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Interested, he changed his shoes and sat down in the living room, preparing to listen to her. "Go ahead."

Isla poured Alex a glass of water. Then, as she raised her hand and brushed the hair by her ear, she said with some embarrassment, "Alex, I remember the last time you went back to the village to save the people, you said that you had something to say to me when you came back. It's been a long time since then, so can you say it now?"

"Did I say something like that?"

"Hmph... Alex, what do you mean? You said it yourself, but not only are you not taking the initiative to honor your words, you still refuse to admit it even when I bring it up?" Isla glared at him. She stood up all of a sudden and held up a cushion with a fierce glint in her eyes. "I'll get straight to the point. Are you telling me or not?"

"Okay, okay, okay, I'll tell you... I tell you, alright?"

Alex also felt a little embarrassed and scratched his head. "Isla, let's get a divorce."

Isla's heart went cold at the words, but she was too embarrassed to show how shocked she really was, so she pretended to be calm instead. "Alex, you beat around the bush for so long just to say this? Is the marriage certificate preventing you from going after girls? Tell me, which lady are you in love with? Jane Simpson... or Liana Ballantine?"

"Isla, you got the first half right. That marriage certificate is hindering me from dating, but the second half is completely wrong. The person I'm in love with isn't the two you mentioned. You're very smart, so you should be able to guess who I'm really in love with."

"Is the person you're in love with... Alright, I see. I wish you happiness." Isla slowly put down the cushion and slumped onto the sofa with a long sigh. She whispered with a stifled expression, "Tomorrow. Tomorrow, I'll take the marriage certificate and handle the divorce procedures as soon as possible."

"Wait... Isla, did you really guess who it is?"

"Who else can it be? Aren't you in love with... Josie Liedl?"

Isla endured her heartache and said Josie's name.

"Sigh..." Blushing in shame, Alex shook his head helplessly. "Isla, you guessed wrong. The person I love is... Forget it, let's wait until the divorce formalities are completed."

Alex's relationship with Isla had always been unclear. If they continued on like this, they would grow even more awkward with each other, and they would never be able to go further — stuck in that ambiguous stage. In fact, he did not forget what he said but he had initially planned to confess his feelings to Isla and come clean after he finished dealing with the village affairs.

However, as a typical straight man, he had no experience in love. He was too embarrassed to express his love and dragged it out until now.

He proposed the divorce with Isla because he felt that only after the divorce formalities were completed and the contract marriage was completely settled could they truly return to the starting point. Then, a new chapter could be opened. They could start from the beginning of love and cultivate the feelings that belonged only to the two of them, without any outside factors.

Otherwise, with the agreement and the marriage certificate, he would always feel that his feelings for Isla were not pure.

As for Isla, she was not as dumb as Alex thought. She had deliberately said the names of other women as a means of provocation. Although Alex and she shared mutual feelings, she was a girl and was embarrassed to confess first. In that case, she had to find a way to force Alex to show his feelings to her earlier...

The next morning, Isla went out early.

Before she even got off work, she decided to go to her parents' side to get the marriage certificate. She went to the office in the morning to handle some work and then went to the City Hall to do the paperwork in the afternoon.

Alex, accompanied by Big Ken, bought a sympathy gift and went to Military Hospital where they bumped into Jane who had gone out to buy breakfast at the gate. After inquiring, Alex learned that Harvey had woken up not long after his surgery was completed. Although his body was still very weak and his mind had not fully recovered, he was recuperating and could communicate normally.

Upon learning that the doctor said that it was still inconvenient to disturb Harvey too much, Alex handed the sympathy gift to Jane and looked at Harvey from afar by the door of the ward, and was just about to leave.

However, after Jane put the gift in the ward, she quickly came back out and said to Alex, "Uncle asked me to invite you in. He wants to have a few words with you."

"Okay!"

With a nod, Alex swiftly entered the ward and as he walked over to the bed, he greeted Harvey.

Harvey gestured for Alex to sit down and said slowly, "Alex, I heard Jane said that you feel guilty about the explosion and still haven't let go of the guilt?"

"Mmhm... Even now, I still don't know how to face Chief Judge Whitman's family."

"I know, you think that if you hadn't invited us to dinner, perhaps Chief Judge Whitman and I wouldn't have gotten into this accident. But according to your logic, I'd also have to take partial responsibility for what happened to Chief Judge Whitman since I was the one who introduced him to you in the first place. Alex, what I want to say is that you're overthinking it, really. The bombing for Chief Judge Whitman and I was fate. It was an accident and had nothing to do with you. Even if you hadn't invited us to dinner, those who had their eyes on him would have inevitably found other opportunities to get him."

"Captain Simpson, thank you for your words. My heart feels a lot lighter after what you said."

"That's good. Jane mentioned that the murderer framed you. At this point, not only are you not at fault, but you're also a victim like us. Alex, what we need to do now isn't to blame ourselves, but to catch the killer. I can't help, so I can only count on you."

"Captain Simpson, I didn't come to see you last night because I went looking for the murderer."

"Huh? You've already found him?"

"We found her. She should've been brought to Captain Pannell already."

"That's good, that's good..."

When Harvey learned that the killer was caught, he instantly relaxed and his complexion looked better.

Once Harvey had straightened him out, Alex was much more relieved. He was not being melodramatic, but the understanding of someone who was directly implicated was much better than the comfort of an outsider. After chatting with Harvey, he went to greet Director Denver again before saying his goodbye and left. As soon as he got into the car, he received a WhatsApp message from Isla.

Isla had already taken the marriage certificate at home, so she told Alex to go through the procedures at 2:00 pm.

Alex replied to the message and rushed to Golden Stone Co. At 12:00 pm, he took Isla to a high-end restaurant and handed her the menu with a smile. "Isla, this is the last meal we'll be having as a fake couple. Time flies so fast. It's been almost half a year."

“Yes...” Isla also sighed emotionally. “It seems like since we met, everything we’ve experienced has been quite dramatic. Looking back now, I seemed to have acted a little overboard toward you when I first signed the agreement. I didn’t even take you out for a nice meal the day we got married.”

“It wasn’t that you ‘seemed’ to have acted overboard. You really did act overboard, okay?”

“I’ve already admitted my mistake and agreed to be your servant for three years to make it up to you. How about... This meal is on me. I’ll treat you to this big meal to make up for it.”

“Sure, since you’re so sincere, I’ll give you a chance.”

“Do you have no shame? I’m completely baffled as to how there could be such a stingy man like you in this world.”

Although Isla rolled her eyes, her heart was full of joy.

This should be what love that was spoken of in legends were like, right?

However, Isla and Alex were different from ordinary lovers.

Other lovers got a marriage certificate after developing their relationship to a certain point, but they were going for a divorce instead...

After they ate, Alex realized that it was already 1:30 pm, so he was prepared to take Isla to the City Hall but he suddenly received a call from an unknown number.

Alex waited for a few seconds and when he felt that the caller did not dial the wrong number, he picked up the call. “Hello, who is this?”

A familiar baritone came from the receiver. “Is this Alex Cohen? Is it convenient to meet you?”

“Henry Doyle?”

“Yes, it’s me.”

“Hmph... What do you want to see me for?”

Since Alex’s memory was superb, he recognized Henry’s voice. However, he was quite surprised.

Henry hesitated on the other end for a few seconds before continuing, “I want to ask you a favor.”

“Are you mistaken?” Alex was amused. “Are we very familiar?”

“To be precise, I want to talk to you about a collaboration. I’ll send you an address. If you’re interested, come over and we’ll discuss it in detail.”

Alex pondered for a few seconds after he hung up, and said to Isla, “Let’s do the formalities another day...”

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Isla immediately became displeased as she glared at Alex. “What’s going on Alex, you were the one who said that the formalities should be done as soon as possible. Now that we’re all ready, you’re saying to do it another day. Can’t you plan in advance? Besides, all we need to do is go to the City Hall for the divorce procedure. It won’t take that much time, right?”

Alex explained apologetically, “There are priorities. What happened just now was an unexpected situation that was beyond the plan. Someone asked me to meet and talk about something. If we finish talking about it before the day ends, we’ll go to the City Hall. If it’s too late, then we’ll go tomorrow.”

“Is the person you’re going to meet a man or a woman?”

“Of course it’s a man. You should know who he is. He’s the CEO of Quill City Media, Henry Doyle.”

“Exo Quirke’s boss? He’s not trying to get back at you, right?”

“No... At least, not today.”

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When Alex learned that Henry Doyle wanted to talk to him about some collaboration, he could already guess what Henry was going to say.

Isla was not an unreasonable person so she did not pester Alex. Instead, nodded and agreed. “Call me when you’re done.”

“Okay, I’ll send you back to the company first...”

Alex held Isla’s waist back as they walked to the car. It took a few minutes to drive Isla back to Golden Stone Co. Then, he told Big Ken to drive to the place that Henry Doyle had arranged — it was a business club located near Quill City Media. Since he was bored along the way, he called Captain Pannell and asked how far he had gone in interrogating Macy Falks.

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Captain Pannell said that he was stuck at where the bomb came from. Macy Falks merely said that she bought it on the black market, but did not say why.

Alex just wanted to know who the mastermind was, so once he heard this, he knew that Captain Pannell did not consider the fact that Macy Falks might also have been receiving instructions from someone. After contemplating for a moment, he tactfully put forward this conjecture, opening up new ideas for Captain Pannell.

Since he was not a law enforcement officer, this was all he could say and do.

Next, Captain Pannell's interrogation skills would be put to the test...

At 2:30 pm, Big Ken drove to the destination. Henry Doyle had been waiting in a private room on the fifth floor for a long time, but this was Alex's second time meeting Henry. Compared to the last time Alex saw him, he looked slightly slimmer and his face had also become gaunt.

Alex did not have to ask to know that Henry had been recently worried about the matter of Quill City Media being investigated.

Of course, Alex did not care about how Henry had been living lately and did not bother to talk nonsense. Instead, he pulled out a chair and sat down at the table, ignoring Henry's polite words of letting him order something and went straight to the point. "You said you wanted to talk to me about some collaboration? What kind of collaboration?"

Although he was being forced by various pressures, Henry suppressed his anger at Alex and squeezed out a bitter smile. "Mr. Cohen, I heard that you're a very shrewd businessman, and you're also a very discerning investor. Hudson Designs and Golden Stone were both on the verge of bankruptcy, but you saved them. I want to ask if you have any interest in investing in Quill City Media."

"You're joking! Henry Doyle, you specifically called me here to get an investor? To me, this is not a collaboration, but you're begging me instead. Although I still have spare money on hand for investment, I will only invest in projects that I think have potential. Unfortunately, I don't see much development prospect for Quill City Media."

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"Collaboration does not necessarily involve money. As long as you agree to my favor, you can get a lot of Quill City Media's shares for nothing."

"Unfortunately, you missed the mark again. I'm not interested in Quill City Media at all... Otherwise, I wouldn't have refused so bluntly when you said you would give me one

percent of the shares in the past. However, I'm still a little curious. What do you want me to help with?"

"I'll be blunt. You arranged the investigation team that was headed by Director Lewis, right? I've already mentioned what I want you to help with last time. As long as you can stop the investigation team and don't issue any penalties on Quill City Media, I'll give you ten percent of the shares!"

"Ten percent... According to the calculations, that would translate to around one billion. That's a large amount. Why are you suddenly increasing the remuneration by tenfold?"

"You're also a businessman, so you must know that businessmen generally like to make a fortune while keeping a low profile. The fewer complications, the better. The joint investigation has been investigating Quill City Media for a long time and it has a very serious impact on us. With that said, we're willing to spend a little more money if it means we can get back to our formal state."

"You don't want to be fined, right?"

Alex knew that it was impossible for Henry to tell the truth, and even if he did, he would not say it bluntly.

Fortunately, he had talked to Wade Lewis a few days ago, giving him a certain understanding of the current situation of Quill City Media.

According to Wade, when the investigation was over, the taxes and fines that Quill City Media needed to pay would probably exceed three billion, which would drain Quill City Media dry at once. Under such circumstances, if they could spend one billion to settle this matter, they would end up saving two billion!

More importantly, the one billion would be paid in the form of shares, not cash. Although the interest of all shareholders would suffer a certain loss, it would be relatively small and Quill City Media could be saved. As long as they develop well, they would earn back this loss sooner or later.

Given Quill City Media's current situation, facilitating collaboration with Alex Cohen was the best way to deal with the crisis.

However, if there were other ways to solve the problem, it would be unlikely for Henry Doyle to seek Alex's collaboration.

After all, Alex was the enemy of Quill City Media.

This also proved the old saying that in the business world, there were no eternal enemies. There were only eternal interests.

For Alex, this was a good opportunity. Without paying a penny, all he had to do was move his lips and he would get ten percent of Quill City Media's shares. Although the value of those shares was definitely less than one billion with Quill City Media's current net worth, it was still a significant asset.

If it were anyone else, most people would have been so moved that they would start bargaining with Henry.

If they bargained, it might even be possible to double the pay.

However, Alex was not an ordinary person. He was a businessman with clear conscience and principles.

Just as Alex was about to reject Henry, his phone suddenly rang. It was a call from Captain Pannell. He hesitated for a moment before picking it up. "Hello, Alex Cohen speaking..."

Captain Pannell's voice on the other end was very excited. "Mr. Cohen, you were right. Macy Falks was instructed by someone. I've found out through interrogation and other means that the person who secretly ordered Macy Falks to organize the bombing was Henry Doyle, the CEO of Quill City Media! I should have thought about this sooner. On top of hating you, Henry Doyle must also hold a grudge against Chief Judge Whitman, so he had the motive to strike at Chief Judge Whitman..."

When Alex heard that the mastermind behind the scenes was Henry Doyle, he could not help but glance over to Henry. In order not to inadvertently alert him, Alex quickly adjusted his emotions, pretending as if nothing was wrong, and casually responded, "I see... I'm talking business with the CEO of Quill City Media now. Let's talk after I'm done."

Then, he hung up the phone.

As long as Captain Pannell listened carefully to what Alex said, he would definitely understand what Alex meant.

Now that Captain Pannell knew that Henry Doyle was the mastermind behind the scenes, the next step would be to arrest him. The first thing to do was to find Henry Doyle, who happened to be with Alex now. Thinking that it would take time to apply for an arrest warrant, Alex decided to help Captain Pannell stall for as much time as possible to try and take Henry Doyle down today.

After analyzing this, he pretended to be a little excited as he said to Henry, "You're right, I'm a businessman. I like money and I like making money but you seemed to have done an investigation on me. Then you should know that a mere ten percent of the shares isn't enough to tickle my fancy."

Henry frowned. "Ten percent is still not enough?"

"The joint investigation team has been investigating for so long. How would it be easy to stop them now? It's even more impossible for you to get away without any penalties. For that, I'll have to use a lot of contacts and bribe many parties to fulfill your request. This can't be done just by spending a little money."

"How much do you want?"

"Hm... I want thirty percent of Quill City Media's shares."

"What? Thirty percent? Alex Cohen, I see you're not sincere in wanting to cooperate with me!

Henry was completely shocked. This was not an act he put on to lower the price, but he was truly surprised...

Before calling Alex today, Henry had discussed with the senior management of Quill City Media. The collaboration with Alex was decided by the senior management's show of hands and everyone had agreed on the remuneration together. They could give him twenty percent of the shares at most, and not a penny more.

Although Henry was the CEO of Quill City Media, he was only the representative elected by shareholders.

He could make his own decisions for small matters, but he did not dare to decide on large matters without permission.

So for Alex's reward, Henry did not dare to exceed the limit that the executives could accept. Any more than that and he would have to pay out of his own pocket. Putting aside whether he was willing or unwilling to fork out his own money, he was just a member of Quill City Media. There was no way he would be able to afford assets in the billions...

Alex dragged as much time as possible and bargained patiently with Henry Doyle.

After more than an hour of tug-of-war, the two parties settled on the remuneration of twenty percent. At this time, Alex received a text message from Captain Pannell. 'I traced your mobile number and will soon arrive at your building. Where exactly are you? Henry Doyle hasn't left yet, right?'

"Mission finally accomplished!"

Alex secretly sighed to himself before he quickly sent the number of the private room that he was in to Captain Pannell.

Henry still had no idea that a disaster was just around the corner. He gritted his teeth and said, "Alex Cohen, we'll go with what you said! As long as you handle the investigation team, I'm willing to give you twenty percent of the shares of Quill City Media. However, I can only give you five percent as an upfront deposit. I'll give you the remaining fifteen percent after the matter is completed."

"No need." Alex could finally say what he had been suppressing in his heart for so long. "Henry Doyle, you were very right about one thing. From the beginning, I haven't been sincere in wanting to cooperate with you. I was just messing with you when I was bargaining with you for so long."

"What?" Henry was stunned again. He froze and said, "Alex Cohen, you... Are you f*cking sick? You're not a kid anymore. Is it fun to do such meaningless things?"

"To you, you were fooled, so you naturally don't find it meaningful, but it's actually quite meaningful for me."

"Then tell me just what the point of all that was."

As the two spoke, they suddenly heard the sound of sirens from downstairs.

With a grin, Alex said, "Henry Doyle, if I didn't pretend to be tempted and bargained with you, how could I have kept you here until the police arrived?"

Henry jumped up like a spring as he glared at Alex. "The investigation isn't over yet and I haven't done anything illegal, yet you called the cops on me? Do you think your family owns the police station? Are you out of your mind? Just what the hell are you thinking?"

"I forgot to mention this. With my assistance, the police have arrested Macy Falks as well as the driver in the bombing case. Furthermore, they all confessed. I heard that the mastermind behind the bombing case... was you?"

"What?"

At this, Henry's legs trembled and his feet became unsteady. He hesitated for a few seconds before he suddenly turned around and ran out.

However, Big Ken then moved two steps to the side and blocked Henry's path. He gave a vague smile and said, "Don't even try. As long as I'm here, you. Can't. Run!"

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Henry Doyle had heard the sound of sirens but he did not pay much attention to it. Only when he heard Alex say that the police were coming here to arrest him, he was immediately shocked. Seeing that Big Ken had blocked the way, he subconsciously

tried to push him away but could not get Big Ken to budge even when he had pushed with all his strength.

He then called in the assistant and driver who were guarding the door and said viciously to Big Ken, "If you know what's best for you, you better get out of the way. Otherwise, don't blame me for being rough!"

Big Ken spread his arms and said casually, "Henry Doyle, no matter what tricks you have, feel free to use them. Otherwise, when the police come up, you won't have any opportunity to run anymore. But like I said, as long as I'm here, you won't be able to escape."

"You're courting death! Take him down!"

Henry was in such a panic that he no longer wanted to talk nonsense with Big Ken and instead, he ordered his two subordinates to take action.

Since the driver was also a bodyguard, he took out a rubber baton that was used for security.

Although Henry was a businessman, he also had a violent side, considering that he was in a hurry to get out of here now.

As Macy Falks explained, the bombing was planned by him. Yet he thought that everything was arranged perfectly and it would be impossible for him to be exposed, so he never worried about the plot. That was why he did not care when he heard the sound of sirens earlier.

Even after listening to Alex's accusations of his crimes, he still felt incredulous.

However, the sirens were indeed getting clearer, indicating that the police cars were coming this way. In order to be safe, he had to leave this place before the police arrived and escape the arrest before planning for his next step. Otherwise, he would not even have the chance to figure out how he messed up. At the very least, he had to figure out what means the person had used to find out about the bombing.

In his opinion, the investigation must be a very complicated process.

The truth was that it was as simple as one plus one.

To be fair, if Alex had not recognized the person who detonated the bomb, the case would be very hard to investigate. Nevermind catching Henry as the mastermind, they would not have been able to find the identities of the culprits. So even if the police caught the driver involved in the case, it would have been almost impossible to pick Macy Falks out.

After all, who would have thought that a retarded fan would do something so crazy and stupid for their idol?

Henry was deep in thought when the battle ended.

Big Ken remained standing in front of him like an overbearing tyrant, while his other subordinates lay on the ground.

The bodyguard let out a miserable wail, and the assistant was completely motionless, having fainted after Big Ken's punch.

"How could this happen?"

Henry did not expect that the two of them would lose against Big Ken alone and it made him so furious that he almost puked out blood. Looking around with bulging eyes, he suddenly grabbed a glass ashtray that weighed a few hundred grams and threw it at Big Ken as he roared like a madman. "I'll fight you!"

"Just you? You're not qualified to fight me!"

Big Ken responded unhurriedly before he stepped to the side to dodge the attack. His right hand shot out and caught the ashtray accurately, easily snatching over the 'weapon' without much effort. Then pivoting on his heel with the ashtray still gripped tightly in his right hand, he turned around and flung the ashtray, which smashed onto Henry's forehead.

A muffled 'bang' rang out before Henry sank to the ground...

A few minutes later, Captain Pannell came up with a team and told them to take Henry and his two subordinates away. Taking a seat at the table, he then sized up a carefree Alex and asked curiously. "Mr. Cohen, you really are a master at solving cases, so much so that I'm ashamed of myself. However, I wonder, how in the world do you do it? Last night, you found Macy Falks before me, and today, you also found Henry Doyle before me..."

"Ah... It was luck." Alex smiled and said, "I've always had good luck. It's like I'm getting special care from the heavens."

Captain Pannell realized that Alex did not want to elaborate, so he did not ask any more questions. Instead, he took the initiative to change the topic. "Mr. Cohen, I received a call from Captain Simpson before I left for work. Although we didn't say much, I understood his intention of calling me was to remind me that you're not an ordinary person and so you cannot be treated as an ordinary person..."

"I'm honored to receive Captain Simpson's recognition and compliment."

“I also realized that I was a little too sensitive before and was too quick to trust the suspect’s side of the story. I had suspicions about you and that almost caused a conflict. Now that the bombing case has come to light and the murderer as well as the mastermind behind it have been caught, it’s confirmed that the bombing case has nothing to do with you at all. I have to apologize to you.”

“Captain Pannell, you’re too polite. You didn’t overlook any detail in order to find out the truth. As for me, I’m willing to cooperate fully in order to find out the murderer and mastermind. I don’t blame you. Rather, I deeply admire your professionalism. You don’t have to apologize to me.”

“It’s good that Mr. Cohen understands. Well then, we’ll end our talk here. I have to go back to work now. Goodbye!”

With that, Captain Pannell stood up and informed Alex and Big Ken before leaving in a hurry.

Alex took out his cell phone and dialed Jane’s number not only to ask her to convey his thanks to Harvey but also to share the good news that the mastermind behind the bombing case was caught.

Even in her excitement, Jane did not forget the important thing. “Mr. Cohen, although Uncle has just finished his operation, he still has been concerned about the case. Earlier, other than Captain Pannell’s call, he had also called the court and took advantage of his contacts to hand over the matter of your debt collection to a judge surnamed Houston. If you have time, you can go to court and contact Chief Judge Houston.”

“Alright. Jane, please pass on my thanks to your uncle once again.”

After Alex hung up the call, he took Big Ken back to the car and rushed straight to the courthouse to meet Chief Judge Houston.

It turned out that Chief Judge Houston was brought up by Chief Judge Whitman and knew very well about Alex’s debt collection. In view of the fact that the IOU Alex provided had passed the examination and verification from the audit, he immediately gave a call to Chase Lucas’s wife, ordering her to come to court immediately to deal with the matter.

Soon, Hash Lucas, accompanied by Jared Xavier and a lawyer, rushed to Chief Judge Houston’s office.

When Jared saw that Alex was also there, his expression immediately sank. After looking around and confirming that there was no one else in the room, he stared at Alex and asked indifferently, “Do you ask Chief Judge Houston to call us?”

Alex shrugged. "What if I did?"

"Do you think the court is run by your family? You don't think that Chief Judge Houston will help you collect the debt, do you?"

"You'll find out in a moment..."

In Alex's eyes, Jared's self-righteous appearance was just like a clown; it was truly ridiculous.

Originally, there was no need for Chief Judge Houston to step in to mediate an economic dispute because both parties should first find an arbitration institution. If arbitration failed, a lawsuit would need to be filled, and only then would the court take over. It was a rather long process. However, what Jared did not know was that Chief Judge Houston took this matter into his own hands because of Chief Judge Whitman and Captain Simpson. As long as it was within the scope of the relevant laws and regulations allowed...

When Chief Judge Houston heard that Hash Lucas could represent Chase Lucas with full authority, he went straight to the point. "Now, there are only two choices in front of you. The first is to pay off the debts to Alex Cohen before the deadline in accordance with the time agreed on the IOU. The second is to take the temporarily frozen properties under Chase Lucas's name to offset the debt at the current market price."

Then according to Jared's tactic, Hash said with a straight face, "No one even knew that uncle owes Alex Cohen that much money. There's more than an eighty percent chance that the IOUs were forged by him. Chief Judge Houston, 1.9 billion isn't a small amount after all, so we have to make things clear. Those who enforce the law cannot make rash decisions."

"I don't need you to teach me how to enforce the law! We've already verified that the IOU is genuine and valid. In other words, you must pay back this money! If you renege on the debt, not only will the court have the right to seize the properties under Chase Lucas's name to offset the debt, but I will also apply to have you listed as a debt dodger. Once that happens, he'll face many restrictions. For example, he will not be able to travel on the high-speed rail and airplanes, his bank cards will be frozen, and so on..."

Jared's expression turned incredulous when he heard this.

He did not think that Chief Judge Houston would really help Alex to collect the debt.

It all happened so fast that he was unable to react for a while but the look in his eyes changed when he looked at Alex.

Staring blankly at Chief Judge Houston, Hash was even more dumbfounded. "Are... Are you threatening me?"

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Chief Judge Houston shook his head and said slowly, "You're overthinking. I'm just stating the facts. Do you finally realize the seriousness of this matter through my explanation?"

"I..."

Hash Lucas was speechless and communicated softly with Jared Xavier and his lawyer for a while before coming to a decision. After glaring fiercely at Alex Cohen, he said to Chief Judge Houston, "There are still a few days before the deadline agreed on the IOU, right? Let me think about it first..."

"You can think about it." Chief Judge Houston nodded and said, "But I'll remind you one last time. Make sure you pay attention to the time. Once the deadline is exceeded, the court will enforce it. Even if you're willing and have the money to pay the debt then, you won't have that chance."

Hash Lucas did not bother with Chief Judge Houston and got up, saying to Alex in a condescending manner, "Don't think that you'll get me if you go to court. Just wait, I'll definitely find a way to get rid of you. You f*cking killed my uncle, took away his territory, and now you want to take away his property as well? Dream on!"

"I can't be bothered to talk nonsense with you!"

Alex shook his head. He really did not have the mind to talk nonsense with Hash Lucas.

He did not feel particularly good at seeing Hash flounder around like that. The man was just a pawn of Jared Xavier.

In the past, Chase Lucas was also attached to Grand Express Corporation, but Chase at least had his own influence and property, so he mixed quite well with them and also had a certain influence on Quill City. Even if he separated from Grand Express, he would not be completely beaten back to how he was in the past. They could still live a free and easy life.

Hash Lucas was different. He did not have any property under his name, and no men he could send on errands. The people who worked for him now were helpers Jared Xavier paid for. Once he was abandoned by Grand Express, represented by Jared, he would be reduced to just a passerby.

What was crueller was that Grand Express supported Hash not because of his strength or because he was useful, but because he was Chase Lucas's nephew. They wanted to use him to take over the properties left behind by Chase in a 'legitimate' manner.

In the future, if something went wrong, they could just make Hash take responsibility for the blame.

Now, Chase Lucas's territory was occupied by Symore, and the properties were about to be taken away by Alex Cohen.

When Hash Lucas's identity became worthless, it would be the time for Grand Express Corporation to abandon him.

It was very tragic that Hash Lucas was being treated as a pawn by Jared Xavier, but what was even sadder was that he had no idea about any of this...

Jared Xavier also got up and left, but he waited for Alex at the gate and said in a cold, frosty voice, "Alex Cohen, you're not stupid. You must have guessed that Hash is working for Grand Express Corporation now. If you go against him, it's the same as going against Grand Express. If you don't have a sense of propriety, you'll become an enemy of our corporation!"

"You mean... You want to deal with me using the Grand Express Corporation?" Alex revealed a surprised expression. He stared at Jared and suddenly grinned. "I'm looking forward to it!"

"Reckless fool! You're hopeless!"

Jared spat out the words and left in a hurry.

All people change.

Just like how Alex was no longer the cowardly boy of the past, Jared was no longer the child who was restricted by his family in every way. The matter of supporting Hash Lucas was a task that Gerald Xavier personally ordered. Now, Jared was handling matters on behalf of his family as well as Grand Express Corporation. With a strong backing, there was no longer the need to be afraid. He was free to go all out.

Jared thought that Alex was alone and would not be able to stand up to Grand Express.

Unbeknownst to him, Alex did not attach any importance to Grand Express at all.

Alex watched Jared Xavier and Hash Lucas leave, took out his mobile phone to check the time, and found that it was almost 5:00 pm before calling Isla Sullivan. It was too late to go to the City Hall for the divorce procedures today. By the time they got there, the staff would have gotten off work, so they could only go tomorrow.

It was a rare occasion that he did not have any plans for the evening, so he went to the supermarket and bought a bunch of ingredients to cook with Isla in the evening.

When he returned to the villa, he inadvertently noticed that Liana Ballantine was recording a video with her cell phone by a flower bed.

Liana saw Alex's car and immediately stopped recording. She ran cheerfully to the Lamborghini that had pulled over and said to Alex, "Alex, you're back from work?"

"Mm-hmm." Alex nodded and pointed to Liana's phone. "What are you doing?"

"Just taking a short video to post on Instagram Story."

"You've started playing with that too?"

"Yep. I used to only watch what others posted. I only tried making some myself. Lala and mom gave me a task of posting at least one short video a day. They said that I could use this as a promotional tool to maximize publicity for the resort in conjunction with the advertisements that have been launched as well."

"Oh? The ad you shot has been released?"

"Yeah... Alex, you haven't seen it yet?"

Liana suddenly seemed a little disappointed.

Alex scratched his head and said awkwardly. "Sorry, I've been too busy lately. I haven't even played much on my phone, much less watched TV. Which channel is your ad on? I'll go back and watch it later. I'll definitely enjoy your ad."

"It doesn't have as many placements on TV, so it won't be easy to see it. There are more placements online... How about this, I'll send it to you directly. The ads I shot were fifteen seconds, thirty seconds, one minute, three minutes, and ten minutes. There are a total of five versions. I have them all stored on my phone."

"Sure, sure. That way, I can watch all of them at once and won't have to worry about a TV drama interrupting it."

Alex's words amused Liana, and her disappointment had almost completely disappeared. She immediately sent the commercial videos to Alex.

Alex had just started the car and was ready to rush back when he suddenly heard someone calling out to Liana.

Turning over, he saw a group of young people running to the entrance of the villa area.

Liana stared at the group and suddenly frowned. "You guys... Why are you here?"

Alex realized that something was wrong and quickly got out of the car. He asked Liana, "Who are they?"

"Didn't I say that I'm making Instagram Story videos? I accumulated some fans, many of whom are locals. They built a group and dragged me in. I once posted a video that was geotagged, and many fans said that they wanted to come find me. I thought they were joking, but I didn't expect them to really come."

"Something like that happened? It's fine if they're simply coming to admire your beauty, but if they dare to make things difficult for you, I'll protect you."

As he said that, the group of people had already entered. The security guard thought they were Liana's friends and did not stop them.

The leader was a man about twenty-four or twenty-five. He held a large bouquet of roses in his hand and walked straight up to Liana, saying with a smile, "My goddess Liana, I didn't expect that you'd look so much more beautiful in person... This is from us. Please accept it."

"T...There's no need." Liana waved her hand. "I'm already very grateful that you're willing to pay attention to me. How can I let you spend money on me?"

"It's just a bouquet of flowers. It doesn't cost that much."

"There's really no need."

"Alright, I can hold onto the flowers for you first. It's dinner time now, so let's go for dinner together. By the way, we also have activities scheduled for the evening. It was all planned by us fans. Although we're all locals, it's not often that we get together, so we should have fun today."

"I've already eaten, so you go ahead. I also have something to do later, so I can't go. I'm sorry."

"Hiss... Liana Ballantine, what do you mean? So many of us came all the way here and spent time and money just to come over and play with you, but what did you do? You refused the flowers and meal, and don't even want to participate in the activities we carefully planned. Aren't you being too disrespectful to our sincerity?"

"No, that's not it. I'm really busy today..."

"Busy my *ss! Liana Ballantine, you don't really think you're some sort of big star, do you? Even big celebrities have to be polite when they meet fans, nevermind a small-time internet celebrity like you. If it weren't for us fans, you'd be worth nothing. Why are you acting so high and mighty?"

“Get lost!”

Alex could no longer bear to listen and roared angrily at the fan, and immediately took Liana away.

Alex returned to the villa, put the ingredients he bought in the kitchen, and sat down in the living room. He could not wait to play the commercials Liana shot and enjoyed them one by one, becoming fascinated. After watching it once, he immediately watched it a second time. In particular, the ten-minute version was not shot like a regular commercial, but in the form of a feature film. It was just like watching a movie.

In the ad, Liana wore a flowy dress whiter than snow. Coupled with her remarkable face and slim body, she looked like a fairy on earth.

As Alex watched intently he suddenly heard Isla. “Is it that good? Your eyeballs are about to fall out of their sockets. Why don’t you just dive into the phone?”

“Ahem ahem... “ Alex coughed dryly and got up to respond awkwardly, “It’s not my first time watching it. I’m viewing it from a different perspective. I want to see how the commercial was shot and if there’s any room for improvement. That’s why I’m watching it so seriously.”

“That so? The company has shot so many commercials. Why haven’t I seen you watch any of those?”

“I didn’t see any of them before... I bumped into Liana earlier and she told me to watch it. Anyway, I bought some ingredients. Let’s cook together today... You’ll be the chef and I’ll be your assistant.” Alex put away his phone and pulled Isla into the kitchen without saying a word.

Isla wanted to give him a few choice words, but her hand was caught by Alex and she did not want to destroy this atmosphere, so she held back.

Alex bought quite a lot of ingredients. The two of them were so busy it was dark by the time they started to eat.

It was just the two of them. There was no one to bother them and there was nothing they had to do in the evening, so they drank some red wine. Alex’s alcohol tolerance was not bad, and he had only turned slightly red after drinking a few glasses of wine, but Isla’s tolerance was not as good. After a few drinks, her face was flushed and her mind was also a little fuzzy.

After eating, Alex wanted to let Isla rest, but she insisted on helping to clean up the dishes.

Isla had changed into casual clothes. She wore a white short-sleeve shirt coupled with denim shorts so short that her exposed thighs seemed to shine. She put on an apron, so the front view was blocked, but the back view was open to all. When she bent over by the sink to wash the dishes, Alex could not take his eyes off her while standing behind her.

Compared to the thin Liana Ballantine, Isla's figure was more mature and belonged to the curvaceous type.

Alex slowly lost himself the more he looked and even got slightly hazy... Not only was the beauty intoxicating, the after-effects of drinking the wine also appeared. Red wine was like this. He did not feel anything when he drank it, but the real test only came after a while passed.

Suddenly, Isla twisted her waist and said to Alex, "The apron is going to fall off. Help me tie it."

"Huh? Ah..."

Alex returned to his senses and woodenly walked over behind Isla, pulling up the apron that had become undone. While he was tying the strings, under the close proximity stimulation of his senses, he suddenly could not hold back and leaned forward, pressing on Isla's body and caressing her waist gently.

"Hey, Alex, what are you doing?"

Isla was startled and twisted her waist, squirming.

It was fine if she did not move, but now that she did, it further stimulated Alex's primitive impulses, and he became even more uncontrollable...

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Under the influence of alcohol and primitive impulses, Alex could not help but hug Isla from behind.

Isla blushed instantly and her first reaction was to push Alex away. However, when Alex exhaled hot air into her ear, her body felt like it was being controlled again, making her a little disoriented. She clasped Alex's wrist, but did not apply any force. The words that should have come out of her mouth also stayed in her throat for some reason.

A meal with wine, a lone man and woman, and even intimate contact had occurred.

Although Isla had not experienced this kind of thing, she knew very well in her heart. If it was not stopped in time, both Alex and her would lose control, and then something

humiliating was bound to happen. She was not ready to have a more intimate encounter with Alex yet, but she had slight anticipation.

Just as Isla was torn on whether to destroy the atmosphere and forcefully stop Alex, she suddenly heard the sound of someone pounding on the door.

Alex also heard it and immediately snapped back to his senses as if touched by a flame. As he listened, he confirmed that someone was vigorously hitting the door of their villa. He even vaguely heard a cry.

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Alex became furious upon being disrupted and could not help but curse, "F*ck! Who the hell is here to come looking for trouble at night? Do they have nothing better to do?"

Isla hurriedly moved to the side and straightened her clothes, replying awkwardly, "Maybe it's an acquaintance who came to visit?"

"That's impossible! If it was an acquaintance, they wouldn't knock so loudly. If there was an emergency, they would definitely call me first instead of coming here directly... I'll go check it out. Don't come out yet."

Alex patted Isla on the shoulder and reluctantly left the kitchen, passing through the dining room and living room, and quickly arriving at the door of the main building. He had not reached the main door yet, but he already saw the group of people smashing the iron courtyard gates through the window. Looking intently, he was surprised to see that the one smashing the gate was the male fan who sent flowers to Liana Ballantine at the entrance of the villa area in the afternoon!

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However, the five young people gathered in front of the male fan were all new faces.

Alex realized that something was wrong and did not rush to the entrance of the courtyard. In any case, they would not be able to enter. He first took out his cell phone and dialed Liana's number, and asked hurriedly, "Liana, did those fans of yours come back to cause you any trouble?"

"No..." Liana sounded a little confused. "Alex, what's the matter?"

"The guy who gave you flowers hasn't left yet! He probably doesn't know which unit is yours and only found mine. You stay at home and don't come out. By the way, do you know who he is? Why do I feel like he isn't an ordinary fan?"

"He really isn't an ordinary person! I asked the other fans in the group earlier. His name is Arthur Tannin. He's the son of Delmont Tannin, the president of Sincere Co. The

people who came this afternoon didn't spontaneously team up to find me. He was the one who organized them!"

"So that's how it is. I can probably guess what's going on..."

Alex felt that it was strange in the afternoon.

Generally speaking, when a fan saw their idol, they would humble themselves. It was not deliberate action but an instinctive one. Stupid fans like Macy Falks were an exception. Normal people would not put themselves way below their idols, but at the very least, they would respect the idol.

Even if the idol rejected them, it was impossible to behave as arrogantly as Arthur Tannin.

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After learning about Arthur Tannin's identity, Alex realized that Arthur was most likely using the identity of a fan looking for an idol to pursue Liana Ballantine! After being repeatedly rejected by Liana, the young man was humiliated and became angry. He was not as forgiving as a real fan.

Alex had expected that with Liana's attractiveness, once she showed her face in public, it was bound to lead to trouble.

However, he never thought that the first person to cause trouble for Liana would be the young master of Sincere Co.

He did not know if it was deliberately arranged by the heavens or just a coincidence.

After all, Sincere Co. was Golden Stone's arch enemy. When Golden Stone almost collapsed, Grand Express's refusal to renew the contract only added insult to injury. The main reason why Golden Stone almost collapsed was because they were maliciously targeted by Sincere Co. Sincere Co. clearly took obviously unfair competitive means to steal Golden Stone's business and market.

If Alex had not intervened, Golden Stone might have been crushed or annexed by Sincere Co. by now...

Arthur Tannin also saw Alex. After confirming that Alex was the one who took Liana away in the afternoon, he immediately increased his strength in smashing the gate. He made up his mind that he definitely had to regain the reputation he lost today. First, it was to resolve the stifling in his heart, and it would also clear the obstacles in his path to pursue Liana Ballantine.

Ever since Arthur inadvertently saw Liana when he was scrolling through Instagram Stories, he could not get his mind off her.

Although Liana was only one of the hundreds of beauties that Arthur followed on his alternate account, she was one of the top beauties that interested him the most. He always obtained anything he wanted. When he learned that Liana was a local, he made her his number one prey.

When Arthur did not get a chance to ask Liana out alone, he found a group of people in Liana's local fan group and asked the group to come with him as fans while he paid for all the expenses. In his opinion, Liana's fame was given to her by her fans, and she should be willing to mingle with them. That was the opportunity he desperately needed to get with Liana.

However, he was not an ordinary fan, and Liana was not an ordinary Internet sensation. Liana did not worry about losing fans and refused his gifts and invitations one after another. She did not place any importance on a 'fan' like him at all. Being rejected by Liana was a secondary concern. What was more important was that he was a trust-fund kid, but his careful plans were destroyed by Alex Cohen. This was something he could not swallow.

Thus, when the fans he found were unwilling to go give a piece of their minds to Alex Cohen, he disbanded the temporarily organized group and immediately borrowed help from a friend who mingled around in the streets. After wandering around the villa area for several hours, he finally found out where Alex lived.

He still did not know Alex's identity. He just thought of Alex as an obstacle between Liana Ballantine and him.

For obstacles, the best way to deal with them was to kick them away...

When Arthur Tannin saw that Alex showed up but did not come out after a long time, he yelled at the top of his lungs. "Cohen, you dare to meddle in my f*cking business but you don't dare to face the consequences. Are you a coward? I'm warning you, you'd better hurry up and open the gate. Otherwise, I'll f*cking break it down."

If Alex was alone at home, he would have rushed over and opened the gate.

In order to prevent Arthur Tannin from leading people into the villa and hurting Isla, Alex called the villa's security team after talking with Liana.

However, even before the security guards arrived, Big Ken already showed up with Hunter Yates.

Two bodyguards, one to protect Alex and the other to protect Isla. They both worked in shifts to stand on guard nearby. The one on duty tonight was Hunter Yates. When he

saw Arthur Tannin and the others, he did not try to show off. In order to ensure the greatest safety for Alex and Isla, he called Big Ken to come before showing up.

Alex saw them coming and became confident. He went over to open the courtyard gates.

The two of them immediately stood left and right behind Alex, blocking Arthur and the others from entering the house.

As long as they did not try to enter the villa and cause trouble, everything would be under the two bodyguards' control...

Alex stood at the door with his hands behind his back. He stared at Arthur and said expressionlessly, "Arthur Tannin, are you f*cking sick? How am I supposed to sleep with you screaming at my gates in the middle of the night? If you have something to say then just spit it out!"

"Hiss... You know me?"

Arthur froze for a moment but did not ask more questions. He said indignantly, "Cohen, I came all the way here for an explanation on what happened in the afternoon. I was here for Liana Ballantine, what does it have to do with you? Who the f*ck told you to stick your nose into someone else's business? Since you know my name, you should know my identity. If you don't want to get into trouble, you better f*cking be obedient!"

"I left in a hurry in the afternoon and forgot to say something, but now I can tell you." Alex twisted his neck and said slowly, "Arthur Tannin, Liana Ballantine is under my protection. You better not harass her again. Otherwise, not only will you bear the consequences, you'll also cause trouble for Sincere Co.!"

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Arthur Tannin paused again and suddenly seemed to hesitate. He did not know how Alex had found out about his identity. Now, the reality was that Alex knew everything about him and still looked fearless, but he did not know anything about Alex. It was already too late to find out now.

They were face-to-face and had already thrown out malicious words.

It was impossible for Alex to pretend that he did not say anything and wait for him to investigate Alex's identity clearly, right?

He was now on the defensive and could not blame anyone. He could only blame his personality for only knowing how to indulge in pleasure and ignoring the company's affairs. There was no need to be very involved with Sincere Co. If Arthur cared the slightest bit about the company, he would not find Alex Cohen's name unfamiliar.

However, one thing was certain. Someone who could live in a villa and even afford a Lamborghini must definitely be swimming in money.

Arthur knew that things were looking bad, but he could not just show his fear here. After a pause, he pretended to be calm and said to Alex, "Are you threatening me? Do you think I'll be afraid of you? It sounds like not only are you looking down on me, you aren't taking Sincere Co. seriously either? Tell me, where exactly did you get the courage to say such crazy words?"

"Sigh..." Alex shook his head helplessly. "I don't even remember how many of you idiots have asked me where my confidence comes from. If this was in the past, I would've been willing to respond, but I'm not in the mood now. Besides, I've already made my stance clear and it's up to you to either believe me or not. However, I'll give you a reminder. If you end up suffering a loss because you don't believe me, don't blame me for not giving you a chance."

"Hmph, if you don't dare to explain yourself, then just say that. What's the point of using useless talk to try to cover up your panic inside? Cohen, I'll give you a warning. Don't meddle in my business with Liana Ballantine in the future. If you don't remember, I'll make you f*cking regret being born into this world!"

Arthur did not understand Alex's mood at this moment and thought that Alex was just putting on a brave front. His heart suddenly became confident.

He thought that Alex was just a little-known trust-fund kid. There was no need to fear him.

Alex did not take Arthur's threat to heart and said casually, "That's all I have to say. If you don't need anything else, you can get lost. By the way, if you like it here, you can take advantage of today to look around until you're satisfied. After today, it won't be as easy for you if you want to come in."

"Cut the crap and get back to business! Cohen, you better apologize for interrupting me this afternoon."

"Firstly, I don't think I did anything wrong. Second, you don't deserve an apology from me."

"Hiss... so you wanna do it the hard way? Boys, get him!"

Arthur's temper flared and he gave a loud order to take action.

The five helpers pounced at Alex at the same time.

Alex stood motionless and did not respond. He only stared at Arthur like he was looking at a fool.

Big Ken and Hunter Yates stepped forward fiercely and knocked down all five of Arthur Tannin's helpers in seconds.

The two of them struck extremely fast, and Arthur was so dazzled that he could not even see what happened.

A group of security guards arrived, but the fight had ended before they had the time to stop it.

Arthur looked at the helpers lying on the ground and was shocked and stunned by the combat power of Alex's two men. Fortunately, the security guards arrived. He immediately turned and coldly said to the lead security guard, "What are you standing there for? Can't you see them committing a violent act? Hurry up and arrest them!"

"Grab them! They must be arrested!"

The security guard captain's eyes were grave and he gave the order to his subordinates with a wave of his hand.

The security guards immediately pounced on Arthur Tannin and his five helpers and tied them together.

Arthur was stunned. After struggling several times and failing to break free, he gave up. He glared at the security guard captain and said, "Are you f*cking blind? I told you to get the ones who were assaulting us, why did you grab me instead? Let me remind you that I'm not someone you can mess with, so I advise you to let me go before I get angry!"

The security guard captain ignored Arthur and walked straight to Alex. He nodded and said respectfully, "Mr. Cohen, I'm really sorry. We didn't do our job well and allowed strangers in, which caused you trouble. Please forgive us. Don't worry, they've already been blacklisted by our security team. We'll never let them into the villa area again!"

Alex waved his hand. "It's fine, it's fine. It's just a bunch of idiots. They wouldn't be able to cause that much trouble even if they came in."

"Thank you, thank you for your understanding... Mr. Cohen, how shall we deal with them?"

"Just do it according to the rules."

"Alright!"

The security guard captain was relieved and waved his hand, and said, "Take them away!"

“Wait!” Arthur was anxious and increasingly confused, but there was not much time to think. He said to the security guard captain, “I suggest that you figure out who I am first before you make a decision. I’m Young Master Carlton’s friend! It’s not too late for you to regret this. If you dare to make another mistake again, all it takes is a call from me and you’re all f*cking fired!”

“Fine, make the call.”

The security chief hesitated for a few seconds but told the subordinate who was holding Arthur Tannin to let him go.

When Arthur regained his freedom, he immediately took out his cell phone and walked to the side to dial Carlton Favelle’s number. He said with a smile on his face, “Young Master Carlton, hello. I didn’t disturb your rest, did I? I’m Arthur Tannin. My father is Delmont Tannin. Your Wyatt Corporation has cooperated with us before... Here’s the thing, I’m in a bit of trouble in a villa area developed by your group. Could you come over and help me straighten things out? Ah... It’s quite urgent. We’re all waiting at the scene.”

While Arthur called Carlton Favelle, the security guard captain also sent a message to Carlton briefly explaining the situation, in case Arthur mixed up the story.

Before Wyatt Corp handed over all their promotional business to Golden Stone Corporation, they did have a small cooperation with Sincere Corp.

At that time, Delmont Tannin wanted Arthur to strike up a relationship with Carlton Favelle, so he specifically introduced them to each other.

Arthur made a lot of efforts to befriend the first-rate trust-fund kid Carlton Favelle.

Originally, Carlton did not mind making more connections, but then Alex Cohen took over Golden Stone and became rivals with Sincere Co., and Carlton cut off contact with Arthur Tannin in order to avoid suspicion. For him, there was no need for consideration in choosing between Alex Cohen and Arthur Tannin.

It did not take long for Carlton Favelle to arrive at the scene like lightning with his supercar.

Arthur quickly went to the car and pointed at Alex, and complained, “Young Master Carlton, it’s that guy, Alex Cohen. He injured my men so badly that they’re seriously injured. What’s even more irritating is that the security guards came and indiscriminately arrested my people. Isn’t that just nonsense?”

Carlton glanced at Arthur and called over the security guard captain, and said in a deep voice, “Take all the people who trespassed into the villa area to cause trouble back and

punish them severely. If necessary, hand them over to the police for the police to handle them.”

“Yes!” The security guard captain nodded firmly.

Arthur froze on the spot and said to Carlton in a daze, “Young Master Carlton, what’s going on? Did you make a mistake?”

“Isn’t it obvious what’s going on here? Do you think I could be mistaken? Take them away!”

Carlton could not be bothered to talk nonsense with small-fry like Arthur and told the security guards to take all six people, including Arthur Tannin, away. Then, he sincerely apologized to Alex.

Alex was not an unreasonable person. He naturally could not blame Carlton Favelle or the security guards.

On the other hand, Arthur was tossed into a cell by the security guards and was still unable to figure out what happened today.

The next morning, Alex and Isla did not go to the office but went to the City Hall to handle the divorce procedures.

At this point, Alex Cohen and Isla Sullivan’s agreed identity of a couple was officially dissolved.

Alex took Isla back to the car and shot a look at Isla, and said mischievously, “There’s a saying that good things happen up to three times. In the future when we get another certificate, it’ll finally be the third ‘good thing’, and all will be well.

Isla rolled her eyes and said, “Was that saying supposed to be understood in this way? Was your language subject taught by your PE teacher?”

“Who cares about that? Isla, from now on, we’re both properly unmarried people. Your opportunity has come.”

“What opportunity?”

“The opportunity to court me, of course! I’m telling you, I’m in high demand. If you’re interested in me, you better act quick, otherwise...”

“Otherwise what?”

Alex shrugged and said with a smile, “Otherwise, you’ll have to wait for me to court you...”

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Isla blushed, too embarrassed to discuss this topic.

It was clear that she could not wait to accept Alex's confession, but she could not speak out what was in her heart.

She had to admit that falling in love with a straight man was a rather torturous affair.

Alex was in no hurry to confess his love to Isla and did not want to take that step casually. The Internet said that life needed a sense of ritual. When it came to love, a confession was only second in importance to marriage, and one should strive to make that event perfect. He must not be hasty.

He had to wait for the conditions to be ripe and find a suitable opportunity to do it...

The next day, Alex did not have any other plans and went to Golden Stone Corporation with Isla.

Now that the company was running very well, it was enough to have Isla presiding over it.

Alex knew that he did not have to worry about Golden Stone. Instead, he had not been to Hudson Designs and met Felix Moore for a long time. Since there was nothing else to do today, he said goodbye to Isla and went to Hudson Designs with Big Ken.

Along the way, Jane Simpson called. "Mr. Cohen, are you free now? My Uncle wants to talk to you."

Alex paused. "Captain Simpson should be recuperating from his injury now, why do I feel that he's even busier now than before he was injured? I'm free anytime, but he shouldn't overwork himself. Jane, ask him if it's urgent. If it isn't, we'll wait until he recovers from his injury."

"Uncle said that it's urgent. He needs to talk to you as soon as possible."

"Okay... I'll go over now."

Alex knew that Harvey Simpson was a workaholic, so he did not say much and told Big Ken to change the route, rushing to Military Hospital.

When Harvey saw Alex, he immediately told Jane to raise the hospital bed. He signaled the medical staff to leave and asked Jane to shut the door, making it seem very secretive.

Alex's curiosity was aroused, but Harvey's cautious actions also made him nervous. He quickly pulled a chair and sat down beside the hospital bed, asking impatiently, "Captain Simpson, did something happen?"

"Yes!"

Captain Simpson nodded solemnly and said slowly, "Mr. Cohen, do you already know Leo's identity?"

"You mean the person who was working with Chase Lucas?"

"That's him."

"I heard that he's the henchmen of the big drug lord, Keon Wells?"

"If you know Leo's identity, then it'll be easier to understand what I'm about to say next. He has been arrested by our joint efforts and will be sentenced soon. I was originally in charge of this case, but after I was injured, the case was handed over to the vice captain. This morning, the vice captain called me and said that he got a tip-off that Keon Wells took Leo's arrest very seriously and will put aside the matter of earning money..."

"So? Keon Wells wouldn't try to organize a jailbreak, right?"

"It'll be a good thing for our narcotics division if he really only wanted to cause a jailbreak. Since we've already done enough preparations, if he dares to come, then we'll ensure that he'll never return. The problem is that Keon Wells is a shrewd person and will most likely not do something that stupid. In that case, what can he do if he can't save Leo?"

"Take revenge for Leo?"

"Exactly! According to the tip, Keon Wells sent a lot of people, all of whom are ruthless. I don't know where those people went, and I don't know what specific orders Keon Wells gave, but I can guess that they definitely want to avenge Leo. This way, the people who contributed to Leo's capture are in danger, and you are bound to become the number one target of those people!"

"I knew that something more would happen to that incident..."

"Mr. Cohen, I called you here today just to remind you that you must be doubly careful. You should have known for a long time that Keon Well's men are much more formidable than street thugs. It's no exaggeration to say that they're all vicious people who would die for money. No matter how arrogant street gangsters are they'll only dare to use blunt weapons, but almost every single one of those drug dealers has a gun!"

"Thank you for the warning, Captain Simpson. I'll be more careful."

“Well... The police will also be vigilant all the time.”

Captain Simpson thought about it but did not speak out the suggestion of arranging police officers to protect Alex.

Even if he did, Alex would most likely refuse, and it would also be an insult to Big Ken.

After all, protecting Alex Cohen was Big Ken’s main job.

However, just because Captain Simpson did not say it did not mean that he abandoned the idea. If it was inconvenient to say it out loud, he would just arrange for it secretly...

Alex knew long ago that Keon Wells was not someone to be trifled with. After listening to Harvey Simpson’s warning, his level of precaution against Keon Wells raised a level. After saying goodbye to Harvey and getting into the car, he called Francis Cohen and Aaron Lindstrom and reminded them to be more careful. He told them to be on guard like they were when being wary of Chase Lucas.

Alex originally thought of letting Francis Cohen live in the city as soon as possible after settling things.

However, there was potential danger now and the situation had changed, so it was better to let Francis stay in the countryside for a while longer.

Immediately afterwards, Alex arranged another task for Symore to send more people to guard Mallow Village and take security precautions. They must also be prepared to move Francis Cohen and Aaron Lindstrom, and prevent them from being taken hostage. Otherwise, Alex would be forced into a defensive position.

If Keon Wells’s men caught this lifeline, the consequences would be unthinkable!

Big Ken waited for Alex to finish his call before saying in a serious manner, “Young Master, ordinary people will only be cannon fodder against Keon Wells’s men. In order to better protect you and the people you care about, I think we should ask the Master to send some help, people who are at the level of Hunter Yates and me and have gun permits, and carry guns with them.

In the past, in order to prove himself, Alex would not have taken the initiative to ask the family for help except as a last resort.

However, after a little consideration now, he nodded and agreed. “Big Ken, I’ll leave this matter to you...”

Big Ken nodded and immediately sent a message to Wayne Larson explaining the situation, and continued to ask, “Young Master, are we still heading to Hudson Designs?”

“Hm... Forget it. We'll go back to Golden Stone.”

Alex used to want to expand his connections as much as possible and was happy to walk around, but as Big Ken said, in order to better protect the people who he cared about now, it was best to minimize walking around until the danger from Keon Wells was eliminated. That was because there was a possibility of the people close to him being captured as hostages by Keon Wells.

Thus, Alex gave up on meeting Felix Moore and simply called him up for a chat.

Back at Golden Stone, Alex truthfully relayed the information that Harvey Simpson said to Isla. There were many people he cared about now, but if he had to rank them, there were two who he cared about the most. One was Francis Cohen, and the other was Isla Sullivan.

After finishing the talk, Alex leaned on Isla and said sincerely, “I'm sorry, Isla. I caused a lot of trouble and put the people around me in a dangerous situation, especially you. You could have lived an easy and comfortable life...”

Isla curled her lips and said, “Alex, I really don't like you fighting and killing, but I also understand. You said something that was very reasonable once. If you don't look for trouble from others, others will look for trouble from you. You have a special status and can enjoy a lot of preferential treatment. This wasn't your choice but was determined by your identity. However, the heavens are fair and won't give everything good to one person. As the saying goes, money comes from danger. It's often impossible to have both wealth and comfort.”

“Is that what you really think?”

“Of course! Alex, don't apologize to me for this anymore. As long as you follow my advice and protect yourself, I won't blame you.”

“Isla, my heart feels much better after listening to what you said.”

Alex could feel that Isla's nature had changed greatly. She was getting closer and closer to becoming a 'virtuous wife'.

What Isla just said not only made his heart feel more comfortable, it also made him more determined to pursue her. The reason why he felt that the time was not ripe to confess to Isla was because he was worried that she would not be able to accept constantly having to live in fear...

As Alex analyzed, Isla did make certain compromises in order to be together with him.

To accept him was to accept his state of life.

As the two talked, Isla's phone rang. It was from Victor Sullivan.

Isla answered the call and said to Alex, "My dad asked us to have dinner together in the evening."

"Hm?" Alex was surprised. "Did something happen?"

"My dad didn't say, but... He must have something he wants to say. We'll see if you have time. If you're not free, I'll just go by myself."

Isla finished speaking and stared intently at Alex.

Although she said that Alex could refuse to go, her heart still desperately hoped that he would agree.

That was because she knew what her dad wanted to see Alex for.

Alex did not see what Isla was thinking but still nodded without hesitation. "It's quite embarrassing to say, but it seems I haven't met your father since he was discharged from the hospital. Since he took the initiative to invite me, I definitely have to go... I can't go empty-handed either."

Isla said joyfully, "You're not an outsider. Are you going to bring a gift?"

"I should prepare one..."

Alex was determined to pursue Isla, so Victor Sullivan would be his future father-in-law.

Although they were old acquaintances, everyone knew that when visiting the father-in-law as a prospective son-in-law, one must never go empty-handed.

In the afternoon, Alex went out and bought several tens of thousands of dollars in gifts.

As soon as he got off work, he took Isla back to the place where they had lived for more than three months.

Isla deliberately hired a housekeeper for the family. When they arrived home, the housekeeper had already prepared a sumptuous dinner.

After seeing Alex's strength, Victor Sullivan's attitude towards him was not as bad as before.

Furthermore, Alex had later become his benefactor, so he was very polite to Alex now.

However, Xena Sanders still continued to put on airs and act humbler. She felt a little awkward facing Alex now and hardly spoke to him during the meal.

After dinner, Victor sent Isla to wash the dishes and then said to Alex, "Could you play chess with me?"

"Of course..." Alex agreed without thinking. "Mr. Sullivan, I didn't know you had this hobby."

"I've liked it since I was a child, but I used to be so busy at work that I didn't have time to play. After I was discharged from the hospital, I took out the dusty chess set..."

Victor talked while bringing Alex to the study.

Xena Sanders also entered and even closed the door.

Alex saw this situation and knew at a glance that Victor and Xena had something to say to him alone.

Victor spoke casually while setting up the chess board, "Alex, how have you been getting along with Lala lately?"

Alex nodded. "Pretty well."

"Ah... I heard that you guys got your divorce done?"

"Yeah. It was originally a contract marriage, so we should have divorced."

"Then, how do you plan on getting along in the future?"

Victor inviting Alex to play chess was just a pretext. Now that they started to talk about business, Victor stopped arranging the board and stared straight at Alex.

Alex guessed what Victor wanted to say. He hesitated for a moment before gritting his teeth and saying, "Mr. Sullivan, to be honest, I... I want to woo Lala. Although we had a contract marriage, once had a lot of conflicts, and did not seem like we could end up at this point together, the world is unpredictable, and a spark lit up between us. Although we haven't expressed our feelings for each other yet, I can feel that our hearts have come together."

"I saw that coming a long time ago..."

Victor's smile became brilliant.

He had indeed long seen the extraordinary relationship between Alex and Isla. When Isla came to get the marriage certificate, he had also asked. At that time, Isla did not hide anything and said everything truthfully. Today, he called Alex not to ask about his intentions, but to test him...

Super Son-In-Law Chapter 168 -

Alex was initially quite apprehensive, not knowing whether Victor Sullivan and Xena Sanders would accept him as their son-in-law.

Xena and him had fallen out to the point of drawing knives against each other, and the conflicts that had been piling up for months could not be completely resolved in a short period of time. He had long been completely disappointed in Xena and no longer cared about what she thought of him. Instead, he was more concerned about Victor's reaction.

Although the saying that parents decided on their childrens' wedding had become obsolete, he still could not completely ignore the feelings of her parents.

After hearing Victor's response, it seemed that he did not object to his coming together with Isla. He asked curiously, "Victor, did you already put down all your prejudice against me?"

"I let them go a long time ago." Victor waved his hand and replied. "If I hadn't, the moment I learned that you and Lala were married under false pretenses, I wouldn't have let you two interact with each other anymore, let alone live together. If outsiders knew that Lala was living with a man she had nothing to do with, as a father, I would have gotten my back broken by someone already. Especially those relatives, you know that none of them has a good heart..."

"But there was a marriage certificate as a cover. Outsiders wouldn't know that Lala and I had a fake marriage."

"That's why I rushed to get you over to talk. Before going through the divorce process, no one would talk about the two of you living together, but now that you're divorced, if you still want to live together, you need to establish your relationship and confirm Lala's status. Otherwise, I would feel uncomfortable even if the outsiders don't say anything."

"Mr. Sullivan, you mean..."

"Quickly find a time to bring over all your relatives, make clear your relationship with Lala, and then... then you guys can get engaged."

"Huh?"

Alex did not expect that Victor was so relieved with him to the extent that he actually took the initiative to urge him and Isla to get engaged.

Xena Sanders, who had yet to speak, suddenly glared at Alex and asked with a gloomy face, "Alex Cohen, what are you doing? The engagement should be mentioned by the groom's side first. Seeing that you are young and don't know the rules, we didn't bother and took the initiative to bring it up, but you still don't seem to be happy about it? Are

you just messing around with Lala? I'm warning you, Lala isn't an unbecoming girl. We won't allow her to be with uncouth men!"

"You've misunderstood." Alex waved his hands as he replied. "Lala and I are genuinely in love with each other. We're serious about each other and aren't people who would take our feelings for granted. The engagement will definitely be done, and we'll go through all the processes, but isn't it too hasty to get engaged now?"

"I don't care about that! Anyway, you either get engaged as soon as possible or live separately right away."

"But... aren't you forcing us like this?"

Xena got irritated and glared at Alex, "Who's the one forcing the other here? As a man, you have it easy. Even if outsiders knew the relationship between Lala and you, no one would be pointing fingers at you. But have you ever thought about Lala? Have you thought about it from our point of view? Do you know how important chastity and reputation are to a girl?"

"Is it really as serious as you say so? Nowadays, there are many unmarried people living together. Besides, me and Lala are only living in the same house, not really cohabitating. It's just like... like housemates. Yes, it's similar to being housemates."

"Housemates? If word gets out, do you think anyone will believe it?"

"Sigh..."

Alex did not expect Xena to make this issue so complicated. After a long sigh, he slowly responded, "The engagement is not something I can decide on alone. We can continue this after I discuss with Lala, but I cannot guarantee that the engagement will be held in the near future. I'm fine with it, but we still need to respect Lala's wishes, right?"

When Xena felt that Alex finally admitted defeat, her heart was slightly relieved. After managing her thoughts, she continued, "You guys should hurry up and discuss. Alex, since we're talking about this, let me mention the subsequent requirements. According to the old rules, you have to find a matchmaker for the engagement, and also arrange for us to meet with your parents in advance."

"Seriously?"

Alex was instantly shocked.

If he could have Francis Cohen as a parent on his side, it would be fine. He could invite Francis anytime, but if he were asked to bring his biological parents, it would be difficult. Forget about Wayne Larson for now and talk about his biological mother instead. Even

now, he still had not met his biological mother. How could he invite her to discuss his marriage?

Speaking of which, Alex also suddenly realized a problem.

Should he discuss his marriage with his biological parents in advance?

Victor noticed Alex frown and thought that he was feeling awkward,, and hurriedly compromised. "Alex and Lala have gone through so many hardships. It wasn't easy to stay together, so let's not pay too much attention and just keep it simple. Besides, aren't matchmakers no longer widespread in cities? I think that the same applies to the countryside too."

"How is that fine?" Xena choked. "If there is no matchmaker, how do we discuss the betrothal gift?"

"What? You want a betrothal gift too?"

"I mean... Victor Sullivan, what do you mean by that? We've worked hard to raise Lala, and now we're letting her marry into the Cohen family for nothing? Don't you think it's a loss?"

"A loss? I can't believe you could say such a thing! Are you selling your daughter or marrying her off?"

"I... Victor Sullivan, which side are you on? Huh?"

Alex saw that Victor and Xena were about to quarrel and quickly took over the conversation. "Mr. Sullivan, the betrothal gift must be given. It's not a matter of marrying off or selling, but rather the groom's attitude. It's also a sign of sincerity from my side. However, we do not need a matchmaker anymore. If you have any thoughts or requests, just tell me directly. No need for others to be the middleman. Let's discuss face to face. It's more direct this way."

Xena glanced at Victor and said, "See, even the young man knows a principle you don't understand. In my opinion, you are living more and more in the past! Victor, from now on, you don't need to worry about Lala's marriage anymore, I'll be calling the shots instead!"

Victor could not be bothered to quarrel with Xena and pursed his lips, "You can choose not to consult my opinion, but it is best to discuss with Lala. The relationship between you two mother and daughter hasn't been straightened out yet. If conflicts arise again, who knows how serious it would turn out. Don't forget, Lala once ran away from home!"

"If she doesn't listen to me, then she's unfilial!" Xena also could not bother to argue with Victor and continued talking to Alex. "I'm fine with not having a matchmaker. We'll just

talk face to face. Our Sullivan family is a large family, so the betrothal gift must match our family's status."

Alex nodded his head. "Then tell me first. What kind of betrothal gift do you want?"

Xena said without hesitation, "There's no need for any gold, silver, or jewelry. Convert it all to cash. \$18.88 million..."

Victor's eyes almost bulged out, "What? Xena Sanders, were you driven mad by money?"

"Shut your mouth!" Xena yelled at Victor and curled her lips, "I've already asked around. For ordinary families in the countryside to get married, the price was already in the hundreds of thousands. Based on the Sullivan family's background, what's wrong with asking for 18.88 million? His family is also a wealthy family. It's not like they can't afford it."

Alex raised his hand to stop Victor who was about to speak, and said to Xena, "As you wish."

"Don't be in a hurry, I haven't finished yet..." Xena continued, "No matter how much cash is given, it'll all be spent eventually. Now our family has no more properties, but you have several companies under your name. How about giving one of them to us? Besides, we were the ones who established Golden Stone, so we're very familiar with it. You can think of it as returning Golden Stone to our family."

"What?"

This time, not only was Victor stunned, Alex's mouth also fell open in shock.

After all, the investment into Golden Stone was as high as three hundred million. After Alex took over, it expanded even further. Now, it was no exaggeration to say that Golden Stone's value had doubled, which was six hundred million! Putting aside how Xena was demanding an exorbitant sum, the main issue was her telling Alex to 'return' Golden Stone to the Sullivan family.

It was as if Alex owed them!

Alex was willing to give her face for Isla's sake, but there was a limit.

Unfortunately, Xena did not appreciate it and said to Alex with squinted eyes: "If you don't want to give it, then from now on, you will stay away from our Lala..."

Super Son-In-Law Chapter 169 -

Xena's attitude had broken through Alex's tolerance threshold.

Alex's patience had been exhausted. He directly got up and said to Xena with a blank expression, "I won't give an answer to the request you made for now. I think what Mr. Sullivan said was very reasonable. This is about Lala's marriage after all, so it's best that you communicate with her first. By the way, I don't owe you anything, and I don't owe your family anything."

"Hiss..."

Xena got angry and also stood up, glaring at Alex. "You think you can ignore us just because Lala is in love with you? Then I can tell you clearly, you're thinking too much. It's not like Lala can't get married. There are plenty of people who are willing to pay a large bride price. It doesn't have to be you!"

"Seriously, the more I listen to you, the more I think you're trying to sell your daughter instead of marrying her."

"You scoundrel! Is this how you talk to your elders? Didn't your mother teach you... Oh right, from what I heard from Lala, you were discarded from birth and were raised by a countryman. I really don't know what Lala was thinking. It's not like all the men in the world are dead. How did she fall for you, this scoundrel who was born but not taught by a mother?"

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"What did you say? Do you want to try saying that again?"

Alex could not hold back and clenched his fist.

Xena was shocked by Alex's sudden fierce appearance, but she quickly came back to her senses and gritted her teeth. "What, do you want to fight? Come on, I dare you to hit me. What I said was the truth. Why are you so mad about it? If you're not happy, you should ask your mother why she abandoned you instead. Why are you getting angry at me?"

"Enough!"

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Just when Alex was about to explode, Isla suddenly banged the door and entered.

Isla knew what her father was going to talk with Alex before she came, but since she could not hold back her curiosity, after helping the housekeeper tidy up the kitchen, she fumbled towards the door to eavesdrop. She just so happened to listen to the part where Alex and Xena were arguing. Just like Alex, she could no longer hold back her patience and rushed in to grab Alex's arm while glaring at Xena. "This is my wedding. You're not allowed to interfere!"

Xena furrowed her brows and hesitated for two seconds before suddenly glaring, and said, "Lala, why are you like your father, always helping outsiders speak against me? Do you guys want to die of anger? By the way... you came just in time. I was about to ask you, besides Alex's family's wealth, what else is good? What exactly do you see in him?"

"This is my business. It has nothing to do with you!"

"I'm your mother, you... How dare you say such things?"

"Then, from now on, you no longer are!"

"What? What did you say?"

Isla was so mad that she lost reason, and spat at Xena word by word, "I want to cut ties with you! From now on, there's no relationship between you and I. You're not allowed to interfere with not only my marriage, but all my affairs! You... You can just pretend that you never had me as your daughter!"

After saying that, Isla dragged Alex and left in a hurry.

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Victor's recently cured heart disease almost acted up again. He quickly ran towards the door, but failed to hold back Isla. He turned back and returned to the study room, and said to Xena, who was sitting on the ground, "This is all your fault! Just now, I warned you not to confront Lala, but you didn't listen to me. What did you get? The bride price is gone, and you even lost your f*cking daughter!"

Xena cried and wailed, "What did I do wrong for the heavens to treat me this way? Do you all want me to die of anger?"

"Don't worry, if people can actually die of anger, then Lala and I will definitely die in front of you!"

After Victor spoke, he quickly went back to his room, and grabbed a suitcase. He haphazardly packed a few sets of clothes, took his phone and wallet, and prepared to leave.

Xena saw that things were looking bad and hurriedly rushed out, grabbing hold of Victor together with the housekeeper.

However, Victor already made his decision and pushed away Xena and the housemaid. He said furiously, "I can't bear to stay in this house anymore. I'm leaving now! Xena Sanders, you should reflect on yourself at home. Once you have reflected well, only then will I come back!"

“Go, just go! This family is already in shambles, I don’t even care anymore!”

Xena displayed a defeated posture. It seemed like she had already given up.

Victor did not say anything and angrily slammed the door as he left.

He was still unsure of where to go, but that was not important. It was fine as long as he was no longer in that house.

However, the moment he reached downstairs, he was stopped by two young men with masks. Victor noticed that one of the men had an indistinct tattoo on his arm and realized that something was wrong. He immediately suppressed more than half of his pent up anger and said tentatively, “Please move aside.”

The tattooed man did not move and stared at Victor as he asked, “Where do you think you’re going?”

“Do we know each other? Do you have the wrong person?”

“Your name is Victor Sullivan, Isla Sullivan’s father, CEO of Gold Stone Co.. You originally had a congenital heart disease and was just cured shortly after with the help of Alex Cohen, right?”

“Hiss... Who the hell are you?”

“You don’t have to ask that. All you need to know is that you won’t be able to go anywhere today. Come on, let’s go to your house and sit down.”

“Why should I?”

“You should, because...”

As the tattooed man spoke, he pulled out a black shiny pistol from his lower back...

On the other side, Big Ken was driving Alex and Isla back.

Alex and Isla both sat bored in the back row, not saying a word, and had been silent for more than ten minutes.

Finally, Big Ken was the one who broke the silence. “Young Master, ever since we set out from the villa today, I had a strange feeling as if there were a pair of eyes hiding in the shadows watching. I paid attention all the way and did not find anything unusual, but the feeling of unease in my heart has not dissipated up until now...”

Alex immediately got anxious. “What if Keon Wells’s men have already reached this city and have their eyes on me?”

“That might be possible! Young Master, to be on the safe side, let’s take a few extra turns outside for a while longer.”

“Yes, we’ll do that!”

Alex nodded his head, turned to look at Isla, hesitated for a few seconds before asking softly, “I’m sorry. Because of me, you’ve fallen out with your family again.”

Isla sighed and shook her head. “It had nothing to do with you. With my mother’s attitude, no matter who I fall in love with, as long as we get to the point of marriage, there will be a situation like today. I have the same feeling as you. She doesn’t want to marry me off, but sell me like some merchandise.”

“So, you admit to being in a relationship with me?”

“No... Alex, was that the point I was trying to make?”

“Ahem, I understand. Isla, when you said you’re cutting off ties with your mother, were you being serious?”

“Of course I was! I already had that in mind the last time we had a huge argument. I held back that time, but I could no longer tolerate it now. But... my main purpose of doing this is to show my mother my attitude and hope that she’ll realize her own mistakes. If I had chosen to continue tolerating, she wouldn’t reflect and instead become more aggressive. In that case, the situation of our family would only get worse.”

“So what you mean is, as long as she reflects well, you will still acknowledge her as your mother?”

“Yeah... Alex, do you blame me for that?”

“Why would I?”

Alex shook his head, firmly held one of Isla’s hands, consoling her. “Although I’ve never felt motherly love, I still know that motherly love is as great as fatherly love. Even though what your mother did is a little overboard, your life was given by her after all. If she hadn’t given birth to you and raised you, I wouldn’t have met you. In that sense, the first person I have to thank for being able to come together with you is her. I’m an outsider so it’s fine if I fight with her, but you’re different. You’re her own flesh and blood. No one can replace the relationship between you two... I believe that sooner or later, she will mend her ways.”

“Thank you for understanding! Actually, I have the same thought as you... Alex, you know my mother’s attitude well. She shoots her mouth off and is quite harsh. You need to be more understanding of her and don’t let her provoke you. No matter what she says, it’s just her own opinion. It doesn’t represent me.”

“I won’t lower myself to argue with her.”

Alex could feel that if Isla had to choose between Xena Sanders and him, she would pick him.

To him, that was more than enough...

Super Son-In-Law Chapter 170 -

After hearing Alex’s response, Isla felt better in her heart. She took out her phone and dialed her father’s phone number, but there was no response. Thinking that her father was still arguing with her mother, she stopped calling and sent a message via WhatsApp, briefly explaining her thoughts.

Big Ken kept a high level of vigilance and carefully observed the whole way, but still could not find any abnormalities.

However, just to be safe, Big Ken deliberately took a long detour on the way, thinking that it would get rid of the possible stalkers before returning to the villa area. After seeing Alex and Isla enter through the door, he immediately called the head of the security team of the South City Villas and asked the security team to be on the alert.

Isla went straight up to the second floor into her room to put down her phone and bag, and took a shower.

Before she finished showering, she heard the beep of a video call.

When she hurriedly finished showering and came out, the other party had already hung up. She picked up her phone to take a look and saw that it was from her father, and dialed back. After about twenty seconds, the video call was finally answered. She was wiping her hair with a towel when she glanced at the phone and instantly got scared stiff.

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What was being displayed in the video screen was indeed her father, Victor Sullivan.

However, Victor was kneeling on the ground with both hands tied to his back and a rag stuffed in his mouth. As the camera at that end shifted a little, she could clearly see that Xena and the housekeeper were also kneeling on the ground. Their hands were also tied behind their backs and their mouths were stuffed with rags too.

All three looked wretched. Their faces showed signs of redness and swelling, seemingly having just been beaten up.

As Isla saw this, her inner moodiness and anger were swept away, but her brain was still a little short-circuited. The towel in her hand fell to the ground and she almost dropped her phone. She hurriedly held the phone steady and asked anxiously, "Dad, mom, what happened?"

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All three of them also saw Isla through the phone and started to struggle desperately. However, all their mouths were gagged and they were unable to utter a single word. They were only able to make muffled noises. Nevertheless, she could tell from their panicked expressions that the situation was extremely dangerous.

Suddenly, Victor and the others went silent and no longer dared to struggle.

Isla could clearly see a man wearing a black mask. His hand wielded a silenced pistol as he appeared on the screen.

This person was indeed the tattooed man who forcefully brought Victor into the house earlier.

The current person holding the phone was his accomplice.

The tattooed man raised his pistol and pointed it towards the heads of Victor and the others, scaring them so much that they did not dare to say anything. He then turned his head and stared at Isla through the phone screen, saying in a hoarse voice, "If you don't want to see the three of them die one by one, don't call the police."

"Okay, okay, I won't call the police!"

Isla had never faced such a predicament and was scared out of her wits. It was clear that the tattooed man was a robber and held the three people in the house as hostages. She did not hesitate at all and agreed directly, saying eagerly, "You want money, right? How much do you want? Give me a number and I will immediately give the money to you! But you have to promise not to hurt them!"

"Money? Money is just printed paper. We can talk about that later. What I want now is a person!"

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"A... a person?"

"I don't need you, I'm looking for Alex Cohen!"

"Huh?"

After hearing this, Isla could guess the identity of the tattooed man. He should be one of Keon Wells's henchmen, as mentioned by Big Ken and Alex on the way back just now.

Naturally, she also knew the tattooed man's purpose of looking for Alex, which was to take revenge.

Initially, Isla was considering how to let Alex know what happened at home, but suddenly changed her mind. If she told Alex to come over, the tattooed man would order him to go there. With his nature, in order to save the hostages, he would certainly not hesitate to agree to all of the person's demands.

In that case, the odds would be against Alex, and they might also not be able to get the hostages back either.

After her analysis, Isla looked at the phone and said, "Alex Cohen is not at home, he... he went out to drink, I'll hang up first to give him a call. You can rest assured that I will not call the police and will bring Alex back as soon as possible. Please don't rush, don't hurt the hostages!"

"Wait!"

The tattooed man stopped Isla and said in a deep voice: "Isla Sullivan, are you treating me like a three-year-old child? I'll add a few more requests. First, you can't hang up the video call unless you have my permission. Secondly, don't try to be perfunctory, just do as I say. If you violate any of these conditions, someone here will die!"

"No! I'm not messing with you, Alex really hasn't come back yet..."

"I guess you're the kind who won't learn until reality slaps you in the face! Then see for yourself. This person will die because of you!"

After he spoke, the tattooed man pointed the pistol barrel at the housekeeper's head, causing her to shiver in fear.

When Isla realized that the tattooed man was not joking around, her face turned pale from shock and quickly corrected herself. "Don't do anything crazy, I'll listen to your orders! Please wait, I'll immediately bring Alex over here..."

Bang!

Unfortunately, the tattooed man was not swayed. Following his own ideas, he decisively fired the gun.

With a muffled sound, a bullet buried deep into the housekeeper's head.

The housekeeper fell onto a puddle of blood and died on the spot.

Both Victor and Xena went pale with fright upon witnessing this scene, and almost wet their pants. They knew that the situation was dire, but they never expected that the tattooed man would actually shoot and kill someone. Even in movie screenings, in cases like these, the kidnapers generally did not dare to kill easily, right?

However, now they knew that the robber they met today was much more ruthless than they had imagined.

Xena overheard the conversation between Isla and the tattooed man. The tattooed man kidnapped them to deal with Alex. In other words, they were dragged into this mess by Alex. She was unable to speak, but if she could, in addition to begging for forgiveness from the tattooed man, she would definitely pour out a torrent of abuse towards Alex.

Victor could guess that the tattooed man was Alex's enemy. Although he felt a little wronged and hoped to be saved, his fears for Alex and Isla far exceeded his own. If he had a chance to speak, he would not beg Alex and Isla to save him, but instead warn them not to come over.

As for Isla, her thoughts were the complete opposite of Victor.

Seeing that the tattooed man had killed the innocent housekeeper, Isla could tell that the tattooed man was a murderous and ruthless character. If she did not do what the tattooed man wanted, the next to be killed would be one of her parents.

Even though she was utterly disappointed in Xena and even cut off ties with her, she still did not want anything to happen to her.

And as for Victor, saving him was a given!

This was the first time in Isla's life that she encountered such a crisis. She finally understood Alex's willingness to sacrifice his life to save others. Originally, she did not understand Alex's behavior, but now she acted the same as he did, not hesitating to rush out and find Alex as fast as possible.

For one thing, she did not dare to challenge the patience of the tattooed man again. She could only let Alex show himself.

Secondly, she was scared out of her wits and urgently needed Alex to manage the situation.

Alex listened to Isla's cries as she explained the situation and sneakily took out his cell phone to dial Big Ken's phone number. He did not dare to talk to Big Ken and instead placed the phone on the coffee table. Then, he took Isla's phone and asked the tattooed man on the other end, "Who are you anyway? Why did you kidnap Isla's parents? Why did you kill her family's housekeeper? Aren't they all innocent?"

With these few questions, Alex had pretty much relayed the sudden situation to Big Ken.

The tattooed man stared closely at the screen. After confirming Alex's identity, he slowly spoke, "They were indeed innocent, but they got dragged into this because of you. If you want to save them, the only way is for you to hurry over and replace them. Remember, do not call the police. You only have forty minutes. If you exceed the time limit, for every five minutes that pass, I will kill a person. You could have replaced all three hostages, but because Isla Sullivan dawdled too much, I've already killed one, leaving only two left. Okay, the clock starts now..."

As he finished, the tattooed man cleanly hung up the video call.

Alex also had no time to waste and grabbed his phone, preparing to leave.

At this moment, Hunter Yates rushed into the house and stopped Alex, saying, "Young Master, I'm sorry, but I cannot allow you to take the risk..."