by his competence.

He might even become highly valued by the Huttons in the future!

Marc was pleased when he imagined the scene.

But Kyle was a little worried. "Marc, are you really going to kill Lucas Gray? No matter what, he's a descendant of the Huttons. If we really kill him, will the Huttons settle scores with us?"

Marc laughed. "Don't worry. Am I that brainless? I naturally got the Huttons' approval to kill Lucas Gray. Otherwise, why would I go out of my way to offend the Huttons?"

"Jace Hutton's position in the Hutton family is undoubtedly high, and he personally assured me this. As long as we act according to his intentions, we'll be able to prosper once he takes over the family!"

Only then did Kyle feel relieved. With Jace's assurance, it'd only be a matter of time before the Kingstons dominated San Francisco! Even he would gain great benefits.

While the two of them were thinking about the future, public opinion erupted on the internet as explosive news quickly became the headline of various major social media platforms.

“#KarenTurnerIsDead!”

“#ViciousSon-in-lawFinallyKillsMother-In-Law! #TheEvilnessOfHumanNature!”

“Lucas Gray, head of the Stardust Corporation’s Orange County branch, kills mother-in-law to seize the family assets!”

“#LucasGrayKarenTurner”

...

All of a sudden, a series of juicy headlines and topics quickly made it to the front page of almost all internet news and media platforms.

Chapter 538: Reaction To Death

As soon as the news of Karen’s death came out, it immediately sparked a tremendous uproar.

Just this morning, Karen had done a livestream with the few popular streamers and nearly ten million fans on four major platforms, during which she had wept the entire time and accused Lucas of trying to kill his father-in-law by creating the car accident that had turned him into a vegetable, followed by beating his mother-in-law after being exposed by her. She had even accused Lucas of being inhumane and driving her out of the house.

At the end of the stream, Karen said herself that if she suddenly died, it had to be because Lucas killed her to take revenge.

As soon as the stream ended, a huge commotion fermented on the internet because of the brutal nature of the incident.

Now, only a few hours had passed, and Karen, the protagonist of the incident, had actually died just like that. For a while, everyone targeted Lucas, the murder suspect. The sounds of discussion were getting louder and louder on the internet.

“Oh my god. That poor woman Karen Turner actually died. Without a doubt, it must have been her scumbag son-in-law who did it!”

“I’ve never seen anyone as vicious as Lucas Gray. It has really broadened my imagination!”

“Exactly! If not for the Carters, he would just be a penniless good-for-nothing. How dare he be so arrogant and kill his parents-in-law for the sake of the family’s assets?!”

“That’s right! How can such a scumbag still be in charge of the Stardust Corporation’s Orange County branch? It seems that he and his company are peas of the same pod. How disgusting!”

...

The online media platforms were flooded with all kinds of similar abusive comments.

Countless people were full of righteous indignation and cursing their hearts out at Lucas.

As the head of the Stardust Corporation’s Orange County branch, Lucas was embroiled in this mess and became the target of public criticism. The company’s image was greatly affected, and all of a sudden, the company’s stock price plummeted too.

Charlotte, sitting in the general manager’s office and handling the company’s public relations affairs, was dumbfounded when she saw the just-released earth-shattering news on the internet.

“No... That’s impossible. How can Mom be dead? Lucas clearly promised me he would bring her back! How can she be dead?!”

She stared blankly at the shocking news on the monitor, not wanting to believe a single word of it.

But the netizens were actively discussing this matter, which meant it was almost impossible that she was hallucinating.

Charlotte didn’t want to believe that Karen was dead. But just because she didn’t want to believe it, it didn’t mean that it hadn’t happened.

She held her head and laid on the desk while crying in pain.

Of course, she didn’t believe the accusations on the internet that Karen had been killed by Lucas, but it was true that her mother was already dead!

How could she not be devastated at this moment?

Charlotte’s best friend and secretary, Sophie, quietly walked over and put her hand on Charlotte’s shoulder to comfort her softly with reddened eyes. “Charlotte... I didn’t expect your brother-in-law... I mean, the company chairman to be such a person! Don’t worry. If you plan to sever ties with him and leave the company, I will definitely go with

you too! No matter what happens, I'll always be your best friend and stand on your side forever!"

Charlotte choked and raised her head while crying in pain. "No, that's not the case. That's not the truth! All of you have misunderstood Lucas!"

"He's not the person that the internet says he is, and my mom wasn't killed by him. Everything on the internet is rumors and accusations to slander him. My mom was forced to say those things on the stream this morning too!"

"But... but I really don't know what to do now. Sophie, I feel terrible!"

Sophie seemed astonished. "What? You said that Aunt Karen was forced to say those things on the stream this morning? Were the people who forced her the same ones who killed her? But the people online are all saying that the chairman did it. They're lashing out at him and calling him all sorts of unbearable names. They even said that our company deserves to close down sooner with a person like him in charge..."

"Bullshit! Those people don't know anything and are just going with the flow and believing that nonsense!" Charlotte gritted her teeth and clenched her fist before punching the table.

After a long while, she finally took a few deep breaths. Seemingly having made up her mind, she said, as if she was speaking to herself, "You're right. There's something else I should do now, and that is to help Lucas keep his company running!"

"I can't let those bastards with malicious intentions who killed my mom and framed Lucas and our company get what they want!"

Her eyes were filled with firm conviction.

Sophie was astonished. She grabbed Charlotte's hand and said firmly, "Okay, I will stand by you and face it with you. We will protect our company together!"

Charlotte glanced at her best friend gratefully, quickly dried her tears, pulled herself together, and then said firmly, "Summon all the company executives to the conference room on the top floor for a meeting!"

"Yes, Miss Carter!" Sophie replied with gusto. Both of them looked extremely resolute, as if they were preparing for war.

It was indeed a war to protect the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch!

At the same time, in the hospital...

Cheyenne, who was taking care of William in the ward, had a drastic change of expression when she inadvertently overheard the gossip of the nurses.

When she stumbled back into William's ward, she unlocked her phone and saw the overwhelming news and comments on the internet, making her break down immediately!

"Mom! How did you... It's all my fault. I was the one who caused this to happen to you! If I hadn't chased you out last night, you wouldn't have encountered all of this!

"It's my fault! It's all my fault! Mom, please don't die! Please come back alive, okay? I promise I will never drive you away again. Mom!"

Cheyenne was bawling so hard that she almost fainted.

When she saw the pale and motionless William on the bed, she cried even harder and more uncontrollably.

"Dad, it's all my fault! If I hadn't chased Mom out last night, she wouldn't have met with a mishap at all! It's all my fault!

"Dad, wh-what should I do now?"

She was wailing without any regard for her image, just like a pitiful child.

In fact, she didn't believe that Karen was killed by Lucas.

As his wife, Cheyenne knew better than anyone else what kind of person Lucas was.

Even if Lucas hated Karen, he had always been patient because she was her mother, and there was no reason for him to kill her.

Moreover, with Lucas's skills and power, Karen wouldn't have had the chance to denounce him openly on a stream if he really wanted to kill her.

Right, the stream! That stream this morning is extremely suspicious!

Karen had always been a conservative person who wasn't open to new things and technologies. When she was at home, she would spend most of her time watching TV and reading all sorts of fashion and makeup magazines. But she rarely spent time on the internet, let alone watch streams.

Besides, she had only been taken away by Lucas last night. So how could she have gotten to know prominent streamers overnight and even get them to help her slander Lucas publicly?

She thought that Karen must have been kidnapped and compelled into doing so.

All of a sudden, Cheyenne's heart was full of guilt and misery because of Karen's death and also because of Lucas.

She also hated her powerlessness and cried even harder.

But she failed to notice that William, who had been lying motionless on the bed, suddenly moved his pinky outside the sheet twice.

The movement soon stopped, so no one knew what just happened.

Chapter 539: How To Take Sides

Outside the gates of the Kingston manor in San Francisco...

A black Jaguar sped up and came to a halt with a rattle, stopping at the entrance of this beautifully decorated and gorgeous manor.

Lucas got out of his car with a straight face and then glared at the gilded statue at the entrance of the manor. He stepped forward and immediately kicked the two-meter tall statue with the Kingstons' family name engraved on it, causing it to break immediately!

Bang!

The stone statue shattered, and stone chips flew everywhere.

When the Kingstons' bodyguards heard the noise, they quickly swarmed over and stared at Lucas with hostile expressions. "Where did this punk come from? How dare he kick and break the Kingstons' symbolic statue?!"

Lucas stared at them coldly, and a majestic aura suddenly surged. "Today is the day that the Kingstons will die! Go inside and tell Marc Kingston that I, Lucas Gray, am coming for him!"

While Lucas was in San Francisco to confront the Kingstons and settle scores with them, there wasn't any peace in Orange County either.

Ethan was still preparing for a great battle against the Taylors as he gathered some trusted members of his family to discuss the next step of the plan, according to Lucas's intentions.

But after Ethan suddenly received a phone call, his expression changed. And when he returned to the conference room, he stopped listening to the opinions and suggestions

put forward by the family. Instead, he waved his hand sullenly and said, "Forget it. Let's put these matters aside for the time being. All of you may leave now!"

Although the participants were extremely puzzled and unable to figure out why Ethan suddenly changed his mind when they had already decided on it and were about to put forward their suggestions, they were naturally smart enough not to probe since Ethan had already said so. Besides, they could tell from his sullen face that he wasn't in a good mood.

Only Lena, who had overheard Ethan's conversation on the phone, frowned and asked, "Dad, I think I just heard you say to someone that Lucas has gone to San Francisco to confront the Kingstons? Shouldn't we think of a way to help him?"

Ethan looked at his daughter with a frown and chided, "Who allowed you to eavesdrop on my call? You're so unruly."

Lena pursed her lips and said worriedly, "I didn't mean to eavesdrop. I just happened to hear a little bit when I walked past! Dad, you haven't answered me. How exactly are you going to help Lucas?"

Ethan let out a long sigh. "The Sawyers can't help with this. As you know, the Kingstons are a powerful and wealthy family in San Francisco. We can't intervene at all. Moreover, it's a matter between Lucas and the Kingstons and has nothing to do with us. So there's no point in getting ourselves involved."

Lena widened her eyes in astonishment. "Dad! What are you saying? When we were in LA back then, didn't you say that you would stand by Lucas's side even if it meant having to risk losing everything when we were facing Matthew Benson in LA? Why have you suddenly changed your mind now that he's really encountered a crisis?"

Ever since her father had said those words to support Lucas, and because Lucas had saved Lena's life several times before, making her fall in love with him, she thought that her family had already formed a good partnership with him and would always be on the same side.

But she hadn't expected Ethan to chicken out when Lucas was facing such a huge crisis!

Ethan was rendered speechless by Lena's words. After a long time, he finally sighed and said, "Things are different now! You just don't understand. In short, just listen to me and stay out of this matter. Let Lucas resolve his feud with the Kingstons alone. We can't intervene!"

Lena's eyes were full of immense disappointment.

"I see. It's for your so-called interests again, right? You're afraid of going against the Kingstons and offending them. You said that you'd be on Lucas's side back when we were in LA only because you knew that the Coles would definitely be on Lucas's side, right? Dad, you're so mercenary and terrifying!"

"But don't forget that you also told me before that Lucas is a Hutton and that we should build a good relationship with him. Surely you're not afraid of a mere Kingston family?" Lena mocked.

"Shut up! Is this the attitude you should have when speaking to your father?"

Ethan turned and said angrily, "You're simply clueless! Do you know that the person who just called me is from the Hutton family?"

"I'm sure you know that I managed to gain a firm foothold in Orange County, and our family managed to become one of the four major families in Orange County today, only because I received help from Chad Kennedy, the head butler of the Hutton family. But the person who called me just now is the legitimate scion of the Huttons, and he warned me not to get involved in Lucas's affairs. What do you think I can do?"

"If it was just the Kingstons, I naturally wouldn't be afraid. But now that the Huttons have given me a warning, wouldn't I be courting death if I still had the audacity to go against them? What would you do if you were in my place?"

He took a deep breath and said in a mellower tone, "Lena, I hope you can understand my difficulties."

In fact, he was also rather ill at ease.

Actually, his friendship with Lucas was considered the strongest in the circle of Orange County. From the first day Lucas had returned to Orange County, it was Ethan who had received him at the airport together with Chad. Later on, he had also tried to get closer to Lucas because he had faith in him and Chad had also instructed him to do so.

But now that the scion of the Huttons had personally called to give him a warning, what else could he do?

Lena fell silent for a long time before saying bitterly, "Even the Huttons are out to deal with him... Is this all we can do..."

However, Ethan was not the only one who received a call from the Huttons.

The other helmsmen of the four major families in Orange County, as well as many powerful figures in Orange County and LA, also received that warning from the Huttons.

The Taylors and the Wallaces were naturally overjoyed to receive this news because it meant that the Huttons wouldn't be Lucas's backer. Instead, they were going against him.

Both of their families happened to have a feud with Lucas, and they were naturally eager to see this scene.

But Bruce, the helmsman of the Hale family, fell into deep thought.

After putting down the phone, he kept himself locked up in his study, where he paced back and forth with a gloomy expression while constantly letting out long sighs.

When Connor walked in to talk to him, Bruce snapped back to reality.

"Grandpa, what exactly happened? Why are you so vexed?" Connor asked in bewilderment because he clearly remembered that the old man was still speaking to him energetically just a short moment ago. Soon, the Hales would have an enormous opportunity.

Bruce thought about it and said to his only grandson, "Connor, I'm asking you, if someone forced you to choose between the Huttons and Lucas, and you have to be hostile to the other person, what would you do?"

Connor blinked, and his expression immediately turned grim too.

Chapter 540: Barging Into The Kingston Manor

Connor was a smart man, so he immediately understood his grandfather's troubles. He reckoned that it must have been a message from the Huttons.

In fact, Connor had absolutely hated Lucas at the beginning.

During the birthday banquet of Connor's son, Lucas had kicked up a ruckus at the venue because Logan had kidnapped Amelia, and Lucas had even shoved his head into a bowl of soup despite him being the most promising scion of the Hale family. He had been utterly embarrassed.

Afterward, Lucas used his own strength to take out the experts and gunmen that the Hale family had hidden for a long time. He even found close to two hundred armed soldiers and armored vehicles and sent them to surround the Hale residence before throwing all of them into that terrifying prison.

If Lucas hadn't spared their family out of consideration for Bruce Hale's sincerity later, the Hale family wouldn't exist in Orange County now.

Thus, from a certain point of view, Lucas was once the enemy of the Hale family, who had personally banished them to a living hell. But at the same time, Lucas was also their benefactor. Without him, only his three-month-old son would be the sole survivor of the Hale family now.

After this incident, the Hale family completely surrendered to Lucas, and they even transferred their businesses to him, though he appointed them to be in charge of managing them on his behalf.

But in terms of legal ownership, all these businesses actually belonged to Lucas.

Now, if the Hale family had to pick between Lucas and the Huttons...

"I choose Mr. Gray!" Connor said with unusual determination.

"Why?" Bruce looked straight into his grandson's eyes, paying attention to every single microexpression of his.

Connor said firmly, "Because if it wasn't for Mr. Gray, the Hale family wouldn't exist in Orange County now. We're following Mr. Gray now, and even if we lose the bet, the result won't be any worse than our current situation. But after what happened last time, I believe that Mr. Gray isn't a simple man. Even if he's facing the Huttons, he might not necessarily lose! Hence, I choose him!"

Bruce stared silently at Connor with a straight face.

Connor stood still in place with his back straight, allowing his grandfather to stare at him without any changes in the determination in his eyes.

"Haha, good!" A few seconds later, Bruce suddenly laughed, raised his hand, and patted Connor on his shoulder. "You're really worthy of being my grandson. You're brave and intelligent! It seems that the Hale family does have a successor!"

He said with a grateful smile, "Since Lucas is in trouble now, the Hale family is obliged to help him! Bring our top experts to the Kingston manor in San Francisco to help Lucas!"

"When you return from San Francisco, I will let you succeed me as helmsman of the family!"

Connor was surprised for a moment, but he was soon agitated and excited.

Although he had long known he would take over the family one day, he didn't expect it to come so soon.

“Yes, Grandpa! I won’t let you down!” Connor’s body was brimming with energy as he strode outside.

Bruce Hale looked at the back of his grandson, who was full of ardor, and felt rather emotional.

Although he had long decided to make Connor the next helmsman, the various events that had happened previously made him too scared to leave the Hale family in his hands.

However, Connor’s growth was extremely obvious, as he had clearly become more intelligent and more responsible.

Now, he could finally hand over the position of helmsman to his grandson with peace of mind.

Apart from the Hale family, Joe, the manager of Little Atlantis City in Orange County, and Damon Parker from LA had also received warnings from the Huttons, who called to tell them to keep their distance from Lucas and not to meddle in his affairs or offer him any help.

However, Joe, Damon, and the others coincidentally chose to continue to stand on Lucas’s side after some deliberation.

Joe himself was well aware that if not for Lucas’s help, he would still be nothing more than a manager of a small clubhouse like the Opulence. He would have never had the opportunity to take revenge on Tony Zander either, much less take control over Little Atlantis City, a top entertainment joint in Orange County.

Lucas was the one who had given him all of this, so he had to stand on Lucas’s side out of loyalty no matter what.

Damon’s reasons were similar too.

If Lucas hadn’t put aside their differences and unraveled the Owen brothers’ conspiracy, the Parkers might have fallen apart long ago, let alone get ahold of many of the Owens’ businesses and rise to become the top family in LA. They wouldn’t have gotten the chance to help Lucas manage the Solar Corporation either.

Damon had made up his mind early on that he had to stand by Lucas’s side. Moreover, he was extremely confident in Lucas!

After making up their minds, Joe, Damon, Connor, and the others all gathered their most competent subordinates and then drove to the Kingston manor in San Francisco in a long, snakelike convoy.

Even if they couldn't give Lucas much help, they should at least make their attitudes clear so that the Kingstons would be wary of Lucas and not dare to harm him easily!

Meanwhile, at the entrance of the Kingston manor in San Francisco...

After Lucas kicked the stone statue at the entrance of the Kingston manor, numerous bodyguards swarmed out to surround him.

In particular, the Kingstons were further enraged when they heard Lucas tell Marc to wash his neck and get ready.

"Where did that punk come from? How dare he speak to Mr. Marc in such a manner?!"

"You've destroyed the Kingstons' symbolic statue and spoke to Mr. Marc so rudely. You will die here today!"

"Don't waste your breath on speaking nonsense with him. Capture him and bring him to Mr. Marc!"

The ten or so bodyguard guards charged at Lucas.

But what they thought was an act of bravado was actually extremely poorly executed and unbearable in Lucas's eyes.

Lucas didn't even look at them. Each time he waved his hand and foot, one person would be flung away forcefully and rendered immobile on the ground.

"Argh!"

"Ahhh!"

Bang!

...

Soon, there were miserable screams from time to time. The bodyguards were all knocked down without even touching the corner of Lucas's clothes, no longer able to get up on their feet.

At this moment, the arrogance and certainty in their eyes had long since vanished and was replaced with horror and disbelief.

The young man in front of him seemed to be only around 25 years old, and he didn't have any terrifyingly bulging muscles either. But he managed to effortlessly send these professional bodyguards flying, which meant that his strength was far beyond theirs!

After knocking down these small fries, Lucas stood in the yard of the manor and yelled, "Marc Kingston, I'm already here. Are you going to act like a coward and hide inside without daring to show yourself?"

His voice was like a bell containing a certain rhythm, and it surprisingly reached all corners of the massive Kingston manor clearly!

Chapter 541: Fighting and Catching Up

In the villa in the middle of the Kingston manor...

Lance, the helmsman of the Kingstons, was sitting on a couch in the middle of a hall. His face immediately turned gloomy upon hearing the voice.

He looked at his grandson Marc, who was standing beside him, and asked coldly, "What's going on? What kind of person did you provoke to our home?"

Marc hurriedly smiled and explained, "Grandpa, don't be angry yet. This person should be Lucas Gray, whom the Huttons told us about. He's just an abandoned son who was kicked out by the Huttons. The scion, Jace Hutton, has long disliked him and can't wait to get rid of him. So I'm just helping the Huttons with a minor issue.

"I got him to come to me on purpose, and I've already made all the necessary arrangements. As long as he breaks into our manor, I guarantee I won't let him walk out alive!"

Lance frowned. "You want to kill him? What are the rest of the Huttons' stand on this?"

Marc said confidently, "I've already obtained permission to kill Lucas Gray from Mr. Jace Hutton, so there won't be an issue. Moreover, he promised me that if we can help him kill Lucas Gray, he'll help us deal with the other Huttons. He will even give us aid in the future."

Only then did Lance nod in approval, but he then warned, "Since you've already communicated with the Huttons, I'm relieved. But remember, if you want to kill him, do a clean job and be resolute. Leave no stones unturned, and make sure he doesn't escape to create trouble for us instead!"

"Yes, Grandpa!" Marc nodded in agreement before turning around and walking toward the front yard.

Since Lucas Gray has already entered the Kingston manor, it's impossible for him to leave! I just need to catch him...

Marc, who had a confident smile on his face, instantly had a drastic change of expression when he saw the large group of bodyguards.

These bodyguards were not mediocre ones. They were elite bodyguards the Kingstons had transferred over from various places specifically to trap Lucas in the Kingston manor before killing him with Coby, his best trump card.

But things were completely different from what he had expected.

Only two short minutes had passed from the time he received the news of Lucas's intrusion.

Within two minutes, he was able to knock nearly thirty elite bodyguards onto the ground?

Marc had a look of disbelief on his face. What was even more unbelievable to him was that Lucas had come here alone, yet he had managed to defeat nearly thirty people besieging him in just a couple of minutes. It was simply too terrifying.

Just as Marc's heart was full of waves, Kyle, standing next to him, looked extremely gloomy. In fact, his heart was full of horror.

He would never forget that when he was at the auction venue held in Club Splendor in Orange County, Lucas had been as relaxed as he was today. In the blink of an eye, he had effortlessly killed Liam Wallace by shooting him in the neck with a small bullet.

"Marc, what... what should we do? Lucas Gray is too powerful. Our bodyguards don't seem to be his match at all!" Kyle said with a frightened look.

"Shut up!" Marc hollered coldly. "What are you afraid of? Yes, I also admit that Lucas Gray is indeed very powerful. But he's alone, while I can transfer at least a hundred bodyguards. If we besiege him, he'll definitely die!"

"Besides, even if he can really defeat all our bodyguards, I still have Coby, a top expert. Furthermore, there are also a few top experts around Grandpa. I can guarantee that he won't come back! What's there to be afraid of?"

Although Marc was a little surprised by the terrifying strength that Lucas was displaying, he definitely didn't think that Lucas could be a match for Coby, the top expert he had hired.

He would first get the bodyguards to fight Lucas to exhaust him to give Coby an advantage!

Anyway, he had to keep Lucas in the Kingston manor today and make him die!

Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to face his grandfather and Jace Hutton.

Standing behind Marc, Coby looked at Lucas, who was nearly finished suppressing all of the bodyguards, with excitement in his eyes from seeing his opponent.

"Please rest assured, Mr. Kingston. Lucas Gray is no match for me! As soon as you give the order, I'll immediately take him down!" Coby said arrogantly.

Kyle was slightly relieved after hearing Marc's words and Coby's confidence. *That's right. Even if these bodyguards are elites, they're just bodyguards. Real experts such as Coby have yet to make a move. What am I worried about?*

At this moment, Lucas didn't even change expression in the slightest after seeing the constant stream of bodyguards surrounding him.

They were just small fries to him, and it wouldn't take much effort for him to deal with them. He thought Marc was just being delusional by thinking that they would be able to consume his energy.

Back when Lucas carried out a mission in Calico, he had once fought enemies for four days and three nights. During that time, the enemies that had died at his hands exceeded four figures. Hundreds of bodyguards in front of him were nothing.

Moreover, the situation now was different from then. He was on a battlefield back then, so he had to make sure to kill every single enemy. But now, these bodyguards were just following orders from their bosses. Lucas just had to break their legs and arms to stop them from fighting. In comparison, this was much easier and effortless.

Soon, the number of people lying around Lucas's feet increased as he steadily approached Marc step by step.

Meanwhile, on the road to San Francisco, nearly fifty cars were converging in a common direction.

The long line of cars traveled in single file, and the conspicuous logos on them made everyone widen their eyes in shock.

"Why is there such a long convoy? Is some notable family holding a wedding today?"

"No, there aren't any ribbons on the cars. It's certainly not a wedding! Do you see their license plates? They seem to be cars from Orange County and LA."

“I’ve seen that Orange County license plate of 66666 before. That car belongs to the helmsman of the Hale family from Orange County!”

“I also remember now that the car with the license plate of 99999 is from LA. It belongs to the helmsman of the Parkers from LA! A friend of mine took pictures of it and showed me them before. There can’t be a mistake!”

“So many cars are traveling together. Are they trying to do something? Is something major going to happen in San Francisco?”

...

Just as countless passersby marveled at these vehicles, the convoys heading to San Francisco finally discovered each other’s presence.

“Hah, that car across belongs to the Parkers from LA. I wonder why they’re suddenly here. I heard that there was a conflict between the Parkers and Mr. Gray previously. If they’re going over to take advantage of the situation, they’d better not blame the Hale family for being hostile to them!” Connor stared at the car at the front on the other side with a look of determination in his eyes.

At the same time, Damon also saw the convoy belonging to the Brookes from Orange County. “Hmph, Bruce Hale has always been a sly old fox. Who knows if there’s a link between him suddenly going to Orange County, Mr. Gray, and the Kingstons. Anyway, we have to get to Mr. Gray first!”

The convoys sped up in unison toward the Kingston manor.

In the Cole residence in San Francisco...

Alexis suddenly barged into Edmund’s study and exclaimed anxiously, “Grandpa, bad news! Something has happened to Lucas!”

Chapter 542: Surging Waves

Edmund was caught off guard, and he immediately spurted out a mouthful of tea.

He put down the teacup and wiped his drenched chin before saying in displeasure, “Alexis, you’re not a child anymore. Why do you still speak so rashly and carelessly?!”

The moment he finished chiding his granddaughter, he suddenly thought of the keywords in the sentence he just heard. He asked in astonishment, “Wait, what did you just say? Something happened to Lucas?”

Alexis hurriedly nodded and said anxiously, "Yes, I just found out online that the incident Lucas is embroiled in has already spiraled out of control! Everyone on the internet is saying that he killed his mother-in-law, and he's getting slammed badly, so I immediately sent someone to ask around. I found out that Lucas's mother-in-law wasn't killed by him but taken away by Marc Kingston! Lucas has barged into the Kingston manor to take revenge on Marc Kingston, and both sides are fighting now!"

"What did you say?!" Edmund stood up abruptly in shock. "What's going on? Why did the Kingstons suddenly capture Lucas's mother-in-law and kill her?"

"Besides, I don't think Lucas is a reckless person. How could he have gone to the Kingstons' alone to take revenge? The Kingstons are one of the top families in the state. They have countless bodyguards and elite experts. What can he do by barging in alone?"

Alexis hurriedly said, "Ah, Grandpa, stop dwelling on why these things happened. The most important thing now is to rush to the Kingston manor. Since Lucas went there alone, he definitely isn't at an advantage!"

Hearing this, Edmund hurriedly nodded. "Yes, you're right. I'll go to the Kingstons' right now and tell them not to hurt Lucas!"

"I'll go with you!" Alexis hurriedly followed behind her grandfather.

Both Edmund and Alexis were incredibly anxious. Since Lucas saved Edmund's life, Edmund had always wanted to help Lucas. Even though he felt that Lucas was too reckless to confront the Kingstons at this time, he couldn't ignore his savior no matter what.

Alexis had similar thoughts. Apart from the fact that Lucas had saved her grandfather's life, she also felt that he was an interesting person. So as soon as she heard that he was in trouble, she immediately panicked and proceeded to look for her grandfather.

However, the two of them didn't know much about Lucas's identity and background.

When they were in LA, they had anxiously looked for Edmund's savior, so when they found Lucas, they had merely briefly checked his family members and general origin. So they only knew that he was a former son-in-law of the Carter family. Edmund didn't let his people investigate in detail, so he didn't know about Lucas's relationship with the Huttons.

After all, he had investigated Lucas because he was grateful to him for saving his life and not because he wanted to invade the privacy of his savior.

Thus, they didn't know much about Lucas's identity and abilities. So as soon as they heard that he had barged into the Kingston manor alone, they immediately went to look for him.

This also showed that Edmund and Alexis were righteous people. For the sake of saving Lucas, they didn't hesitate to go against the Kingstons, who were another top family in San Francisco.

At the same time, many other powerful families in San Francisco had also gotten the news through their own channels.

After all, the Kingstons were a top family in San Francisco, and the fact that a young man had suddenly barged into their home was quite a shocking thing.

Regardless of the final result, it could greatly satisfy their curiosity.

However, no one felt that this young man could really do anything to the Kingstons. After all, it was obvious who the final victor of the battle between a young man and a top wealthy family would be.

Compared to this matter, they were more concerned about other news.

Hearing that the helmsmen of several top families in Orange County and LA had rushed to San Francisco and seemed to be going to the Kingstons', they wondered if there was any link between the two matters.

Since they had developed a strong curiosity, these top families from San Francisco tried to get the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of a favorable position. So they unanimously sent their family members to the vicinity of Kingston manor to find out what was happening.

Everyone had a premonition that something big was probably going to happen in the Kingston manor!

While there was a commotion outside the Kingston manor, Lucas had already defeated the bodyguards who had rushed over to court death and was now approaching the main villa.

Looking at the closed villa door, Lucas moved like a bolt of lightning and soon arrived at the villa door ten meters away to kick it open with a flying kick!

"What?!"

Marc and Kyle, who were hiding behind the villa door and watching the battle, immediately screamed in horror. If not for Coby's quick reflexes and him pulling them

back by their collar in the nick of time, they would have probably had their faces hit by the door that was suddenly kicked open.

The main reason was that they hadn't expected that Lucas, who was nearly ten meters away just a second ago, would suddenly appear in front of them in an instant.

Marc's heart was full of fury. Lucas's actions just now almost caused him to have his face hit by the door, which was a great insult to him!

He stared at Lucas gloomily and said slowly, "Lucas Gray. Hah, I have to say that you do have a lot of guts. You have managed to anger me."

Lucas immediately looked at him.

He had already heard Marc's voice over the phone once, so as soon as he heard it again, he immediately recognized him.

Lucas sneered. "Really? So what if I've angered you? Weren't you the one who tried to goad me into coming? Now that I have, you've been hiding behind the door like a turtle and peeping like a coward. How hilarious!"

"You!" Marc was so enraged by Lucas's mocking that his face turned beet red. As the rightful successor of the Kingstons, he had been praised by others since he was a child, and never had he been called a coward nor berated by others.

What angered him further was the fact that he couldn't even refute Lucas because he had indeed been hiding behind the door just now and secretly watching Lucas fight! *How infuriating!*

Kyle, next to him, was secretly thrilled to see something like this finally happening to his cousin, who had always outshone him in every aspect.

But after a brief moment of pleasure, Kyle became even more scrupulous toward Lucas.

After defeating the hundred-odd bodyguards of the Kingstons, Lucas still remained unscathed, and even his breathing was as regular as ever!

Moreover, he had just suddenly dashed over to the door from ten meters away. His incredible speed made Kyle feel terrified.

Without the villa door, he wouldn't have had time to react or struggle if Lucas wanted to grab his neck and crush it!

Kyle was petrified and couldn't help retreating far away from the terrifying enemy, Lucas.

But at this moment, Marc was furious at Lucas and said with a menacing expression, "Punk, don't forget that you are now standing on the Kingstons' turf. If I want you dead, you have to die!"

Then he hollered to Coby beside him, "Coby, immediately kill him! I want his detestable tongue cut off and fed to the dogs!"

Coby acknowledged, and the knuckles of his fists made cracking sounds as he immediately rushed at Lucas!

Chapter 543: Trump Card

It was no wonder that Coby had been hired at a high price. His grasp was so fierce that it even produced a whistling sound in the air as his thick-jointed hands extended toward Lucas's face.

If Lucas couldn't dodge this move, his eyes would definitely be poked by him, and there would be more bloody holes in his face.

Smack!

Lucas raised his hand lightly, blocked the swift blow, and then immediately grabbed Coby's wrist.

Coby immediately switched tactics and tried to grab Lucas's wrist too.

A triumphant smile appeared on Marc's face.

He knew that Coby's greatest strength was his nimble hands and fingers. For instance, he could easily crack a solid bronze sculpture or even steel with his fingers, just as he had demonstrated to Kyle earlier!

Now, Coby had already grabbed Lucas's wrist, and he thought that he would definitely be able to crush his wrist into bits in the next instant!

"Ah!"

Indeed, the next moment, a miserable and shrilling scream rang in Marc's ears.

"Hahahaha, Lucas Gray, I said that you were going to die today... What?!"

After hearing the miserable shriek, Marc started laughing in triumph until he suddenly noticed that something was amiss.

His laughter abruptly stopped, and his eyes immediately widened, looking as if he had seen a ghost.

The person shrieking in front of him was Coby, for whom he had high hopes!

The person whose wrist was crushed was not Lucas, but Coby!

Coby's right hand had already been displaced and broken, while his face, which had always had a smug and confident expression, was covered in bulging veins and distorted beyond recognition. Large beads of sweat emerged from his face at a visible speed.

Across from him, Lucas was still standing in place with a straight face, completely composed and unperturbed.

"This... is impossible!" Marc blurted out.

His pupils seemed to be undergoing a magnitude 10 earthquake as they trembled nonstop. He couldn't believe what he was seeing!

"Is this your trump card? Seems like it's no big deal," Lucas said coldly.

Then he turned to the side and immediately kicked Coby in the chest!

Bang!

Coby's body was propelled backward, and the bones and internal organs in his chest immediately shattered. By the time he landed on the ground more than ten meters away, he was no longer breathing, and his heart was no longer beating either.

With a single kick, a top expert died just like that!

Marc's jaw dropped as he stood rooted to the ground with a magnitude-twelve tsunami of shock surging in his pupils. His body began to sway unsteadily from the extreme shock and horror.

"No... This can't be! This is absolutely impossible!" He couldn't believe this result at all.

Coby was an expert he had spent millions of dollars to poach from elsewhere. He had always been very confident in him, and of course, Coby had never disappointed him before.

But Marc couldn't believe that this expert he had pinned all his hopes on would fail to last even a round against Lucas and end up getting killed in seconds!

In that case, how terrifying was Lucas?!

When he thought of his confident threats and the promise to kill Lucas that he had made in front of Kyle and Lance, as well as to Jace Hutton, his heart began to sink.

Only now did he finally realize that he had greatly underestimated Lucas's strength, which was why he was caught in this situation now.

What will Lucas Gray do next?

Will he kill me?

If Lucas wanted to kill him now, there was no way for him to stop him!

At this moment, Marc's heart was full of regret.

Back when Kyle advised him to leave some backup plans in addition to Coby, he had felt that Kyle was deliberately making Lucas seem more impressive, so he had rejected him without hesitation.

Now, he just wished that he could turn back time. If he could, he wouldn't have made a move against Lucas easily, and he would have at least done a proper background check on Lucas!

Unfortunately, it was too late for regrets now!

Seeing Lucas looking at him with a cold and ruthless gaze, Marc felt as if the shadow of death was looming over him.

He shuddered uncontrollably before suddenly remembering that he had set up a trump card earlier. As long as he succeeded in pulling it, Lucas definitely wouldn't dare to kill him and might even succumb to being an obedient dog to him!

"Hah, Lucas Gray, do you think you've defeated me? Let me tell you, you're wrong, and you'll regret it right away!" Marc wiped a handful of cold sweat from his face and gritted his teeth while guffawing menacingly.

"Is that so? You've said that several times before." Lucas snickered and continued walking toward Marc.

"Stop!" Marc suddenly hollered. "Don't you want your wife, Cheyenne Carter, to stay alive?"

Hearing this, Lucas suddenly stopped in his tracks, and his face, which was expressionless most of the time, gradually turned cold.

He glared daggers at Marc. "How dare you threaten me with her life? You must die today!"

A terrifying murderous aura immediately emerged from Lucas's body, and even the pebbled ground under his feet cracked under the pressure of his domineering aura.

Marc was frightened by Lucas's intimidating aura. But as soon as he thought that he was still holding Lucas's Achilles' heel, he immediately had the courage to confront him again.

He grinned. "I've long gotten people to investigate you. You attach great importance to your wife, Cheyenne, and for her sake, you were even willing to suffer while living with the Carters. Even that bitch Karen Turner could climb all over you and disrespect you as she pleased. So, your wife must be your biggest weakness, right?"

"Since I dared to call you to come here, I must have prepared well. Your absence from Orange County has given me the perfect opportunity! As long as your wife falls into my hands, you can only obey me like a dog. Otherwise, I'll immediately have people cut off her hands and feet and slash her face. Then I'll let my men have fun with her before finally killing her!"

Every time Marc said something, Lucas's face would become increasingly cold and hostile. In the end, his eyes were a bloodthirsty red as a strong killing intent emerged.

Marc truly enjoyed angering Lucas. "What? Do you hate me so much that you want to kill me immediately? But you can't. If you dare to lay a finger on me, I can guarantee that your wife will end up in a living hell!"

He burst into unrestrained and arrogant laughter.

Hah, so what if Lucas Gray is good at martial arts?

As long as I get hold of his greatest weakness, he won't dare to resist. Even if he's furious, he doesn't dare to say anything unpleasant to me anymore.

But at this moment, Lucas suddenly smirked in contempt and looked at Marc as if he was looking at a fool. "Do you really think that your men can get their hands on my wife?"

Chapter 544: Full of Ardor

Hearing this, Marc took out his phone with certainty and laughed out loud. "I see you're still holding out hope until the last moment! Okay, I'll show you who's in control of your wife now!"

He tapped his phone a few times to make a call.

As soon as the call connected, he turned on the loudspeaker with a triumphant expression and said to Lucas, "I'll let you hear your wife begging for mercy one last time!"

Soon, the sounds of someone talking came from the other end, but it was totally different from what Marc had expected.

“Lucas, we’ve settled the matters here. A few bugs sneaked over and tried to harm Cheyenne, but we’ve tied them all up! As long as I’m here, no one will dare to lay a finger on her!”

It was a cheery voice belonging to a man.

The man was Jordan, who had followed Lucas back from the Falcon Regiment in Calico and had been acting as Lucas’s right-hand man!

“Impossible!” Marc’s expression changed drastically when he heard the words coming over the phone. “Impossible! The people I sent there are absolute experts! They definitely wouldn’t have failed!”

“Oh, so you’re the idiot who sent those bugs to try to capture Cheyenne? Hmph, how dare you harbor malicious intentions about her? You’re dead meat!” Jordan said with contemptuous laughter, dealing a huge blow to Marc.

Marc immediately hung up, as if he’d be able to get rid of his defeat by doing so.

Lucas sneered and remarked snidely, “Hah, idiot!”

Ever since Cheyenne, Charlotte, and Amelia had gotten into dangerous situations one after another, Lucas had been extremely concerned about their safety and went to great lengths to protect them. Previously, Wade had been following Charlotte for a long time to protect her while Stanley protected Cheyenne and Amelia. Generally, Jordan would also secretly protect them after completing his tasks.

After Stanley left Orange County and went to DC with Flynn some time ago, Lucas had instructed Skylar to take over Stanley’s task of protecting Cheyenne and Amelia in secret.

When Lucas left Orange County to go to San Francisco to look for Marc, Jordan, whom he had previously sent to train the Hale family members in martial arts, was also transferred back to protect Cheyenne and Amelia.

With the degree of protection Lucas had arranged for his family, it would be impossible for anyone to harm them or take them hostage to threaten him, even if his enemies sent true top experts.

“It seems that your last trump card is gone. What other tricks can you play next?” Lucas looked at the pale Marc, and the killing intent in his eyes intensified further.

Although Marc's move hadn't succeeded, his presumptuous attempt to kidnap Cheyenne and the things he had just said were enough to make Lucas feel an urge to kill him!

Marc was now truly panic-stricken, and he desperately retreated with all his might. But his legs went weak, and he almost tripped over himself.

He began to look extremely wretched, and he no longer seemed as confident as earlier.

At this moment, an old yet austere voice suddenly came from the side. "Kid, you'd better not be so overbearing! Today, you've trespassed in the Kingston manor and wounded so many of our bodyguards. Now, you're even trying to harm my grandson. Don't you think you're going overboard?"

Lucas looked over in the direction of the voice and saw an old man with white hair supporting himself with an expensive wooden cane embellished with large emeralds while walking out from the villa in a rather majestic manner.

When Marc saw him, he immediately rushed over as if he had found a straw to clutch at. "Grandpa, you're finally here! This punk actually wants to kill me!"

The old man who walked over was Lance Kingston, Marc's grandfather and the current helmsman of the Kingston family.

There were also two black-clothed guards with intimidating auras standing behind him, one on his left and one on his right. Their temples were slightly bulging, and they had obviously trained in martial arts.

Lucas burst into laughter. "Overbearing? Look who's speaking!"

"I didn't have any dealings with the Kingstons in the past, but your grandson Marc held my mother-in-law captive and killed her. Not only that, but he even used her death to frame me. You have lived for so long, so you shouldn't be an old fool. Why don't you tell us who's being the bully?"

Lance's face immediately turned sullen.

As the head of the Kingstons, a notable family in San Francisco, he was already being kind enough to be willing to step forward and speak to Lucas.

But he hadn't expected Lucas to be so insensitive as to mock him and call him an old fool. He was indeed extremely detestable!

"It's a good thing for young people to have a sense of pride. But if you're too arrogant, you'll bring a deadly disaster upon yourself! If you leave obediently now, I can take it that nothing has happened and spare you this once!"

Lance glowered at Lucas with a somewhat intimidating gaze and seemed to be admonishing and threatening him. He was behaving like he was high up in the air, and his tone was full of condescension, as if he was giving Lucas a huge concession by doing so, and Lucas should just be grateful to him and immediately leave.

“Hmph!” Lucas snorted coldly and laughed in anger. “Spare me? You’ve misunderstood something! I want to kill Marc Kingston now!”

Lance was angered by Lucas’s arrogance. “Punk, seems like you want to do this the hard way. Since you’ve angered the Kingstons, I’ll make sure you can’t leave this place today! Don’t forget. This is the Kingstons’ territory, and you’re not fit to cause a stir here!”

If not for the fact that he had noticed how terrifying Lucas’s martial arts were when he was watching him fight just now, Lance would have long sent his men to kill Lucas instead of wasting his breath talking to him!

“You said that Mr. Gray isn’t fit enough to provoke you, huh? Well then, count the Parkers in!” An old man’s voice suddenly came from behind them.

Damon stood with his back straight and walked over on a steady gait with around forty elite bodyguards behind him. Standing together, they emitted an intimidating aura!

“If that’s not enough, then count the Hales in too!” As another young voice sounded, Connor also strode in imposingly with dozens of men behind him!

“Count the Little Atlantis City in too!” Joe also appeared in front of the crowd with a group of subordinates, full of zeal and ardor.

“And us...”

...

In an instant, the vast front yard of the Kingston manor was all occupied by the hundred-odd people who rushed in.

The Kingston family bodyguards who were lying on the ground and wailing just now were all being treated as sacks getting in the way and thrown to the side one after another.

When Lance saw this scene, his usually austere face became covered in bulging veins because he was boiling with fury!

Chapter 545: Firm and Unwavering

Lance dared to swear that in all his years of life, he had never encountered such humiliation!

Indeed, it was a blatant insult and humiliation!

If the people who spoke in front of him were from notable and powerful families in San Francisco, it would still be quite a decent threat. But the people in front of him were from families in LA and Orange County that he belittled. Yet they actually dared to talk to him in such a manner. They were simply disregarding the Kingstons!

“Hah, do you people think you’re qualified to make a clamor like this in the Kingstons’ territory?”

Lance glared at Damon, Connor, and Joe, who were in the lead. “You are just nobodies from Orange County and LA. Together, none of you are even worthy of carrying my family’s shoes! How dare you threaten me? You must be dreaming!”

Damon retorted, “Yes, the Parkers may be very weak compared to the Kingstons. But even families like us know to have some shame and proper manners. The Kingstons are at fault to begin with, but you won’t let others seek justice?”

Connor calmed himself down and said in a deep voice, “Yes! If Marc Kingston hadn’t abducted Mr. Gray’s mother-in-law by force and killed her, he wouldn’t have come here to confront you and seek justice! The Kingstons are at fault in the first place. We are willing to help Mr. Gray, and it has nothing to do with family status!”

Joe also stepped forward and said firmly, “Indeed, as you’ve said, Mr. Kingston, I’m just a nobody. But even a nobody like me knows what loyalty and righteousness are. Even I know how to tell right from wrong! Mr. Kingston, if you can still differentiate between right and wrong, hand over Marc Kingston to us!”

“Yes, immediately hand over Marc Kingston and make him give us a clear explanation about Karen Turner!”

“Indeed. Marc Kingston randomly laid his hands on someone from Orange County. Do you think we’re pushovers?”

...

All of a sudden, Damon, Connor, and the others demanded that Lance hand over Marc, the culprit of it all.

The men they had brought with them also chimed in and yelled, “Hand over Marc Kingston!”

“Hand over Marc Kingston!”

“Hand over Marc Kingston!”

“Hand over Marc Kingston!”

...

When Lance heard these yells in unison, his face turned red. *How dare these pieces of trash come here to kick up a ruckus and compel me? Outrageous!*

“Shut up! Aren’t you afraid of the Kingstons retaliating and exterminating your families?” he barked furiously at the top of his lungs.

Damon, Connor, Joe, and the others looked at each other with some tacit understanding before answering in unison, “If we were afraid, we wouldn’t have come here!”

They had indeed thought about it for a long time ago before deciding to come to San Francisco to help Lucas. Since they were willing to proceed, they had naturally already considered all the gains and losses, including the possible outcome of facing the revenge and retaliation of the Kingstons and so on.

But regardless of the final outcome, it was enough for them to know that their consciences were clear!

Lance was truly enraged. “It seems that the Kingstons have been keeping too low a profile recently, so much so that you small fries have the delusion that you’re capable of throwing a fit here in my residence. In that case, I’ll use my strength to show you the consequences of going against the Kingstons!”

Then Lance raised his hand and waved it forward. Thirty men in black immediately emerged from all corners of the manor, forming a loose siege around the more than hundred experts that Damon and the others had brought.

The strength of these men was on a completely different level from those bodyguards that Lucas had knocked down earlier.

It could be said that these men in black were the powerful force that the Kingstons had secretly kept in reserve.

The expressions of Damon and the others all became grave.

Although they had each brought the most powerful subordinates and bodyguards working for them, their resources were indeed a far cry from those of the Kingstons. So even though the strength of these people they had brought wasn’t too bad, they paled in comparison to these men in black who worked for the Kingstons.

All of a sudden, everyone seemed to be dismayed.

“Hmph, do you know the difference between the Kingstons, a notable family of San Francisco, and you teeny families now? Of course, there is no great unresolvable feud between us. If you take your people away and leave obediently, I can still pretend that nothing has happened and let bygones be bygones! Otherwise... hah!” Lance issued a threat and left it to Damon, Connor, and the others to choose.

Of course, he would release these people who had the audacity to provoke the Kingstons. But he would definitely destroy them later to make up for the humiliation he had suffered today!

Damon, Connor, Joe, and the others looked at each other while gritting their teeth, none of them willing to retreat by a single step.

Just as Lance’s face was incredibly gloomy and he was planning to order the men in black to make a move against Lucas, Lucas suddenly stepped forward and said, “Mr. Kingston, I don’t mind giving you a warning. Marc Kingston has killed my mother-in-law, so I’ll definitely take him away today. If you know any better, I’ll take him alone. But if you don’t, don’t blame me for making the Kingstons’ blood flow all over the ground today!”

When Lance was threatening Damon and the others just now, Lucas didn’t step forward to interject or say anything because he wanted to see what choice they would make. If it was just purely for the sake of interests, the smart thing to do would naturally be to obey Lance and draw a clear line between Lucas and themselves.

But these people in front of him didn’t choose to do so. Instead, they would rather go against the Kingstons and face their retaliation than turn their backs on him.

Lucas was pleased with the outcome, and he even felt a little touched.

Of course, as long as he was around, he wouldn’t let the Kingstons do whatever they wanted.

“Yes, hand Marc Kingston over!”

“Hand Marc Kingston over!”

“Hand Marc Kingston over!”

...

All of a sudden, their yelling filled the air of the manor!

Lance was so furious that his stern face distorted.

The rest of the Kingstons were also enraged.

Being bullied by a group of people who showed up at their place to force them to hand over their family member was the worst humiliation they had ever suffered in the past decade or so!

Meanwhile, Marc, the person they were yelling about, was grimacing in fury.

He was the most qualified and competent member of the Kingston family and also the next successor they were all grooming. Rarely would anyone call him by his full name.

Now, everyone was yelling at him and calling him by his full name in an unbridled manner. It was simply a huge insult!

Lance hollered furiously, "You want to take my grandson away? Dream on!"

Lucas sneered. "Your grandson killed my mother-in-law. Why can't I take him away? I'm sure you're clear on what a life for a life means!"

"Bullshit! My grandson has such a noble status, while your mother-in-law is just an ignorant woman from the countryside. She's not fit to be compared to my grandson at all!"

"Hey, Lance, that doesn't seem right, does it?" All of a sudden, a bell-like voice belonging to an old man came from the gate of the Kingston manor.

Chapter 546: Fight If You Want

The voice immediately caught everyone's attention as they looked over.

At the entrance of the Kingston manor, an elderly man who was also in his seventies but was still tall and robust walked over slowly with a young and pretty woman in her twenties.

"Mr. Cole... what brings you here?" Lance glared at him, his expression becoming even more hostile than before.

The person who arrived was none other than Edmund Cole, one of the top giants in San Francisco!

And the young and beautiful woman beside him was naturally his granddaughter Alexis.

Although the Kingstons and the Coles were both top families in San Francisco, the Kingstons had always been a notch inferior to the Coles. They had only managed to somewhat go against the Coles with the help of the Huttons two years ago.

Lance and Edmund didn't get along too well with each other. And in fact, there was a strong tension between them whenever they met.

Today, Edmund had suddenly come to the Kingstons' and rebuked Lance for speaking callously, greatly displeasing him.

Before Edmund could answer Lance, Alexis was already smiling at Lucas and asking, "Lucas, are you alright?"

Lucas nodded at the young and enthusiastic girl.

Edmund immediately laughed out loud. "Lucas, why didn't you inform me that you've come to San Francisco? If my granddaughter hadn't told me about it, I wouldn't have known at all!"

Lucas smiled. "I'm just here to handle a personal matter, so I naturally can't impose on you, Mr. Cole."

"Lucas, you're making our relationship sound distant. You and I are close enough. It won't be considered imposing on me," Edmund said with great enthusiasm, immediately revealing his close friendship with Lucas.

Indeed, Lance's face became even more sullen after hearing this.

He hadn't expected that Edmund actually knew Lucas and was even standing on his side.

The thought of it made Lance even more frustrated. "Edmund Cole, you're here to back this punk up and speak up for him, aren't you?"

Edmund didn't hide anything and simply said straightforwardly, "Yes, I've already briefly heard what the matter is about. Since your grandson is at fault in the first place, he should be handed over to Lucas as a matter of course!"

Edmund was simply treating Lucas as a close friend.

This scene not only made all the people in the front yard of Kingston manor look at each other in puzzlement and dismay, but it also caused the jaws of the members of the other wealthy families in San Francisco, who were trying to find out more about the situation, to drop.

The young man in front of them named Lucas seemed to be only about 27 or 28 years old, and there wasn't a single piece of designer clothing on him. Moreover, they didn't know of any notable families with the last name Gray.

But when they saw how nice Edmund was to Lucas and how he seemed to value Lucas greatly, they couldn't help wondering why.

Moreover, given the current situation, Lucas had already barged into the Kingston manor and even beat up so many of their bodyguards and flung them aside like they were sandbags. No matter what, they were certain that the Kingstons wouldn't let Lucas off.

But now, not only was there Connor, a member of one of the four major families of Orange County, there were also Damon Parker, the helmsman of the top family in LA, and the other forces of Orange County. They had all rushed to San Francisco to protect Lucas at the expense of offending the Kingstons. Edmund had also come forth to express his friendship with Lucas and his stand to support Lucas, which suddenly complicated the situation too.

If it was just a few small families, the Kingstons wouldn't bother paying much attention to them. As long as they wanted to, the Kingstons would have the opportunity to get rid of them any time they pleased. But the Coles' intervention had greatly reduced Lance's confidence.

If the Kingstons had been able to deal with the Coles, they wouldn't have been at a disadvantage throughout their battle against the Coles over the years. Neither would they have to rely on the Huttons' help in order to rival the Coles.

"Edmund Cole, this is a matter between the Kingstons and Lucas Gray. You're just an outsider, and you have no right to interfere in the matter between us!

"Moreover, we have always stayed in our own lanes. If you must intervene in this matter regarding my grandson, don't blame me for taking advantage of the opportunity to kick you when you're down in case something happens to the Coles in the future!

"Furthermore, Marc is my grandson and also the promising successor that the Kingstons have committed to grooming and nurturing. How can I easily let anyone take him away? If I do as they say today, how can I stand firm in San Francisco in the future?!

"Here's some advice for you. Stay out of the affairs of others and get lost from the Kingston manor immediately. Or else, the Kingstons won't mind starting a war with the Coles!"

After speaking menacingly, Lance seemed extremely overbearing.

But Edmund wasn't one to be trifled with. Since he joined the military in his early years, he had developed a firm and authoritative personality, becoming someone who would never allow others to defy him. Moreover, the threatening tone of Lance's voice made Edmund extremely displeased.

“Are you threatening me? Hmph, let’s get this war started. I’m not afraid of you!”

Edmund was just as angry and feisty. He wasn’t afraid of threats at all, making Lance completely speechless.

That wasn’t all. He immediately took out his phone and made a call. “Get ready! I might go to war with the Kingstons at any time! Find out all evidence we can get against the Kingstons. I want you to make sure that we can annihilate them!” Edmund said openly without trying to hide anything at all.

Lance instantly had a drastic change of expression.

He hadn’t expected Edmund to take his casual threat seriously and had even taken the lead in preparing for a war against the Kingstons by sending his men to collect evidence against the Kingstons in a bid to annihilate them!

He... he’s being too arrogant! Lance was trembling in fury. Is Edmund Cole brainless or what?

Apart from the Kingstons and the Coles, there was another top family in San Francisco that had always been rivals against the other two, and that was the Walkers.

If the Coles and Kingstons suddenly went to war, they would certainly fight to the death. By then, regardless of the outcome, the Walkers would stand to gain an advantage.

At that time, the Walkers would be the dominant giant of San Francisco, while the Coles and Kingstons would be downgraded a notch. The losing party might even be eradicated from the city!

Has this dimwit Edmund Cole not thought of the consequences?

Is it worth it for a young man like Lucas Gray?

Lance simply couldn’t figure out what was going on in Edmund’s head!

The other members of the Kingston family and the people secretly watching were all in disbelief.

Chapter 547: Dilemma

As two of the three top giants in San Francisco, the Coles and the Kingstons had decided to go toe-to-toe against each other because of a young man!

If word about this matter spread, everyone would probably think that it was just rumors because it was completely unbelievable.

But it was a fact that they heard with their own ears!

For a moment, everyone stopped speaking, and the Kingstons' front yard fell into silence.

Lance's face constantly changed between blue and red. Eventually, he raised his head, gritted his teeth, and asked Edmund, "Edmund Cole, are you sure you want to go to war against the Kingstons?"

Without hesitation, Edmund immediately replied, "It's not that I want to go to war with you but that you're forcing me to!"

"I've just said it. Your grandson has made a mistake, so he should bear the consequences for it. It's only right that Lucas has come to look for him since he killed his mother-in-law! It was you who threatened me with going to war first. It's up to you to decide if you want to fight or not. Regardless of your choice, I will fight you to the end! Anyway, no matter what, Lucas is my life savior, and the Coles will stand firmly behind him!"

Only then did Lance realize why Edmund was standing so firmly on Lucas's side. Lucas had saved his life!

He was enraged!

Lance was so angry that he wanted to flip a table.

He knew that Edmund had always had a straightforward military-style character. He had also always been the type to take revenge where it was due and likewise repay the kindness others showed him. Since Lucas had saved his life, Edmund would never change his position!

In other words, if he vehemently refused to hand over Marc, the Coles would definitely go to war with the Kingstons, and that was no joke at all!

Feeling touched, Lucas looked at Edmund.

In fact, Edmund had always called him his life savior, but Lucas had always felt that he had just done Edmund a small favor, so he was rather touched by Edmund's kindness.

In the end, Lucas could only say softly, "Thank you very much, Mr. Cole!"

He hadn't thought of relying on the Coles's power to solve this matter, nor had he ever thought of getting them involved.

But he would always remember this kindness that the Coles showed him. And if they ever needed help in the future, he wouldn't hesitate to offer them a hand.

Alexis smiled and said, "Lucas, don't worry. With me and Grandpa on your side, the Kingstons won't do anything to you!"

She smiled sweetly, as if she didn't even take the matter of the two families going to war seriously.

With a faint smile, Lucas turned around to look at Lance. "Mr. Kingston, my stand remains. I just need to take Marc Kingston alone. I hope you can consider this properly."

In fact, when Lucas barged into the Kingston manor alone earlier, he had just been thinking of solving this matter on his own. If the Kingstons refused to cooperate, he wouldn't mind annihilating them.

But as Damon, Connor, Joe, Edmund, and Alexis appeared, he slowly began to change his mind.

The reason was that the power of so many people combined would certainly attract lots of speculation and probing gazes.

Thus, Lucas's plan to exterminate the Kingstons would be too high-profile, which would also inevitably draw the attention of many parties to him.

At this point, Lucas didn't want to have such a high profile due to various considerations.

Lance seemed to hesitate.

There were only two options before him.

One, hand over his grandson Marc to Lucas, but that would be a blatant insult and shame to the Kingstons.

Two, protect his grandson and go to war against Lucas, the Coles, and the various families from Orange County and LA! The consequences would be unimaginable, and it would also very likely bring about enormous losses to the Kingstons.

He didn't want either of the options.

Seeing his grandfather hesitating, Marc couldn't help panicking as he quickly advised from the side, "Grandpa, you can't agree to their request! Don't fall for their scheming tricks! If the Kingstons really succumb to their compulsion and hand me over, what dignity will we have left?"

"Grandpa, they're just threatening to go to war with us because they want to intimidate us. If we really go to war, will the Kingstons be afraid of them? Even the Coles are just

on par with us, let alone the other families. If you agree, won't you be bowing down to them?"

Marc was overwhelmed with anxiety, fearing that his grandfather would cave in to the pressure and hand him over to them.

But Lance didn't say anything while the rest of the Kingstons remained in a bizarre silence too.

In their opinion, if the Kingstons really went to war against the Coles and the other families, the outcome wasn't something they could be optimistic about.

Moreover, this matter was originally caused by Marc, so they thought that it was only a matter of course for him to be handed over.

Most people were selfish, even relatives. To most people, interests and profits were the top priority.

Marc became even more flustered, and he couldn't help inciting his grandfather. "Grandpa, why aren't you saying anything? Are you also afraid of Edmund Cole and feel that you're inferior to him?"

Lance flew into a rage and raised his hand to slap Marc's face. "Bastard, trust you to have the cheek to say that. You are the cause of this trouble!

"You didn't listen to all the admonishments I gave you, did you? Why did you kill that woman for no reason? If you hadn't done it, would the Kingstons be facing the current crisis?"

"I..." Marc felt really aggrieved!

The Huttons were the ones who had given them the task of dealing with Lucas and the Stardust Corporation, which Lance was aware of too. He also knew that Marc was planning to use Karen's death to frame and suppress Lucas, so he couldn't figure out why he was getting blamed for it.

He was indeed rather indignant and extremely aggrieved.

While chiding him, Lance winked at Marc and then continued, "You've indeed made a mistake. As your grandfather, I can't indulge you any longer. From today onward, you will be grounded and laid off from your current duties. You aren't allowed to step out of the house for half a year! Do you hear me?"

Lance's tone was extremely assertive and fierce, but Marc was overjoyed to hear his words.

Since his grandfather was going to confine him at home, it meant that he wasn't going to hand him over to Lucas!

He immediately said gleefully, "Yes, Grandpa! I promise to stay at home in confinement and won't set foot outside!"

After hearing what Lance said, Edmund turned gloomy. "Lance Kingston, so you've decided that you want to protect your grandson and not hand him over, right?"

Chapter 548: Finally Declared War

"Yes!" Lance said firmly.

Although Marc was indeed his most valued grandson, who had received the most careful guidance and the most resources of the Kingstons, he wouldn't hesitate to give Marc up if he was compelled by circumstances.

However, he couldn't give Marc up in this situation!

Just as Marc said, if he handed him over to them now, everyone would think he was afraid of Edmund, and the Kingstons would become a laughing stock from now on!

The families who had close friendly ties to the Kingstons or were reliant on them would probably despise them from the bottom of their hearts and then turn their backs on them.

The series of terrible consequences that would be brought about by this was what Lance absolutely dreaded.

So in comparison, he would rather directly go to war with the Coles and other families because that would at least give him a 50% chance of changing the situation for the better. If the Kingstons ended up in the worst-case scenario, they could seek help from the Huttons.

He was certain that the Huttons would help them since this situation was resultant from the Kingstons helping them deal with Lucas!

The thought of it made the determination in Lance's eyes intensify. "We can compensate Lucas Gray with five million dollars for the mistake my grandson unintentionally committed. I think this should be more than enough to offset the life of that countryside woman! If you're still not satisfied, I can increase the price and make my grandson apologize to him too."

In his opinion, giving him a massive sum of five million dollars in exchange for the death of an insignificant old woman was already an expression of the Kingstons' utmost sincerity.

Everyone knew that it was impossible to bring the dead back to life, so regardless of how big of a ruckus Lucas kicked up, it would be futile, as there was no way Karen could come back to life. Instead of forming a feud between the two families without standing to gain any benefit, he thought that it would be much better for Lucas to just leave with the money so that they could all be at peace.

Unfortunately, he was bound to be disappointed.

Lucas didn't care about the five million dollars. Instead, he merely said sneeringly, "Are monetary compensation, an apology, and an insincere promise to ground your grandson for half a year the only solution you can come up with to solve this issue?"

"I don't accept it. Since you can't show your sincerity, I'll do it myself!"

Then Lucas stepped forward toward Marc.

At the same time, the man in black who had been standing behind Lance and didn't have much of a presence silently stepped in front of Marc to shield him.

Edmund's heart skipped a beat, and he hurriedly held onto Lucas's arm before persuading softly, "Lucas, don't be impulsive! The Kingstons have many elite subordinates. You'll definitely be at a loss if you charge forward rashly!"

Alexis also hurriedly chimed in, "Yes, Lucas, just listen to my grandfather! We won't harm you!"

As a top family in San Francisco, the Coles naturally knew quite a lot about the Kingstons.

For example, the man in black with a scar on his face, who was now shielding Marc, was the Kingstons' most esteemed and competent powerhouse. He had impeccable martial arts, and even Edmund was intimidated by the bloodthirsty look in his eyes.

A thin man like Lucas wouldn't be able to last a few rounds against this man in black with a scar on his face.

Moreover, the black-clothed bodyguards of the Kingstons were all staring intently. Once Lucas moved, they would definitely swarm forward together, putting Lucas in an extremely dangerous situation!

Seeing that Edmund had stopped Lucas, Lance couldn't help having a tinge of smugness on his face. "Indeed, you still don't know what the wisest decision to make is, huh? The five million I promised you is a massive sum that many can't get even after working hard for an entire lifetime!"

“As far as I know, that mother-in-law of yours is just an uncouth and foolish woman who’s extremely mean-spirited. She was always hostile to you, so I reckon you don’t really care much about her. Even though my grandson killed her, you don’t actually have to take revenge for her.

“Moreover, you’d be making a huge profit from the compensation I’m willing to give you. Haha!

“As for the apology, that’s no big deal. Marc, apologize to Mr. Gray!”

Lance was full of contempt for Lucas’s behavior, which he perceived as an act of standing up for his mother-in-law whom he didn’t care about. He thought that Lucas was just out to make him compensate for Karen’s death.

Before long, Marc apologized, “I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to hurt your mother-in-law.”

His attitude was extremely perfunctory, and just like Lance, he also felt that Lucas was just putting on an act for the sake of getting monetary compensation.

Lucas was furious yet amused by their arrogant attitudes, which left a terrible impression on him.

“The Kingstons’ sincerity is really ‘breathtaking’. In that case, why don’t I just kill Marc Kingston now and then compensate you with five million dollars? This matter will then be settled. How does that sound?” Lucas mocked.

“Looks like you want to do this the hard way!” Lance stared at Lucas with a sullen expression. “That mother-in-law of yours was just an ignorant woman. How can she compare to my grandson?”

“I’m willing to give you five million dollars in compensation only because of Mr. Cole. Don’t push your luck!”

“How can my grandson’s life be comparable to a lowly woman’s?”

He bombarded Lucas with scoldings. But before Lucas even said anything, Edmund immediately flew into a rage.

“Lance Kingston, don’t go overboard! I’ve long said that Lucas is my life savior. Insulting him is tantamount to insulting me! Since you insist on protecting that grandson of yours, I hereby announce that the Coles are officially declaring war on the Kingstons!”

Alexis said without hesitation, “Yes, Grandpa!”

Then she took out her phone and made a few calls. “The Coles have officially declared war on the Kingstons. You must annihilate them regardless of what it takes!”

Although she was only in her twenties, she also carried the domineering aura unique to the Coles, just like her grandfather.

Lance didn't expect Edmund to actually be so hot-tempered as to declare war on the Kingstons just because of his conflict with Lucas.

But since things had come to this point, he had long been mentally prepared to go to war with the Coles when he chose to protect his grandson. He gritted his teeth and said, "Sure, let's go ahead then. Do you think the Kingstons are afraid of you? I hereby announce that the Kingstons are declaring war on the Coles too!"

"Yes!" The rest of the Kingstons immediately acknowledged and gave out instructions to get ready.

Tension immediately arose in the yard, and everyone was full of aggression.

Chapter 549: Scarface of the Kingstons

No one had expected that the two top families would go to war just because of this!

Once war broke out between the Kingstons and the Coles, they would go to war in all aspects, such as business, reputation, the stock market, public opinion, personal connections, resources, and even actual combat. It would be a large-scale war that would result in a massive impact.

Regardless of the final outcome of the war between the two families, it would greatly impact the economic market of San Francisco.

Lucas glanced at Edmund.

He hadn't expected that Edmund would really declare war with the Kingstons without hesitation just for his sake.

He was emotional and touched, finding Edmund to be truly righteous and loyal.

After the Coles and Kingstons declared war on each other, Damon, Connor, Joe, and the others on Lucas's side, who had gone out of their way to come all the way here, also expressed their stand.

"The Parkers declare war on the Kingstons too!"

"The Hales declare war on the Kingstons too!"

"Little Atlantis City stands against the Kingstons too!"

...

The group all looked extremely determined as they stood behind Lucas.

Lance's face became even more gloomy. "Since all of you want to stand against the Kingstons, then you will all stay here today. None of you will leave!"

He hollered at the top of his voice, issuing orders to the thirty or so men in black around him, "Attack immediately!"

After hearing the order, the men in black standing around the crowd started taking action. They raised their weapons and attacked.

"Go!"

"Kill them!"

"Kill!"

...

On the other side, Damon, Connor, Joe, and even Edmund had all brought the top powerhouses of their families.

There were around 150 people. Although their combat abilities were inferior to that of the Kingstons' henchmen, they weren't outnumbered.

Seeing everyone fighting, Lucas was touched.

They were all fighting for him.

Edmund took Lucas's arm and admonished, "That top expert from the Kingstons hasn't struck yet, so be careful! Beside me is Iron Wolf, the elite guard of the Coles. He will protect you!"

Edmund pointed to the middle-aged man beside him and said, "You must protect Mr. Gray's safety. No mistakes allowed!"

He sent his personal elite bodyguard to protect Lucas.

Iron Wolf took a casual glance at Lucas and said indifferently, "As long as you don't stray too far from me, it'll be fine."

He looked rather arrogant, seemingly not taking Lucas seriously at all.

But in fact, Lucas didn't need his protection. He smiled and said, "Protect Mr. Cole and Miss Cole. You don't have to care about me!"

Then Lucas headed straight toward Marc.

Iron Wolf immediately frowned and roared from behind him, "Hold it right there! The black-clothed man with a scar on his face behind Lance Kingston is very powerful, and even I am not confident I can defeat him. Are you rushing to die?"

He looked extremely displeased.

He had initially only needed to protect Edmund and Alexis. But now, Edmund suddenly put him in charge of Lucas's safety. He was full of discontent for Lucas for causing all of this. Seeing Lucas charging toward the experts working for the Kingstons, he criticized Lucas for being brainless and reckless.

Edmund and Alexis panicked and hurriedly said, "Lucas, don't be impulsive!"

Lucas turned around to look at them with a smile before dashing forward.

A mere expert of the Kingston family wasn't enough to intimidate him!

Lance also noticed Lucas unexpectedly rushing out from the crowd and charging toward his grandson Marc. He narrowed his eyes. "You're courting death yourself!"

"Scarface, kill that punk right now!" he bellowed coldly.

The man in black named Scarface charged at Lucas without making a single sound.

There was no doubt that he was the top expert of the Kingston family. He moved at lightning speed and appeared in front of Lucas almost instantaneously.

Edmund was astonished. Afraid that Lucas would be hurt, he immediately ordered, "Iron Wolf, go save him immediately! Don't worry about us!"

Iron Wolf's heart tensed up. The moment he saw Lucas in critical danger, he wanted to go forward and save him.

But he was too late. By the time he started rushing toward them, they had already started fighting!

"Shit!" Iron Wolf's expression instantly changed drastically.

The Coles and the Kingstons had been at odds against each other for years and knew each other rather well, so they were naturally familiar with the strongest experts of each other's family.

Iron Wolf had said earlier that he might not be able to defeat Scarface of the Kingston family, but that wasn't him being humble at all.

In terms of combat abilities, they might be considered equal. But once Scarface entered battle mode, he would become extremely ferocious, as though he was on steroids. In particular, when he saw blood, he would almost go berserk like a menacing beast that didn't feel any pain.

Iron Wolf had only fought with Scarface once a few years ago. But since then, he never wanted to fight with that madman again.

He thought that the tall and thin Lucas, who only had ordinary martial arts, was probably going to end up in a miserable state!

Scarface appeared in front of Lucas almost instantaneously. A cold light appeared in his hand, followed by a dagger stabbing toward Lucas's chest.

This blow was extremely swift, and the people in the distance could only see a cold glint, let alone Lucas, who was right in front of him. How could he react in time?

Indeed, Lucas didn't dodge at all. He remained in place like a fixed target.

Oh no! This thought quickly flashed in Iron Wolf's mind, and his eyes immediately sank. *Lucas Gray failed to dodge in time, and Scarface's dagger will definitely stab him at such close range. He's dead!*

"Hahahaha! Lucas Gray, you claim you want to destroy us, but your strength is so mediocre. You can't even block a single blow from our family's top expert!"

"Hehehe, Scarface is the strongest person in the Kingston family, and Lucas Gray is going to die from being stabbed by Scarface's dagger!"

"He deserves it! How dare he kick up a ruckus in our home with that mediocre strength of his? But he's getting an easy way out by dying just like that!"

Lance, Marc, and the others laughed out loud with relief.

Seeing this scene from a short distance away, Edmund and Alexis were furious and shouted, "Lucas!"

Damon, Connor, and the others also immediately yelled, "Mr. Gray!"

Chapter 550: Death of the Strongest Powerhouse

Everyone was extremely horrified.

The reason they had appeared here and gone out of their way to confront the Kingstons was that they wanted to back Lucas up.

But if Lucas just died here like this, all their efforts would have been in vain!

They would even face the terrifying retaliation of the Kingstons!

How could they accept that?!

Just when the crowd was all in a state of shock and fright, the Kingstons began laughing out loud, while Lucas, who had been standing still without moving, suddenly moved.

He raised his hand, revealing the dagger that Scarface had been holding and should have penetrated Lucas's chest. It was now in his hand, completely intact.

The smile on the faces of the Kingstons immediately stiffened!

Lucas Gray didn't get stabbed by Scarface?

Could even Scarface have missed from such close range?

But at this moment, the one who looked the most shocked was Scarface.

His eyes suddenly widened, and he seemed to be in extreme disbelief. "You—!"

Just as he uttered a word, Lucas interrupted him coldly, "I'd better return this to you!"

Then the dagger in Lucas's hand moved much faster than when Scarface brandished it and instantly pierced straight into Scarface's chest!

The sound of flesh being stabbed rang clearly in everyone's ears.

"Pfft!" Scarface immediately spurted out a mouthful of blood.

He stared incredulously at the dagger almost completely submerged into his chest with a face full of disbelief. "You... How did you..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Lucas turned his hand holding the sharp dagger and formed a conical hole in Scarface's chest.

Scarface's body immediately jerked, and more blood seeped out of his chest and mouth. He opened his mouth, but he couldn't say a single word at all.

"Do you want to ask me how I managed to dodge your lethal attack? You can find out in your next life!"

Lucas pushed Scarface's body backward, causing him to fall to the ground. The light in his eyes completely vanished.

Scarface, dead!

Lucas looked at his hand, which was unstained by a single drop of blood. Then he turned around and smirked mockingly at Lance and the others. "Is this the strongest fighter of the Kingstons? He didn't seem to be that impressive."

Everyone watched the scene in shock, utterly dumbfounded.

The supposedly strongest powerhouse of the Kingstons had died in Lucas's hands just like that!

Iron Wolf's eyes were the widest they had ever been. He totally couldn't imagine that the overbearing enemy that he could barely deal with had been killed by Lucas effortlessly!

If not for the fact that he had really fought with Scarface before and knew how powerful he was, he would probably only think that Scarface was a rookie fishing for fame after seeing Lucas's effortless victory!

Was Scarface a rookie? Of course not!

This could only mean that this young man called Lucas in front of him had impeccable martial arts far superior to that of Scarface!

Naturally, Lucas's strength and abilities were also far above his own!

The faces of the people of the Kingstons immediately turned deathly pale.

The Kingstons' strongest fighter, who had never lost a single fight, had been easily defeated by Lucas!

They simply couldn't believe it.

But Scarface's corpse was lying in front of them, reminding them that this was the cold hard truth.

Upon seeing the outcome, Edmund, Alexis, Damon, Connor, and the others were immediately overjoyed and greatly relieved. At the same time, they felt a great sense of pride too.

"Hahahaha, didn't the Kingstons just brag about being very powerful? Their so-called top powerhouse wasn't that impressive after all. He couldn't even take a single blow from Mr. Gray!" Damon was the first to laugh out loud.

“You were clamoring about taking Mr. Gray’s life just now, but who’s the dead man now?” Connor also had a mocking smile on his face as he sneered at Lance and the rest a few times.

Joe looked at Lucas reverently before taunting the Kingstons. “That’s right! Who exactly is the ignorant and arrogant one? The Kingstons are nothing more than this!”

Even Edmund laughed with contempt and mocked, “Lance Kingston, weren’t you bragging about how powerful your family’s top expert is every single day? Now, it seems like he wasn’t that great, just like what Lucas said! Or is it that you have hidden your true expert?”

“That doesn’t seem too good! After all, things have already come to this. If you’re still hiding anything, your grandson will be dead!”

Lance was so furious that his face turned pale for a while.

At this point in time, how could he still hide anything?!

Edmund was clearly mocking him!

He was extremely furious.

Scarface had seemed extremely strong and powerful just now, and he could really be called a top expert whom almost no one in San Francisco could rival!

However, Scarface lost!

Besides, he had lost in such a simple way that it made him seem incompetent!

Lance couldn’t help panicking and feeling infuriated.

Scarface was his greatest reliance, and now that Scarface was dead, the rest of the Kingstons wouldn’t be able to stop Lucas from killing them at all.

Lance gritted his teeth as he looked at Lucas and asked in disgruntlement, “Lucas Gray, what exactly do you want?”

Lucas stood in front of him and said indifferently, “I told you a long time ago that since your grandson has killed my mother-in-law, I just want you to hand him over.”

In fact, things had already escalated to the point where the top subordinates and bodyguards of the Kingstons had been defeated, leaving only a dozen or so still resisting. Under the pressure that Lucas and the others put on them, they wouldn’t be able to last for long. It would be a piece of cake for Lucas to exterminate the Kingstons completely.

But today's incident had blown up, and the numerous people surrounding the Kingston manor were observing the situation, so it wasn't a good time to destroy the Kingstons.

Lucas was willing to let the Kingstons off the hook for now, but he had to take Marc, the culprit, away!

After hearing Lucas's request, Lance once again seemed to be struggling and put in a spot.

He hadn't expected Lucas to be that powerful.

It could be said that the moment Lucas killed Scarface, he had completely turned the tables and changed the situation today.

Lance had initially been still planning to do everything he could to protect the Kingstons' dignity, even if he had to fight to the death with Lucas and his supporters.

But now that their greatest reliance, Scarface, had died, the entire family was in Lucas's hands. So it wasn't up to him to consider if he would become a laughing stock in the city.

At this point, there was nothing he could do!

Lance slowly turned his head to face Marc, and determination gradually appeared in his eyes.

Chapter 551: The Kingstons' Compromise

Seeing his grandfather looking at him, Marc could acutely sense that Lance had already made up his mind. He felt his heart sinking.

"No, Grandpa! You can't do this! I'm your grandson, and you've treated me the best since I was a kid. Moreover, you've even decided to groom me to become the next helmsman of the family. How can you give me up now? Besides, if you really hand me over to them, the Kingstons' pride will really be trampled on!" Marc desperately tried to dissuade his grandfather.

If even his grandfather gave up on him, he would end up miserable once he was in Lucas's hands.

"Shut up!" Lance hollered furiously, "Now that things have come to this, do you still have the cheek to say such things? Everything that happened today was caused by you! If it wasn't for you, how could the Kingstons have ended up in such a state today?"

He was really enraged at this moment.

In the beginning, the Kingstons had indeed taken on Hutton's task to destroy Lucas and the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch within a month.

Given the Kingstons' status and connections in San Francisco, it would have taken less than a month for the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch to collapse if they had taken things one step at a time and dealt major blows to the Stardust Corporation through business tactics, just like how they had previously secretly warned those enterprises in San Francisco to terminate their contracts with the Stardust Corporation.

But Marc, his most valued and smartest grandson, had hated how slow they had been progressing, and he couldn't wait to destroy the reputation of Lucas and the Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch. So he had come up with the idea of using Lucas's mother-in-law, Karen, as a catalyst for their plan.

And just as Marc had expected, Karen had indeed played quite a significant role, as she had sparked a tremendous uproar on the internet within a day. Just as they wished, Lucas's and the Stardust Corporation's reputation had sunk to rock bottom.

But Lucas's revenge on the Kingstons had also been much more intense than they had expected.

Not only had he barged into the Kingston manor on his own, but he had also gotten the help of so many top families, who had joined hands to back him up and declare war on the Kingstons. In fact, Lucas's strength was so intimidating that the top expert of the Kingstons had been finished off in seconds!

All of this had foiled Lance and Marc's original plan!

Even their lives were in Lucas's hands at this moment.

If Marc had listened to him instead of being a smart aleck, none of this would have happened!

Lance was now boiling with fury and put all the blame on Marc, completely forgetting that he had actually given silent consent to Marc's plans.

Seeing that his grandfather had really flown into a rage, Marc was frightened and terrified, so much so that he immediately fell to the ground and pleaded in agony, "Grandpa, I'm indeed to blame for what happened! I shouldn't have been so eager for quick success. I... I shouldn't have gotten ahead of myself and been a smart aleck! Grandpa, just save me one more time. If even you give up on me and hand me over, the only outcome I'll face is death!"

Lance clenched his teeth forcefully and ignored the pleading gaze of despair in his grandson's eyes. He made his mind up and said relentlessly, "Since you also know that you've made a mistake, you should know the consequences that you have to bear. Go!"

He looked at his grandson, who was once his most favored heir and the one he had the highest hopes for. "From now on, Marc Kingston is no longer a descendant of the Kingstons!"

Lance surprisingly expelled Marc from the Kingston family and even disowned him!

His actions completely caught all the Kingstons off guard!

Marc had a superior status in the family, and his authority was second only to Lance, the helmsman. At the same time, he was also the chosen successor of Lance. Yet he was now getting expelled!

Countless gazes were on Marc's face.

Marc felt as though he had been struck by a thunderbolt that suddenly split his body and caused him to freeze on the spot while his head began buzzing.

His grandfather had really given up on him, not giving him the slightest chance at all!

Even if he didn't end up dying at Lucas's hands, he had been disowned by the Kingstons and lost everything he once had!

"No, no! Grandpa, you can't be so cruel to me! Everything I've done is for the Kingstons! You know very well that it's true, Grandpa! I've done so much for the family. Why are you driving me out, and on what grounds are you expelling me from the family?!" Marc roared furiously while feeling incredibly flustered too.

He moved forward on his knees and hugged Lance's leg tightly while pleading in misery, "Grandpa, just give me one more chance! Don't throw me out!"

"Go away! You are no longer my grandson!" Lance ruthlessly kicked Marc, who was hugging his thigh, away.

He gritted his teeth with bloodshot eyes and said to Lucas, "I'll hand Marc over to you as you wish!"

"You can take him away, but the other matters must be put to rest! The Coles, the Parkers, and the Hales declared war on me just now, so I hope that this matter stops here. From now on, we're even! Let's not bring this up again!"

"Let's all take a step back each and compromise. This is my bottom line. If you don't agree, we can just fight to the death, and none of you will benefit from this!"

Lance was actually taking a gamble and banking on Lucas being a man of his word.

In his opinion, the Kingstons had already suffered defeat today and lost everything they had, including their pride. He couldn't stop Lucas from taking Marc away forcefully either.

Even if Lucas wanted to really destroy the Kingstons, they simply couldn't do anything to stop him.

Therefore, he hoped that Lucas could keep his promise and take Marc away while leaving the rest of them alone.

Lucas looked at the old man in front of him, who seemed extremely nervous and was about to go all out. He simply said nonchalantly, "Okay, I agree."

He had no intention of completely destroying the Kingstons today, nor did he want the Coles, the Parkers, and the others to fight the Kingstons head-on just for the sake of helping him.

The Coles, the Parkers, the Hales, and even the members of Little Atlantis City all had good intentions to help him, so he didn't want them to waste their energy on this pointless fight.

Marc was currently in great despair.

He had now been abandoned by the Kingstons. Although he was looking at his former family members with a pleading gaze in his eyes, none of them were willing to take another glance at him.

At this moment, a tall and cold figure suddenly appeared in front of him.

Towering over Marc, Lucas looked down at him and questioned coldly, "Where is Karen Turner's corpse?"

Chapter 552: Pleading For Him

Marc shivered and didn't dare to raise his head to look at him.

At this moment, Lucas was in control of his life, causing horror to surge in his heart.

Lucas's main purpose of barging into the Kingston manor was to collect Karen's corpse.

No matter what, she was the mother of Charlotte and Cheyenne.

Lucas didn't manage to save Karen and bring her back alive. But he had to bring her corpse back to bury her and let her rest in peace.

Otherwise, if Cheyenne and Charlotte learned that Karen's corpse wasn't complete, they would definitely break down further.

Marc trembled for a long time before gritting his teeth and saying, "I... I've already told you that I've... I've fed her corpse to the dogs!"

If he still wanted a chance to live and turn the situation around, he had to rely on Karen! No matter what, he couldn't tell Lucas about it!

Bang!

Lucas lost his cool and immediately kicked Marc in the chest, causing him to fall to the ground and grimace in pain.

"You're not telling the truth even at this point, huh? I'll see how hard your bones are!" Lucas stared into Marc's eyes, and an ominous, unparalleled killing intent instantly engulfed him!

What kind of a figure was Lucas?

He had fought hard in Calico with the Falcon Regiment and relied on his own hard work and abilities to become the leader of the Falcon Regiment, thus becoming the mythical 'Invincible God of War'.

He had long become an expert at interrogation and delving into the human mind.

Lucas had been incredibly enraged when Marc told him smugly over the phone that Karen was already dead and that he had fed her corpse to the dogs. Lucas believed him then, but after seeing the fleeting avoidance in Marc's eyes when he questioned him, he knew that Marc was lying!

Although Lucas was still unclear about what exactly he was lying about, he wasn't bothered by it because he was certain that he would hear Marc confess the truth as long as he probed further.

"Wh-what are you trying to do? You can't kill me!" Marc screamed while cowering continuously.

Lucas said coldly, "Don't worry. I won't let you die now, but I'll make your life feel worse than death!"

Then he lifted his foot and stomped on Marc's calf with all his might.

Snap!

With the crisp sound of bones cracking, Marc immediately raised his head and shrieked miserably at the top of his lungs. "Ah!!! My leg!"

His shrilling voice echoed throughout the front yard of the Kingston manor, making everyone's scalp tingle and turn numb.

Lucas's stomp crushed the middle section of Marc's calf, making his flesh badly mangled and impossible to restore.

"I'll ask you once more. Where is Karen Turner's corpse?" Lucas once again questioned overbearingly. At the same time, he stepped onto Marc's other leg.

At this moment, Lucas's expression was cold, and he was exuding an intimidating aura, looking just like a god of murder.

Marc was almost scared soulless, and he was trembling incessantly in the face of the pressure. Even the others couldn't help being horrified too.

Even Edmund was astonished to see Lucas's actions.

He only knew Lucas's most superficial identity and had even thought he was just an ordinary person with high proficiency in martial arts. So when he heard that Lucas had broken into the Kingston manor and landed himself in a dangerous situation, he had rushed over immediately.

But the Lucas he was seeing today was very different from what he had imagined.

Lucas's martial arts were impressive and far beyond Edmund's imagination. His intimidating and formidable aura, composed state of mind, and determination to kill were definitely not qualities that ordinary people could possess.

But Edmund didn't dislike Lucas for them. Instead, he was in greater awe and curiosity toward him.

What kind of experience would actually make a young man in his late twenties develop such a terrifying dominance, power, and state of mind?

At this moment, Marc was on the verge of peeing his pants because he was petrified and overwhelmed with horror from the murderous aura Lucas was exuding.

His head was covered in cold sweat, but he nevertheless gritted his teeth and still insisted stubbornly, "I'm telling the truth. I... I've really fed her to the dogs, and there isn't a single bit of her body left!"

Snap!

Without further ado, Lucas once again stomped on Marc's other calf, crushing it and mashing his flesh together.

"Ahhhh!!!" Marc finally couldn't bear with it any longer and passed out due to the excruciating pain.

Lucas frowned, squatted down, and was about to press his philtrum to wake him up. But he suddenly heard someone lashing out at him loudly.

"That's enough! Lucas Gray, you're going overboard by bullying someone who has no means to resist!"

The person who interjected was a man in his fifties. He stepped out from the crowd with anger written all over his face.

Seeing that he was full of righteous indignation, Lucas suddenly sneered and gibed contemptuously, "I'm being overboard? Why didn't you step out and say that Marc Kingston was overboard by kidnapping my mother-in-law, killing her, and then feeding her corpse to dogs?"

"Now I've only crippled his legs. On what grounds are you accusing me of being overboard?"

"Are you Kingstons nobler than others? You don't need to put on airs and take the moral high ground in front of me. You people are the assailants, so you have no right to do so!"

"You!"

Lucas's words immediately made that man who stood out to accuse him turn red with embarrassment, rendered speechless.

Marc had casually killed someone and fed her corpse to dogs, which was an incredibly cruel act. It was only reasonable for his victim's family to retaliate against him as they pleased.

At this moment, Edmund also stood out and said to the man, "Moses, even if you want to speak up and defend your son, this isn't the time and place to do it. Marc deserves this because he did such a cruel and psychotic thing. He has also been kicked out of the family by Lance, so why are you still trying to turn the situation around?"

"Besides, Lance agreed to hand Marc over to Lucas. Are you trying to go back on the promise now?"

Moses was immediately speechless.

Although he was Marc's father and Lance's son, he had lacked talent since he was a child, so he had never been valued by Lance. Naturally, he wouldn't dare to defy Lance's decision.

"But... that woman is dead after all. Even if you take revenge on Marc, it won't help! How about this? Spare my son's life, and I promise to fulfill any request of yours as long as it's within my means!" Moses said through clenched teeth.

Since he had been pressured by Lance just now, he could only watch as his son got handed over to Lucas and kicked out of the family without daring to voice his objection.

However, now that Marc's legs had been crushed by Lucas, and he was screaming in misery, Moses finally couldn't endure it and stepped forward.

Lucas was surprised.

Based on the scene just now, he thought that the Kingstons were merely some selfish and vile people who would only protect themselves. He hadn't expected one of them to be willing to save Marc.

"Are you willing to do it as long as it's within your means?" Lucas suddenly asked with a smirk.

Only then did Moses see a glimmer of hope, and he hurriedly exclaimed, "Yes, I will keep my word!"

Lucas suddenly pointed at Marc on the ground and said coldly, "I want you to kill him with your own hands right now. Can you do it?"