

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

- Chapter 967 – 998

## Shaming In Public

### Chapter 967: Shaming In Public

After hearing this familiar and cold voice, the Howards subconsciously shuddered and looked at the person who spoke, Lucas.

After experiencing everything that happened last night, they now saw Lucas as an extremely terrifying existence.

After all, Lucas had used his own strength and managed to force Damien, the chief of the Peerless Martial Association's US headquarters, to retreat.

Even when Felix was alive, he couldn't do anything to Lucas. He could only watch Lucas hand over the position of the family head to Florence. All the Howards regarded Lucas as a fearsome beast.

Conrad, Adam, and the other Piers didn't know anything about Lucas and his background, nor how terrifying he was. Seeing a young man in his twenties step forward and call him an old bastard throwing his weight around and taking advantage of the situation, Conrad was immediately enraged.

"Punk, how dare you scold me?" Conrad stared straight at Lucas with fury written all over his face.

Even Florence, the current head of the Howards, didn't dare to scold him. He thought that Lucas must have a death wish.

Adam's eyes were full of maniacal hatred. He smirked and shouted at Lucas, "Hah, bastard, I've finally found you! My grandfather is the former helmsman of the Piers, one of the eight great families in DC, and my father is the current head of the family!"

"You've offended me and my grandfather, so you've greatly offended the Piers. Today, you'll have no choice but to die!"

Lucas glanced at Adam impatiently and said indifferently, "It seems that the beating I gave you previously was too light!"

“Jordan, make him shut up!”

Jordan had long wanted to beat up Adam. As soon as he heard Lucas’s order, he immediately rubbed his fingers and walked straight toward Adam.

“Wh-what do you want to do? I’m warning you. If you dare to lay a finger on me…”

*Smack!*

Before Adam could issue a threat, Jordan had already walked up to him and given him a hard slap on his face!

Before even the few bodyguards of the Piers standing behind Adam had time to react, Jordan had already sent Adam flying with his slap.

*Thud!*

By the time he landed on the floor, he had already been knocked unconscious.

The people present were all stunned.

The Howards weren’t too bad. After all, they had already seen how overbearing and unreasonable Lucas and his subordinate Jordan were last night.

They weren’t even afraid of the Howards’ gunmen, and even the top experts of the Peerless Martial Association couldn’t faze them. How could they possibly be afraid of Conrad and Adam, who had come here with just a few bodyguards?

At this moment, the Howards actually had a strange feeling.

It turned out that their family wasn’t the only one that would be defeated by Lucas. Even the former head of the Piers could only watch as Jordan knocked his grandson out in front of him.

This scene was extremely unbelievable to Conrad.

“H-how dare you hit my grandson?”

Conrad’s face was full of disbelief.

He had been in DC for many years, and ever since the Piers’ status rose to become one of the top eight families in DC, no one had ever dared to be so arrogant in front of him, much less beat his grandson up and knock him out!

It was simply impossible for the Piers!

Jordan snorted coldly. "So what if I hit your grandson? Is he more noble than others? If it wasn't because you're old, I'd slap you to death!"

In Jordan's and Lucas's eyes, the top eight families of DC meant nothing at all!

Moreover, the Piers were simply courting death for daring to snatch Lucas's wife!

Thus, Jordan was telling the truth. If it wasn't because Conrad was over 70 years old, Jordan would have really slapped his face to see how thick-skinned he really was!

Conrad was so furious that he was trembling. As the former helmsman of the Piers, he had lived his entire life in DC and was always the one giving orders to threaten others. But today, he was actually insulted and humiliated by two young people so callously.

The man in front of him, who seemed to be a subordinate, actually had the audacity to say that he wanted to slap him!

Conrad had never had to suffer such humiliation in his life.

Menacing murderous intent appeared on Conrad's face as he ordered the bodyguards behind him, "Kill him immediately!"

The two bodyguards behind Conrad obeyed the order and immediately charged toward Jordan.

"Psht, trust a fool like you to have been the helmsman of the Piers for decades. It's a miracle that you haven't destroyed the Piers!"

Jordan sighed sneeringly. At this moment, the two bodyguards of the Piers had already charged in front of Jordan and raised their powerful fists, one aimed at Jordan's face and the other aimed at his stomach.

These bodyguards capable of protecting the former helmsman of the Piers naturally weren't ordinary people but experts that were rare to come by.

Before, Jordan would probably have to go through a tough fight to deal with these two experts.

But after the fights with the Peerless Martial Association's Dwayne and Hades last night, Jordan had already broken through his bottleneck, and his skills had already reached a higher level. Thus, it would be extremely easy for him to deal with the two top bodyguards.

As fast as lightning, Jordan grabbed the fist coming toward his face and twisted it relentlessly!

*Snap!*

Jordan directly broke the bodyguard's right hand with a hair-raising sound of bones cracking!

At the same time, one of Jordan's feet spun on the floor, and the other leg was so fast that only an afterimage could be seen as it kicked the other bodyguard's chest heavily.

*Bang!*

The other bodyguard's body instantly flew back five meters like a cannonball. He then fell hard onto the floor and laid motionlessly, his life and death unknown.

After dealing with this bodyguard, Jordan did the same thing and kicked the bodyguard with the broken hand. The bodyguard fainted on the spot from his serious injuries.

This scene immediately made Conrad's eyes widen in shock!

Conrad naturally knew how impressive his bodyguards were. It could be said that they were ranked among the top in the entire Piers family and even in the whole of DC.

But these two powerful bodyguards were actually instantly severely injured by the young man opposite him. They hadn't been able to resist at all and were now at their very last breath.

*Where... exactly did this young man come from?!*

*What is the identity of the other young man who can give him orders?*

At this moment, Conrad felt a chill in his heart, and his jaw dropped in shock as if he had seen a ghost in broad daylight.

The Howards had already seen how powerful Lucas and Jordan were last night. So seeing this scene in front of them, they only felt that it was to be expected. But Conrad was truly scared out of his wits and broke out in cold sweat.

## **Chapter 968: Throwing His Weight Around**

Conrad came over to the Howard residence today without any intention of making a move directly, so he had only brought two bodyguards with him.

In his opinion, Felix would have been the only one a little difficult to handle. The rest of the Howards weren't too competent. Besides, the helmsman was now a woman, so there was nothing to worry about.

As long as he, the former helmsman of the Piers, exerted some pressure, Florence probably wouldn't be able to bear it and would only be able to yield to him and show weakness.

But he never expected that Florence would be uncharacteristically domineering and reject his request without hesitation.

This wasn't all. He didn't expect Florence's son-in-law's subordinate to have the guts to hit his grandson and bodyguards!

He had gone overboard!

"Who do you think you are? You're just a servant of the Howards. How dare you speak to me like that?!" Conrad hollered furiously.

"Hmph, what are you putting on airs in front of me for? You're just an old bastard throwing your weight around because you're old." Jordan snorted coldly in disdain. With raised brows, he walked straight toward Conrad. "It seems that you're very upset about me hitting your people, huh?"

"But it's pointless no matter how upset you are. This is the Howards', and you're in no place to bully others here.

"If I wasn't worried that I would kill you with a slap, I would have hit you too!"

Then Jordan even deliberately shot Lucas a glance and asked, "Lucas, do you think I should throw this old man out?"

His words shocked everyone in the funeral hall.

The person standing in front of him was the former helmsman of the Piers. Why did Jordan and Lucas treat him as if he was an extremely ordinary person that could be manipulated at will?

Were they really not afraid of the Piers' power and possible revenge?

But this thought only flashed past their minds for a moment. As long as they recalled what had happened in their home last night, they knew very well that Lucas didn't take the Howards seriously at all, let alone the Piers, even though they were both among the top eight families of DC.

Who knew what kind of a background and power Lucas had, so much so that he didn't even take the eight top families and the behemoth that was the Peerless Martial Association seriously.

Lucas didn't bother to pay attention to what these people were thinking. He just said to Jordan, "Mr. Piers is already so old. If you touch him lightly, his bones might come apart. He won't be able to take your blows. Just let him off on account that it's Mr. Howard's funeral today."

Jordan naturally took orders from Lucas. Since Lucas told him not to touch Conrad, it would be better for him not to do so, lest he accidentally kill him, which would lead to greater trouble.

"Old man, since Lucas wants to let you off, I'll let you off once. Count yourself lucky today. You'd better hurry back home and continue enjoying life, lest you die out there and face a terrible end!"

Jordan glanced at Conrad and laughed before turning around to stand behind Lucas.

Conrad was so enraged by what Jordan said that he was shaking. "You... you brats, how dare you insult me? I won't let you off! Neither will the Piers!"

"Who has the guts to anger my father here?!" An angry bellow suddenly came from outside the Howards' funeral hall, after which a line of thirty people suddenly barged in from outside and crowded the hall immediately.

The entire hall was full of people, including the ones already standing here in the first place.

"Wow! That's Derek, Conrad's eldest son and the current helmsman of the Piers!"

Someone from the Howards saw the middle-aged man walking at the front of the crowd and immediately exclaimed, "Oh my, Derek Piers is here too, and he actually brought so many people!"

The middle-aged man leading these thirty people to the Howards' funeral hall was Derek, the current helmsman of the Piers.

Moreover, they were all tall and burly men who were obviously not to be provoked, as they each had a fierce aura.

Logically speaking, every guest visiting the Howards would have someone come to notify them in advance. But now that Derek had led this large group of people to the Howards' funeral hall, it was clear that Derek's subordinates had defeated the Howards' people.

“Father, are you alright?” Derek first walked up to Conrad’s side and greeted him.

He had entered just in time to hear Conrad’s angry show and know that someone was giving his father a hard time.

The next second, Derek looked around the Howards’ funeral hall and asked loudly, “Who’s the bastard who had the guts to anger my father? Come out here immediately!”

His shout was as loud as thunder, greatly frightening everyone.

Many of the Howards were so frightened by Derek’s stern shout that they shuddered.

Jordan smirked and took a few steps forward. “What? Are you going to stand up for your old man? Why don’t you ask him what immoral things he has done?”

“Oh, I almost forgot, that little bastard on the floor over there is your son, right? Your family is really something. Your old man is a bastard, and so is your grandson. As the helmsman, it seems like you’re not much either!”

Derek was stunned for a moment and then immediately saw Adam lying in the corner of the funeral hall. A maniacal killing intent instantly on his face. “How dare you lay a hand on my son?!”

He glowered at Jordan with a cold and menacing gaze. “Also, you’re the one who angered my father just now, right?! It seems that you really don’t know what death is!”

As soon as he lost his temper, his thirty men immediately got ready, their aura shockingly frightening.

Florence naturally couldn’t let Derek’s people harm Jordan. She walked forward and asked, “Mr. Piers, it’s my father’s funeral today. What are you trying to do by suddenly bringing so many goons here?”

Derek looked at Florence and said contemptuously, “My father came here out of goodwill, but look at how you’re treating him! You let your subordinate spout nonsense and insult my father and me. Is this how you treat your guests?”

“Florence, although you’re now the head of the Howard family, you can’t be so ignorant of the rules. Once you marry me, I’ll have to teach you some rules!”

## **Chapter 969: Joint Pressure**

After Florence heard Derek’s self-righteous words, she immediately flew into a rage and sneered. “Mr. Piers, you’re so oblivious and ignorant, just like your father! I’m now the head of the Howards. How can I possibly marry into the Piers, let alone obey the rules you teach me?! Don’t mention those matters again. It’s impossible!”

Derek made it sound as if Florence was definitely going to marry him, making Florence furious.

Derek felt disgraced to be relentlessly rejected by Florence.

He narrowed his eyes and said in a gloomy voice, "Florence Howard, don't take things too far! If your father hadn't come to an agreement with my father when he was still alive, do you think I'd marry a woman like you who forced her own father to die in order to take over as the head of your family?"

Florence said angrily, "What agreement with my father? None of the Howards are aware of it, and now that my father is gone, it's nothing but a one-sided claim from you and your father.

"Also, it's not up to you outsiders to judge if I forced my father to death or not!

"As I said before, if you're here today to pay your respects to my father, I will treat you as guests. But if you're here with the intention of provoking us, please leave the Howard residence immediately!

"People, come!" Florence issued an order, and dozens of the Howards' subordinates immediately charged forward to surround the Piers. The vast majority of them were the bodyguards in black who only obeyed Florence.

Seeing the scene in front of him, Derek sneered. "Florence, have you decided to make an enemy of the Piers?"

Florence said coldly, "It's not that the Howards want to make an enemy of the Piers, but rather, your family is provoking us and making an enemy of us!"

The rest of the Howards didn't say anything and merely looked coldly at the Piers.

Although they didn't have much loyalty and respect for Florence, the new head of the family, she was still one of them, and this was their residence. Yet the Piers brazenly brought such a large group of people over and even said such unpleasant things to Florence. It was clear disrespect for the Howards.

Derek glanced coldly at the Howards and deliberately tried to make them feel repulsed. "The helmsman of the Howards was driven to his grave by this woman in front of you. Are you willing to watch her remain unharmed and continue being the family head after what she has done?

"Are you Howards so spineless that you're willing to let a woman rule your family?"

One of the Howards couldn't take it any longer and stood forth to say coldly, "Enough! This is the Howards' business. You people are in no place to meddle with our affairs! Florence is right. If you're sincere about sending your condolences, we'll welcome you!

"But if you're deliberately here to create trouble and think you can bully us just because Felix has passed away, you can get lost immediately!"

"Exactly, hurry up and get lost! Don't think we're pushovers!"

"It's Felix's funeral today. You're in no place to act unruly here! Get lost!"

"Scram!"

...

The Howards hollered together.

In fact, when Conrad started throwing his weight around just because he was old, the Howards had already been unable to tolerate it. Now that Florence was so domineering and they had someone to lead them, the rest of the Howards immediately united.

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Regardless of how they usually fought in their family and whether or not they accepted Florence, they still had to be united at this moment and not let the Piers get away with their ulterior motives.

While the commotion was going on among the furious crowd, a high-pitched voice suddenly came from outside the funeral hall. "Haha, I didn't expect there to be such a lively scene going on in the Howards' today!"

With the sound of this voice, a middle-aged man walked into the Howards' funeral hall with more than ten tall and strong bodyguards following behind him.

When Florence saw the middle-aged man's face, she suddenly felt apprehensive again.

The person who just arrived was the helmsman of another family among the top eight families of DC, Rayson Williams!

Before Florence could greet Rayson, Derek looked at the latter and complained, "Hey Rayson, what took you so long? If you had come a little later, I would have been kicked out by the Howards!"

Rayson laughed loudly. "Derek, how is that possible? Even when the Howards' former helmsman was alive, he wouldn't have dared to treat you like that, not to mention that

they're now led by a woman. They obviously wouldn't drive you away! Otherwise, we wouldn't stand for it!"

"Haha, you're right, Rayson! Now that both our families are here, will the Howards really try to chase us away? I doubt she has the courage!" Derek said with a smile on his face.

These two had obviously colluded and had agreed to come to the Howard residence together.

Moreover, maybe the Piers and the Williams had already decided to take advantage of the fact that the Howards had no leader after Felix's death to provoke the Howards and gain some benefits from them!

Florence wasn't a fool. She immediately understood the trick as her face turned pale.

If only the Piers had come to exert pressure, the Howards might not necessarily be afraid of them because they were of equal status and strength.

But the Piers had now colluded with the Williams. If these two families dealt with the Howards together, Florence would have no chance of winning!

The rest of the Howards also had indignant looks on their faces.

When Felix was still alive, the former helmsman of the Williams had always treated him as his brother. Derek, the current helmsman of the Piers, and Rayson, the current helmsman of the Williams, were both of a younger generation than Felix. Thus, they had always been polite to him.

But now that Felix had just passed away, and his corpse was still in the casket in the funeral hall, the Piers and the Williams were already eager to fall out with them. They ganged up with each other and came over to bully the Howards in a bid to reap benefits. It was absolutely hateful!

But now that the two families were ganging up to exert pressure on them, they couldn't deal with it at all!

Florence gritted her teeth. "What exactly do you want?"

## **Chapter 970: Never Retreat**

Florence knew very well that the Howards were now facing an unfavorable situation.

The eight top families of DC had been around for a long time and had held power for years.

The reason there hadn't been any large-scale battles between the eight families and that they could maintain a delicate balance was due to the mutual control.

Once any family took the lead in launching a large-scale attack on another, they would very likely end up in a lose-lose situation and eventually be divided up by the other major families.

Thus, there had never been any large-scale conflicts among the eight top families over the years, though there had been some minor squabbles.

But things are different now. Once the Piers and the Williams really united and targeted the Howards, the Howards wouldn't stand a chance at winning. They would eventually end up having their assets seized and split among the Williams and the Piers!

The thought of that result made Florence's face extremely gloomy.

"Hah, what we want is very simple!

"My father had kind intentions and specially came to the Howards to propose marriage to you because of an agreement that Mr. Howard Sr. previously made with my father. Yet you openly rejected my father's proposal. You must give the Piers an explanation!

"According to the agreement, you must marry me. There's no room for negotiation on this!

"Also, my son was knocked unconscious by one of your subordinates, and he even injured two of my father's closest bodyguards. You owe us an explanation for this matter too. Hand over that punk to me!

"If you complete these things, I won't bother you, and I can quickly have my men withdraw too."

Derek spoke with a sly smile while taking several glances at Florence.

Although Florence was now in her late forties, she had maintained herself well. She was beautiful and seemed to be in her thirties. He wouldn't suffer a loss if he married her.

Florence was now the head of the Howards. Derek would feel a great sense of accomplishment if he could marry the head of the Howards and subdue her.

Besides, more importantly, as long as Florence married him, many of the Howards' assets would basically fall into the Piers' hands in the future. This was the greatest benefit.

Rayson smiled. "Derek is right. Since there's an agreement, of course we should follow it! I've come over today personally to escort the Piers. If the Howards agree to the request, I naturally won't make things hard for you."

The helmsmen of both major families began to force Florence.

Now that Felix was dead, the Howards didn't have an esteemed person to lead them and call the shots. This was an excellent opportunity for them to reap benefits.

The Williams were naturally not supporting the Piers for nothing in exchange. Derek had already promised him a lot of benefits. As long as Florence married Derek, the Piers would take out 40% of the things obtained from the Howards and share them with the Williams.

In their opinion, the Howards were like a fatty piece of meat that they could divide as they pleased.

Lucas watched coldly without speaking, and he didn't have any intentions to step forward for now.

But he really despised the Piers and the Williams for taking advantage of the Howards' situation to bully Florence.

This was actually the norm among the top families. They prioritized profits over everything else. In the face of interests, etiquette, integrity, friendship, and so on were nothing.

At this moment, Lucas was even thankful that he had left the Huttons together with his mother when he was a child. It had saved him from growing up in such a dirty and ruthless wealthy family.

If Lucas hadn't been kicked out of the Huttons, he probably wouldn't have fallen into a desperate situation and then joined the military to become worthy of the woman he loved.

Besides, if not for his experiences in the army, Lucas wouldn't have become who he was now, and he wouldn't have obtained power that was beyond the eight top families of DC with his own abilities.

It could be said that if he wanted to, the current Lucas would be able to exterminate families like the Piers and the Williams to get the Howards out of their current predicament with just one word.

But he didn't do so.

Reason being, Lucas wanted to see how shameless the Piers and the Williams could be and who else would come to the Howards besides these two families to get a slice of the pie.

If other parties got involved and wanted to seize the assets of the Howards, Lucas wouldn't mind taking care of them all together.

Thus, Lucas merely patted the anxious Cheyenne on her hand and gestured for her to rest assured and not act impulsively. Then he stood still without moving.

Florence was now extremely sorrowful.

She had just taken over as the head of the Howards for less than a day, yet they were now facing such a huge crisis of being attacked and forced by two major families.

At this moment, Florence even felt that she could somewhat understand Felix's previous cold-blooded and ruthless practices.

*Was Father cold-blooded and heartless by nature? That's not necessarily true.*

Florence could still remember clearly that she had once seen Felix smiling genuinely and showering her with fatherly love when she was a child.

But the more powerful a family was and the higher they were on the hierarchy, the more dangers they were likely to face. It was because their enemies were just as powerful, and a slight carelessness could lead to the possibility of death. Their family would also instantly fall from the peak and be crushed into pieces.

Therefore, in order to make their family even more powerful and prevent other families from suppressing them, it was necessary for them to continue obtaining more and more benefits so that they could become stronger and stronger.

Otherwise, they would end up in the Howards' current predicament—being forced to give in to other families.

What should they do now?

*Do I really have to obey Derek and marry him to avoid the Howards' crisis?*

*No, no way!*

Even if she gave in and was willing to marry Derek, the Piers would definitely not let the Howards off the hook!

"Like I said, I will never marry into the Piers!" Florence's eyes were full of determination as she refused again. Immediately afterward, she said, "Besides, your son brought that

beating upon himself. Your father's bodyguards were also the ones who made a move first. I will never let you handle him!

"If you think that I'm a pushover just because I'm a woman and came here to deal with the Howards today, you're wrong!

"Even if your families unite and the Howards will never be able to defeat you, we can still make you suffer great damage!

"And if you're not afraid of fighting to the death with the Howards and letting the other wealthy families reap some benefits, you can go ahead and try!"

Florence was not the kind to let others bully her. She had an extremely domineering aura now, which was not inferior to that of Derek and Rayson, the helmsmen of wealthy families.

## **Chapter 971: The Huttons Appear**

After Florence spoke, the Howards immediately felt confident and pleased.

The Howards were among the top eight families of DC. When had they ever suffered anyone disrespecting and bullying them like this?

If Florence really agreed to the demands of the shameless Derek and gave in to him, it would be the most humiliating thing ever for the Howards!

Just as Florence said, the Howards were not pushovers just because Felix had passed away.

Even if the Howards couldn't defeat these two wealthy families working together, they could easily cause them great damage if they went all out to deal with them!

Derek and Rayson were shocked and surprised.

They didn't expect the Howards and Florence to be so stubborn!

The reason they had each brought only a few dozen bodyguards to the Howard residence was that they didn't actually have the intention of fighting directly against the Howards here.

In their opinion, as long as they brought their people over and threatened the Howards, Florence would definitely panic, and so would the Howards because they were now led by a woman. They would have no choice but to concede.

After all, the Howards were also one of the top eight families and on par with the Piers and the Williams. If they really got into a fight, it would indeed be like what Florence

said. Even if they could eventually defeat the Howards, their losses would likely be extremely heavy, and they might even become the target of the remaining five families.

Thus, unless it was the last resort, the Piers and the Williams were unwilling to get into an actual fight with the Howards.

However, the fact that Florence was so aggressive and unaffected by their threats made them feel that something was amiss.

“Florence Howard, do you really want to start a war with us? You should know that there’s no way your family can be a match for the Piers and the Williams!” Derek threatened with a gloomy look.

Florence sneered and said assertively, “If you insist on doing harm to the Howards and forcing us to a corner, we will have no choice but to fight!”

After she said this, Derek was annoyed and seemed flustered.

If they really went to war, they would have to worry about whether or not the Williams would be willing to go against the Howards together with them, not to mention that the Piers would very likely suffer huge losses themselves.

After all, when Derek and Rayson discussed joining hands previously, they had thought that coercing the Howards with benefits and threats was all it would take. If they really went to war, the Williams would also face immense losses. In that case, Rayson probably wouldn’t be willing to stand on his side.

If the Williams chose to withdraw, it would be hard to determine who the final victor would be since the Piers and the Howards were on par in terms of strength.

At the thought of this, Derek immediately turned his head to look at Rayson, wanting to find out what he was thinking.

“Derek, rest assured. Since the Williams have agreed to join forces with the Piers, we will stand strong together regardless of what happens. If Ms. Howard insists on going to war with us, the Williams will definitely stand on your side!” Rayson immediately understood what Derek was worried about, so he gave him an affirmative answer.

He also understood Derek well and knew that if he showed any hesitation at this juncture, Derek would definitely be the first to beat a retreat and not dare to go toe-to-toe against the Howards. When the time came, they would end up having all their efforts go down the drain and gain no benefits.

“Awesome, my brother! In that case, let’s deal with the Howards together! Haha!” Derek patted Rayson’s shoulder with a wide grin on his face, feeling greatly relieved.

“Hah, two men are ganging up against a woman. How shameless!” Suddenly, a clear and contemptuous voice spread from outside the Howards’ funeral hall.

A middle-aged man in his fifties was slowly walking in from outside.

The moment Lucas saw the man, his gaze fluctuated slightly, but the change was fleeting.

The man was none other than the head of the Huttons in DC, Michael!

There was a young man in his thirties standing beside him. It was Roman, whom Lucas had just made the new successor of the Huttons.

Their arrival immediately sparked another uproar in the hall.

The Howards were shocked, and they didn’t know if the Huttons were here as friend or foe.

If the Huttons also had the same intention as the Piers and the Williams to kick the Howards while they were down and take advantage of the situation, the Howards would be in a worse predicament.

But based on what Michael just said before entering, he was at least not in cahoots with the Piers and the Williams.

The moment Derek and Rayson saw Michael, a hostile intent immediately appeared on their faces. They were already on the verge of slaughtering the Howards, but the Huttons suddenly appeared and insulted them. Did they want to take a piece of the loot?

“Michael Hutton, what do you mean by that? Do you want to interfere with the matters between our families and the Howards?” Derek said hostilely.

Although Rayson didn’t say anything, there was also a strong animosity in his eyes as he stared at Michael.

“Welcome, Mr. Hutton,” Florence greeted Michael politely.

Although she still didn’t know what Michael’s purpose was at the moment, what he just said was enough to prove that he wasn’t in cahoots with Derek and Rayson. In that case, the Huttons might just be the Howards’ savior today!

“Ms. Howard!” Michael greeted Florence politely and then looked at Derek and said sarcastically, “I can’t believe that at your age, you two have the cheek to gang up against a woman whose father has just passed away! I just can’t stand it, and I insist on helping the Howards. So what?”

“You!” Derek immediately lost his temper.

Indeed, Michael was here to jeopardize their plans!

After taking a few glances at Michael, Rayson suddenly said with a smile, “Mr. Hutton, just a few days ago, I heard that the Howards attacked your family, causing many of your family’s businesses to incur heavy losses. Why have you put aside your old grudges so quickly and come to help the Howards?”

He deliberately brought up this matter in front of Michael to arouse his enmity against the Howards. He didn’t want Michael to help the Howards.

As a last resort, they could even give the Huttons some benefits.

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## **Chapter 972: The Howards’ Ally**

However, Rayson didn’t expect Michael to stay so calm after hearing what he said. Michael merely said indifferently, “It’s just a regular business dealing, and the Huttons only lost a few hundred million. We’ll be able to make up for it soon. Besides, this matter has passed a long time ago, and there’s no point in raking up the past now, unlike what the Williams are doing.”

Florence quickly said with an awkward expression, “Mr. Hutton, I’m very sorry for what happened previously!”

Before, Lucas had called her and asked for her help to join forces with the Smiths to deal with the Huttons, causing them to suffer huge losses.

But Michael actually looked past it and came to the Howards’ rescue, making Florence feel extremely sorry and embarrassed.

“Those things are in the past. Ms. Howard, you don’t have to be bothered by it.”

At this moment, Michael quietly glanced at Lucas next to him.

Of course, he knew that the reason the Howards had attacked the Huttons was because of Lucas’s instigation.

Michael was full of guilt toward his son. So regardless of what Lucas did to the Huttons, he would never blame him for it, much less hold it against the Howards.

Seeing that Lucas didn’t seem to be looking at him or paying any attention to him, Michael felt a little dejected.

But he soon perked himself up and said to Florence, "I'm here today to pay my respects to Mr. Howard and offer my condolences."

"Ah, alright, please, Mr. Hutton!" Florence immediately ordered the servants to bring some flowers over.

Michael brought Roman forward to pay respects to the late Felix.

As they were doing so, Derek and Rayson looked at each other, neither speaking.

Before they could get a clear grasp of Michael's true purpose, they still didn't want to provoke Michael too much, lest he really stands on the Howards' side.

If the Huttons really helped the Howards, their alliance would be equally terrifying because they were both top families of equal standing with the Williams and the Piers. If they really fought against each other, all of DC would be taken by storm.

At that time, they wouldn't get any benefits at all and would instead suffer heavy losses, which was definitely not something they wanted to see.

"Michael Hutton, what exactly are you here for today?" Derek asked impatiently after seeing Michael finish paying his respects.

But Michael simply ignored him and instead asked Florence, "Ms. Howard, I have two major projects now, and I would like to cooperate with the Howards. Would you be interested?"

Florence was stunned for a moment, but she immediately understood what Michael meant. The fact that he was still willing to cooperate with the Howards at this juncture showed that the Huttons were clearly going to stand on their side and give them a hand!

"Of course, I'm very interested!" Florence hurriedly agreed with a smile.

Michael grinned before suddenly saying, "This is a cooperation between the Huttons and the Howards. Will all the irrelevant people please leave?"

After speaking, he glanced at Derek and Rayson next to him.

The obvious hint for them to leave immediately made Derek and Rayson turn gloomy.

At this moment, Florence said to the two of them, "Mr. Piers, Mr. Williams, please leave with your subordinates! We have something to do now, so pardon me for not entertaining you!"

With Michael's help, Florence no longer had to be afraid of the Piers and the Williams' coercion.

How could Derek be willing to give up the huge profits about to come to him?

He narrowed his eyes, stared straight into Michael's eyes, and said grimly, "Michael, do you really want to stand on the Howards' side and go against the Piers and the Williams? I suggest you don't get involved in this mess!"

Michael sneered, and his face darkened. "Derek, are you threatening me? I don't need your permission to do anything!"

"So what if I've decided to help the Howards? If you don't agree, I can help the Howards get rid of the Piers first!"

As soon as Michael said this, all the people in the funeral hall were stunned!

If Michael only wanted to help the Howards and back them up, it would be fine. But Michael actually said that he wouldn't hesitate to join hands with the Howards and use their forces to destroy the Piers together!

This was exactly the same dilemma that Florence had encountered earlier.

The Huttons, the Howards, the Piers, and the Williams were all among the eight top families of DC, and strictly speaking, their authority and power were on par with each other.

If one of them went against another family alone, it would definitely be a lose-lose situation.

However, if two top families united to deal with another, although they would pay a certain price, the attacked family would definitely be wiped out!

Unless the Piers could also find more suitable allies, only then would there be a chance of a turnaround.

But it was basically impossible to get into such a large-scale war unscathed, as it would be extremely intense.

Moreover, who knew if there would be other families taking advantage of the opportunity to reap benefits amid the chaos and cause the top families in DC to go through a power reshuffle?

Thus, after hearing Michael's threat, Derek immediately turned beet red with anger, and even the veins on his forehead began throbbing.

"Michael, what do you mean by that? Do you really think that the Piers are pushovers? You even said that you would destroy us. Hah, dream on!" Derek roared furiously.

Florence stood next to Michael and said coldly, "Derek Piers, the Howard residence isn't a place where you can act rampantly! Take your people with you and leave my home now immediately. Otherwise, I'll be more than happy to join hands with the Huttons to get rid of the Piers!"

Her words were a blatant threat!

Derek was immediately enraged.

Florence had taken over as the head of the Howards because of Felix's death. Derek and Rayson had both thought that Florence would be easy to deal with since she was just a woman without a foundation. Thus, they came up with the idea of a marriage to get Florence to marry into the Piers, which would be equivalent to getting their hands on at least half of the Howards' assets.

But they didn't expect Florence to be so tough and stubborn. Furthermore, Michael, the head of the Huttons, actually suddenly came over and acted out of the ordinary by choosing to help the Howards. He even went so far as to threaten to join hands with Howards to destroy the Piers.

It was simply outrageous!

After Michael said that, Rayson fell silent, making Derek begin to worry.

If Rayson still stood firmly on the Piers' side and joined hands with them to deal with the Howards and the Huttons, he would still have a chance of winning.

But now that Rayson was staying silent, he didn't know what his intentions were. If the Williams decided not to help the Piers, there was no way the Piers would be able to withstand the joint offensive of the Howards and the Huttons. They would have no choice but to concede then!

So, what should he do now?

Derek suddenly felt helpless and at a loss for what to do. He subconsciously looked at his father, Conrad, the former head of the Piers.

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## **Chapter 973: Fishing for a Better Offer**

Conrad had been standing at the side and keeping quiet since his son Derek arrived. He left it to his son to do the negotiations.

Now, seeing that Derek was struggling to make a decision and looking at him for help, Conrad naturally stepped forward without hesitation.

“Michael Hutton, right? Back then, even your father wouldn’t speak so outrageously in front of me. Yet you, a junior, actually dared to say in front of me that you want to annihilate the Piers. You really don’t have any respect for me, do you?” Conrad said accusingly as he took a few steps forward with the help of his cane.

Only then did Michael act as though he had finally noticed Conrad. “Oh, it turns out you’re here too, Uncle Conrad. I’m really sorry for not noticing you just now.”

In fact, Conrad was the first to enter, and he had been standing in the middle of the funeral hall. Even Derek was standing right next to him, yet Michael said that he had just noticed Conrad. He was clearly lying through his teeth and saying it on purpose.

Besides, Michael looked extremely relaxed. Although he was apologizing, he wasn’t sincere about it at all.

Anger immediately appeared on Conrad’s face, but before he even had time to lose his temper, Michael continued, “But Uncle Conrad, what you’re saying isn’t right. Logically speaking, you’re indeed of the same generation as my father, so I address you as ‘uncle’ out of respect.

“But from the day I took over as the head of the Huttons, my father told me that from then on, everything concerning the family is under my control. He said that I am the head of the Huttons and that I don’t have to seek the permission of anyone or care about anyone’s pride before making any decisions.

“So, Uncle Conrad, you don’t have to throw your weight around as an elder and teach me what to do.”

What Micheal said further enraged Conrad.

“Michael Huttons, it seems you really don’t take me seriously. Have you really decided to go against the Piers?”

Michael remained calm and said with composure, “Uncle Conrad, there’s something wrong with what you’ve said. It’s not that I’m deliberately going against your family, but it’s the other way around!

“From today onward, the Howards are the Huttons’ ally. If the Piers don’t take action against the Howards, everything will be fine. But if you covet the Howards’ assets and make a move against them, I won’t sit back and ignore it! This all depends on your choice!”

Conrad’s expression became even more sullen.

He could tell that Michael was not joking with them.

If they really wanted to reap benefits from the Howards, Michael would really fight the Piers to the death!

They were truly in trouble this time. As far as Conrad knew, the Huttons and the Howards actually didn't have any friendship in the past. In fact, just a few days ago, the Howards' businesses under Florence's control had united with the Smiths of DC to launch a violent attack on the Huttons, causing them to suffer extremely heavy losses within a short period of time.

But now, not only did Michael not hold a grudge against Florence, he was even defending the Howards vehemently. Was it because... Michael had taken a fancy to Florence?

Regardless of the reason, Conrad was well aware that it would be impossible for them to deal with the Howards today.

The only possibility of them defeating the Howards completely was if the Piers could find a powerful ally and work closely with them!

Conrad glanced at Rayson Williams.

Derek knew that Rayson's stand was very important to the Piers at this juncture!

Rayson had been remaining silent. Clearly, he was weighing the pros and cons.

He had to consider whether or not to join forces with the Piers, the chances of them winning, and how much benefit they would get.

After all, the reason he brought his subordinates with him to help the Howard residence today was undoubtedly that he wanted to get a slice of the pie for the Williams too.

"Rayson, here's the thing. The Piers have recently clinched several large government projects. Once we complete them, we're guaranteed a profit of at least two billion dollars. What do you say we cooperate on them?" Derek immediately threw an olive branch to Rayson.

When Rayson heard this, euphoria immediately appeared in his eyes.

He had heard about the new projects that the Piers had taken on, and the Williams had also planned to get them, but the Piers had unfortunately beaten them to it.

Rayson knew clearly that these big projects indeed had enormous profit margins, and their operations were simple too. They could probably be completed in less than a year.

Derek clearly implied that he would be giving the Williams a share of the profits in exchange for their support.

Besides, Rayson actually hadn't been speaking because he wanted the Piers to give him more benefits.

The situation was now very clear. If the Piers resolutely wanted to gain some benefits from the Howards, they would have to withstand the joint attack of two giants, the Howards and the Huttons.

And the Piers definitely wouldn't be able to stop them alone, so they would have to find an ally of equal strength.

He was now the most suitable ally.

But if the benefits weren't attractive enough, who would be willing to take the risk of offending the Howards and the Huttons?

Thus, Rayson had been waiting for an opportunity, waiting for the Piers to take the initiative to offer him more.

Now, the Piers had made their offer and were willing to share the profits of those projects worth billions of dollars with the Williams.

But after pondering for a few seconds, Rayson didn't immediately agree. Instead, he took a quick glance at Florence and Michael.

Currently, the Piers were not the only ones who needed allies. The Howards and the Huttons could also make a suitable offer to the Williams.

If the Howards and the Huttons offered more benefits, Rayson could also agree to work with them to unite against the Piers and reap the Piers for everything they were worth!

This was a common practice among top wealthy families!

Although he and Derek had always seemed to be on very good terms, Rayson would never hesitate to defect to a party that offered more. He wouldn't think twice about turning against the Piers!

Conrad and Derek obviously noticed Rayson glancing at Florence and Michael. After figuring out the connection, they had a drastic change of expression!

If the Howards and the Huttons offered a higher price, Rayson would unite with them. Then the Piers would then be doomed!

## **Chapter 974: Besieging Jordan**

The relationships between wealthy families were full of deceit, and the situation could change instantly.

Right now, it depended on whether the Howards and the Huttons wanted to win over Rayson and the price that they were willing to offer him.

But Rayson was greatly disappointed because Florence and Michael both remained extremely calm and didn't show any intention to fight for the Williams.

In fact, he even saw a trace of ridicule in Michael's eyes.

They obviously didn't intend to win over the Williams, let alone offer any benefits to them.

Michael was naturally not going to try and get Rayson, the two-faced fence sitter, on their side.

He had long known that Lucas was in the Howard residence, and he also knew that Florence had become the new head of the Howards entirely due to Lucas's support.

Given the relationship between Lucas and the Howards, Lucas would definitely be fearless when facing the Piers and the Williams, even if he didn't bring the Huttons to help them.

As long as Lucas was still here, it was absolutely impossible for something untoward to happen to the Howards.

The reason he appeared here and stood firmly on the Howards' side was all for Lucas.

Rayson must be dreaming to think of making both sides fight over him!

Seeing that both the Howards and the Huttons had absolutely no intention of getting him on their side, Rayson was left with only one option.

"Derek, since you're willing to give me half of the profits of the large-scale projects that the Piers have clinched, I naturally won't let you down. Don't worry. I will stand by you!" Rayson said to Derek with a hypocritical expression on his face.

Derek cursed a few times in his head, but he was gradually relieved.

As long as the Williams were still willing to stand with the Piers, even if the Howards and the Huttons joined forces, they would still stand a chance to win!

He guffawed loudly a few times before suddenly shouting at Florence, "Florence Howard! My father came here to offer his condolences to your father on account that he was once friends with Mr. Howard. He even decided to keep to the engagement that he had agreed upon with your father before his death so that you could marry into my family, regardless of your bad reputation of killing your father and seizing the helmsman position.

“Yet not only are you not grateful, but you even spoke to my father so rudely, making him lose his temper. I won’t let it go just like that. You must apologize to my father in public to atone for your mistakes!

“My son Adam was also beaten up by someone from the Howards, and he’s still unconscious. You also owe me an explanation for this!

“I must kill the bastard who had the audacity to hit my son. You must hand him over to me and make him pay for it!”

The Piers had clearly come over on purpose to force Florence to marry into their family, and they were also the ones who provoked the Howards first. Yet Derek twisted facts and demanded that the Howards make it up to them.

Florence wasn’t a pushover either. Hearing what he said, she immediately flew into a rage. “Fine, since you want to settle accounts, let’s do it clearly!

“It’s my father’s funeral today, and he suddenly passed away from acute brain disease yesterday. Every one of us Howards is in mourning, but your father accused me of angering my father to death and showed no respect for me despite the fact that I’m now the family head. He made nasty remarks that were totally uncalled for about me. Should I get him to publicly apologize to me too?

“Also, you keep claiming that you agreed on a marriage alliance with my father before he passed away, but you can’t produce any substantial evidence to prove it. There isn’t even a single recording or token of agreement. These are all one-sided claims made by you two to force me to marry into the Pier family. How are you going to settle that?

“Also, that son of yours deserves to be in his state because of the terrible things he said to provoke us. He brought it upon himself! Why should I hand him over to you? Why should I apologize to you?”

Florence questioned loudly with gusto.

She was now the head of the Howards. If she let the Piers walk all over her and force her to apologize to them, the Howards would lose their dignity.

Florence’s questioning was so shrewd that it immediately rendered Derek speechless.

“Hmph, you’re really sharp-tongued. When it comes to throwing a fit and arguing with others, I’m naturally no match for a shrew like you!” Derek retorted furiously after a long time. He knew that the Piers were at fault and that there was no way he could outargue Florence, but he deliberately said that he wouldn’t bother arguing with a woman like Florence.

“No matter what, you have to hand over the man who beat up my son today!” Derek said firmly, not wanting to lose the upper hand.

Jordan sneered, stood up resolutely, and said coldly, “I’m the one who beat up your bastard son. What do you want?”

There wasn’t a single trace of fear on his face. There was nothing except nonchalance and contempt.

As soon as Jordan stepped forward, the surrounding Howards immediately looked excited.

They had witnessed how powerful Jordan was last night, and even Hades, one of the top five powerhouses of the Peerless Martial Association, wasn’t a match for him.

The Piers didn’t know how powerful Jordan was, so they would definitely be defeated!

The Howards were overjoyed and couldn’t wait for the Piers to suffer a loss at Jordan’s hands.

After seeing Jordan’s attitude, Derek said furiously, “Bastard, you’re already about to die, yet you’re still so arrogant in front of me!

“Since you had the audacity to hit my son, I’ll chop your hands off and feed them to the dogs!

“I’ll make it so that you don’t want to live anymore!

“Come, grab this bastard!”

With Derek’s order, the thirty or so experts of the Piers that he brought with him immediately charged toward Jordan!

He actually didn’t want to go to war with the Howards and the Huttons at this juncture. Although Rayson had just promised him that he would join forces with the Piers, a major war between four equally powerful families would definitely be earth-shattering. Even if they won, they would have to be wary of the other four powerful families trying to divide the assets.

Derek didn’t dare to easily take this risk.

Thus, he’d rather not start a war if possible.

He had ordered his subordinates to grab Jordan naturally to take revenge for his son. Once he got his hands on Jordan, he would find an excuse to leave the Howard residence and then make further plans.

But Derek forgot that Jordan was not easy to deal with.

At this time, the more than thirty experts of the Piers had already surrounded Jordan.

“Punk, kneel down immediately. If you comply, you can suffer a little less!” the leader of the experts bellowed at Jordan coldly.

In their opinion, Jordan was just a young man in his twenties, and it was absolutely impossible for him to escape their clutches since so many of them were surrounding him.

They didn’t even want to bother to take action against him and just wanted him to get on his knees for them to subdue him.

“Since you want to capture me, try doing it with your own abilities!” Jordan laughed wickedly with a bloodthirsty gaze in his eyes.

## **Chapter 975: Fragile**

After hearing what Jordan said, the experts immediately became gloomy.

They were already surrounding Jordan, but they didn’t expect him to still be so stubborn.

“Hmph, since you are so insensible, don’t blame us for being ungracious!” the leader shouted in exasperation.

Jordan pursed his lips. “Cut the crap. If you have what it takes, just get straight to it and stop acting like you’re so impressive!”

“You’re too arrogant!” The leader flew into a rage. He ordered the experts behind him, “Five of you, go cripple his limbs! Let’s see how he can be arrogant later!”

“Yes!” Five of the experts surrounding Jordan immediately charged straight toward him while the others continued blocking him firmly to prevent him from escaping.

But in their opinion, Jordan was undoubtedly going to die.

“Hah, what a fool. He doesn’t even know that he’s about to die!”

“Is he so delusional that he thinks he can defeat so many of us on his own? He really doesn’t know any better!”

“He’s just an idiot. Look, none of the Howards have said anything. They’ve obviously abandoned him, and only this clueless fool is still showing off here!”

...

Just as the Piers and the Williams were sneering and getting ready to watch Jordan get beaten up, there was a sudden change in the scene!

The five experts charging at Jordan were suddenly sent flying by a series of kicks from him.

*Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!*

These five experts flew backward and landed on the floor with five consecutive explosive sounds. They all spat out a mouthful of blood one after another and lay motionlessly on the floor.

Jordan's chain of kicks knocked all five of the Piers' experts unconscious!

This scene immediately caused everyone to fall dead silent!

The experts of the Piers and the Williams stared in disbelief at what was happening in front of them.

They naturally knew just how strong their peers were.

Although the Piers and the Williams didn't bring many experts to the Howard residence, the dozens of experts they had brought were all powerhouses that ordinary bodyguards were no match for.

But they never expected this ordinary-looking young man opposite them would kick away all five of the Piers' experts with just one kick each. The power of his kicks was so terrifying that it directly knocked the five experts out.

His strength and speed were simply terrifying!

Even the top powerhouses working for their family probably didn't have such ability!

Seeing that Jordan had kicked away the five experts of the Piers, the Howards felt a huge sense of relief.

*Haha. Aren't the Piers so arrogant that they've even come over to bully us? What happened in the end? Didn't they get kicked by Lucas's subordinate?*

At this moment, a sense of animosity toward a common enemy arose among the Howards, Jordan, and Lucas.

Even the faces of Michael and Roman were covered in shock.

Michael naturally knew that the young man standing in the middle was Lucas's.

He knew that Lucas wouldn't keep a weakling by his side, but he didn't expect Jordan to be that powerful. He wasn't inferior to those top powerhouses at all. In fact, he was even stronger than them.

If even his subordinate was that incredible, how powerful was Lucas?

Michael subconsciously looked at Lucas, only to discover how calm he was. It was as if Jordan had merely carried out a casual task by kicking the Piers' experts away, and it didn't seem worthy of his surprise.

Besides, Lucas didn't seem to have any regard for the remaining 20-odd people surrounding Jordan either.

*In that case, Lucas is convinced that his subordinate can easily defeat these experts?*

*How terrifyingly strong must he be?!*

Michael was astonished, while the Piers and the Williams were flabbergasted.

In particular, Derek's and Rayson's faces were covered in shock and disbelief.

At this moment, Jordan glanced at the two of them. "Why are all the people of the Piers so fragile? Your son went comatose after I slapped him, and those two bodyguards that old foggy brought also passed out after getting kicked by me. The same happened to these people.

"Don't you have any experts who can put up a fight? Fancy you being one of the top eight families in DC. You can't even find a decent expert. How useless."

Jordan deliberately taunted them.

To the current Jordan, the so-called experts the Piers sent couldn't make the cut at all.

However, Jordan's words sounded extremely grating and unpleasant to Derek's ears.

He was just a mere expert of the Howards, but he actually dared to speak to the helmsman of the Piers in such a provocative manner. It was simply a great insult to the Piers!

"Punk, don't get arrogant that you forget how competent you really are! Since you have a death wish, I'll fulfill it now!" Derek shouted furiously and ordered the remaining twenty-plus experts of the Piers, "What are you still doing there? Go kill that bastard!"

Seeing that Derek was already enraged, the remaining experts of the Piers didn't dare to delay at all and charged toward Jordan while roaring.

The twenty-plus experts rushed over together with their fists raised, their aura extremely daunting.

The people of the Howards exclaimed in horror as they frantically took several steps back to avoid being implicated.

They were also full of disgust for Derek and the others.

It was Felix's funeral, and his coffin was right at the front.

But the Piers started a brawl here. It would be greatly disrespectful if they accidentally moved his coffin!

Florence realized this too.

She had already witnessed Jordan's power yesterday, and she knew full well that even if the Piers' experts besieged him, there was no way they would be able to injure him. So she merely ordered the Howards' guards to protect Felix's coffin and prevent any of the Piers from touching it.

Jordan watched as the Piers' experts charged toward him with a bloodthirsty smile!

These so-called experts of the Piers were simply courting death in front of him. He would kill as many of them as they came!

## **Chapter 976: Taking In The Piers**

To Jordan, the Piers were just like a herd of sheep trying to besiege a giant wolf. They didn't pose any threat to him at all!

Jordan put all his weight on his toes and stepped hard on the floor before leaping straight towards the 'sheep' in front of him like an arrow leaving its bow!

With a raise of his hand and a lift of his foot, Jordan accurately struck the experts working for the Piers.

His movements were so swift that the experts of the Piers could barely catch him before they felt a sharp and excruciating pain in their bodies and were kicked away in a daze.

"Ah!"

"Waahhh!"

“Argh!”

“Ah! M-my wrist!”

...

For a while, the shrieks of pain resounded throughout the entire funeral hall.

Their voices were extremely terrifying to the Piers and the Williams.

They didn't expect the situation to be so exaggeratedly one-sided!

Their experts didn't even manage to touch a corner of Jordan's clothes, yet they were screaming and shrieking one after another as Jordan dealt with them swiftly like a bulldozer!

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But out of consideration of Lucas's rule for him not to kill anyone easily, Jordan showed some mercy and spared their lives.

Besides, Jordan was still trying to come up with an idea to make Derek incredibly infuriated, so he didn't use much force this time. Yet it was already enough to make these experts lose their ability to fight. He had merely dislocated their joints without breaking their bones.

But in just a minute or so, these people who had surrounded Jordan were all knocked to the floor and were wailing incessantly!

Although they were also experts and would not easily cry out in pain, the pain of having their joints disconnected was beyond the threshold of ordinary people.

Jordan stood in the middle of the people who collapsed on the floor and were shrieking in pain. He then said something that shocked everyone, “If you surrender now and defect to the Howards, I can spare your lives! Otherwise, all of you will die here!”

If he had said this earlier, none of the Piers would believe him, and everyone would just think that he was talking big.

But now, in less than two minutes, Jordan had already disconnected the joints on the limbs of the nearly thirty experts of the Piers, rendering them temporarily unable to fight. They had no choice but to reevaluate Jordan's true abilities.

In fact, they all knew clearly that Jordan could easily kill them or cripple them if he wanted to because even though there were lots of them, there was no way they could defeat him!

Many of them had charged toward Jordan at the same time during the battle just now, but they couldn't even touch his clothes. It just went to show that Jordan was far more powerful than them, and they were fundamentally worlds apart!

It was just like a bunch of kindergarten children besieging an adult. Even though there were many of them, they were still no match for an adult!

Besides, Jordan didn't kill them, nor did he inflict a fatal injury on any of them. He had merely disconnected their joints to stop them, which was enough to show that his intention was to make them defect to the Howards.

The nearly thirty experts looked at one another and saw the obvious fear in their eyes.

What else could they do in the face of such overwhelming power?

If they didn't do as Jordan said and pledged their allegiance to the Howards, he would undoubtedly kill all of them!

Derek looked incredibly sullen now.

He was hopping mad that Jordan was openly poaching the experts of the Piers right in front of him!

"Since you people work for the Piers, you will always belong to us! If you dare to defect to the Howards, I will definitely not spare you! Do you hear me?" Derek hollered furiously.

Although these people had already had their limbs disconnected and had temporarily lost their ability to fight, they would still continue being powerful experts as long as their joints were reconnected and they were allowed to rest for a few days.

Besides, the 30 or so people he brought today were all of the Piers' elite subordinates, which were a powerful force for the family. He would never let them end up in the Howards' hands!

Derek would never allow them to defect to the Howards!

He would rather have all of them die here than allow the Howards to increase their power!

After Florence froze for a second, she immediately realized that what Jordan said was a great opportunity for the Howards!

Although these 30 or so people couldn't take Jordan's blows at all, they were still true experts whose strength was similar to the men in black who were her subordinates. If the Howards could get them to join, it would be a huge fortune for the family!

Thus, Florence immediately said to the Piers' experts with disconnected joints. "I know that you're stuck in a dilemma now, and the Piers don't want you to join us. In fact, they'd rather all of you die here than to see you join the Howards.

"But do you guys really just want to die here?"

"With your strength, you definitely can't kill Jordan, not to mention that you now have your joints disconnected and have lost your ability to fight. If he really wants to kill you, there's no way you'll be able to escape death. Even Derek can't save you!"

"But you should give it some thorough consideration. Why don't you just join the Howards?! I can guarantee you that if you surrender to us, I will not only protect you from death but also give you high monetary rewards!"

Without a doubt, Florence's words tempted these experts further.

In the face of life and death, no one would want to die, not to mention that Florence could provide them with high monetary rewards. Anyone would want to choose this.

But the experts of the Piers looked at each other for a few moments, not daring to step forward and express their intention to join the Howards.

Seeing this, Florence said straightforwardly, "In that case, the first person who joins the Howards will be given a reward of four million dollars. The second will be given two million, the third will be given one million, and the rest of you will get two hundred thousand each!"

As soon as Florence finished, someone immediately shouted impatiently, "Me! I want to join the Howards!"

A reward of four million dollars was a massive amount that was more than their total income for the past few years!

"I'll join the Howards too!"

"Me too! I'll join the Howards!"

"And me!"

...

Right after the first person took his stand, the remaining twenty or so people also spoke up in unison and decided to join the Howards.

But some of them were a few seconds too late and failed to be among the first three to pledge allegiance, so they missed out on a large amount of money, making them immediately chagrined.

Seeing this, the Howards grinned widely with joy. If the family could get these elite experts to join them, their combat power would be greatly enhanced.

In contrast to the Howards' joy, Derek was so furious that he was clenching his fists tightly and trembling violently.

## **Chapter 977: Fly Into an Uncontrollable Rage**

Although the thirty or so subordinates that Derek brought were not all the elite power of the Piers, they definitely accounted for at least half of the experts.

This was a team of experts that the Piers had painstakingly spent a ton of money to build and nurture.

But in just a few minutes, they had become the Howards' subordinates, which made him so furious that he was about to vomit blood!

Rayson was also looking at this scene in astonishment.

Even he didn't expect that so many of the Piers' experts would pledge allegiance to the Howards within such a short period of time!

In that case, how could they fight against the Howards? He had only brought twenty or so experts.

Florence was very satisfied with this result in front of her, and she was smiling non-stop.

She pointed to the first person to join the Howards, followed by the other two who spoke up shortly after. "The three of you are the earliest to announce joining the Howards. I naturally won't go back on my word about the reward. You will receive a grand reward of four million, two million, and one million dollars respectively!"

The three people immediately smiled excitedly and quickly thanked Florence, "Thank you, Ms. Howard! Thank you, Ms. Howard!"

Seeing the three of them receiving such a large sum of money without any effort at all, the other people next to them showed looks of envy and chagrin.

They just spoke up a little bit later than these people, but they missed out on so much money. They really felt heartbroken!

Florence looked at the remaining ones and said, "Since you've joined the Howards, you're now one of us, and each of you will receive two hundred thousand dollars!"

The remaining twenty people were overjoyed and hurriedly thanked Florence.

Although \$200,000 was a lot less than what the other three got, it was still quite a large amount. Not only were their lives spared, but they even received \$200,000 each. Moreover, they would be getting a high salary and a lot of bonuses when they started working for the Howards in the future.

Lucas was very satisfied with the situation in front of him.

Although this idea was thought up by Jordan, it was appropriate.

Although these experts were not the top powerhouses of the Howards, each of them was still considerably strong. Together, they could be considered a powerful force for the Howards.

Under normal circumstances, it would take at least a few dozen million dollars to recruit such a large group of experts, as well as a long period of time to repeatedly hone their skills and train them.

But the Howards had only paid less than fifteen million dollars to subdue these experts and make them feel grateful toward the Howards. It was undeniably a good deal for them.

On the contrary, Derek was really enraged by these former subordinates of his.

"You bastards, how dare you betray the Piers! Don't forget who's been paying you! I worked so hard and spent so much money to train you people. How dare you betray us just like that?!"

"I'm warning you. None of you are allowed to join the Howards! Get your asses back here immediately. Otherwise, the Piers won't spare you!" Derek hollered in exasperation.

These experts who had just chosen to join the Howards instantly sulked. *All this fool Derek is capable of is threatening us with such things. It's not like we have a choice.*

Why didn't Derek step forward to defend them when Jordan said that they would have to die if they didn't agree to join the Howards?

Derek merely treated them as the Piers' private tools, which he would rather destroy than let the Howards have.

But they were living human beings!

So despite Derek's furious holler, there was no way these experts would return to the Piers as Derek had commanded.

From the moment they made their choice, they were already part of the Howards!

"Mr. Piers, why are you lashing out at my subordinates? Don't you forget that they've all chosen to join the Howards, and you're in no place to yell at them!

"Mr. Piers, you keep saying that your family isn't going to spare them, but I insist on protecting them! If you dare to harm them, it means going to war with the Howards!

"But I advise you to put your brains to use and think through this carefully before you decide to go to war. These thirty-something people must be quite important to the Piers, and they must account for at least half of the Piers' combat power, right?

"The Piers have lost so much combat power to the Howards. The tables have turned. Do you really have the courage to go to war with the Howards?"

Florence spoke extremely hostilely, but the Howards were pleased to hear it.

This was what the truth was. The Howards and the Piers used to be evenly matched, and if they really fought, the chances of victory would be 50-50. But now that the Piers had lost a significant force, the Howards didn't have to be afraid even if they went to war with the Piers!

The thirty or so experts who had just defected to the Howards were greatly relieved after hearing what Florence said. At the same time, they were very confident as well.

Now that they were already working for the Howards, they naturally had the Howards to protect them, so why would they be afraid of Derek?

"Mr. Piers, we indeed worked for the Piers previously, but we're not your slaves. You paid us, but we also did a lot for your family in return, so our conscience is clear!"

"That's right! We don't owe you anything!"

"If the Piers want to take revenge against us in the future, we won't sit back and do nothing. You can't blame us when the time comes, Mr. Piers!"

"That's right! We belong to the Howards now, and we no longer have anything to do with the Piers. If you want to make a move against us, we won't be polite!"

...

The thirty or so experts spoke one after another.

Since they belonged to the Howards now, they naturally had to perform well in front of their new employer, especially since they couldn't have anything else to do with the Piers anymore.

They used to be Derek's subordinates, so they had obeyed him. But the situation was different now. If Derek insisted on dealing with them and making a move against them, the Piers would be their enemy!

Derek's face flushed red, and he was about to be angered to death by his former subordinates.

The Piers had invested heavily in them, and they thought that these experts would work for them for the rest of their lives. But now, they had not only betrayed the Piers to join the Howards, but they even had the guts to speak to him like that and threaten him, the helmsman of the family!

"Very well! Since you're so brave, the first thing I'll do is to get rid of you traitors once we start to deal with the Howards in the future! Just you wait!" Derek cursed angrily through gritted teeth.

## **Chapter 978: Make You Stay**

Hearing what Derek said, the Howards immediately looked at him with a peculiar gaze.

The numerous experts of the Piers now belonged to the Howards. How else could the Piers fight against the Howards?

If they really went to war, the Piers would lose for sure!

Thus, the Howards didn't take Derek's threat seriously at all.

At this moment, Jordan suddenly turned to look at Rayson at the side and said sinisterly with a smirk, "It's the Williams' turn now!"

As soon as he saw the sinister gaze in Jordan's eyes, Rayson couldn't help shuddering.

The situation now was too unfavorable!

The reason he had agreed to join forces with the Piers to deal with the Howards previously was undoubtedly that the Piers were on par with them, and Derek had also promised him to cooperate on the high-profit projects.

But the Piers had suddenly lost over thirty experts at once, which greatly damaged their strength. If they went against the Howards and the Huttons at this time, their chances of winning would be much lower. In fact, they might even lose.

The only way to avoid losing a gamble was not to bet!

Rayson quickly went through the pros and cons in his mind before laughing. "I was just casually replying to Mr. Piers. I don't really intend to harm the Howards. Regardless of what Derek wants to do, it has nothing to do with me and the Williams!"

Rayson shamelessly denied his previous agreement with Derek and drew a clear line between the Williams and the Piers.

Derek and his father, Conrad, were exasperated as soon as they heard Rayson drawing a clear line with them.

The reason they had chosen to come to the Howard residence today to provoke Florence, the new helmsman of the Howards, was that the Williams had promised to join hands with the Piers to coerce the Howards.

But now, the shameless Rayson saw that things weren't looking good and wanted to run away.

What would happen to the Piers?

Were they going to be left hanging just like that?

Without the help of the Williams, the Piers wouldn't even be able to defeat the Howards, not to mention that the Huttons were standing on the Howards' side!

Rayson didn't have the time to think about what the Piers were thinking and whether or not they would lash out at him. The most important thing to do now was to get the Williams out of this troublesome predicament!

Fortunately, only the foolish Derek's subordinates had acted just now, while no one from the Piers had made a single move. They didn't form a deadly feud with the Howards, and there was still room for maneuvering.

He quickly made up an excuse and said, "I'm here today to pay my respects to Mr. Howard. Now that I'm finished, I'll leave with my people. Goodbye!"

With that, he directly turned around and walked toward the door.

“Do you think you can leave so easily?” Lucas, who had been standing by the side without speaking, suddenly said coldly, stopping Rayson from withdrawing.

After Lucas spoke, the Howards had excited expressions on their faces.

Although Lucas had been standing still without saying anything, and the person who had forced the Piers into a disadvantageous position was Jordan, everyone knew that Lucas was the one who really called the shots.

Now that he spoke up and stopped Rayson, he was clearly about to take action.

But Rayson glanced at Lucas dismissively and rebuked, “Your helmsman hasn’t even said anything. Who are you to make me stay?”

The various things that had happened just now were beyond Rayson’s expectations, and they made him feel like he had made the wrong decision by choosing to come to the Howard residence with the Piers today.

He was already flustered and uneasy, and he wanted to leave the Howard residence as soon as possible and return to the Williams’ to think about what to do next. But this young man actually had the audacity to stop him, making Rayson so furious that he rebuked him without mercy.

But Rayson was surprised to find that after he reprimanded Lucas, all the Howards in the funeral hall stared at him like he was a fool, as if he had done something absurd.

In fact, the Howards truly admired Rayson for his courage to speak to Lucas like that!

After everything that had happened last night, the Howards had already witnessed with their own eyes how terrifying Lucas was.

Not to mention that his subordinate Jordan could defeat Hades, a top powerhouse of the Peerless Martial Association, but even Damien Zander, the chief of the Peerless Martial Association’s US headquarters, was so polite to Lucas. Even after suffering a loss, he forced himself to endure it and back down, not daring to do anything to Lucas.

Yet Rayson actually dared to reprimand such a terrifying existence. He really had a death wish!

“Old man, watch how you talk to Lucas! If Lucas tells you to, you have to stop, and you can only leave only when he grants you permission! If Lucas tells you to die here, you have to die here today! Do you understand?” Jordan moved quickly to the entrance of the funeral hall and firmly blocked Rayson’s retreat.

Rayson was instantly shocked!

It was true that he didn't know Lucas's identity and had arrived a little later, so he was clueless about the identity of this young man in front of him.

But Jordan had easily defeated the thirty or so experts of the Piers on his own, which was a feat Rayson had witnessed with his eyes.

Moreover, the fact that a powerful person like Jordan was actually so respectful toward Lucas meant that Lucas had a higher status than Jordan.

Thinking of how the Howards were looking at him, Rayson panicked even more.

He was afraid that he had offended an extraordinary existence without realizing it!

Rayson pinched his palm, which was covered in cold sweat. He smiled at Lucas and asked politely, "May I know which family you're from?"

There was an extreme change in his attitude.

Just now, he was still disdainful of Lucas and wanted to drag him out to beat him up, but now, he was grinning widely.

Rayson was indeed worthy of being a shrewd businessman. He was just like a chameleon that didn't care about his pride at all.

Michael couldn't help having a few traces of excitement appear in his eyes.

When Rayson asked which family Lucas was from, Michael wished he could tell everyone that Lucas was his son!

But Michael could only think about it inwardly and didn't dare to say it out loud.

Lucas hadn't forgiven him at all, nor did he acknowledge him as his father. He wasn't fit to say that Lucas was his son.

But Michael was looking at Lucas with an eager and expectant gaze, hoping he would say that he was Michael Hutton's son!

However, Lucas naturally wouldn't tell Rayson his identity or admit that he was actually a Hutton.

He didn't even bother with Rayson's question. He simply said to Jordan, "I'll leave it to you, Jordan. Since they had the guts to come to the Howard residence to cause trouble, they must be prepared to pay the price!"

"Got it, Lucas!" Jordan immediately understood Lucas's intentions and agreed.

Rayson looked at Lucas and Jordan before turning to look at Florence, who was watching them respectfully from the side. He suddenly thought that Lucas wasn't a member of the Howard family at all!

The ominous feeling in Rayson's heart became more and more intense, and he finally popped the question in a trembling voice, "You... you're not a Howard. Who are you?"

## Chapter 979: Paying The Price

Lucas couldn't be bothered to answer Rayson's question.

In his eyes, the Williams were nothing at all, and Rayson, the helmsman of the Williams, had no right to ask him anything.

Rayson had asked Lucas about his identity twice, but Lucas ignored him.

At any other time, Rayson would have definitely felt that his dignity was being provoked and become enraged.

But he suddenly realized that he didn't even dare to lose his temper in front of Lucas.

The fact that Lucas could openly call the shots for the Howards without any objection from Florence, the head of the Howard family, and even have the powerful Jordan obey him showed that Lucas probably had a powerful background!

Not daring to question Lucas any further, Rayson could only turn to Florence. "Ms. Howard, is that how you treat your guests? I kindly brought my family here to offer our condolences to Mr. Howard, yet I was stopped here. What are you trying to do?"

Florence harrumphed coldly and replied mockingly, "Mr. Williams, you can't be too thick-skinned! Touch your heart and tell me honestly if you're really here to offer your condolences. I'm sure you don't need me to remind you what you did earlier, right?"

"Now that Mr. Gray has said that you're not allowed to leave and that you should bear the consequences of your actions, you can forget about leaving here until you satisfy Mr. Gray!"

Florence was extremely domineering when speaking.

Now that the Howards were in a better position than the Williams and had the support of Lucas and the Huttons, why would she be afraid of the Williams?

Of course, Florence also knew very well in her heart that the situation had turned favorable for the Howards all thanks to Lucas.

Rayson didn't know Lucas's identity, but Florence knew better than anyone else that Lucas's father was none other than Michael, the head of the Huttons, who was standing next to her.

If it wasn't for Lucas, Michael wouldn't have rushed to the Howard residence and stood on their side.

In addition, Jordan, who had helped the Howards acquire dozens of experts, was Lucas's friend.

It was safe to say that the Howards would have been destroyed by these two shameless families, the Piers and the Williams, without Lucas!

Rayson was even more frightened when he heard Florence address Lucas as Mr. Gray!

Florence was now the head of the Howards, one of the eight most powerful families in DC. But she actually treated a young man in his twenties with such great respect. What did this mean?

Moreover, Lucas was accompanied by a top powerhouse like Jordan. How terrifying must his identity be?!

Rayson simply didn't dare to imagine any further!

"Lucas just said that you have to pay the price for barging into the Howard residence and creating trouble before you can leave today!" Jordan said.

He glanced at Rayson, whose forehead was already covered in cold sweat, and added, "Besides, you even had the guts to be rude to Lucas just now. That's unforgivable!"

Rayson's heart pounded violently as he hurriedly said, "I... I didn't know Mr. Gray's identity just now. I didn't mean to offend him!"

"Moreover, although I... I came with the Piers, the ones who compelled the Howards and got physical were all Derek's men. None of my subordinates and I did anything!"

"Also, Derek is the one who initiated the alliance, and I merely agreed casually to fool him. I didn't really intend to become enemies with the Howards!"

"If you're not satisfied, I can guarantee that when I return home, I will order the Williams not to harm the Howards. Is that okay?"

Rayson had no other choice but to give in at this juncture.

Although there were still about twenty experts of the Williams standing behind him, Rayson had already witnessed Jordan destroying the Piers' experts and thus knew that he would only be repeating the Piers' mistakes if he sent all of them forward. It wouldn't be of any use at all!

In fact, if he dared to give such an order, he probably wouldn't be able to live!

Jordan sneered, unwrapped a piece of chewing gum, and tossed it into his mouth. "Mr. Williams, please don't say those hypocritical things in front of me again. It disgusts me too much. How can you bring yourself to say them?!"

"How about this? I can't be bothered to argue with you. Immediately kneel down and apologize to Lucas and the Howards, and we can then let this matter go."

After Rayson heard Jordan's request, the expression on his face instantly stiffened.

Kneel down and apologize?

As the helmsman of one of the eight top families of DC, he had never kneeled to apologize to someone!

If he really kneeled down and apologized to Lucas, and word about it got out, Rayson and the Williams would become the laughing stock of DC!

Although Rayson had always been thick-skinned and didn't care much about his reputation, it was absolutely impossible for him to accept such humiliation!

"You... Don't go too far!" Rayson barked through clenched teeth.

Jordan raised his brows. "It's time to pay the price for what you've done! I'm being kind enough by merely asking you to kneel down and apologize!"

Rayson said resolutely, "No matter what, I'm the head of the Williams, one of the eight top families of DC. How dare you ask me to kneel down and apologize? That's impossible!"

"Besides, I just said that although the Williams came here today, we didn't cause the Howards any harm. We won't create any trouble for the Howards in the future either. Is that not enough?"

"As for Mr. Lucas Gray, I can apologize to him or even make amends for my mistakes, but you're going overboard by asking me to kneel down. I'll never agree to it!"

Jordan snorted coldly. "Overboard? Why didn't you think that you were going overboard when you forced Ms. Howard to marry into the Piers together with that bastard Conrad Pier?"

“Why didn’t you think that you were going overboard when you ganged up with the Piers against the Howards just for the sake of a few projects with a couple billion dollars in profits?”

“If Lucas wasn’t here today and no one from the Huttons came, I’m afraid the Howards would have been bullied to death by you guys, huh?”

“You don’t think you’re going overboard when you’re bullying others and wanting to reap benefits from them, but you think others are going overboard when they make you bear the consequences?”

“To be honest, you’re not that noble, and I think we’re being kind enough to let you leave once you kneel and apologize!”

“Do you still want to walk out of here in one piece? If so, then you won’t learn your lesson at all. Instead, you’ll just think that we and the Howards are pushovers. Wouldn’t you then gather other allies to deal with us again?”

Jordan questioned again and again, causing Rayson’s face to turn pale and leaving him with no means to refute!

## **Chapter 980: Kneeling and Apologizing**

Rayson gritted his teeth forcefully and said, “I can guarantee that after I leave this place, I will never send anyone to take revenge on the Howards! I swear!”

Jordan sneered contemptuously. “Swear? Guarantee? Trust you to try and fool us with a lie that even elementary school kids won’t believe. Mr. Williams, are you treating us as retards?”

“You refuse to kneel no matter what, huh? Since you don’t know any better, you can die here!”

Jordan walked toward Rayson.

Rayson’s face was already as pale as a sheet. He didn’t expect that Jordan would want to kill him over a minor disagreement!

Seeing Jordan approaching him, Rayson felt a deep fear surge in his heart.

The twenty or so experts of the Williams standing behind him looked like they were facing a dreadful enemy.

If Jordan really wanted to kill Rayson, it would be impossible for them to stop him!

Meanwhile, Derek and Conrad turned deathly pale because they didn't expect Jordan to be so bold as to want to kill Rayson!

After all, no matter what, Rayson was the helmsman of one of the eight top families of DC. But in Jordan's opinion, the lives of Rayson, Conrad, and Derek were worthless!

The thought of it put Conrad and Derek in a terrible mood.

Moreover, Rayson was being forced to kneel and apologize just because he had formed an alliance with the Piers to deal with the Howards. In fact, even their lives were in danger. In that case, since the Piers had already made a move against the Howards and showed their intentions to covet their assets so greatly, including their actions of forcing Florence to marry Derek, it meant that their fate was likely going to be worse than Rayson's.

Only the Howards felt confident after hearing the domineering words from Jordan.

Since Rayson was the Piers' accomplice in bullying the Howards, the Howards would probably applaud if he died right here!

At this moment, Jordan had already walked up to Rayson and said coldly, "Okay, you can go to hell now! When you die, there will only be seven top families in DC!"

Then Jordan raised his hand and punched at Rayson's head!

"No!!!" Rayson immediately screamed and fell to his knees. "I was wrong! Don't kill me! I'll apologize. I'll do anything!"

Rayson was really scared out of his wits by Jordan. He couldn't bother thinking about anything else and kneeled immediately!

Jordan had long known that Rayson was a spineless person who would definitely rather kneel than die. So the punch he threw was extremely loud. But after seeing Rayson kneel, he stopped just as his fist was right beside Rayson's ear.

Feeling the fierce gust of wind stirred up by the punch, Rayson broke out in cold sweat while feeling thankful to have survived.

Fortunately, he had kneeled in time to save his own life!

At this moment, the other people in the funeral hall looked at Rayson in shock.

The helmsman of the Williams had really kneeled and apologized for his mistakes without any regard for his image. All he wanted was to seek forgiveness from Lucas and the Howards!

If they hadn't seen it clearly with their own eyes and merely heard it from others, they would probably think that it was just some absurd nonsense.

But the truth was now presented in front of them so clearly!

"Oh my god! The head of the Williams actually kneeled and apologized! I can't believe it!"

"Th-this is incredible! He's the head of one of the top eight families of DC, yet he kneeled down in front of a young man in his twenties?!"

"Hah, Rayson looked down on us for having a female helmsman, but Ms. Florence has more backbone than him. She didn't concede even when the Piers and the Williams tried to compel her. Yet the Williams' helmsman actually kneeled down so quickly. How hilarious!"

"Exactly! He's a far cry from the Howards' helmsman!"

...

Hearing the comments and contemptuous remarks from the crowd about his behavior, Rayson felt extremely embarrassed and humiliated. His face started burning up as he kneeled on the floor.

Even though he was usually thick-skinned, he couldn't help feeling extremely ashamed now that he was kneeling and listening to the taunts of the Howards around him.

In the face of a life threat, he could only swallow his pride and forgo his dignity to kneel and apologize to a young man about the same age as his son and even seek his forgiveness.

For the fifty-odd years of his life, he had always been respected by others, and he had never suffered such humiliation before.

Rayson felt like his heart was bleeding!

He had to kill Jordan and Lucas one day to make up for the humiliation he suffered today!

Derek and Conrad were watching in fear. Now that their subordinates had either fainted or defected, the two of them were the only Piers left, and the Howards could deal with them however they wanted. They wouldn't have the ability to resist at all!

This was what it meant to be in a hopeless situation!

“How do you expect Lucas to forgive you when your apology is so insincere?” Jordan said coldly.

Rayson froze in shock as humiliation and anger flashed on his face, but he understood that he could only be at the mercy of others.

He gritted his teeth, lowered his head, and said with humiliation, “Mr. Gray, I didn’t mean to offend you. I’m really sorry! Please don’t hold it against me and forgive me this time!”

Seeing Rayson’s appearance, everyone in the funeral hall was in a complicated mood.

Standing at the side and watching everything, Michael was feeling a mix of bitterness, pride, and remorse.

Rayson, the helmsman of the Howards, was about the same age and status as Michael. They were both the heads of one of the eight top families of DC.

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But now, Rayson had no choice but to kneel on the floor in humiliation and apologize to Michael’s son.

He was in an extremely complicated mood.

At this moment, Michael was full of regret.

He knew that Lucas would never be able to forgive him and return to the Huttons.

If he had known this would happen, he would have resisted the pressure instead of kicking Lucas and his mother out of the family!

Michael knew very well that with Lucas’s current ability, he didn’t have to fear the other top eight families of DC. In fact, if there was a family that he disliked, he could easily wipe them out!

With the support of Lucas, the Howards would probably surpass the other families and become the most powerful one in the country. Michael might even have to look up to them then.

Unfortunately, it was too late to regret it now!

## **Chapter 981: Suggesting an Alliance**

Lucas looked at Rayson, who was kneeling in front of him and apologizing. He said indifferently, "You can get lost now!"

Hearing this, Rayson immediately felt as if he had been spared from death. He quickly got up, turned around, and ran toward the door without saying anything.

He frantically ran away, and when he passed the steps at the entrance of the villa, he almost tripped and fell. He was indeed in a terribly disheveled mess.

But Rayson didn't dare to stop at all, for fear that he would be forced to do other more embarrassing things if he hesitated a moment longer.

Rayson fled without even calling his subordinates along. Instead, they reacted on their own and hurriedly followed Rayson out.

Thus, all the Williams left the Howard residence.

Derek and Conrad had extremely ugly expressions. They quickly said, "Ms. Howard, uh... we're leaving too!"

Then they hurriedly dashed outside before Florence could even respond.

Florence sulked. She wanted to settle scores with the Piers at first, but when she saw that Lucas didn't say anything, and she still had plenty of things to handle currently, she reluctantly decided to let the Piers leave since she didn't have the time to deal with them yet.

After the Piers and the Williams left, Florence looked at the thirty-odd experts who had defected to the Howards and instructed, "Someone, come take them away to get some rest. Have the medical team reconnect their joints and give each of them a thorough checkup. Then let them recuperate for a few days."

These thirty-odd experts immediately looked at Florence with gratitude and bowed. "Thank you, Ms. Howard!"

Soon, some servants led them away.

The spacious funeral hall was instantly much emptier. Only the Howards and the Huttons were left.

There was some tension in the atmosphere.

Florence glanced at Michael and then at Lucas. She knew that they were father and son, but she also knew that Lucas had been kicked out of the Huttons and DC when he was still a child. Thus, he had always borne a strong grudge against Michael.

Just a few days ago, Lucas had instructed Florence to attack the Huttons.

So at this moment, Florence didn't know what to say to ease the tension.

Meanwhile, Michael didn't notice Florence's expression. Instead, he stared straight at Lucas.

It was the first time he had looked at his son so closely in all these years.

It was different from how Michael had looked at Lucas in the photos and the way he would steal a few glances at him just now. At this moment, Michael was almost staring straight at Lucas without blinking. Observing Lucas's face, which somewhat resembled his own and his former lover's, he felt extremely emotional.

But Lucas didn't even glance at Michael.

From the moment Michael walked into the Howards' funeral hall, Lucas didn't even look at Michael or feel anything for him except for the slight emotional fluctuation he felt when he saw him at the beginning. Lucas was acting as if Michael didn't exist at all.

Lucas's ignoring him made Michael feel a sharp pain in his heart.

"Mr. Gray, thank you so much for everything today!" Florence suddenly coughed twice and walked to Lucas to thank him sincerely.

Moreover, she no longer called Lucas by his name and instead addressed him respectfully as Mr. Gray.

Although Florence didn't need to be so respectful to Lucas since he was her son-in-law, Lucas might not want to be her son-in-law since Cheyenne had yet to officially acknowledge her as her mother.

Besides, Lucas had given the Howards so much help in the past two days. He had played an instrumental role in various situations, be it when the chief of the Peerless Martial Association's US headquarters showed up or when the Piers and the Williams joined forces to compel the Howards just now!

It could be said that if it wasn't for Lucas, the Howards would probably no longer be one of the top eight families of DC!

Moreover, Florence had managed to become the family head only because of Lucas's support. Otherwise, she would have probably been killed by Hades yesterday.

Thus, Florence was extremely grateful to Lucas.

Lucas nodded nonchalantly. "You don't need to thank me. But I'm not from DC after all, and I'll be heading back to Orange County soon, so I won't be able to protect the Howards all the time. If you don't want the Howards to face the same predicament again, you should think of ways to gain some allies for the Howards."

Florence hurriedly nodded. "Mr. Gray, you're right. I'll take your advice to heart!"

Suddenly, Michael said, "The Huttons are willing to become allies with the Howards. What do you say, Ms. Howard?"

Florence was stunned. Michael's suggestion was exactly what the Howards needed right now!

But Florence didn't agree immediately but instead looked at Lucas hesitantly.

She didn't know what Lucas's attitude toward the Huttons was currently. If he still hated the Huttons and wanted to take revenge on them, Florence would never become allies with the Huttons even if they could obtain massive benefits from it.

When Michael saw Florence's action, he felt extremely uncomfortable.

He had offered to form an alliance with the Howards because he wanted to get into Lucas's good books.

But Florence actually had to ask Lucas for his opinion before deciding whether to become allies with him. It was really an ironic feeling.

But he had brought it all upon himself. So no matter how upset he felt, he could only suck it up.

Lucas didn't take a stand.

He didn't say anything and simply took Cheyenne's hand. "Let's go."

The fact that he let Cheyenne come to DC to pay her respects to the deceased Felix, the former head of the Howards, was already a great kindness on his part.

Moreover, he had even helped the Howards resolve a huge issue and saved them again.

He couldn't be bothered about who the Howards became allies with and how they would develop in the future.

As for the Huttons, after he stirred up so much trouble for them and made Roman replace their new successor, he no longer cared about their affairs.

As long as the Huttons stopped provoking him, he could let them off the hook once on for the sake of his mother's last words on her deathbed.

Regarding anything else about them, he would no longer have any feelings!

## **Chapter 982: Investigating Lucas**

Cheyenne nodded and took a deep look at Florence before leaving the Howard residence with Lucas.

Jordan naturally followed behind them and left too.

The Howards and the Huttons stood quietly, and only until the three of them had completely disappeared did Michael look away with a bitter smile.

"It seems he will never acknowledge me as his father again in this life."

"..." Florence remained silent, not knowing how she should comfort him.

They were in a similar situation.

Lucas was Michael's biological son, but he didn't want to acknowledge him.

Cheyenne was her daughter, and she didn't want to acknowledge her either.

It was unsurprising for Lucas or Cheyenne to do this, and Florence and Michael couldn't blame them either. They had failed as parents and brought it upon themselves.

Now, they were just reaping what they had sown. Even if they felt bitter, they couldn't blame it on anyone else.

After being silent for a while, Michael perked himself up and said to Florence, "Ms. Howard, the Piers and the Williams won't let this matter go. They will definitely deal with the Howards again. Therefore, the Huttons are willing to form an alliance with the Howards."

Michael spoke extremely earnestly. He had clearly already made a decision.

Florence considered it seriously.

She had just shot Lucas a glance to ask him for his opinion. But he didn't answer, neither agreeing nor opposing. He just left with Cheyenne. This likely meant that he didn't want to bother about this matter anymore and was leaving it to her to decide.

In that case, the result was obvious. If the Howards fought the Piers and the Williams alone, they definitely wouldn't be able to cope with the offensive of two top families.

Since Michael had taken the initiative to suggest an alliance again, she would be extremely silly not to agree.

Thinking of this, Florence extended a hand toward Michael and said gratefully, "In that case, thank you for your kindness, Mr. Hutton! From now on, the Howards and the Huttons are officially allies!"

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Meanwhile, the Piers and the Williams returned to their respective homes.

Although Rayson had already given the strictest orders to those who had followed him to the Howard residence and forbidden them from revealing a single thing about what had happened today, he nevertheless smashed the computer, TV, teacups, laptops, and everything else in his study into pieces in anger.

As soon as he returned home, he flew into such an uncontrollable rage that he attracted the attention of the rest of the Williams, who were extremely worried and curious about what Rayson had encountered outside.

But since Rayson was in the midst of an uncontrollable rage, no one dared to go forward to dissuade him.

After a long while, the sound of items being smashed in the study gradually subsided. A young man in his thirties slowly pushed open the door and walked into the study, which was now a mess. He asked cautiously, "Dad, did something happen?"

Rayson glanced at his son without saying a word.

Rayson would rather die than say that he had been forced to kneel down and apologize by a young man about the same age as his son. It was too humiliating.

After he smashed a large number of things, the anger in his heart subsided a little.

He stood in the middle of the study, took a few deep breaths, and suddenly said to his son, "Get someone to help me investigate someone. The more detailed the information, the better!"

The young man hurriedly asked, "Okay, who is it?"

Rayson narrowed his eyes. "A young man named Lucas Gray. He should be around your age. He's very close to the Howards, and he appeared at their residence today. He has a highly-skilled martial artist named Jordan following him all the time. You must quickly find out all the information about him for me!"

"Yes, Dad!" the young man hurriedly agreed and immediately walked out of the study to arrange for his competent subordinates to carry out the task.

In the study, Rayson stared at the debris on the floor, his eyes showing intense murderous intent. "Hah, Lucas Gray! If you're really someone powerful I can't afford to offend, I'll forget about it. But if you're not powerful enough, I'll definitely take revenge on you!"

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In the Piers' villa in DC...

Conrad and Derek returned to the Pier residence in a sorry state with the unconscious Adam.

They were naturally in a terrible mood. But because the Howards had finally let them go, Conrad and Derek were much less angry than Rayson, though they were still extremely upset about losing over 30 elite experts.

"Dad, we've lost so much manpower today, and Adam has also suffered a huge loss at the Howards. His face is so swollen that he can't even speak. We have to make the Howards and that punk Lucas Gray pay for this!" Derek gritted his teeth fiercely after getting the family doctor to treat Adam.

None of their plans were successful at the Howard residence today. They had even ended up incurring heavy losses and losing half of their elite subordinates.

Conrad's eyes also revealed intense murderous intent. Be it the Howards whom he coveted or the two bastards who had the guts to be rude to him, he would never let them off.

But Conrad was of the older generation after all. After calming down, he said in a deep voice, "Before we take revenge, we must first find out the real identity of that young man named Lucas Gray!"

"He isn't an ordinary person. Think about how respectful Florence was to him and how Howards looked at him with awe and fear on their faces. All of this shows that he isn't a simple person!"

“Also, his subordinate named Jordan actually defeated so many of our experts, and even my bodyguards were no match for him. Such a powerful figure isn’t someone ordinary people can control!

“So before we take revenge, we must first find out who exactly Lucas Gray is and whether or not we can make a move against him!

“If he has an esteemed status and we can’t afford to provoke him, we can only suck it up. But if his status is average and he’s only good at fighting, we must take revenge on him!”

“Okay, you should go make preparations. First, you get people to check Lucas Gray’s identity and find out his background.

“Second, spend some money to recruit some top experts to help the Piers! I admit that Jordan is indeed very powerful, but there must be people better than him in this world. I don’t believe that we can’t find an expert who can beat him!”

Derek immediately nodded. “Okay, Father, I’ll get someone to handle these things immediately!”

After thinking for a moment, Conrad added, “But the person who hates Lucas the most right now and wants to kill the both of them the most is probably Rayson Williams!”

Derek’s eyes lit up. “Father, you mean you want the Williams to deal with that punk?!”

## **Chapter 983: Scheming Against One Another**

Conrad nodded but immediately shook his head afterward. “I want to use the Williams to deal with those two punks, but we can’t pin all our hopes on them. We must prepare for everything.

“But Rayson hates Lucas Gray much more than we do. If we suggest that we’ll work together with him to deal with those two punks, he’ll definitely be pleased.”

At the mention of Rayson, Derek recalled how Rayson had wanted to escape by himself today when he realized that the situation had turned unfavorable and felt incredibly displeased.

“Hah, Rayson Williams is such a bastard! We clearly agreed to join forces against the Howards, yet he still tried to make us win him over so that he could get more benefits. When the situation became unfavorable, he actually betrayed us and wanted to leave alone. He’s a scheming villain through and through!

“I don’t trust him enough to cooperate with him!”

Conrad sneered. “We’re just using each other. We don’t have to trust him. As long as he has the same goal as us to deal with that punk Lucas, it’s enough.

“I don’t know why, but I have an ominous feeling about that punk. We might not be able to defeat him with our strength alone, so we’d better do it together with the Williams!

“Of course, the premise of all this is that we must first find out his real background. We mustn’t act rashly and provoke him, lest we make a dreadful enemy for our family,” Conrad warned his son solemnly.

Although Derek was mad at Rayson and didn’t want to cooperate with him at all, what his father said made a lot of sense. It wasn’t exactly a cooperation. Rather, they would just be making use of each other to achieve a common goal. In that case, he could accept it.

But just two hours later, Rayson took the initiative to call Derek first.

“Derek, I need to speak to you in detail about the matter regarding the Howards. Do you have time for a drink tonight?” Rayson said with a smile, as if nothing had happened.

Derek cursed inwardly and called him a thick-skinned and sly old fox. He said indifferently, “Hah, Mr. Williams, you can drop the act. I’m afraid you might suddenly draw a clear line between us and backstab me again!”

No matter how thick-skinned Rayson was, he couldn’t help feeling a little awkward and embarrassed after Derek blatantly mocked him.

“C’mon, buddy, I didn’t mean for that to happen today! Are you still mad at me?”

“I can’t make it tonight. If there’s anything you want to say, just do it over the phone!” Derek said indifferently.

Although he had already decided to cooperate with Rayson to deal with Lucas, the method of cooperation was still very important. There was no way he could immediately agree to the cooperation as soon as Rayson called him to initiate it.

Derek wanted to be in control in this cooperation, so he deliberately behaved indifferent and aloof, as if it didn’t matter to him what Rayson had to say to him.

Rayson said, “Okay then. What I want to say is that I’ve just sent someone to investigate Lucas Gray. He’s not from any powerful family but an illegitimate son who got kicked out of the Huttons two decades ago. Even the Huttons don’t acknowledge him now!

“So that punk doesn’t have a powerful background at all! Even his subordinate Jordan is just an orphan. They’re worlds apart from families like ours!”

Derek snorted coldly. “Is that what you’ve found out after investigating? Think about it carefully. If he was really just an illegitimate son kicked out by the Huttons for many years and had no one to rely on, how could he have been able to do those things today? If that’s all you have to say, save it because the Piers have already found out about those things too!”

With that, he hung up.

On the other end, Rayson immediately frowned after hearing what Derek said.

*Does that punk have another identity I haven’t found out yet?*

*No, I must make them investigate this properly!*

After Derek hung up without hesitation, he smirked. “Hah, what a fool! If Lucas Gray really has such a simple identity, how could he have done what he did today? Didn’t you realize that even Michael Hutton could only watch him quietly?”

Conrad frowned with some displeasure and rebuked, “I’ve already told you to put aside your resentment toward him for the time being and work together with the Williams. Why did you hang up?”

Derek hurriedly said, “Father, this is what I think. That bastard Rayson is a sly old fox whose skin is even thicker than a wall. If we take the initiative to tell him that we want to cooperate, he might think that we’re begging him and even take advantage of us.

“I deliberately treated him coldly and made it look like I didn’t want to talk to him so that he’d beg to cooperate with us when he became anxious since he hates Lucas Gray more than we do. This way, we’ll be in control!”

“But Father, I’ll obey your instructions and not act rashly before finding out Lucas’s true background and backer.”

Conrad finally nodded. “Yes, that’s more like it. Alright, I’ll leave all these matters to you. Remember to tell your subordinates to do a thorough background check on Lucas no matter what!”

“Yes, Dad!” Derek immediately nodded in agreement before ordering his subordinates again.

...

On another side, Lucas didn't know that the Piers and the Williams were already doing their best to find out everything about him.

At this moment, he and Cheyenne were already on a flight back to Orange County.

He had originally planned to return to Orange County today, but Felix had suddenly died from an acute illness last night. Thus, he had specially called Cheyenne over to DC to pay her last respects to Felix so that she wouldn't have any regrets.

Since everything in DC had been settled, Lucas naturally wanted to bring Cheyenne home.

On the plane, Cheyenne was still feeling worried about what had happened today.

"Honey, the Piers and the Williams probably won't let the matter rest just like that. Should we really be leaving?" Cheyenne asked worriedly with a frown.

## **Chapter 984: Issues Arising at the Same Time**

Lucas said with a comforting smile, "Rest assured. Everything will be fine. The Howards aren't weak, and they won't let others bully them."

Anyway, he had already done what he needed to do and saved the Howards once from the Piers and the Williams.

But he wasn't a Howard after all, and he wasn't obligated to keep staying in DC to help the Howards resolve their troubles.

Furthermore, Lucas believed that Florence wasn't a fool. Michael had already taken the initiative to extend an olive branch to the Howards, so the Howards would definitely seize the opportunity to form an alliance with the Huttons.

In that case, the Howards wouldn't face any major issues.

Besides, if something unexpected really happened, Lucas still had the Smiths to help him in DC, and he could have them side with the Howards.

There were only eight top families in DC, and Lucas could get three of them to unite. The only way the Piers and the Williams could defeat them was to form an alliance with the remaining three families.

But the chances of this happening were almost negligible.

Frankly speaking, given Lucas's current power, he could easily conquer all eight families in DC. But doing so would cause huge economic turbulence in the country, and he didn't want to affect ordinary people because of it.

More than two hours later, they arrived safely in Orange County.

Lucas had been in DC for more than a week and finally returned to the city he was most familiar with.

After getting off the plane, Cheyenne turned on her cell phone and heard a succession of text message alerts, all of which were texts she had received while her phone was off during the flight. There were also many missed calls.

Cheyenne panicked when she saw so many missed calls from her secretary.

Just as she was about to call back and ask what was going on, her phone started ringing again.

The person who called was the general manager's secretary of the Brilliance Corporation.

"What happened at the office?" Cheyenne immediately asked.

The person on the other end said something, and Cheyenne's face became extremely sullen. Finally, she merely said, "Okay, I've gotten off the plane, and I'm back in Orange County now. I'll head over to the office immediately to take a look!"

After Cheyenne hung up, Lucas immediately asked with concern, "What happened at the office?"

Cheyenne smiled bitterly. "There are some problems with a few contracts, and the clients are demanding that I solve the issues now, so I have to head back immediately."

"Is it troublesome? Do you need my help?" Lucas asked with concern.

Cheyenne shook her head. "It's okay. It's all just some company affairs that I can resolve on my own. I'll take a cab to the office first. You don't have to bother about me either. Just take a cab home quickly. Amelia is waiting for you at home. She must miss you dearly!"

Cheyenne was an extremely independent woman who wasn't willing to seek help from others.

Lucas respected Cheyenne's decision. Since she said that she could resolve the issues on her own, he didn't insist any further.

“Okay, go ahead then. If there’s something you can’t solve on your own, remember to call and let me know,” Lucas said before ushering Cheyenne into a taxi. Then he took a taxi back to his Pearl Lake villa.

As soon as he returned home, Amelia dashed toward him excitedly and threw herself into his arms. “Daddy! You’re finally home! I missed you so much!”

While being hugged by his daughter, Lucas felt a warm and fuzzy feeling in his heart as he picked Amelia up in his arms and kissed her cheeks a few times.

Lucas originally thought that Amelia would be upset at him for coming home late and breaking his promise to take her out for delicious food today. But he saw nothing except pure surprise and joy on her face without the slightest complaint.

Lucas loved his well-behaved and sensible daughter to bits.

William walked out and greeted Lucas with a smile. “Welcome back. Did everything go well in DC?”

Lucas nodded and smiled. “Yes, it’s all settled now. How’s your recovery going, William?”

Previously, Karen and Nikki had colluded to scheme against William and caused him to have a traffic accident. He had been badly wounded and in a vegetative state. Now, he was in the stage of slow recovery.

“Yeah, they’re just some superficial injuries. I’m almost fully healed now!” William said while arching his arm to flex it, revealing the small muscles on it.

Lucas burst into laughter and soon realized that there was someone missing in the house.

“Where’s Charlotte? Isn’t it the weekend? Is she still working overtime?” Lucas asked.

William explained, “Oh, yeah, Charlotte was supposed to have a break today, but about half an hour ago, her assistant called and said that there were some urgent matters for her to handle at the office, so she rushed back.”

Lucas immediately frowned.

When they got off the plane half an hour ago, Cheyenne had received a similar phone call from her company, saying that something troublesome had happened. And now, something cropped up at Charlotte’s office at the same time. Was it really a coincidence?

Before Lucas could dwell on it further, William’s phone started ringing.

After William answered the call, his expression immediately changed, and he said quickly, "Huh? What did you say? That happened at the office? Okay, wait for me there. I'll come deal with it right away!"

After hanging up, William grabbed his jacket and car key while saying to Lucas, "Lucas, stay home and play with Amelia! I have something urgent to deal with at the office. I'm heading over now!"

Then he left without looking back.

Lucas was hugging Amelia, but he acutely felt that there was something wrong.

Within such a short period of time, the Brilliance Corporation, the Stardust Corporation, and the Solar Corporation all faced an urgent issue all of a sudden. It was too strange for it to just be a coincidence.

Moreover, all three companies belonged to him.

Someone might be targeting him and creating trouble for all three of his companies at the same time.

But who would do this?

There shouldn't be anyone who dared to go against Lucas, given his current status and identity.

So, who did it?

## **Chapter 985: Switching Hands**

"Daddy, Daddy! I'm talking to you, but you're spacing out. You don't respect me at all!"

Amelia's voice made Lucas snap out of his thoughts.

Only then did Lucas realize that he had neglected his adorable daughter because he had slipped into a trance. She was now pouting, her large eyes filled with aggravation and complaints.

Lucas hurriedly said, "Okay, it's my fault. I got distracted thinking about something. I didn't mean to ignore you, Amelia!"

In order to coax his daughter, Lucas asked, "I heard that you went out for some good food with Grandpa today. What did you have?"

At the mention of food, the adorable little foodie immediately put her fingers up and counted them one by one. “We had meatballs! And some pretty cakes! I also had a delicious lollipop! Grandpa even bought me a huge marshmallow! I wanted to buy one for Mommy, you, and Aunt Charlotte, but Grandpa said you guys don’t like marshmallows...”

Amelia spoke with great excitement. Lucas was still joking with her at first, but at the thought of the series of coincidences just now, he felt some inexplicable worries.

But so far, neither Cheyenne nor Charlotte had called him for help, which meant that their company matters were probably not that difficult to handle.

While Lucas was thinking, he heard Amelia suddenly say, “By the way, Daddy, I saw Grandma on the street today!”

“Grandma?” Lucas was stunned.

Amelia was obviously referring to Karen.

But Karen was supposed in jail for at least five years for attempted murder.

Lucas immediately asked, “Amelia, you said you saw Grandma on the street?”

Amelia nodded and blinked. “Yeah, I saw her on the street where Grandpa and I ate. She even pulled Grandpa and said that she wanted to go home, but he refused to let her come home. He even said that she should go stay somewhere else. Otherwise, he would call the police to take her away. Grandma ran away after hearing this...”

Amelia looked at Lucas and asked in confusion, “Dad, why won’t Grandpa let Grandma come home? It’s been a long time since I saw her, and I miss her so much! Will you let her come home?”

Lucas was now 100% sure that something had gone wrong since Karen, who was supposed to be serving her sentence in prison, had suddenly appeared on the street and ran away immediately after William mentioned the police!

Amelia was still young, so she didn’t know what Karen had done. She only knew that Karen was her grandmother, whom she had lived with for several years since she was a child. So she wanted Lucas to let Karen come home.

But Lucas would never let the vicious Karen step foot inside their home!

“Amelia, it’s not that Grandpa and I won’t let Grandma come home. But she made a huge mistake, so the police took her away and forbade her from coming home,” Lucas explained gently.

“Daddy, did you say that Grandma was taken away by the police? Is Grandma a bad person? Did she do something only bad guys do?” Amelia immediately frowned, her eyes full of worry.

In the eyes of children who still didn't have a clear concept of the law, only bad guys would be arrested by the police.

Lucas wanted to comfort Amelia by telling her that Karen wasn't a bad guy. But at the thought of the horrible things Karen had done to William and Cheyenne, he decided that he didn't want Amelia to think of Karen as a kind and good grandmother.

So Lucas simply nodded and said, “That's right. Grandma did something bad, and she's a bad guy.”

Hearing this, Amelia immediately pursed her lips, and her big and clear eyes were full of tears. She lost control and started crying. “Daddy! I don't want Grandma to be a bad guy. I don't want her to be taken away by the police... No!”

Looking at his daughter crying miserably, Lucas felt heartbroken. He could only try his best to comfort her. “Okay, don't cry. Grandma will come home when she becomes a good person.”

Although it was impossible for Karen to repent, and it was also impossible for Lucas to let her come back home, he had no choice but to say this to the crying Amelia.

“Really?” Amelia immediately raised her head, blinking her large and watery eyes.

Lucas had no choice but to nod and say, “Yes.”

After finally managing to stop Amelia from crying, Lucas was just about to call William to ask him what was going on when he suddenly heard his cell phone ring. The person who called happened to be William.

“Hello, William!” Lucas said, but no one answered.

Lucas thought it was just poor reception and asked again, “William, can you hear me?”

At this moment, a lazy voice finally sounded on the other end. He said teasingly, “Hey, Lucas, I can't believe you've become my son today. Come on, call me dad a few more times.”

When Lucas heard this voice, his pupils constricted, and his face darkened immediately.

An intense murderous intent flashed in his eyes. “Jace Hutton! I didn't expect you to be in Orange County!”

The person who called Lucas using William's phone was none other than Jace, Lucas's half-brother!

"Haha, do you really think I won't dare to come to Orange County just because it's your turf?" Jace sneered.

"Where is my father-in-law? Why is his phone in your hands?" Lucas questioned in a deep voice.

Since Jace had William's phone, Lucas didn't believe that Jace had merely borrowed it to call him.

William had probably already fallen into the hands of this bastard Jace. Who knew what kind of danger he was in?!

After his trip to DC, where he had removed Jace from the position of the Huttons' successor, Jace probably hated him to the core.

Under such circumstances, Lucas's greatest fear was that Jace would take revenge on him by attacking his loved ones!

After hearing Lucas's question, Jace laughed out loud and then said coldly, "Your father-in-law has already fallen into my hands. Do you think he still stands a chance at surviving?"

When Lucas heard this, his eyes suddenly shined with a menacing murderous aura!

## **Chapter 986: Father-in-Law Is Beaten Up**

Lucas suppressed his anger and said, "Jace Hutton, if you dare to lay a hand on my father-in-law, I won't spare you!"

Jace guffawed arrogantly. "Haha, Lucas Gray, are you threatening me? I'm going to lay a hand on him. Let's see what you can do to me!"

Immediately afterward, Jace ordered the people next to him, "Beat him up! Beat the living daylights out of him until he can't move any more!"

Then a series of punching and kicking sounds came from the other end, along with numerous suppressed and muffled grunts of pain.

Lucas's eyes were about to burst into flames. He could tell that the person being beaten was William, but there was something stuffed in his mouth. So despite being beaten, he could only let out muffled sounds.

At this moment, Lucas wished he could fly to Jace and slap his face hard.

Lucas took a deep breath and said as calmly as possible, "The person you want to deal with is me. Just come at me directly. You're being a coward by involving irrelevant people! Are you too scared to fight me head on?"

In order to make Jace stop hitting William, Lucas provoked him.

"Haha, I just want to go after the people you care about! I'm going to make you watch me bully them while you can't do anything to me. Haha, this feels great.

"If you don't want me to continue doing anything to him, then beg me. If you make me happy, I might spare this old man!

"Otherwise, I'll make you listen to him getting beaten to death!"

Jace laughed arrogantly, his voice filled with twisted malice.

Gripping his phone tightly, Lucas said without hesitation, "Okay, I'm begging you. Please get them to stop immediately!"

Hearing this, Jace stayed silent for a few seconds before laughing arrogantly again. "Hahahaha! Lucas Gray, I bet you can't believe this is happening to you!

"I thought you had a backbone and that you were tough as nails, but I didn't expect you to spinelessly beg me for forgiveness just because I'm beating your father-in-law. Haha, but this also means that your father-in-law is very important to you, right?

"In that case, all the more I won't let him off! I'll torture him to death bit by bit and let him die wailing in pain!

"If he dies, you'll definitely be miserable too. Hehehe, that'll be the best! Since you've taken away what I wanted, this is how I'm going to get back at you! I'm going to make sure everyone you care about dies in front of me one by one!

"Hahaha, are you furious now? Do you want to kill me? Too bad you can't do anything to me now that this old man is in my hands. This feeling is very painful, right? But the more miserable you are, the happier I am! Hahahaha!"

Jace was venting his hatred maniacally like a madman.

Lucas's eyes flashed with terrifying fury. Jace ordering people to capture William and beat him up had already touched Lucas's bottom line.

William wasn't the only one Lucas was worried about now. He was also worried about Cheyenne and Charlotte.

They had both been called back to their companies because of something urgent cropping up. Now that William had fallen into Jace's hands, what would happen to the sisters? Were they still safe?

At the thought of his loved ones being captured and abused by a scumbag like Jace, Lucas felt an urge to kill him.

"Jace, listen to me. If you just want to provoke me and see me suffer, you've succeeded. But you should also know that I won't let you off for doing this!

"Just wait for me to take your life!"

With that, Lucas hung up the phone.

It was pointless to continue wasting his breath on talking nonsense with Jace now. The most important thing to do currently was to ensure that Cheyenne and Charlotte were safe before finding a way to save William!

Lucas immediately called Stanley, "Are you at the Brilliance Corporation now? Is my wife still safe and sound?"

Stanley replied, "Yes, Mr. Gray, I'm in the Brilliance Corporation now, and Ms. Carter is safe in the general manager's office now."

Only then did Lucas heave a sigh of relief. Stanley was also a former soldier from the Falcon Regiment in Calico, so Lucas trusted him greatly.

"Okay, stay by my wife's side and protect her. Don't let anyone with ulterior motives approach her and hurt her!" Lucas ordered in an extremely stern tone.

Stanley was shocked to hear Lucas's order because it meant that something had probably happened and Cheyenne would likely encounter danger.

He didn't ask Lucas what had happened and subconsciously performed a military salute. "Yes! I swear to complete this mission!"

After making sure that Cheyenne was fine and ordering Stanley to stay vigilant and protect her, Lucas heaved a sigh of relief.

Immediately afterward, he called Skylar.

Previously, Skylar had received a mission to assassinate Lucas, who spared her on the account that she had the Bladeless Sword. When Skylar fled from the Peerless Martial Association, Lucas had saved her and gave her shelter.

Since then, Skylar had become Lucas's loyal follower, and he had sent her to protect Charlotte.

After Skylar picked up, Lucas immediately asked, "Is Charlotte still at the company? Is she in any danger? You must protect her and keep her safe. Report to me immediately if anything crops up!"

Skylar was also stunned. She hurriedly said, "Miss Carter is in her office now, but a middle-aged woman in her fifties came looking for her just now and claimed to be her relative. The two of them even had an argument in the office..."

Before Skylar could finish, Lucas shouted, "Go look for Charlotte immediately! Make sure she's safe and ignore everyone else!"

Skylar's body trembled, and she immediately realized that something had happened. After assenting, she hung up.

In his Pearl Lake villa, Lucas was in a terrible mood.

The middle-aged woman whom Skylar said had gone to look for Charlotte and had an argument with her was very likely to be Karen!

Karen was a criminal who was supposed to be serving her jail term, yet she suddenly appeared on the street and subsequently showed up at the Stardust Corporation's office. Someone was clearly behind this.

Lucas had wondered how Karen had gotten out of prison. But after receiving Jace's phone call, Lucas knew who the troublemaker was.

Furthermore, given Jace's malice toward Lucas, Karen definitely didn't appear in Charlotte's office for anything good!

It seemed that William might be in danger since Jace had caught him.

On Charlotte's side, Karen had already gone to Charlotte's office, and who knew what she would do to her.

Relatively speaking, the only person still safe now was Cheyenne.

With the protection of a powerhouse like Stanley, who had retired from the Falcon Regiment, Cheyenne would most likely be safe unless her assailants were top-level experts.

But Lucas was still worried and ill at ease.

Facing the threat of the ruthless lunatic Jace, Lucas really couldn't continue staying at home anymore. But Amelia was the only one at home now, and his daughter was also one of Lucas's most cherished people. There was no way he would let Amelia fall into Jace's hands!

After pondering for a long while, Lucas immediately thought of the Hales in Orange County.

Bruce had already completely submitted to Lucas, who could tell how loyal the Hales were after the previous incidents.

Moreover, the Hales had previously asked Lucas to help them train a group of experts, and they had been staying at the Hale residence, which was a relatively safe place.

But Amelia didn't know any of the Hales, so it was impossible to leave her with them.

At the thought of this, Lucas immediately picked up his phone again and called Grace.

"Grace, can you please do me a favor and help me look after Amelia for a while?" Since he was pressed for time, he asked her directly without being overly polite.

Amelia adored Grace, who had helped take care of her for a few days when William was hospitalized after the car accident. Lucas trusted her, so he subconsciously thought of Grace at this moment.

Grace agreed without hesitating. "Of course I can! Should I go pick up Amelia at your house now?"

Lucas said, "No, I plan to take Amelia to the Hale residence. You guys will stay there for the time being, and I'll go pick you up later!"

While speaking, he was already carrying Amelia out the door.

Amelia was extremely well-behaved and sensible. Ever since Lucas received the call from Jace, she could tell that there was something wrong. So she had been listening to him obediently without talking or throwing a tantrum.

After hearing Lucas say that he was going to take her to Grace, she nodded obediently without any objections.

On the way to the Hales', Lucas's phone would ring from time to time, but almost all the calls were from Jace. Lucas didn't want to answer any of them and listen to Jace.

Soon after Lucas left his villa, Skylar called. She said in a flustered voice, "I'm sorry, Lucas! I just went to Miss Carter's office, but she's gone! I searched around the company, but I couldn't find her anywhere! Her phone has also been turned off, and I can't reach her!"

"Search the place! Deploy some manpower to search for her and check all the surveillance camera footage. You must find her!" Lucas ordered furiously, his heart trembling.

"Yes! Lucas, I'll make arrangements immediately!" Skylar hung up anxiously.

Lucas slammed his fist on the steering wheel.

When he heard that Karen was in Charlotte's office, Lucas had an ominous hunch that Karen would very likely harm Charlotte. Just as he expected, Charlotte was missing!

Lucas felt extremely furious.

Since he came back to Orange County more than half a year ago, he had rarely lost control of his emotions like he did now.

He was extremely skilled in martial arts, and he was practically unmatched. He wasn't afraid of his enemies targeting him, but he was afraid that his loved ones would be harmed!

Thus, since the Carter sisters and Amelia had encountered accidents one after another, Lucas had arranged for his subordinates to protect his loved ones secretly.

But there could never be perfect protection, and the experts he sent couldn't possibly protect them round the clock.

So now, William had been captured by Jace and beaten up by Jace's men. Who knew how wounded he was.

And now, Charlotte was nowhere to be found. Although Lucas didn't know what happened to her, she was probably in Jace's hands too.

Lucas now only hoped that Jace still had a trace of humanity in him and would spare the lives of William and Charlotte since Lucas was his main target!

Otherwise, Lucas really didn't know what would happen to him!

...

In an old hospital in Orange County that had been abandoned for many years...

There was a chair in one of the decently clean rooms.

A young figure was sitting on the chair majestically.

Around him were five burly men, all of whom were extremely muscular and obviously martial artists.

There was a middle-aged man lying on the floor in front of him, his face swollen and battered with bruises.

There was a foot on the middle-aged man's head, which was facing toward the young man.

If Lucas was here, he would definitely be able to recognize at a glance that the young man sitting on the chair was none other than his half-brother, Jace!

The middle-aged man lying on the floor, who had been beaten beyond recognition, was William, Lucas's father-in-law!

"Damn it! How dare he ignore my calls?!"

Jace had called Lucas several times in a row, but Lucas refused to answer. He was so furious that he stood up and kicked William several times.

"Damn it, do you think your son-in-law cares about you? Psht! He doesn't care about you at all. He clearly knows that you're in my hands and being beaten by me, but he refuses to answer my calls!"

William had been beaten up so badly that his eyes were swollen shut.

He struggled to open an eye that was so swollen that his vision was hindered and sneered contemptuously.

Jace was about to lose his temper, but at this moment, his phone rang, and a fawning female voice came from the other end. "Mr. Hutton, I've already brought that woman from the Stardust Corporation to the place you mentioned! What should I do next?"

Jace's face finally showed a trace of joy. He finally got his hands on one of the two women he wanted to capture!

"Wait for me there. Keep a close eye on her and make sure she doesn't escape. Got it? I'll call you to let you know what to do later!" Jace ordered with satisfaction.

“Yes, Mr. Hutton. Although I’m the mother of this woman, I’ll definitely keep an eye on her and won’t let her escape! Don’t worry!”

The nauseatingly coquettish voice belonged to Karen!

Karen was Charlotte’s mother, but she actually obeyed Jace to kidnap her daughter. She was clearly vicious and heartless!

## **Chapter 988: Cheyenne Is Attacked**

At this time, Lucas had already rushed to the Hale residence. After entrusting Amelia and Grace to Bruce and requesting that the Hales protect Amelia, Lucas drove away.

Lucas was now rushing to the Brilliance Corporation, where Cheyenne was.

William and Charlotte both had mishaps one after another. Although Cheyenne was protected by a powerhouse like Stanley, Lucas still couldn’t help worrying.

The best solution was actually to bring Cheyenne to the Hales residence too so that he could concentrate all the protection and avoid letting Jace’s subordinates get their way.

But while Lucas was still on his way to the Brilliance Corporation, someone suddenly knocked on the door of the general manager’s office where Cheyenne was. Then a woman clad in the staff uniform of the Brilliance Corporation entered with her head lowered and a document in hand.

Cheyenne was still working at her desk and didn’t pay much attention to the young woman, thinking that it was just an employee coming to deliver documents.

But Cheyenne was startled when she looked up and saw the woman approaching.

Although the woman had lowered her head so that her face wasn’t clearly visible, Cheyenne was sitting on a chair, so she could see the woman’s face as soon as she looked up.

“Who are you? I’ve never seen you in the company before!” Cheyenne suddenly asked with a frown.

Suddenly, the woman pulled out a dagger from a spot blocked by the documents and leaped toward Cheyenne!

Cheyenne was horrified. The woman in front of her wasn’t an employee of the company but an assassin who came to harm her!

At this critical juncture, a black shadow suddenly darted out from an inconspicuous corner of the office and charged toward the assassin!

The female assassin was shocked. She originally thought that she only needed to deal with a helpless woman, but she didn't expect there to be a powerful expert hidden in the general manager's office!

Based on the expert in black's incredible speed, the female assassin quickly made a judgment that she was no match for him!

*Whoosh!*

In a moment of panic, she flicked the dagger in her hand at Cheyenne, which would either kill or seriously wound her if it hit her. Then her mission would be considered complete!

*Clang!*

Stanley was an expert with daggers, so he obviously wouldn't stand by and watch Cheyenne, whom Lucas had ordered him to protect at all cost, get injured in front of him.

Stanley raised his hand and flicked a dagger. It traveled at lightning speed and knocked away the female assassin's dagger just as it was less than 20 centimeters away from Cheyenne's neck with a loud clang!

*Thud!*

*Thud!*

With two loud noises, the daggers were both nailed to the wall.

The female assassin's desperate attack didn't work. Knowing that she wouldn't be able to take down Cheyenne with the presence of a top expert like Stanley, she directly turned around and fled.

Stanley hesitated and didn't chase after the female assassin. He turned to look at Cheyenne and asked, "Ms. Carter, are you injured?"

The female assassin's skills were actually mediocre. If Stanley had taken chase, he definitely wouldn't have let her off. But his mission was to protect Cheyenne. Had he gone after the assassin, there wouldn't be anyone to protect Cheyenne, which could put her in a threatening situation.

So Stanley chose to stay here rather than chase after the assassin.

Cheyenne's face was deathly pale.

She had hardly ever encountered such a dangerous assassination before. When she saw the dagger flying toward her just now, she had frozen in horror, unable to even react or dodge.

If Stanley hadn't saved her, she would have probably been seriously injured, if not dead.

At this moment, Cheyenne was still in shock, and her heart was about to jump out of her chest.

After taking a few deep breaths, Cheyenne finally managed to recover from the tension. She shook her head and said, "I'm alright. Thank you for saving me!"

Stanley said, "This is my duty. Lucas will be here soon."

"What exactly is going on here? Why did someone suddenly try to assassinate me?" Cheyenne asked with confusion.

Stanley shook his head. "I don't know either. I'm just following Lucas's instructions to keep you safe."

At this moment, a familiar figure appeared at the door of the general manager's office. It was Lucas, who had hurried over.

As soon as he stepped into Cheyenne's office, he saw the traces of the fight. There were still two daggers stuck in the wall!

"Cheyenne, are you okay?!" Panicked and horrified, Lucas ran over to Cheyenne and checked to see if she had gotten hurt.

Cheyenne hugged the anxious Lucas and said gently, "Don't worry, I'm fine. I'm not injured. It's thanks to Stanley for saving me!"

After he made sure that Cheyenne was really safe and sound, his heart, which was beating crazily just now, slowly fell back into his chest.

After seeing the aftermath of the fight in the office, what he feared most was that Cheyenne would be injured. But fortunately, Stanley was present. Otherwise, the consequences would have been unthinkable.

"Lucas, what's going on here? Why was I suddenly assassinated? You must know something, don't you?" Cheyenne asked worriedly, her face still pale.

Although Lucas didn't want Cheyenne to be frightened because of this, it would be pointless to hide it from her since an assassin had already appeared in front of her.

But there were some things Lucas really couldn't say to Cheyenne.

For example, he couldn't tell her that William and Charlotte had been abducted by his half-brother, Jace.

Lucas simply couldn't bring himself to tell her it, afraid that she wouldn't be able to take it.

Thus, he said to her sincerely, "Something did happen, and they're actually after me. But you got implicated, so I'll get Stanley to send you to the Hales' immediately. Amelia and Grace are there too. With the Hales to protect you, you'll be much safer.

"Don't worry. I will handle this matter soon. Once it's resolved, I'll go to the Hales' to pick you up!"

## **Chapter 989: Stopping the Maliciousness**

Cheyenne had always been a smart person. She knew that since Lucas was getting stronger and stronger, he would face more and more enemies. So Cheyenne didn't ask him who his enemies really were and merely said, "Okay, be careful then. I'll be waiting for you at the Hales'!"

"Okay, wait for me," Lucas assured solemnly and then looked at Stanley, who was at the side. "Stanley, the safety of my wife and daughter is in your hands! Please!"

Stanley immediately performed a military salute. "Yes, I promise to complete my mission and make sure they're safe!"

In fact, if possible, Lucas wanted to send Cheyenne to the Hale residence personally. But now that both William and Charlotte were in trouble and the situation was urgent, Lucas had to save them as quickly as possible!

After leaving the Brilliance Corporation, Lucas immediately called Michael, who was far away in DC, and hollered furiously, "Michael Hutton! I want you to stop Jace Hutton's crazy act immediately and make him release the people he's holding hostage! Otherwise, I won't spare him or the Huttons, even if it means breaking my oath!"

As soon as Michael picked up, he suddenly heard Lucas's cold and furious voice and was completely stunned. After he regained his senses, he immediately asked, "What happened? What did Jace do? Did he kidnap your family?"

A murderous intent appeared in Lucas's eyes as he said menacingly, "He abducted my father-in-law and had his men beat him up. He also abducted my sister-in-law, and her

whereabouts are still unknown. I don't know what he's going to do next. Just now, he even sent an assassin after my wife! If I hadn't arranged someone to save my wife in advance, she would have probably already been killed by him!"

After Michael heard Lucas's accusations, his face instantly turned pale.

He never thought that his son Jace, who had always been well-behaved in front of him, would be so crazy as to target Lucas's wife and family like that!

It was simply an inhumane act!

Michael was furious. If Jace was standing in front of him now, he would definitely slap his face hard several times!

"Lucas, don't worry. I'll definitely stop that bastard from doing such crazy things! But he's your brother after all. I hope you'll spare his life after you find him!"

Hearing this, Lucas was further enraged.

His wife had just experienced a near-death experience. His father-in-law and sister-in-law were still missing, and it was unknown if they were dead or alive. It was all Jace's fault!

But Michael was actually still helping Jace to beg for mercy, wanting him to let him off. How ridiculous!

"Hah, I can spare him, but he must release my father-in-law and sister-in-law. And he must appear in front of me within fifteen minutes to kneel and apologize to me!

"Otherwise, I won't spare him even if I have to hunt him to the ends of the earth!"

Lucas was strangely exasperated now.

If Jace hated him and wanted to take revenge, Lucas would be able to take it no matter what Jace threw at him.

But Jace didn't dare to attack him openly and only had the guts to resort to unscrupulous means such as threatening Lucas with the lives of his loved ones. This had already touched Lucas's bottom line!

The sound of kicking and punching coming from the phone earlier, as well as William's muffled grunts, resounded in Lucas's ears again.

If Jace appeared in front of Lucas now, he would probably strangle him to death.

At this moment, Michael, who was far away in DC, felt extremely distressed.

Both Lucas and Jace were his biological sons.

So Michael didn't want to see the brothers killing each other.

Jace had indeed gone overboard this time. Michael could understand why Lucas was so mad that he wanted to kill Jace, but he didn't want to see Lucas killing Jace because of it.

Michael was in great pain, but he could only promise, "Okay, I'll make him release your father-in-law and sister-in-law. I'll also make sure he kneels down and apologizes to you! Don't worry!"

Then Michael hung up.

The most important thing to do now was to call Jace and tell him to stop immediately!

Lucas had a murderous look on his face as he put down the phone.

On the way to the Brilliance Corporation previously, Lucas had made several calls and deployed all his manpower to search for Jace, William, and Charlotte.

At this moment, Lucas's phone rang again. It was a call from a subordinate who was proficient in telecommunications. "Lucas, I've already found William's location based on the GPS position of his phone!"

"Okay, send it to me immediately!" Lucas immediately perked up.

Soon, the subordinate sent a map of the location to Lucas's phone.

An astonishing murderous intent emerged from Lucas's eyes as he looked at the map leading to the abandoned hospital on the outskirts of Orange County.

"I told you to get ready for me there!"

This place was still slightly far from Lucas's current location. Lucas drove his black Jaguar to it.

When he was about to arrive at the abandoned hospital, it was already fifteen minutes past the time he had agreed on with Michael.

During this period of time, Lucas didn't receive any news that William or Charlotte had been released.

This was enough to show that Michael's attempt to persuade Jace had completely failed!

Since Michael had failed to stop Jace and make him release William and Charlotte, Lucas decided that he wouldn't let Jace off again!

Lucas arrived at the abandoned hospital in his black Jaguar.

The hospital had been abandoned for a long time, so it was surrounded by weeds and garbage. The dilapidated five-story hospital was also extremely shabby and looked like it could collapse at any moment.

Most of the glass windows of the abandoned hospital were broken, revealing the darkness inside.

According to the location from his subordinate, William's cell phone signal was indeed emitting from this place. In that case, Jace should be here!

As soon as Lucas opened the car door and was about to get out, he could acutely sense that there were indeed people in this hospital. There were also several aggressive auras, which should be from the experts Jace brought.

Lucas glanced at the windows and narrowed his eyes. Just as he was about to get out of the car, his phone suddenly vibrated.

It was a call from Michael.

"Lucas, I... I couldn't convince that bastard. If you're angry, feel free to beat him up, but I beg you to spare his life, okay?"

As soon as Lucas answered, Michael's pleading voice came from the other end.

At this moment, Lucas was enraged!

"Michael Hutton, I agreed to let you save him, but did you keep your promise? My father-in-law and sister-in-law are still in his hands, and their lives are in danger!

"Since Jace dares to do such a ruthless thing to my family, why should I spare his life?

"To tell you the truth, the reason I spared the Huttons in DC previously wasn't that I didn't dare to deal with you but because my mother begged me not to take revenge on you before she died!

"I've already spared you once, but Jace still wanted to court death himself, so he can only blame himself!

“If you have a problem with it and want to take revenge for your precious son, feel free to come at me! But this time, I won’t show your family any mercy again!” Lucas finished furiously.

The angrier he was, the calmer he looked.

“No, Lucas, you really can’t kill him because of his identity...”

Lucas couldn’t be bothered to listen to what Michael had to say and hung up.

At this point, it was impossible for him to let Jace off!

Lucas didn’t hide and walked straight into the abandoned hospital. He followed the auras he detected and went straight up to the fifth floor using the stairs without searching every room by room.

When he reached the door of a room on the fifth floor, an arrogant voice spread from inside. “Hey, it seems you’re really meant to be my dog. You came here so quickly!”

Lucas didn’t respond and walked over.

As soon as he entered, he saw Jace sitting on a chair in the middle of the room. There were six tall and sturdy bodyguards standing behind Jace.

But the next moment, Lucas’s pupils suddenly constricted at the sight of William tied up and left hanging from the window frame!

William was obviously in a terrible state. After the harsh beatings, his body was now covered with footprints and dust, and blood was trickling down his body.

“William!” Lucas roared, incredibly furious.

Seemingly having heard Lucas’s voice, William, who had been tortured nearly to death, half-opened his swollen eyes with difficulty and saw that Lucas had really arrived.

“Lucas... hurry up and leave! Don’t... don’t bother about me! It’s... dangerous here!” The rag in William’s mouth had already been removed, and he spoke to Lucas with great difficulty.

The moment he saw Lucas, the first thing that came to his mind was not that he was finally saved but that Lucas had walked into a trap because of him. So he desperately wanted Lucas to leave.

There were still four experts armed with guns all pointing at William.

As long as Jace gave an order, William would be shot to death by them, which forced Lucas not to dare to act rashly.

Although Lucas could kill Jace in an instant and take down these gunmen in a very short period of time, with so many gunmen aiming at William, Lucas didn't dare to put William's life at risk.

He didn't want to take the risk.

Lucas also noticed that they were the only ones in the room. Charlotte and Karen were not here.

Before finding out where Charlotte was, Lucas had no choice but to hold back for the time being without acting rashly.

Jace, sitting in the middle of the room, watched the interaction between Lucas and William and burst into laughter. "Haha! It's really funny. You two seem to have deeper feelings for each other than a real father and son. I wonder what my dad in DC will look like if he sees you this way!"

Lucas didn't want to listen to Jace's nonsense. "What do you want?"

"Don't you just want to deal with me? Now that I'm here, it's time you let go of the irrelevant people!"

Jace sneered and said playfully, "No, no, no, I will never let them off! I deliberately let you find me so that we could play an interesting game!"

"Don't worry. It's a very interesting game, and you will definitely find it interesting too!"

Lucas looked at Jace, who was talking to himself like a lunatic.

"Looks like you won't regret it until you suffer!" Jace laughed smugly, immediately took out his phone, and pressed it a few times.

Soon, a female voice that Lucas was extremely familiar with sounded from the other end. "Mr. Hutton, you finally called. That bitch Charlotte is still safe in my hands. What should I do next?"

As soon as Lucas heard the nauseatingly fawning voice, he knew that the person on the other end was Karen.

But Charlotte was clearly Karen's daughter, yet Karen called her a bitch and was guarding her closely. It made Lucas feel a strong urge to kill her.

Karen was a complete piece of garbage that wasn't worthy of being a mother at all!

Jace appreciated Lucas's anger while saying relaxedly, "You should be familiar with each other. In that case, you should greet each other!"

Then he turned the screen of his phone toward Lucas.

What was displayed on the screen was Karen's disgusting face.

It turned out that Jace was on a video call with Karen.

Karen was still smiling fawningly at Jace at first, but as soon as she saw Lucas's face on the screen, it turned into hatred.

"Lucas! You damn bastard! If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have been locked up in that hellhole and suffered so much!

"You jinx! You ruined my life! I will never spare you! I'll make sure your life is worse than death!"

Karen cursed at Lucas in a shrilling voice as soon as she saw him. Her voice was still as ear-piercing as before. She was no different from the shrew from before.

Lucas sneered while trying to suppress the anger in his heart.

If not for the fact that Karen was Charlotte's biological mother and Cheyenne's adoptive mother, Lucas would have killed the vicious Karen right from the beginning!

Unfortunately, the mercy he had shown made Karen go from bad to worse. She became so vicious that she wouldn't even let her biological daughter off.

Lucas faced Karen and questioned her over the video call, "Karen, since you hate me and want to deal with me, just come at me! But Charlotte is your daughter. How can you treat her like that?"

## **Chapter 991: I Want You to Kneel Down**

Karen sneered. "So what if she's my biological daughter? I treated her with all my heart and soul, but what about her? How did she treat me?"

"She turned her back on me and colluded with you people to throw me behind bars for the sake of a sister who's not related to her and a bastard like you!

"Since she's heartless to me, why should I care about her? Charlotte... Hah, she's just a shameless bitch in my eyes!" Karen yelled furiously.

It seemed that she had been holding a grudge against Charlotte for not pleading for her. She was now full of resentment for her daughter.

Lucas frowned and was just about to say something, but Karen suddenly whipped out a 20-centimeter-long fruit knife from the side. Charlotte could soon be seen on the phone screen.

Charlotte was tied firmly to a chair in an ordinary room with white walls. There was a piece of gray fabric stuffed in her mouth.

At this moment, her face was red from extreme anger, and there was immense disbelief and horror in her eyes.

Charlotte never imagined that her mother would collude with someone to kidnap her and even call her a shameless bitch.

Charlotte looked at the woman in front of her, whose face should be familiar but was now terrifyingly distorted beyond recognition.

*Is this woman in front of me really my biological mother? Is she the person I called Mom for more than two decades?* Charlotte was full of despair.

Seeing Karen take out the fruit knife and walk toward Charlotte, Lucas immediately called out anxiously, "Karen, even a beast won't eat its own child. What are you doing?"

"Hah, what am I doing? Of course I'm going to take revenge on you guys!" Karen smiled sinisterly as she placed the fruit knife in her hand against Charlotte's fair and tender skin and ordered Lucas, "Lucas Gray, I want you to get on your knees right now! Otherwise, I'll slash this bitch's face!"

Hearing this, both Lucas and Charlotte were stunned!

Neither of them expected that Karen would slash her daughter's face with a knife in order to take revenge!

A hysterical murderous intent surged in Lucas's heart.

Seeing that Lucas didn't move, Karen bellowed hysterically, "Why are you still standing there? I told you to get down on your knees. Didn't you hear me? Hurry up and kneel!"

Her hand was trembling incessantly. The sharp blade of the knife immediately cut a thin slit on Charlotte's face, and blood trickled down.

Karen had actually wounded Charlotte!

Lucas's heart tensed up, and he dropped to his knees without hesitation.

*Bang!*

The sound of his knees knocking against the concrete floor was extremely clear.

Seeing Lucas really kneeling, Karen immediately laughed with pleasure and said smugly, "Hahahaha! Lucas Gray, I bet you never thought you'd end up in such a situation today! Haha!

"Weren't you very arrogant toward me in the past? You ignored everything I said and even made my daughters stand on your side. They don't even care about me anymore!

"I begged you not to send me to jail and did everything I could to convince you, but how did you treat me?

"You threw me into prison without mercy and caused me to suffer for an entire month in that hellhole! I will definitely make you pay for it!

"Hahaha, look at you now. You're just like a dog kneeling on the floor and obeying my orders. You have to do whatever I tell you to do! Are you angry now? Do you want to kill me? But you have no choice but to watch me torture her and obey my orders!

"Because as long as you still care about this little bitch's life, you have to obey me! Hahaha, this feels wonderful!"

Karen laughed hysterically with a proud look.

Karen was full of indescribable pleasure after being able to make Lucas kneel in front of her.

During the days she was in prison, Karen felt like she was in a living hell. Not only were the food and living conditions extremely shabby, but she even had to slog her guts out doing hard labor for ten hours every day before she could return to her tiny cell.

For Karen, who had never worked or done any hard labor in her life, it was a complete nightmare. The most laborious work she has ever done was household chores.

Furthermore, the people in the women's prison were real prisoners, and some had even been convicted of murder. They were all extremely disgusted with the pampered housewife Karen and would often order her around. Being in prison had put Karen on the verge of going crazy.

But she had never reflected on her actions and mistakes, nor had she ever thought about why she had been sent to prison. Instead, she felt that it was Lucas's, William's, Cheyenne's, and Charlotte's fault.

So during her days in prison, her mind became increasingly twisted, and she was full of hatred for everyone, including her biological daughter, Charlotte!

If not for Lucas's ruthlessness and insistence on sending her to prison and her two daughters and William's failure to save her, she wouldn't have ended up in this state today.

But without a doubt, Lucas was the person she hated the most!

She dreamed of the day she could trample Lucas under her feet and destroy him as she pleased.

And now, Karen, whom Jace had saved, finally had the opportunity!

Seeing the scene of Lucas kneeling without hesitation and hearing what Karen, Charlotte immediately burst into tears.

Although she still didn't know Lucas's true identity or how terrifying his power was, she knew that he was definitely not an ordinary person and that his strength was beyond her imagination.

Lucas had always been an extremely proud person, and Charlotte had never seen him bowing down to anyone.

But Lucas actually kneeled in such a humiliating manner in order to prevent Karen from hurting her. Charlotte was touched beyond words.

Her biological mother had cut her face with a fruit knife and almost ruined her appearance, which most girls cared about the most.

But she wasn't biologically related to Lucas at all and was just his sister-in-law, yet he was willing to swallow his pride and kneel on the floor!

At this moment, Charlotte had too many things to say to Lucas. She wanted to tell him to stop kneeling, but because of the cloth in her mouth, she couldn't say a word. All she could do was whimper helplessly with tears all over her face.

Kneeling on the floor, Lucas clenched his fists and said with a straight face, "Karen, I know you hate me. Just come at me and kill me. You should know very well that I'm with Jace now, so you can come over whenever you want.

"Don't you think you're being ridiculous by threatening me with your biological daughter's life? Or...

"Don't you even have the guts to face me?" Lucas said scornfully, deliberately provoking her.

The current situation was indeed very unfavorable for Lucas.

In this small room of the abandoned hospital, William was still hanging on the windowsill and surrounded by several gunmen working for Jace.

Although Lucas could easily deal with the gunmen and rescue William, Charlotte was still in Karen's hands, which meant that she was still under Jace's control. So Lucas couldn't take the risk at all.

It would be best if he could lure Karen over here and ensure that Charlotte was safe.

After hearing Lucas's provocative words, Karen did seem a little tempted.

Indeed, watching Lucas kneel in front of her through a screen was certainly less thrilling than slapping Lucas a few times in person.

"Lucas Gray, you'd better behave yourself. Don't get any funny ideas! You care about your sister-in-law a lot, don't you? In that case, there's no way I'm going to let her back into your hands!"

Jace smiled while instructing Karen, "Don't try anything funny. Your job is to keep a good eye on that woman! Do you hear me?"

Karen immediately nodded. "Yes, Mr. Hutton! I'll definitely obey your orders and keep an eye on this bitch Charlotte! If Lucas Gray dares to defy you, I'll slash this woman's face and disfigure her!"

Karen was simply inhumane and vicious. She didn't care at all that the girl she was holding under duress was her biological daughter, whom she had raised herself.

Lucas looked at Karen coldly with an intense murderous intent.

Once he rescued Charlotte and William, he would kill this vicious woman!

At this moment, Jace ended the video call and looked at Lucas with eyes full of malice.

"Lucas Gray, you know what situation you're in now. Your father-in-law and sister-in-law are both in my hands! You must obey me!"

Lucas stood up from the floor and said coldly, "What do you want?"

Jace said with a smile, "I want you to play a game with me. You should have heard of Russian Roulette, right?"

Then he took out a revolver and a bullet from his pocket and placed them on the table in front of him.

Lucas was naturally familiar with Russian Roulette.

But instead of a game, it was more like a cruel gamble. Unlike other gambling games like poker and so on, Russian Roulette was potentially fatal!

The rules of Russian Roulette were very simple. The participants loaded a revolver with one bullet, spun the cylinder, and took turns firing at their own head. The one who got shot would of course die on the spot and automatically quit, while those too cowardly to shoot themselves would be the losers. The ones who persisted to the end were the winners.

But based on Jace's current stance, he obviously wouldn't play this deadly game with Lucas.

"My rules are simple. Don't you want to save your father-in-law? Play this game then!"

"I have a revolver and a bullet here. You and your father-in-law will take turns shooting yourselves until one of you gets shot and dies!"

"Of course, your father-in-law is now in my hands, so you'll have to shoot him on his behalf!"

"Like this, if you end up dying, I'll let your father-in-law go and won't trouble him anymore. If he dies, you would have killed your own father-in-law. That would feel great, wouldn't it?"

After Lucas heard Jace's rules, his eyes were full of a terrifying desire to kill.

Jace was simply worse than a beast for toying with his and William's life like this!

"Ah, I'll be scared if you look at me like that!" Jace mocked.

Looking at Lucas's terrifying gaze, Jace deliberately laughed sarcastically. "Don't forget that your father-in-law's and sister-in-law's lives are in my hands! If you dare to reject, I'll make sure they die immediately! Think this through properly!"

Lucas gritted his teeth.

He knew that Jace was fully prepared this time and had come up with a detailed plan to deal with him.

In fact, what Lucas cared most about was his family, namely his wife, Cheyenne; his sister-in-law, Charlotte; his father-in-law, William; and his daughter, Amelia.

So Jace had planned to attack them at the same time once Lucas returned to Orange County.

If Cheyenne wasn't being protected by an expert like Stanley, who had come from the Falcon Regiment in Calico, even Cheyenne would have fallen into Jace's hands.

At that time, Lucas would have even more weaknesses and would be even less likely to act rashly.

Besides, it wasn't the first day that Jace wanted to take revenge against Lucas. Before Lucas went to DC and did anything to the Huttons, Jace had long hated him because Michael had taken the Stardust Corporation away from him and handed it to Lucas. He had even wanted to make Lucas the helmsman of the Huttons. To Jace, this was enough reason to hate Lucas and even want to kill him.

So a long time ago, Jace had already secretly ordered the Kingstons in California to create trouble for Lucas and the Stardust Corporation. At the same time, he found out that Lucas attached great importance to his family and Karen's immense hatred toward Lucas.

This was why Jace had rescued Karen from prison and gotten her to deal with Lucas. He had even taken advantage of Charlotte's relationship with her to abduct her.

All of this was part of Jace's plan. Now that he was in control of two of Lucas's weaknesses, he wasn't worried that Lucas would dare not listen to him.

Sure enough, under Jace's threat, Lucas could only grit his teeth and agree. "Russian Roulette, huh? I'll play this game with you!"

Right now, there was too much holding him back, and he no longer had a choice.

Lucas stepped forward, picked up the revolver from the table, loaded the bullet into one of the slots, and spun the revolver.

"I hope you can keep your promise and release those uninvolved!" Lucas pointed the revolver at his temple and pulled the trigger!

## **Chapter 993: Stalling For Time**

*Bang!*

Lucas pulled the trigger resolutely, but this time, there was no bullet in the slot. Lucas was still standing safe and sound.

“Oh, looks like you got lucky this time! But there are six slots and only one bullet in this revolver. In other words, the chance of being shot is one in six. You’re lucky this time!

“But like I said, this game won’t end until either you or your father-in-law dies. Now it’s your turn to shoot your father-in-law. Let’s hope he can be as lucky as you!

“To be honest, I wish this game could last a little longer so that I can enjoy myself!

“I want to see how you’ll feel if you really shoot your father-in-law dead. I want to see how your wife and sister-in-law will perceive you after you kill their father.

“Hahaha, just thinking about it makes me excited! Lucas Gray, don’t disappoint me!”

Jace spoke maliciously with a twisted grimace.

Lucas looked at him expressionlessly before turning the cylinder of the revolver. When it stopped, Lucas raised it and shot William.

*Bang!*

This time, it was an empty slot again.

William, who was hanging on the windowsill, was greatly relieved to hear the sound of an empty shot. He opened his tightly shut eyes.

He had seen everything that had happened just now.

He knew very well that Lucas shot him because he had no choice. Moreover, he actually wished that Lucas would just ignore him and leave to save Charlotte.

But Jace had deliberately set this up to watch Lucas suffer and looked forward to how he would feel after he shot his father-in-law dead with his own hands. He would never let Lucas leave.

After the empty shot, Jace smiled. “Seems like you two didn’t die fast! That’s exactly what I want! But now that you’ve made two empty shots, the chance of there being a bullet has increased. One of you is about to be shot in the head soon! You have to watch out!” Jace said excitedly.

Lucas looked at him and suddenly said, “Jace, I’ve just realized how cowardly you are.”

His words immediately caused cracks to appear in Jace’s relaxed and comfortable expression. “What did you say? Try saying it again!”

Lucas said with a faint smile, "Am I not right? You've always wanted to deal with me, but you don't even have the guts to fight me head-on. All you dare to do is harm my loved ones and use them against me.

"Moreover, you were raised by the Huttons, one of the top eight families in DC, and you have stronger connections and manpower than a loner like me, who depended entirely on myself. But even then, you don't dare to stand in front of me and fight me open and aboveboard. All you dare to do is resort to lowly tricks!

"Aren't you a coward?"

"Haha, Jace Hutton, I really look down on you. No wonder you were easily removed from your position as successor!"

Lucas deliberately struck his sore spot.

Jace's expression gradually turned gloomy, especially when Lucas mentioned that he had lost his position as successor. He was completely enraged.

"Shut up! You bastard, you should know best how I lost my position as successor! It's all your fault! If it wasn't because of you, how could I have lost my position?!" Jace hollered with reddened eyes.

Lucas sneered. "I just used some little tricks, and you lost your position as successor. Doesn't that mean that you're inferior to me?"

Infuriated, Jace roared, "Lucas Gray! Don't try to play mind games in front of me. No matter what you say, you have to remember that I'm the butcher and you're at my mercy! Yours and your family's lives are now in my hands! You're the loser! What do you have to say now?"

Lucas said coldly, "Did you get this with your own abilities? If you didn't use such despicable means and threaten me with hostages, do you think you'd be a match for me? You don't dare to fight me head on because you know that be it in terms of martial arts or anything else, you're no match for me at all!"

Jace was so angered by what Lucas said that he was on the verge of losing his mind. But the moment he was about to let anger get the better of him, he saw William hanging from the windowsill, and the anger within him was immediately replaced by smugness and contempt.

"Hmph, you can say whatever you want. Anyway, the fact now is that I've already captured your people, and you have no choice but to stand in front of me obediently and do whatever I tell you to do!

"You can only blame it on yourself for being too stupid!"

“You did so much in DC and made me lose my position as successor. You even helped an illegitimate son take my place. Do you think I’d still let you off? From that day on, you should have already thought of this outcome!

“Yes, I admit my methods are despicable, but it doesn’t matter as long as they work! The result now is that I’m the victor and you’re just a dog!”

*Hmph, so what if Lucas Gray won that match? I’m the final winner!*

*As long as this eyesore is dead, I’ll go back to DC and deal with Roman. One day, I’ll regain the position of the Huttons’ successor!*

*But Lucas Gray must die!*

In fact, Jace’s thoughts did make sense.

As long as he was the final winner, it didn’t matter to him whether his methods were despicable tricks or not.

At the same time, Lucas had indeed been a little too careless.

He had previously arranged for people to protect Cheyenne, Charlotte, and the rest. But later, Lucas had sent Stanley and Jordan to DC because Flynn had been facing many difficulties in the Stardust Corporation headquarters. Thus, there were fewer people in Orange County he could trust and dispatch.

Besides, he hadn’t expected Jace would be so despicable as to deal with his family. Due to his negligence, Jace had succeeded in capturing Charlotte and William.

Jace mocked, “Lucas Gray, if your father-in-law and sister-in-law die today, it’ll all be your fault! You’d better remember this!”

Lucas nodded calmly. “Indeed, this was caused by my negligence. But remember this. You should know clearly that I won’t let you off for doing this!

“Just a few minutes ago, your father begged me to spare your life, but now, it seems it isn’t necessary at all!”

## **Chapter 994: Two Bullets**

Jace’s face instantly turned red, and his blood surged. “He begged you to spare my life? Hah, Lucas Gray, did you get something wrong? Now, your life is in my hands. Do you think I’ll let you live?”

“How dare you say that you won’t let me off. Haha, what a joke!”

“You’d better get your facts straight. It’s a piece of cake for me to kill you right now! As long as I give the order, these gunmen will immediately shoot you to death!

“The reason I’m not killing you yet is to torture you and make your life a living hell!

“I refuse to believe that my father will still think I’m inferior to you in every way once I kill you and bring him your head!”

Jace hollered furiously and then said, “Lucas Gray, you’ve said so much just to anger me, or are you trying to stall for time so that you don’t have to play Russian Roulette?

“But I won’t let you get what you want! You can try stalling for time however you want, but you must die right here today!

“Okay, let’s cut the crap. It’s time you continue shooting! Hurry up!” Jace urged impatiently.

Lucas glanced at him and picked up the revolver without saying another word. He turned the cylinder again and aimed the gun at his head to fire another shot.

*Bang!*

Once again, it was empty!

Then it was Lucas’s turn to shoot William.

A look of excitement and expectation immediately appeared on Jace’s face. But this time, it was another empty shot.

Then Lucas fired at himself and William several times. But without exception, they were all empty shots.

Jace’s face turned slightly gloomy.

Lucas smiled. “Looks like I’m quite lucky. I’ve already shot eight times, but there hasn’t been a bullet. It seems like even God doesn’t want us to die.”

Jace snorted coldly. “What are you proud of? It’s just eight shots. Count yourself lucky. But I don’t believe that you can continue being so lucky and dodge the bullet! Keep shooting!”

Lucas glanced at Jace without saying anything and continued shooting himself and William again and again.

But after shooting more than twenty times, the cylinder didn't turn to the slot with the bullet.

Jace finally felt that something was amiss.

Lucas had fired nearly thirty times, so there should have been at least five times where the bullet was shot. But up until now, he hadn't fired the bullet. It didn't make sense at all!

"No, there must be something wrong with the gun!" Jace suddenly yelled. "Bring the gun over. I want to check it!"

"There's something wrong with the gun? You gave it to me yourself." Lucas tossed the gun to Jace.

Since he wanted to check the gun, he could do it himself.

After checking everything, Jace found that there was nothing wrong with the cylinder, bullet slot, and bullet. He clenched his jaw indignantly. He had to admit that perhaps Lucas was really lucky.

But when he was about to hand the revolver to Lucas, he suddenly thought of an idea. He took the revolver back, took out another bullet from his pocket, and inserted it into another slot in the cylinder.

Like this, there would be two bullets in the six-slot cylinder. The probability of firing a bullet turned from one-sixth to one-third!

"Hah, let's continue. I want to see how long your luck can last!" Jace said menacingly before handing the gun over.

Seeing Jace's actions, Lucas sneered. "Are you going to add the third and fourth bullet and even the fifth and sixth later? It's rare that people play Russian Roulette like this."

"Cut the crap. I'll put in as many bullets as I want. Just shoot! Otherwise, I'll have that woman killed immediately!" Jace hollered furiously.

Lucas glanced at Jace. In his eyes, Jace would definitely die.

Moreover, the moment would be arriving soon.

Once Charlotte was rescued, he would no longer have to put up with this idiot!

At this moment, William, who was seriously wounded and hanging on the windowsill, had already passed out because he could no longer bear the high tension of playing Russian Roulette.

In fact, Lucas felt that it was a good thing that William had passed out now because he wouldn't have to deal with Jace's torment.

But although William had passed out, Lucas still had to shoot William, and all the pressure was transferred to Lucas.

Jace originally thought that since there were already two bullets in the revolver, either Lucas or William would soon be shot to death.

But after Jace waited for a long time and Lucas had already fired more than ten shots, no bullet hit anyone!

*Click! Click Click!*

The cylinder rotated.

*Click!*

An empty shot.

*Click! Click Click!*

The cylinder rotated.

*Click!*

Yet another empty shot.

...

Lucas repeated this nearly twenty times, but Jace still didn't hear the gunshot he was expecting.

There was definitely something wrong!

Even if Lucas's luck was really that good, there was no way he could perfectly avoid the bullets and fire empty shots more than fifty times in a row!

Besides, Jace had added another bullet, so the chances of getting shot with a bullet had increased greatly.

"Go check this gun carefully!" Jace shouted at a gunman next to him.

Although he had already checked the gun carefully, he might have missed some details.

His gunmen were all experts with guns, and if Lucas had really tampered with the gun, the gunman would definitely find out!

In short, Jace absolutely didn't believe that Lucas could have such incredible luck!

Jace's gunman grabbed the gun from Lucas and checked it carefully. He even deliberately shot a bullet before telling Jace, "Mr. Hutton, I've checked carefully. There's nothing wrong with this gun!"

Jace's expression instantly became gloomier.

He stared at Lucas for a long time before saying, "How did you do it?"

## **Chapter 995: Saving His Father-in-law**

As the former successor of the Huttons, Jace wasn't an uninformed person. He knew that there were many industry experts in this world.

For example, there were some bigwigs in casinos who could tell the number on the dice based on the sounds they made or easily roll the number they wanted.

For example, people proficient with firearms could easily control the desired slot when turning the cylinder of the revolver.

But such people were extremely rare, and only those who had spent countless years using guns would be able to do it.

Thus, Jace had to suspect that Lucas had already mastered this technique to be able to get an empty shot every single time.

Although Jace definitely didn't want to believe that Lucas had such a terrifying ability, he definitely didn't think that Lucas would be so lucky that he could perfectly avoid the bullets more than fifty times in a row!

Lucas smiled. "I don't know what you're talking about, but this gun is yours, and so are the bullets. Even your man has checked the gun. Do you still think that I tampered with it?"

"I said it earlier. Maybe I'm lucky enough, and God doesn't want me or my father-in-law to die under your despicable means. That's why he's been so kind to me and letting Lady Luck shine on me."

“Shut up!” Jace shouted furiously. He stared straight into Lucas’s eyes and expression to try and find out something.

But Lucas looked extremely calm, and there was even a trace of contempt in his eyes.

Jace was furious.

He would never believe in Lucas receiving God’s favor or that he was lucky. It must have been because Lucas had tampered with the gun or was really a firearms expert!

While Jace was hesitating about whether or not to continue making Lucas play Russian Roulette, the ringtone of a phone suddenly sounded in the room.

However, the ringtone didn’t belong to Jace but Lucas.

Lucas ignored it. The ringing was extremely short, and the caller hung up after only three seconds.

But after hearing the ringtone, there was a drastic change in Lucas’s expression as a menacing aura emanated from his body. It was as if he was a cat whose claws had been bound had transformed into a terrifying beast!

Standing in front of Lucas, Jace suddenly felt an immense horror that made his breathing stagnate and his face turn deathly pale.

“What... what are you trying to do? Are you trying to scare me? Don’t forget that two of your family members are still in my hands!” Jace shouted fiercely to regain control over Lucas.

Lucas smiled slightly. He suddenly raised the gun in his hand, pointed it at a gunman next to William, and pulled the trigger without hesitation!

*Bang!*

This time, a bright flash of light appeared at the muzzle, which had fired a bullet for a long time. The next moment, a bullet hole appeared in the head of the middle-aged gunman beside William!

The middle-aged gunman didn’t expect Lucas to suddenly shoot him, so he was completely caught off guard and lost his life.

The shot was too sudden. Not only did the middle-aged gunman fail to react, but even Jace and the other gunmen in the room were dumbfounded. They didn’t expect Lucas to shoot him!

But before the middle-aged gunman's corpse fell to the floor and the rest could react, Lucas suddenly vanished right on the spot!

*Whoosh!*

The next second, Lucas's figure appeared almost instantly next to the gunman at the windowsill. His movements were unbelievably fast!

*Bang! Bang! Bang!*

Immediately afterward, the sounds of flesh being shot echoed in the room. Jace felt his vision turning blurry, and before he could get a clear glimpse of what was going on, he saw several figures being sent flying and landing in every corner of the room, sending bursts of dust flying into the air.

Once everything settled down, Jace was shocked to find that the five gunmen he had brought and his four personal bodyguards had already collapsed to the floor.

The only person still standing was Lucas!

There were several guns next to his feet on the floor, all of which were taken from the gunmen!

This scene agitated Jace greatly!

As an heir meticulously nurtured by the Huttons, Jace was naturally surrounded by top experts.

Jace's gunmen were all top marksmen selected from the army. Not only did they have excellent marksmanship, but they also had top physiques and reflexes. Yet they were all knocked to the floor by Lucas before they could even shoot. They even got disarmed by Lucas!

The four personal bodyguards following Jace were also top experts the Huttons had carefully selected. They could easily deal with the experts of some big families, but they were just like weaklings who didn't have the ability to resist at all. Lucas dealt with them all!

*How is that possible?!*

*How can Lucas have such terrifying strength?*

Jace was so stunned that he was completely speechless. It was as if he had seen a ghost.

Lucas didn't bother to pay attention to Jace's reaction but went straight to William. He quickly untied the rope on him and put him carefully on the floor.

He did a quick check and found that William was still alive and had merely passed out from his injuries and being hung on the windowsill for a long time. His life wasn't in danger for the time being.

After confirming that William was fine for now, Lucas heaved a long sigh of relief.

Fortunately, William was fine. Otherwise, Lucas wouldn't know how to explain things to Cheyenne.

Lucas stood up and glared at Jace with a murderous look. "Now, it's time to settle the score between us!"

## **Chapter 996: Situation Reversal**

Now, Lucas had defeated all the men around Jace. Facing Lucas, who was full of a murderous aura, he couldn't help feeling immense fear.

In fact, Jace's father, Michael, had called him a long time ago to warn him not to harm Lucas's loved ones and even more so not to provoke Lucas because he was even more terrifying than Jace could imagine.

But Jace didn't want to listen to him at all because he felt that Michael was just scaring him to protect Lucas, his illegitimate son. So he hung up before Michael could finish speaking and even refused to answer his subsequent calls.

But even after watching Lucas knock out his five gunmen and four bodyguards in just a few seconds with his very own eyes, Jace finally believed what Michael said.

Michael had long known how terrifying Lucas was, but when he tried to warn Jace, the latter simply ignored him and hung up on him!

But Jace also knew very well that even if he hadn't hung up on Michael, he wouldn't have believed how terrifying Lucas was.

Only after witnessing this scene with his own eyes did Jace realize that he was worlds apart from Lucas!

Jace was now naturally panic-stricken, but at the thought of the other chip he had, he was slightly relieved.

Forcing himself to remain calm, he threatened, "Lucas Gray, don't forget that your sister-in-law is still in my hands. How dare you harm my people now? Aren't you afraid that your sister-in-law will immediately turn from a beauty to a corpse with just a phone call from me?"

Jace didn't believe Lucas would ignore that Charlotte's life was in danger since he had knelt for her just now!

Lucas sneered. "Imbecile! Jace Hutton, what do you think I've been holding back and playing this boring game with you for such a long time when I obviously have the power to kill the people around you in seconds?"

Why?

Jace immediately froze.

Indeed, Lucas clearly had the ability to kill all the gunmen and bodyguards around him within seconds and save William, yet he didn't do so and even knelt under the orders of the old hag Karen. The reason was very simple. Because Charlotte was still in his hands, Lucas didn't dare to act rashly.

But why did he suddenly dare to take action?

Jace's face suddenly turned pale. He understood!

Lucas's aura changed when his phone rang!

Lucas didn't answer the call, and the caller hung up after the phone rang thrice.

From that moment on, Lucas became extremely aggressive. The next moment, he suddenly shot the person next to him!

*Could the phone call have been a signal to him?*

*Has... has that woman been rescued?*

"You... what are you trying to say? That woman is still in my hands, and my people are keeping a close eye on her! She'll die immediately once I make a call!" Jace began to get flustered, but he was still extremely stubborn.

"Oh, is that so? Try making a call then!" Lucas said teasingly.

Seeing Lucas's expression, Jace panicked even more. He didn't have time to worry about Lucas staring at him. He hurriedly took out his phone and made a call. But no one picked up.

*Beep... Beep... Beep...*

Hearing the beeping for a long time, Jace hung up in panic and called two other numbers, one of which was Karen's.

But the result was the same. There was no sound except beeping. No one answered.

At this point, Jace finally knew that the subordinates he had arranged to watch Charlotte had all been taken down by Lucas's people.

He had lost the other bargaining chip that he could use to coerce Lucas!

"Let go! Quickly let go of me! Hey! You bastards, do you know who I am? I work for Jace Hutton, the scion of a top family in DC. How dare you grab me so roughly? Mr. Hutton will definitely skin you alive when he finds out!

"Hey, I told you to let go of me! Are you deaf... Ah!"

Suddenly, a sharp and shrill sound came from the bottom floor of the abandoned hospital. It sounded like a shrew arguing.

As soon as he heard that voice, Lucas knew that it belonged exclusively to Karen.

It seemed that the person he wanted had already arrived.

Soon, Stanley led a middle-aged woman with disheveled hair to the door of the room. This woman was none other than Karen!

"Lucas, she's here!" Stanley said to Lucas respectfully.

Both of Karen's hands were secured firmly behind her back with a rope as she was pushed all the way over by Stanley. She was incredibly resentful.

Right after she stood firm, she saw Lucas and Jace next to her.

But because she was standing right at the door, she couldn't see much of what was inside.

At this moment, Karen seemed to find her backer and immediately vented all her resentment against Lucas. "Lucas Gray, you bastard! You jinx! You evil thing, you should be banished to hell!

"If you hadn't appeared, I wouldn't have ended up in this state and suffered so much in prison!

“You damn thing, I couldn’t kill you previously, but Mr. Hutton is the scion of one of the eight top families in DC. Now that he’s my backer, he will definitely help me to torture you and kill you. He will rip you into shreds!

“Once you die, William Carter must die too! Those two bitches Cheyenne and Charlotte are so loyal to you that they’ve turned their backs on me, their mother! In that case, they both have to die as well! Let them be Mr. Hutton’s playthings, and once he’s sick of them, he can do whatever he wants with them!

“And the companies, mansions, jewelry, and money you leave behind will all be mine! Haha, Lucas Gray, hurry up and go to hell!”

Karen guffawed hysterically.

The reason she had been sent to prison by Lucas was that she wanted to live in Lucas’s Pearl Lake villa and thus tried to kill William, who was getting in her way. But she didn’t expect the murderer she had hired to fail to kill William and eventually cause her to be imprisoned.

But now, as long as Lucas died, she could have everything she had hoped for since the beginning. The thought of it made her ecstatic, and she had long forgotten about kinship, shame, morals, and so on.

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Seeing the way Karen was at the moment, Lucas only felt sad.

Cheyenne and Charlotte were both great people. Lucas truly felt sad for them for having such a terrible mother like Karen.

## **Chapter 997: So-Called Brother**

Karen had picked Cheyenne up from the roadside and adopted her, so it was somewhat understandable that she mistreated Cheyenne and disliked her.

But Charlotte was Karen’s biological daughter, and Karen treated her so heartlessly too. Not only did she collude with an outsider to kidnap her daughter, but she even said that she would give her daughter to him as a plaything, leaving her at his mercy. This was incredibly inhumane!

“Lucas, you bastard, you’re nothing compared to Jace...”

Karen was still insulting Lucas when Jace suddenly rushed toward her and slapped her face hard!

*Smack!*

“Idiot! Shut up! Shut up!” Jace roared, wishing he could rip Karen’s mouth apart.

This idiot had failed to complete the task, and she was even found by Lucas’s people, who brought her here.

Yet she still didn’t have a clear idea of the situation and was still insulting Lucas!

Was she blind? Did she not see that all the experts had been defeated and had collapsed on the floor?

So what if he was a Hutton? Did this idiot still think that he could defeat the terrifying Lucas?

All she did was spout nonsense. She was completely useless!

Karen was dumbfounded by Jace’s sudden slap.

She touched her numb and stinging face, utterly dumbfounded. “Mr... Mr. Hutton, why did you hit me? Lucas Gray is our enemy. Can’t I scold him? Don’t you wish he’d immediately die too? Now that such a great opportunity is in front of us, are you going to let this bastard off?”

“Idiot!” Jace scolded Karen while feeling flustered.

He had originally thought that Lucas would definitely obey him since he had held William and Charlotte hostage. He had been sure that he would be able to kill Lucas, so he had said that Lucas was just like an animal waiting to be slaughtered by him.

But in just a few minutes, the situation suddenly reversed. And now, Lucas was the one with control over Jace’s life. Lucas could kill him at any time!

Despite feeling extremely unwilling, Jace couldn’t think of any other solution.

“Lucas, you can kill my subordinates, but no matter what, I am your half-brother, and there are blood ties between us. You can’t kill me!” Jace clenched his fist, desperately trying to contain the fear in his heart while speaking to Lucas.

Lucas sneered. “Brother? When you were humiliating me and trying to kill me just now, why didn’t you remember that you’re my brother and that there are blood ties between us? It’s too ridiculous for you to say that now!”

*Half-brother? Blood ties?* Karen felt like her mind was struck by a thunderbolt as she immediately froze in place.

There was too much information from the brief conversation between Jace and Lucas, so much so that Karen's mind was in a whirlwind.

Jace was Lucas's half-brother, which meant that Lucas was also a Hutton! He was a descendant of one of the eight most powerful families in DC!

Karen had never heard Lucas mention this before!

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She had always thought that Lucas was just a penniless boy who had married into the Carters because of Cheyenne!

Immediately afterward, Karen finally saw the corpses lying on the floor in the room. All of them were Jace's subordinates!

There were so many of them. Could Lucas have killed them all?

At this moment, Karen felt her legs go weak. Unable to stand any longer, she fell to the floor.

"Lucas Gray, no matter what, I'm a scion of the Huttons and also your brother! The Huttons won't let you off if you really want to kill me!" Jace hurriedly said when he sensed that Lucas really wanted to kill him.

Lucas said coldly, "Do you still think I'd be afraid of the Huttons at this point? Also, what kind of brother are you?"

"When my mother and I were still living with the Huttons more than twenty years ago, you'd bully me at every turn and called me a bastard all the time. You even insulted me together with your subordinates!"

"Later, your mother was afraid that I would affect your successorship of the position of helmsman, so she was determined to drive my mother and me out of the family. She kept telling tales to Michael Hutton and even schemed against my mother to frame her and snatch the Stardust Corporation. Finally, the Huttons even kicked my mother and me out of the family, leaving us without even a penny to our names!"

"The Huttons even deprived me of my last name and ordered me not to return to DC for the rest of my life! And what were you doing at the time? You were happily gloating and clapping your hands to celebrate that I was kicked out by the Huttons. Have you already forgotten?"

“What right do you have to call yourself my brother? I don’t have a cold-blooded brother like you!

“As for the Hutton family, which you’ve been so proud of and worried that I would return to, they’re nothing in my eyes! Only a short-sighted and incompetent small fry like you would think that the position of helmsman is a holy grail that everyone had to fight for!

“I’ll tell you the truth. If my mother hadn’t asked me to spare the Huttons when she was on her deathbed, I would have destroyed all of you a long time ago. You wouldn’t have the chance to be so arrogant in front of me!”

Lucas spoke bluntly while recalling the scenes of him and his mother suffering humiliation by the Huttons before eventually getting kicked out of the family. Lucas’s heart was full of rage, and he wanted to crush Jace to death immediately.

After hearing what Lucas said, Jace was beyond astonished!

He could sense that what Lucas said was true!

He really didn’t take the Huttons seriously, nor did he want the position of the Huttons’ helmsman. Moreover, he was really capable of destroying the Huttons!

But... how was it possible for him to do that?

At this moment, Jace was recalling all the information that he had investigated about Lucas.

Back then, Lucas was only eight years old when he and his mother were kicked out by the Huttons. He was two years younger than Jace and extremely thin and petite back then, so he was quite a pushover.

Later, Lucas and his mother moved to Orange County after getting kicked out of DC. Although Jace felt that the enemy preventing him from gaining the position of helmsman had disappeared, he didn’t completely give up paying attention to Lucas.

Thus, Jace found out later that Lucas and his mother struggled to survive in Orange County, and his mother eventually passed away from a terminal illness. Meanwhile, Lucas married into a second or third-rate family in Orange County and became a live-in son-in-law whom everyone despised.

At the time, Jace felt that Lucas would probably spend the rest of his life as a bottom feeder of society and never return to DC again to threaten his position as successor. He lost interest in Lucas and stopped paying attention to him.

Even after hearing the news of Lucas’s disappearance, Jace merely thought that he had probably already died somewhere.

## Chapter 998: Hatred Between Brothers

But Jace never imagined that his father Michael would suddenly take all the shares and management rights of the Stardust Corporation back from him and even spend a huge sum of money to buy all the Stardust Corporation's shares from the other Huttons.

While Jace was feeling puzzled, he happened to overhear a conversation between Michael and the butler Chad. He was shocked to find that his half-brother wasn't dead and had returned to Orange County. For some reason, his father decided to return the entire Stardust Corporation to Lucas and even tried to get him to return to take over as the helmsman!

After hearing this, Jace felt as if he had been struck by lightning. It was completely unacceptable to him!

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He was clearly the only legitimate son of Michael, and he would be the only one who would inherit the position of the Huttons' helmsman in the future. In that case, why should Michael attach so much importance to Lucas and give what should belong to him to Lucas?

So from that moment on, Lucas became Jace's greatest enemy. He racked his brains to disgrace Lucas and eventually kill him. He would never let him return to the Huttons in DC.

This was why Lucas and the Stardust Corporation were targeted afterward.

Jace initially thought that it was just a simple matter. At the time, Lucas was just a nobody who had just returned to Orange County. He had no power, and all he had was just a tiny branch of the Stardust Corporation in Orange County.

But Jace realized later that he was wrong. No matter what moves he made against Lucas, Lucas could resolve them without getting harmed at all. In fact, his power was growing stronger and stronger. He slowly conquered the four top families in Orange County, followed by LA, then San Francisco, California, and eventually Oregon. The powerful families of these states all pledged allegiance to Lucas!

Later, Lucas even broke the Huttons' ban on him entering DC, removed Jace from his position as the Huttons' successor, and even replaced him with Roman, Collin's illegitimate son!

Jace was extremely indignant, and he would never accept being defeated by Lucas, whom he saw as an incompetent half-brother who grew up outside and had nothing!

Moreover, Lucas was indeed the reason that he had lost so many things. Ever since he was dismissed as the successor, many Huttons started treating him differently and would even occasionally give him strange looks. Even the children of other wealthy families in the capital no longer treated him with as much respect. Some even dared to mock him.

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And Lucas was to blame for everything!

So Jace hated Lucas and wished he could kill him immediately!

His anger would be alleviated only with Lucas's death. Only then would he be able to regain what he had lost!

So this time, Jace had schemed a lot to defeat Lucas. He thought that he had planned everything well and left no stones unturned, but he had still underestimated Lucas's ability. Thus, he had been defeated by Lucas right at the juncture he was about to win.

Now, even his life was in Lucas's hands. He had completely been defeated by Lucas!

Gritting his teeth, Jace suddenly dropped to his knees in front of Lucas. "Lucas, I know that it's all my fault for what happened previously, and I shouldn't have deliberately targeted you and been so hostile to you! I know I'm no match for you, so please spare me this time. I will never go against you again!

"As long as you let me off, I am willing to leave the country and never return. You can take over the Huttons if you want. I will never fight against you again!

"All I beg is that you let me off this time! Okay?"

Jace swallowed his pride and begged Lucas.

This was the most humiliating thing Jace had ever done in his life.

But to his surprise, even after he knelt in front of him, Lucas remained composed without even a trace of joy or pride. It was as if Jace kneeling was a completely insignificant matter.

In fact, this was indeed the case. Jace thought he was giving up his most valuable dignity and pride, but it was only a trivial matter to Lucas. It even felt ridiculous. Lucas wasn't affected at all.

He had long known that Jace was terrified of death, so much so that he could forgo his pride without hesitation in the face of death. Of course, it was just empty talk that he would give up everything and never be Lucas's enemy again.

Lucas believed that if he let Jace go, Jace would definitely look for a more powerful helper and return with greater aggression. Lucas would never spare him!

Moreover, Jace had kidnapped Charlotte and William today and also tried to hurt Cheyenne. He had already crossed Lucas's bottom line.

Thus, Lucas had already made up his mind. No matter what Jace said, he would never spare his life!

Karen, slumping at the side, had long been frightened silly by the sight in front of her.

In the eyes of a tacky and ignorant person like Karen, the Huttons were an unimaginably powerful and noble family. She had been especially ecstatic after being released from prison and learning Jace's identity. Even if Jace asked her to kneel down and lick his feet, she would have done so proudly without any hesitation.

He was a famous scion of one of the eight top families in DC!

But she discovered just now that her son-in-law Lucas, whom she had always despised and looked down on, was also from this prestigious family!

Now, the high and mighty Jace, whose feet Karen was willing to lick, was kneeling before Lucas and begging him to spare his life!

This scene made Karen feel like she was dreaming, and her head was buzzing.

At the same time, Karen felt great regret in her heart.

If she had known that Lucas had such an identity, she would have treated him well!

That way, she would have been able to live well with her family, enjoy everything Lucas owned, and even become in-laws of the Huttons, one of the eight most powerful families in DC!

It would have brought her so much glory and made her the subject of everyone's envy!

Unfortunately, there is no medicine for regret in this world!

*Ring Ring Ring...*

Suddenly, Lucas's phone rang again, and the number on the caller ID was Michael's!

