

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

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Replaced With an Annoying Face

Chapter 458: Replaced With an Annoying Face

Lucas remained silent and relaxed in his chair, as if he was an outsider that wasn't involved at all.

He wanted to see how far Flynn could go.

Flynn also understood that Lucas was letting him handle the situation as he wished. Besides, Lucas was sitting right behind him anyway. Even if he couldn't deal with it, Lucas would have his back, so there was nothing he had to worry about.

Matthew narrowed his eyes.

It was the first time in recent years that he came to LA, and it was the first time he met Flynn, the new hotshot who had just risen to power in LA. But Flynn's behavior took him by surprise.

Although he didn't know what kind of relationship there was between Flynn and Lucas, he wouldn't let Lucas off simply because he had broken the arm of his precious son!

"Flynn Davis, you'd better stop what you're doing. I'm afraid you won't be able to bear the consequences of offending the Parkers and the Bensons for the sake of a penniless punk without a powerful background! I doubt you'd be so foolish as to lose your life for an outsider, right?" Matthew's tone was extremely threatening.

It was clear what he meant: if Flynn insisted on taking Lucas's side, he would kill Flynn.

Given the power and methods that the Bensons had employed in the past, it would be a piece of cake for them to get someone killed.

Flynn thought about it for a second before looking up with a sneer. He gibed, "Mr. Benson, you seem to think that the Bensons are invincible, don't you? Well, I'm sorry, but I don't like to be threatened. Since you insist on getting involved, all of the Bensons' businesses in LA will also cease to exist starting today!"

Then he took out his phone again and made another call. "Get rid of all of Matthew Benson's businesses in LA!"

Flynn was directly falling out with the Bensons!

Everyone was dumbfounded and couldn't believe their ears. *It's the Bensons of San Francisco! Is Flynn Davis out of his mind? Even if the Solar Corporation can be considered the largest enterprise in LA now, it's only a mega company. The Bensons are definitely more powerful and richer than the Solar Corporation!*

Furthermore, the Bensons had a wide network of connections with the giants of LA and the support of the Coles.

In their opinion, Flynn was undoubtedly overestimating his own strength and courting death by confronting people who were more powerful than him!

"Flynn Davis must really be out of his mind, right? Just now, he said that he wants to destroy all the businesses owned by the Parkers. And now, he's saying that he wants to eradicate all the Bensons' businesses in LA! Who does he think he is? He's just the general manager of the Solar Corporation!"

"In my opinion, Flynn Davis is just being complacent because he's been doing well in LA lately and turned the Solar Corporation into the biggest company in LA."

"Yes! I think he's too conceited to remember how treacherous society is! It's the esteemed Parker and Benson families we're talking about. How dare he say such things to the two helmsmen?"

"I heard that punk Lucas Gray is just the penniless live-in husband of Eddie Turner's granddaughter and doesn't have a powerful background. Flynn Davis is being too stupid by offending these two giants for the sake of someone like that!"

...

Everyone started whispering among themselves and even criticized Flynn, undermining him and making him out to be a worthless person. They were certain that he had to be crazy.

Only Lucas remained sitting with a faint smile as he gave Flynn a look of approval.

Perhaps in the eyes of others, Flynn's actions were indeed very irrational and possibly even crazy. But Lucas knew that Flynn wasn't acting recklessly, but rather, it was because he knew that he had Lucas's support.

Taking advantage of the situation, being resourceful, and employing powerful means to deal with an enemy whose strength was significantly superior was an excellent quality of an outstanding person.

In Lucas's opinion, if Flynn was still helpless against the Parkers and Bensons even with his support, there was no way he would be able to survive in dangerous situations when he went to deal with the Huttons in DC in the future. He wouldn't be able to complete the tasks Lucas assigned to him either.

Flynn's counterattack and his immediate order to have the Bensons' businesses in LA eradicated angered Matthew, who had always been praised and highly regarded in LA.

He didn't expect that someone who was just the mere general manager, not the chairman, of a corporation in LA would be so defiant toward him. Not only was he not intimidated by his threats, but he even made a move against the Bensons.

Who gave him the audacity to do that? With a cold and bloodthirsty gaze in his eyes, Matthew said with a smile, "Oh, you're very gutsy, aren't you? I'll see how you can make the Bensons vanish from LA!"

He had already developed the desire to kill Flynn.

He had already killed countless small fries with the audacity to confront him in the past, and one more wouldn't matter!

The atmosphere in the ballroom was extremely somber.

The two big bosses were visibly displeased, so no one dared to incur their wrath at this moment.

Nikki, who had just impressed Damon, was also sensible enough to keep her mouth shut at this point.

But as the host of the wedding, the Turners were full of complicated emotions.

Eddie glared at Karen with a gloomy face and chided softly, "It's all because of that son-in-law of yours! Dylan is my one and only precious grandson, and it's his big day today. But now, you've ruined it all! Lucas has also offended those two bigwigs. If he implicates the Turners, I won't care about the fact that you're my daughter at all. I'll surely sever ties with you and throw your family out!"

Alex rebuked resentfully, "If I had known this would happen, I wouldn't have invited you! You've caused so much trouble and ruined our mood, as well as Dylan's wedding! Karen, I'm telling you, if Dylan can't get married today, and we end up upsetting Dylan's wife and her family, I'll make sure you compensate us with at least tens of thousands. Do you understand?"

Alex was extremely harsh and hostile, with no regard for the fact that Karen was his biological sister.

Karen opened her mouth, but she couldn't say a single word.

When Flynn came over to speak to Charlotte just twenty minutes ago, all the Turners and their relatives had been surrounding Karen and showering her with endless compliments. They had even urged her to put in a good word for them in front of Charlotte to get Flynn to help them, which had made Karen really smug.

But her happiness was short-lived. It had been less than twenty minutes since then, and everyone already began to turn their backs on her. They started pointing fingers at her, blaming her, and even threatened to sever ties with her.

She was really aggrieved too!

Karen naturally didn't dare to blame her parents, brother, and family. All she could do was glare at Lucas with resentment.

In short, this is all Lucas Gray's fault!

If not for him, I would still be enjoying the compliments of my relatives instead of standing here and suffering this infuriating mistreatment!

Suddenly, several cars pulled over at the entrance of the hotel, and a group of people in suits strode in quickly.

The crowd looked over in bewilderment. *Who are these people walking in now?*

Chapter 459: Acquaintances Have Arrived

But before they could continue to speculate, the people that entered had already walked up to Damon and Matthew and began bowing to them one after another.

"Mr. Benson, Mr. Parker! I am Jude Morris of Culture M. I'm at your disposal!"

"I am Kurt Fowler, helmsman of the Fowler family in LA. I'm also at your disposal!"

"I'm Clyde Banks of Urban Apparel. I'm at your disposal!"

...

The people standing in front of Damon and Matthew revealed their identities, and most importantly, they declared that they were at the disposal of Damon and Matthew.

There was a huge uproar in the ballroom.

These people in front of them were no small fries but bigwigs whose families were also considered top-tier in LA.

Although they weren't as powerful as giants like the Parkers and Owens, they were far superior and more difficult to reach than ordinary people.

Now, they were all gathered here and had taken the initiative to show their allegiance to Damon and Matthew.

A trace of surprise appeared in Matthew's eyes.

He had met many of these people in the private room of the Lion Restaurant yesterday.

But he was baffled as to why they suddenly gathered here to show their loyalty to him.

However, despite being surprised, Matthew didn't show it and instead felt rather satisfied.

With these people coming here to stand behind them, Flynn seemed even more insignificant.

At the side, Damon seemed very satisfied.

He had arranged for them to come here.

As soon as Flynn revealed his intentions to go against him, Damon had already tasked his secretary to find some people to come here and show their support for him. Now, he happened to have done Matthew a favor too.

With these people at his disposal, Damon was much more confident.

He raised his head and slowly said to Flynn, "You were really arrogant just now, weren't you? You said that you wanted to destroy the Parkers' businesses and make sure they disappear from LA. Try repeating yourself."

Before Flynn could reply, the group of people from the top families of LA began sneering and mocking him.

"I didn't hear that wrongly, did I? How dare Flynn Davis say something like that?! Do you think that we're all afraid of you just because we chose not to stoop low to your level?"

"You just don't know any better! Do you think you can offend the Parkers and the Bensons?"

“You’re only in charge of the Solar Corporation. What else do you have? How dare you speak so shamelessly and claim that you want to deal with the Parkers and Bensons? It’s time you get a reality check and know where you stand!”

“Hah, you’re really bold, and you’ve got a huge appetite! As long as we’re around, I’m afraid the Solar Corporation will be the first to be destroyed! Forget about dealing with the Parkers and Bensons!”

All of them mocked Flynn.

Although they had wanted to build a good relationship with Flynn, and many of them had even somewhat regarded Flynn as someone who could be on equal footing as Matthew and Damon, they felt that Flynn was courting death now. Not only had he offended the Parkers, but he also offended the Bensons from San Francisco. So they had to immediately draw a clear line between themselves and him!

Furthermore, the reason they had rushed here was that they had received a notice from Damon to stand on his side to drive Flynn out of LA. Once they did so, they would naturally split the Solar Corporation among themselves!

Before arriving, they only knew that Flynn had offended Damon, so there were a few others who were too timid and gave excuses not to come. But now that they learned that the Bensons were also on their side, they felt that there was nothing to be afraid of!

Those who chose to chicken out would probably be full of regret after learning the truth!

Flynn’s gaze turned solemn as he faced the group of people in front of him.

They were not ordinary people.

Among those standing against him now, there was the helmsman of the Parker family, one of the two top giants in LA, and the Bensons, a whale in San Francisco with the backing of the Coles, as well as the helmsmen of seven top families in LA.

Their power combined was definitely not to be underestimated!

But their common goal now was to grab Lucas, something that Flynn would never allow!

“Since you all want to interfere just as Mr. Parker does, you can all disappear from LA together with him,” Flynn said with an indifferent expression, as if he was talking about a trivial matter.

But the crowd around him burst into commotion!

“What did he say? He said that he wanted these families to disappear from LA together?!”

“Oh my god! He’s so arrogant! He’s merely the general manager of the Solar Corporation. How can he possibly do that?”

“He must have lost his mind! A normal person would never say such things. I think we should send him to the mental hospital for a proper examination of his mental state.”

“All these people in front of us are the heads of the top LA families! Flynn Davis must be dreaming. I bet the Solar Corporation will definitely be eradicated after tonight!”

...

In their opinion, Flynn was no longer just being arrogant. He was being completely brainless!

If he had the ability to destroy so many top LA families in one day, shake the financial foundation of the Parkers, and get rid of the Bensons from LA, how could he still be just the general manager of merely one company?

If Flynn could fulfill just one of these things, they would kneel down and call him daddy, not to mention all three together!

Just as the crowd was bashing Flynn, two more people hurriedly walked in from outside.

Lucas looked up a little with some interest in his eyes. The two who arrived were people he knew.

He reckoned that they must have shown up here out of nowhere because of Tristan’s death last night.

But he didn’t know what their attitudes would be like.

The two people who just entered were none other than the richest man in Orange County, Ethan Sawyer, and his daughter, Lena!

Ethan didn’t see Lucas. He merely took a quick glance around the ballroom after entering. He then looked at Damon, who was sitting in the middle of the hall, and immediately walked over while pulling Lena along.

“Mr. Parker, I’ve specially brought my insensible daughter here today to apologize to you!” Then he bent forward to bow to Damon as a junior.

All of a sudden, the crowd got into an uproar again!

Chapter 460: A Small Lesson

Ethan's status today was already quite high as the helmsman of one of the four top families in Orange County and the richest person in the county. He was very well known as well.

But he was really a junior in front of Damon, who was in his seventies and a friend of Ethan's father. Previously, they had agreed on the marriage alliance between Lena and Damon's grandson. So no matter what, Ethan could indeed be considered a junior of Damon.

As he was the richest man in Orange County, his words immediately made many people gasp in amazement.

"So this is Ethan Sawyer, the richest man in Orange County? He looks very young!"

"Why is the richest man in Orange County here too? He even said that he brought his daughter here to apologize to Mr. Parker. Did something happen?"

"I once heard that Tristan Parker was engaged to Ethan's daughter, and now that Tristan is dead, he's probably here to discuss the matter of their engagement. But why does he want to apologize? Could Tristan's death be related to his daughter?"

"Shh! Do you have a death wish? Don't spout nonsense like that! That's the richest man in Orange County. You're dead meat if he hears you!"

...

All of a sudden, another enthusiastic discussion was sparked because of Ethan's arrival and his mention of making Lena apologize.

The Turners were almost numb from being overjoyed at the continuous arrival of such big shots.

During normal circumstances, they would definitely be over the moon to have so many bigwigs at Dylan's wedding.

But no one was considering the matters of the wedding now, as all their attention was drawn to Damon, Matthew, the group of helmsmen of the top LA families, Flynn, and Ethan.

The Turners had absolutely no say in front of so many big shots, let alone building some connections and getting acquainted with them.

Justin's eyes were also wide open.

These bigwigs were streaming in one after another, and at this point, he really couldn't tell which one of them was the big shot his father wanted him to please.

The dozen or so people in front of him were all of higher status than the Herons. And to him, they were all powerful figures, so he was really stuck in a dilemma!

After Ethan bent forward to apologize, he noticed that his daughter, who was standing beside him, was still keeping her back straight, which angered him.

Ethan poked Lena's head and urged, "You unfilial daughter! What are you waiting for? Hurry up and apologize to Mr. Parker! At the same time, tell him truthfully about everything you know regarding the incident yesterday!"

Lena remained standing stubbornly and refused to bow down and apologize. "I didn't do anything wrong. Why should I apologize?"

Noticing that Damon was frowning, Ethan gritted his teeth and slapped Lena's face!

Smack!

After giving her a tight and loud slap on the face, Ethan rebuked furiously, "How dare you talk back to me? I told you first thing this morning to come over and apologize to Mr. Parker and then explain to him who the young man with you at Caldo Mountain last night was! That person is the likely suspect of the murder. You'd better hurry up and speak up. You don't want the Sawyers to be accused of covering up for a murderer, do you?"

In fact, the Parkers must have gotten a clear investigation of who the person with Lena last night was. After all, Tristan was the only one who died, and there were at least twenty of his scion friends there too. They could easily find out who the man was by asking any of them.

But Ethan did this mainly to express his attitude to the Parkers and show that he was really unaware of the situation. He also wanted to show that Lena wasn't in an illicit relationship with that young man either.

Unfortunately, Lena refused to reveal the identity of the young man who was with her.

Ethan was angry and anxious, but there was nothing he could do.

While everyone's attention was focused on Ethan and Lena and trying to find out some insider information about the death of Tristan from them, Charlotte came over to Lucas and whispered, "Lucas, you should hurry up and leave while they're being distracted and focusing on the Sawyers! I went around checking, and I discovered that there is an inconspicuous storage room not far away. There's a window in that room you can definitely escape from!"

Only then did Lucas realize that Charlotte had disappeared for a short while just now to find an escape route for him.

There were so many powerful figures present, and they were all standing against Lucas in unison, while Lucas only had Flynn to protect him. They were clearly outnumbered and possibly outclassed!

Charlotte was afraid that they would really unite, stop Lucas from leaving, and take him away!

Lucas was naturally touched by Charlotte's behavior.

But he was not going to escape through the window of a storage room.

If he left, these people would definitely not spare his wife, Cheyenne, Charlotte, and Flynn. So there was no way he would escape on his own without them.

Besides, Lucas didn't need to escape at all because these people in front of him could do nothing to him.

"Hmph! You guys are actually thinking of escaping? With me here, you can't escape anywhere!" All of a sudden, a sharp voice sounded beside them.

Charlotte was startled when she saw Nikki standing beside them with a menacing expression on her already unattractive face, which was now twisted into a grimace of excitement and hatred.

Charlotte suddenly felt that her cousin, who was only a few months older than her, was just like a complete stranger. She was absolutely terrifying and just like a ghost!

Nikki deliberately yelled loudly, instantly attracting everyone's attention.

She felt she couldn't intervene when Damon was speaking, but she was worried that Lucas might take the opportunity to sneak away. So she had deliberately come over to guard them and prevent them from leaving.

It just so happened that she overheard Charlotte and Lucas's conversation!

"Nikki, you're such a villain!" Seeing the smug and conceited expression on Nikki's face, Charlotte boiled with fury and raised her hand to slap her face.

Smack!

Charlotte didn't hold back at all.

She didn't know the disgusting things that Nikki had done to Cheyenne and Lucas last night. But Nikki's act of exposing her plan to escape and standing on Damon's side was enough to make Charlotte feel repulsed by her, who had no concerns for her kin and was only interested in selfish benefits.

Nikki covered her swollen and painful cheek for a while before reacting and yelling, "Charlotte Carter, you bitch! How dare you slap me?!"

She was so livid that she raised her hand and reached out to scratch Charlotte's face with her long nails! *Ahhhh! This is infuriating!*

She was determined to scratch Charlotte's charming face and see how she could still be a general manager!

But before she could reach Charlotte's face, her wrists were grabbed by a pair of iron clamp like hands.

As soon as Nikki raised her head, she was met with Lucas's icy cold eyes.

The next second, Nikki felt an immense blow to her stomach that sent her flying away!

Bang!

Nikki's body collided with a concrete pillar several meters away before falling heavily to the ground.

Amid everyone's shocked gazes, Lucas calmly moved his foot away and said coldly, "She should have been taught this lesson a long time ago!"

Chapter 461: Difficult To Fathom

Nikki had been creating trouble incessantly, and Lucas had been tolerating her nonsense for a long time.

Moreover, Lucas had just been sitting still like he was just watching a show while letting Flynn handle the matter.

Now that he had witnessed Flynn's competency and capabilities, he didn't mind intervening to personally deal with these big shots of major families, as he reckoned that even Flynn wouldn't be able to deal with so many powerful opponents.

Lucas's sudden kick caught many people off guard.

In particular, Ethan was staring at him with his eyes so wide open that they seemed to be about to fall out.

"Mr... Mr. Gray!?! You... What are you doing here?" Ethan asked in surprise.

He had arrived the latest, so he wasn't aware of the tension in the ballroom and the previous conflicts that had broken out. Besides, he was here only to apologize to

Damon, so he dragged Lena with him and headed straight to where Damon was as soon as he entered. He didn't notice the other people around him at all.

Not to mention Lucas, who was sitting in the corner and blocked by many people, Ethan didn't even notice Matthew, who was sitting near Damon.

It was only when Lucas stood up to send Nikki flying with a kick, attracting the attention of the crowd, did Ethan finally discover Lucas's presence.

Moreover, he was smart enough to immediately guess from the gazes in the eyes of those around him that Lucas wasn't in a favorable position right now.

But Ethan wasn't the least bit worried about Lucas.

Among all the people here, Ethan was probably the one who knew most about Lucas's true strength and power.

When Lucas returned to Orange County more than three months ago, Ethan had personally gone to the airport to pick up Lucas with Chad Kennedy, the Huttons' butler. Chad had also relayed the intentions of the helmsman of the Huttons for Lucas to return to DC and take over the family.

They were the Huttons, one of the eight major families in DC! They held immeasurable power, and it would be no exaggeration to say that they were almost as wealthy as the country.

Although Lucas had directly and unceremoniously rejected the Huttons, Chad didn't get angry in the slightest. Instead, he told Lucas that he could return to the Huttons to take over the family at any time as long as he was willing to.

This just showed how terrifying Lucas's true power really was!

Apart from this, Ethan had also discovered that Lucas had done many amazing things even without the help of the Huttons' power. Except for the Stardust Corporation, which the Huttons had returned to Lucas, the rest of the businesses he now owned, such as the Ocean Bathhouse, Little Atlantis City, and the Solar Corporation, were acquired on his own.

Moreover, Ethan also sensed that Lucas's true power was probably far more terrifying than this!

Just as Ethan was thinking about the problem, two people immediately ran to Nikki, who had been kicked away by Lucas. After taking a look at her, they raised their heads and glowered at Lucas in exasperation.

“Lucas Gray! How dare you lay a hand on my daughter?! I’m going to kill you!” Justin saw Nikki curled up on the ground, clutching her gut and throwing up some of the food she had eaten. He was enraged and glared at Lucas like he wanted to devour him alive!

In the beginning, he didn’t value Nikki much. But she deserved great credit for obtaining Damon’s offer to cooperate with the Herons earlier. Thus, she was no longer worthless in his eyes, so he was livid at this moment.

Moreover, Nikki was his daughter, and the fact that Lucas had hit her in front of so many people was a blatant insult to him and the Herons. To make matters worse, Justin had always treated Lucas as a good-for-nothing, yet Lucas had the guts to hit Nikki, something that he wouldn’t let go of no matter what!

Gretchen shrieked and leaped toward Nikki while howling in a shrilling voice. “Ahh! Lucas Gray, you scoundrel. How could you hit my daughter so severely?! I’ll never spare you. I’m going to kill you! My poor Nikki, wake up quickly! Don’t scare me! If anything happens to you, I’ll bury Lucas Gray with you!”

The faces of the other Turners were also extremely gloomy.

In their opinion, Nikki had a higher status than Charlotte and Cheyenne because she was the granddaughter of Robert Heron, the head of a second-tier family in LA.

But she had just gotten hit by Cheyenne’s good-for-nothing husband!

How could this do?

Eddie was so furious that his face paled, and he vented all his anger on Karen. “Karen, look at this trash you’ve chosen for a son-in-law! What else can he do besides causing trouble? Oh, he also knows to hit his relatives. How impressive!”

Alex chimed in sarcastically, “Karen, I told you, your son-in-law is a complete wastrel! He doesn’t dare to say a word when he’s targeted by others, but he’s so haughty and harsh to his own relatives. Hah! If I had known earlier, I wouldn’t have invited you guys! All you do is create trouble for me!”

Karen’s face turned red from getting rebuked, but she couldn’t reply at all.

So she could only glare at Lucas scornfully while making up her mind that she would definitely drive Lucas, whom she perceived to be a jinx, out of their lives!

But before that, she decided that she had to get her hands on Lucas’s villa and his assets!

At this moment, Justin was so exasperated that he picked up a large bowl on the table next to him and hurled it at Lucas. “Go to hell!”

The heavy porcelain bowl flew toward Lucas's head.

"Stop it!" Ethan's expression changed drastically as he roared angrily and immediately rushed toward Justin.

But he was still a little too far from Lucas and couldn't make it in time.

Fortunately, the porcelain bowl was blocked by the few bodyguards that Flynn had arranged earlier to stand by Lucas's side.

Ethan rushed over in fury and kicked Justin!

"Who do you think you are? How dare you lay a hand on Mr. Gray?!" Ethan cursed furiously and continued to kick Justin, appearing to have not vented his anger yet.

Not far away, Lena looked at the scene in front of her with her eyes so wide open that they were about to fall out.

W-what's going on?

Am I hallucinating?

Didn't Dad bring me here to confront Lucas and force me to tell the Parkers all about Lucas to seek forgiveness from Mr. Parker?

But why... why does Dad seem to be... defending Lucas now?

Chapter 462: Crushed Into Bits

However, she soon saw a scene that left her in disbelief.

After kicking Justin, Ethan walked straight toward Lucas and stopped in front of him. He bent forward a little and said respectfully with enthusiasm, "Mr. Gray, had I known earlier that you were here in LA too, I would have come to see you a long time ago."

This scene not only stunned Lena but also the people around them. Dumbfounded and shocked, their jaws dropped.

They all wondered if they had heard him wrongly.

The richest man in Orange County was actually so polite to Lucas, and he even spoke to him in such a deferential tone. It was simply unbelievable!

Lucas smiled. "Mr. Sawyer, you are the wealthiest man in Orange County, while I'm just a penniless man with nothing to his name. I don't deserve to hear that from you at all."

Lucas's tone was calm and indifferent, but it made Ethan so nervous that his heart started beating rapidly. *Did I offend Lucas somehow?*

He quickly thought about it in his mind while chuckling awkwardly. "Mr. Gray, quit kidding around with me. That's just a superficial status. I can't hold a candle to you at all!"

Lucas continued calmly, "Is that so? But I heard with my own ears just now that you wanted your daughter to tell Mr. Parker all about me."

Ethan froze in shock and frantically shook his head. "No, that's not true! I just asked Lena..."

But halfway through his speech, he came to a sudden realization and abruptly widened his eyes in shock while staring at Lucas. "Could... the young man who was with Lena last night be you, Mr. Gray?"

Lucas raised his eyebrows and nodded noncommittally.

Ethan immediately looked embarrassed, which was rare of him.

The reason he had asked Lena to tell him everything about the young man with her side last night was that he had already assumed that the man who had gotten into a conflict with Tristan last night was most likely Tristan's murderer.

So he had wanted to take Lena to see Damon and explain things clearly to him.

But after he learned that the young man was actually Lucas, his heart immediately sank.

Regardless of whether or not Lucas was the one who killed Tristan, Ethan would never go against Lucas.

Besides, he had secretly observed the expressions on the faces of all the people in the ballroom, especially Damon, who was glaring at Lucas with clear hatred in his eyes. So he knew that the Parkers must have decided that Lucas was the one who killed Tristan.

In that case, Damon's purpose for showing up here with such a large group of people was undoubtedly to deal with Lucas.

When he thought about how he had just gone to Damon to apologize and even compelled his daughter to tell him about Lucas, Ethan felt a chill rushing up his spine from the bottom of his feet, causing him to shiver. *Oh my god, what have I almost done?!*

The man in front of him was a colossus who could take over the Hutton family at any time!

No one here could do anything to Lucas at all, not even the Parkers!

After breaking out in cold sweat, Ethan immediately came back to his senses and yelled at the people around him, who were glowering at Lucas with threatening gazes.

“Although I don’t know what exactly happened here, Mr. Gray is my best friend, and anyone who dares to disrespect him will be my enemy!”

No one expected that Ethan, who had just apologized to Damon, would suddenly stand on Lucas’s side in the blink of an eye. He even seemed to be particularly resolute about defending Lucas. His words were also similar to what Flynn had said earlier.

Does he not know that there’s an irreparable feud between Lucas Gray and Damon Parker? Everyone was in extreme disbelief.

Even Lena was astounded, but she was elated and heartened that her father was standing on Lucas’s side instead of going against him. She subconsciously let out a long sigh of relief, ran over, and also stood beside them. She even winked at Cheyenne, who was standing by Lucas’s side.

However, Damon was in a terrible mood now.

He didn’t expect Ethan would suddenly stand on Lucas’s side even though the Parkers and Sawyers had been friends for decades. He even declared that anyone who disrespected Lucas would be his enemy, which really angered him!

Damon narrowed his eyes and asked with a threatening tone, “Ethan Sawyer, what do you mean by this? Are you sure you want to help that punk?”

Ethan nodded without a single moment of hesitation and even advised Damon, “Mr. Parker, on account of the friendship between the Sawyers and the Parkers over the years, I advise you to investigate carefully who the real murderer of your grandson is. Mr. Gray isn’t an ordinary person.”

Although there was no conclusive evidence to prove that it wasn’t Lucas who had killed Tristan yet, Ethan felt that even if Lucas was indeed the murderer, he must have done so because Tristan had gone overboard and provoked Lucas by doing something intolerable. In that case, he thought that Tristan deserved to die!

He understood Lucas well enough to know that the latter wouldn’t kill anyone for no reason. If Lucas really killed someone, it would only mean that that person had completely angered him.

Moreover, if Lucas really killed Tristan, Ethan wouldn’t feel sad at all. He would just think that he must have been blind to think that Tristan would be a good husband for Lena.

So he merely gave Damon that piece of advice.

Even if the Parkers broke off all ties with the Sawyers in the future, Ethan would still stand on Lucas's side.

After hearing what Ethan said, which seemed like a warning, Damon became even more infuriated.

"Ethan Sawyer, are you really going to stand against me for the sake of a mere outsider?" Damon slowly said while staring straight into Ethan's eyes.

He had been friends with Ethan's father for decades, and he had practically watched Ethan grow up, though the two families grew distant in the later years because the Sawyers developed in Orange County while the Parkers did so in LA. They grew further apart after the passing of Ethan's father.

But no matter what, they were still family friends for decades, and some time ago, they had even settled on Lena's and Tristan's engagement.

Yet Ethan had now chosen to go against him for an ignorant man who was highly suspected of being the murderer of his grandson. Damon felt like he had been betrayed and was boiling with unspeakable anger.

Ethan sighed, but he still said with unusual determination, "I mean what I just said from the bottom of my heart. Mr. Parker, I hope you'll think twice before acting! Also, as I've just said, Mr. Gray isn't an outsider but my best friend. He once saved my life, so anyone who makes an enemy of him is choosing to make an enemy of me!"

He didn't dare to expose Lucas's identity in front of outsiders, so he merely used the pretext that Lucas was his life savior.

He had already reminded Damon twice not to make Lucas his enemy, but if Damon stubbornly refused to heed his advice, there was nothing he could do.

"Will I also become your enemy if I choose to deal with Lucas Gray? If it's a powerful family from San Francisco that wants to deal with Lucas, what can you do?" Damon questioned sneeringly with disappointment all over his pale face.

"That's right! The same applies even to you!" Ethan nodded and continued firmly, "As for others, they can come as they please! Even if it takes all the power and even the foundation of the Sawyers, I will definitely stand on Mr. Gray's side!"

Chapter 463: Mass Declaration of War

As soon as they heard those words of determination, everyone was incredibly astonished!

Many of them knew that the Sawyers and the Parkers had a close relationship and had been family friends for decades.

Yet Ethan was now willing to fall out with the Parkers for a live-in husband that everyone despised, and he even said that he wouldn't hesitate to lose all he had for Lucas!

Even if Lucas had saved his life, he didn't have to go to such lengths!

In today's society, there are heartless and unfeeling ingrates everywhere. Would Ethan Sawyer really be willing to give up his life and everything the Sawyers had just to repay Lucas for saving his life?

It was really incredible!

Matthew, who had been sitting at the side quietly, narrowed his eyes and rubbed his chin with his hand as a strange gaze appeared in his eyes.

Damon had told him that Lucas was just a nobody who didn't have a powerful background and, at best, was an illegitimate son who had been kicked out by the Huttons two decades ago. Damon had also said that Lucas was a penniless good-for-nothing who had no power or status and was surviving by freeloading off of his wife.

But after seeing Ethan's sudden change of attitude and his unwavering determination to stand on Lucas's side—just like Flynn, who had shown he would rather offend all of them than leave Lucas—Matthew began to have a change of mind.

Flynn and Ethan were naturally not fools, so he wondered if Lucas, whom they were defending vehemently, was really just a powerless good-for-nothing.

He definitely didn't believe that Lucas's mere association with the Huttons would make them want to protect him to such an extent.

Besides, he also didn't believe that Ethan would put so much on the line to protect Lucas just because the latter had saved his life.

There had to be a reason for this that he didn't know about!

Just as Matthew was still pondering about it, Damon had already flown into a rage.

"Very well! That's what you said. You'd rather become the Parkers' enemy. In that case, I hereby officially declare that the Sawyers from Orange County are now our enemies!" Damon roared furiously.

As soon as he said this, several more people stepped forward. They were the helmsmen of the top LA families, whom Damon had called over.

“The Sawyers from Orange County will also be our enemies from now on!”

“I second that! The Sawyers will also be the enemies of the Fowlers from today onward!”

“Me too! The Sawyers will be the enemies of the Banks!”

...

In an instant, seven helmsmen chimed in and echoed Damon, declaring their animosity toward the Sawyers.

The scene was incredibly overwhelming and shocking for everyone present, as they had never seen anything like this before.

It... it was simply much more exciting than the scenes in TV shows!

For most of the people in the ballroom, being able to see so many magnates and prestigious people all at the same place at the same time was something that they could brag about for years.

Moreover, so many powerful families had now declared war against another family simultaneously. It was really exciting!

They reckoned that Ethan had to be panicking now that so many powerful families were standing against him at the same time.

But to their disappointment, he wasn't.

Ethan remained standing indifferently, as if these families in front of him who had just declared war against him were completely insignificant. Even some of the sharp-eyed ones could see a trace of pity and contempt in Ethan's eyes.

Pity?

Contempt?

Impossible! I must have seen wrongly!

At this moment, Lucas suddenly looked at Matthew, who had been keeping mum. He asked with a smile, “They've made their choices. What about you?”

Matthew didn't expect that Lucas would actually ask about his stand composedly at a time when everyone had declared themselves enemies with Ethan.

Of course, in Matthew's opinion, Lucas was just behaving so because he knew that Ethan was on his side. So he was emboldened and confident enough to question him.

Since Matthew had arrived in LA, he had been praised and regarded highly by everyone, who was trying to please him. They would all speak to him respectfully and deferentially. Lucas was the only one who dared to speak to him in such a nonchalant tone.

"Punk, did you get the guts to speak to me with such a tone just because you have someone backing you up?" Matthew questioned with clear hostility in his eyes.

Lucas smiled with nonchalance and retorted, "Matthew Benson, do you think that you're naturally a class above others and that others must speak to you subserviently with utmost respect?"

"Outrageous! How dare you call Mr. Benson by his name? Are you tired of living?"

"This punk is really too arrogant! Just because he has two people backing him up, he has the audacity to disregard Mr. Benson. I bet he has a death wish!"

"Hah, his backers are just the general manager of the Solar Corporation and the Sawyers. With so many of us combined, we can easily destroy them without even needing the help of the Bensons. How dare you be so smug and cocky to us?! Indeed, you're such a good-for-nothing!"

"Mr. Benson, Mr. Parker, as long as you issue the order, we will immediately help you to destroy the Solar Corporation and the Sawyers!"

...

After hearing what Lucas said, the people standing in front of Matthew began lashing out at Lucas and hurling insults and vulgarities at him, for fear that Matthew might think that they weren't defending him well enough.

Matthew said with a pleasant smile, "Punk, I don't know if you've heard this saying that goes, 'With money, you can get whatever you want'. I'll have these people teach you a lesson on my behalf without having to issue any orders. This is indeed what makes me a class above others. Do you understand?"

Everyone's hearts palpitated.

Indeed, the rich could act as they pleased to a large extent. And the reason these people were trying all they could to build connections with the rich and powerful was precisely that they were hoping to become as wealthy as Matthew so that they could do whatever they wanted too.

But Lucas snorted coldly and gibed, "You're just lucky to have been born to a wealthy family, which saved you years of hard work. What gives you such a strong sense of superiority? There are countless people who are richer, more powerful, and more capable than you. You're just a dog raised by the Coles. What is there to feel superior about? What makes you think you're a class above everyone else?"

Matthew's smile immediately stiffened.

It was true that the Bensons' wealth was accumulated with the old money passed down from their ancestors. Furthermore, Matthew had made several mistakes that resulted in heavy financial losses, and he had even almost lost all of his family's assets. It was only through attachment to the Coles, the top family in San Francisco, that the Bensons managed to gradually develop and grow in the past few years.

Every single one of Lucas's words had indeed struck a sour note within him, particularly the part about him being a dog raised by the Coles.

His face immediately grew gloomy.

He said through clenched teeth, "No one has ever dared to say such infuriating words to me. Punk, you've completely angered me this time! I'll definitely teach you a hard lesson!"

A bloodthirsty gaze began to form in Matthew's eyes.

Chapter 464: Amid The Battle

Utterly fearless, Lucas sneered. "Cut the crap. If you have what it takes, bring it on. I can't be bothered to argue with you!"

Lucas really couldn't be bothered to waste his time on a narrow-minded person like Matthew, who couldn't see the clearer picture and realize the situation he was in.

Matthew had always had a great sense of superiority and went around with his nose in the air because he felt that since he was from a notable family in San Francisco, he was definitely better than the rest. Just now, he even said that he could do whatever he wanted with money.

Indeed, in most cases, being rich would give you the luxury of doing whatever you wanted. But in terms of wealth and financial power, the Stardust Corporation alone was already worth much more than the Bensons. In fact, it could be said that the combined wealth of all of the people present was barely comparable to what Lucas had.

In terms of combat abilities, Lucas was definitely a top expert who was rare in this world. There were very few in the country who were a match for him.

Only a powerful person like him, who owned a massive amount of wealth and had incredible strength, could claim that he had the ability to do whatever he wanted.

However, he didn't do so and instead chose to keep a low profile.

Matthew was nothing compared to him.

Lucas glanced at Flynn and said straightforwardly, "Mr. Davis, I hope that you can deal with these people and make sure they end up with nothing within two days!"

Flynn answered loudly, "Yes!"

A look of excitement appeared on his face. Lucas's words meant that he had given Flynn the green light to do as he deemed fit and even use a portion of Lucas's power to ruin all these families, including the Parkers, in one fell swoop!

Not wanting to lag behind either, Ethan said, "Mr. Gray, the Sawyers will help too!"

Flynn glanced at Ethan and said with a smile, "Mr. Sawyer, you're the wealthiest man in Orange County. With your help, we'll be able to take down these families within a day!"

Flynn's words immediately made the helmsmen standing behind Damon look indignant.

Flynn and Ethan had seriously undermined and disrespected them!

Matthew burst into laughter. "Hahahaha, Flynn Davis, Ethan Sawyer, it seems that I really overestimated you two! You actually have the cheek to say such an absurd thing as taking down all of our families in one day? No wonder you're friends with Lucas Gray. You're so incompetent but very good at bragging!"

Damon sneered and ordered the bodyguards in black behind him, "Go grab that punk! Let's see what he's capable of!"

With his command, four bodyguards in black immediately charged straight toward Lucas.

Flynn scowled and shouted angrily, "How dare you?!"

The few bodyguards he had brought along with him immediately went over to stop the four bodyguards, preventing them from taking another step closer to Lucas.

Matthew turned gloomy and waved his hand at the people behind him. "You guys, join them!"

In an instant, six more tall and strong bodyguards darted toward Lucas and surrounded him.

The surrounding guests had long started shrieking and backing away, leaving a large space in front of them for fear that they might accidentally get hurt by the intimidating bodyguards during the scuffle.

Flynn had come with only four bodyguards, and now, there were nearly ten bodyguards belonging to Damon and Matthew standing against them. They were clearly outnumbered.

Ethan panicked because he had only brought two bodyguards with him since he and Lena had come here in a rush. At this moment, he also instructed them to join in.

But Damon had come prepared to grab Lucas today, so he had brought more than ten bodyguards with him. Now, he instructed a few more of them to rush forward, giving them a large advantage in manpower. There were more than ten of them against six of the bodyguards of Flynn and Ethan.

Justin and Gretchen had both helped Nikki up a long time ago. At this moment, Nikki was standing at a safe spot and staring resentfully at Lucas, who was at the back.

Her eyes were glistening with anticipation as she was waiting eagerly for the ten-odd bodyguards to immediately rush to Lucas, grab him, and beat the living daylights out of him so that she could vent her frustration!

Lucas had sent her flying away with a kick just now, causing her to throw up her gastric juices, and even until now, her stomach was still aching!

If Lucas and Cheyenne hadn't left her so cruelly last night, she wouldn't have met with such a revolting encounter. Thus, she blamed it all on Lucas!

With the hatred stemming from the various incidents of the past, Nikki wished she could kill Lucas right there and then!

The rest of the Turners also hid far away and watched the scene unfold. They weren't the least bit worried about Lucas's life, and they even hoped that he could be beaten to death. Even if he died, they would have no objections. They would be thankful as long as the Parkers could vent all their anger and the Turners could stop being involved.

In their opinion, if Lucas ended up dead, he absolutely deserved it!

Among the Turners, the happiest and most excited was Karen!

Her pretty face was now twisted into a grimace, and there was excitement written all over her face.

She wished Lucas could be killed on the spot!

As long as Lucas died, she would be able to take possession of all of his things rightfully, such as the lake villa occupying the entire lake island, as well as the other expensive gifts that the Sawyers had given Lucas.

When the time came, Cheyenne would also return to her side, and this time, she would definitely find a rich man for Cheyenne to marry. She heard that Tyron, Matthew's only son, was still a bachelor, so she thought that it would be a good idea to matchmake him with Cheyenne. If they got married, she would become the mother-in-law of the Bensons!

Regardless of where she went, that identity would earn her the praises of everyone she met. This was the life Karen wanted!

Despite the fact that many people present were harboring ill intentions, Flynn and Ethan didn't feel much when they saw that their bodyguards seemed to be completely outclassed by Damon's and Matthew's.

The reason being, they both knew that Lucas actually didn't need the protection of bodyguards. Even if Damon and Matthew arranged for more bodyguards to deal with him, they wouldn't be able to hurt him at all. *Hah, do these fools really think that Lucas is a pushover?*

Chapter 465: Damon's Epiphany

Since they had provoked Lucas, all these top families, including the self-righteous Bensons, would face a destructive blow. And it was hard to guarantee if the Bensons could continue to stand tall in San Francisco in the future.

Only these fools would still think that they would obtain victory at this juncture!

Flynn and Ethan glanced at each other, and sure enough, they heard Damon's gloating and excited laughter.

"Hahahaha, Ethan Sawyer, do you regret it now? I told you a long time ago that this is our turf. You're just the head of a family in Orange County, and yet you had the audacity to speak to me with such disrespect and make an enemy of the Parkers for a nobody. Now, you know the difference between us, huh?!"

"As long as I want, I can deploy another twenty, thirty, or even a hundred bodyguards and send them here whenever I want. Let's see how you can still fight with me then! I have to say, you are worlds apart from your father!"

After mocking Ethan, he looked at Flynn with a triumphant smile. "Flynn Davis, for the past couple of months, I have allowed you to develop your company and rise to power in LA without stopping you, but that doesn't mean I'm afraid of you! I am the helmsman

of the Parker family, but you are just the general manager of a company. You are nothing in my eyes! How dare you speak shamelessly about destroying the Parkers?!”

Matthew sneered and couldn't be bothered to stay any longer. He ordered, “Go deal with those three people and make sure not to spare a single one of them. Break all their limbs and then drag them over here to me!”

All the bodyguards started to take action together. In fact, they even got physical with Flynn and Ethan, who practically had no combat skills.

Lucas's eyes immediately darkened.

At this moment, a figure in black suddenly darted in from the shattered glass window like a bolt of lightning. As soon as he arrived, he kicked the three bodyguards trying to grab Flynn and Ethan.

“Arrgh!”

“Urgh!”

“Oww!”

Amid their miserable shrieks, the figure stood right in front of Lucas while exuding an intimidating aura that deterred others from coming close.

“It's... it's Stanley Ray!” someone finally exclaimed in shock.

Stanley was the nightmare of almost all the helmsmen of LA families.

As soon as he appeared, he immediately caused a commotion as everyone panicked.

Just last night, the helmsmen of several families, including Matthew and Damon, had already met Stanley in the Lion Restaurant.

At the time, Stanley was standing by Lucas's side, causing a great deterrent to them, which was also why Damon and Matthew feared Lucas then.

Thus, although the information they had received from some investigation was that Lucas wasn't the scion of a powerful and noble family as they had thought, they were extremely cautious and full of scruples because they were unsure of why Stanley was standing by Lucas. Even though they had come here to confront Lucas, they had also sent people to investigate beforehand and decided to come over only after confirming that Stanley wasn't following him today.

But they didn't expect that the formidable killer Stanley would suddenly appear just when they were about to catch Lucas!

Damon and Matthew looked at each other, both having a hunch that things were about to get troublesome.

As they expected, Stanley was emitting a shocking murderous aura while spinning a shiny silver dagger between his fingers and glaring daggers at the numerous people in front of him, as if he was picking out the target to strike.

The elite bodyguards couldn't help but feel intimidated by his aura, and they each took a step back.

Without even saying a word, Stanley managed to intimidate his opponents into being too scared to take a step forward just by glaring at them.

Moreover, Damon didn't dare to say a word to reprimand the bodyguards or call them useless because the person in front of him was the formidable Stanley, who was well known throughout LA!

His notoriety couldn't be concealed.

As the helmsman of one of the top LA families, Damon was definitely well aware of how terrifying Stanley was.

In the past ten years or so, Stanley had been the Brookes' trump card. Those who had tried to deal with the Brookes or posed a threat to them would mostly die silently in their own homes without any evidence to prove that their deaths were Stanley's doing.

Therefore, Damon had never wanted to go against the Brookes, for fear that his family would incur the wrath of the deadly and merciless Stanley.

Because Mathew wasn't from LA, although he had heard of Stanley, he wasn't as afraid of him as Damon was.

A thought suddenly surfaced in Damon's head when he saw Stanley protecting Lucas!

Previously, the Brookes had been destroyed overnight, and all of them had fled LA immediately.

The Parkers had thought about going to the Brookes to take their share of the loot, so they had sent a junior from the family over. But it turned out to be a trick of the helmsman of the Brookes. After they scared that Parker away using Stanley's name, they quickly fled from LA with all the important members of the family.

Later, the Parkers also sent people to search and stop them, but they were all stopped instead by some mysterious people they didn't know. As a result, the Brookes managed to escape, and the Parkers couldn't find anyone they could fish for information about the destruction of the Brookes.

But since then, all the businesses left behind by the Brookes had been taken over by Flynn, who then integrated them and developed them into the current Solar Corporation. He had the valid official documents signed and sealed by the helmsman of the Brookes, as well as the legal ownership of the Brookes' businesses. Thus, despite very much wanting to, the other major LA families hadn't been able to get a share of those businesses from Flynn.

Coupled with Stanley's reappearance in LA and the various times he had helped Flynn deter the crowd that coveted the businesses, they gradually stopped daring to provoke them.

Now, Flynn, who had acquired all of the Brookes' properties, was standing in front of Lucas and defending him vehemently. He had even said that he would make all the other families vanish.

Furthermore, Stanley, who had helped Flynn acquire all the Brookes' remaining businesses, was also standing in front of Lucas and clearly defending him. He was also treating Lucas with utmost respect.

In addition, ever since the destruction of the Brookes, there had been a rumor circulating in LA's upper-class circle that the Brookes were destroyed by some mysterious big shot who stood behind Stanley.

All this information pointed to an extremely terrifying truth.

To make things worse, this wasn't all!

When Ethan, the richest man of Orange County, had brought his daughter over just now, he was still apologizing to Damon respectfully, clearly not wanting the relationship between the two families to turn sour because of Tristan's death.

But Ethan's attitude changed drastically the moment he saw Lucas, and he hadn't hesitated to fall out with the Parkers or make enemies of all the powerful LA families just so he could stand on Lucas's side.

Damon had watched Ethan grow up and knew that he was definitely smart. Otherwise, Ethan wouldn't have been able to become the successor of his family and even develop the Sawyers into the richest family in Orange County.

Everyone thought that Ethan must have lost his mind like Flynn had, but Ethan still insisted on doing so. What did this mean?

It could only mean that Lucas, whom Ethan was willing to give his all to defend, was definitely of high status. In fact, he was perhaps even more terrifying than all of their power combined!

After Damon thought about it and figured it out, his back was instantly drenched in cold sweat!

When he looked at Lucas, his gaze was no longer contemptuous but full of scruples. "Who... who exactly are you?"

Chapter 466: Life Savior

Lucas smiled faintly and asked rhetorically, "What do you think?"

Lucas's casual reply made Damon even more convinced, so much so that he turned pale.

It seemed that he had... really made an extremely terrifying enemy for himself...

But Matthew had yet to notice it. With a look of determination in his eyes, he looked at Stanley, who had an intimidating aura and had just scared off more than ten elite bodyguards with merely one glance.

"Stanley, come work for the Bensons! I guarantee that I'll pay you five times more than what this punk is paying you, regardless of how much it is! What do you think?" Matthew offered.

He had thought about recruiting Stanley a long time ago. But unfortunately, at the time, even the Kingstons had failed to poach Stanley, despite having offered attractive conditions. So the Bensons had given up on the idea.

But now that Stanley's former employers, the Brookes, were no longer around, and Lucas was just a penniless man in his mind, Matthew felt that Lucas couldn't possibly offer Stanley any attractive terms.

So he offered to pay Stanley five times what Jordan had offered, believing that Stanley would be tempted!

As long as Stanley agreed, Lucas would be at his mercy!

But Matthew didn't expect Stanley to reject his offer unceremoniously without hesitation.

Stanley said, "Get lost!"

Matthew's face instantly darkened, and a trace of killing intent appeared in his eyes! "I was nice enough to offer you a chance. But since you're so ignorant, I won't be kind to you!"

After speaking sternly, Matthew glanced at a bodyguard in gray who had been standing close to him.

The gray-clothed bodyguard suddenly pulled out a pistol from his waist and aimed it at Stanley.

The people around him immediately shrieked, and those who had already backed quite a great distance away once again retreated in fear.

They were intimidated by the pistol.

Matthew looked rather smug as he stared at Stanley, who seemed to be too scared to move while being held at gunpoint.

No matter how good of a fighter Stanley Ray is, can he dodge bullets?

"I'll give you one more chance. If you're not willing to come work for me, then you'll have only one outcome!" Matthew's eyes were full of certainty that Stanley wouldn't dare to disobey him at this point.

Stanley looked at the gun in the bodyguard's hand coldly with menace on his face.

At this moment, a cold voice suddenly sounded at the entrance of the hotel. "Matthew, you're really mighty!"

Four people suddenly appeared at the entrance of the hotel, most of whom were elderly men in their late sixties or seventies. Only the person at the back was a young and beautiful girl in her twenties.

The person who just mocked Matthew was an old man in his seventies standing with his back straight.

"Old man, who the hell are you? How dare you call Mr. Benson by his name?!" One of the helmsmen immediately stepped forward and rebuked when he saw the old man in plain clothes.

The moment Matthew heard this old man's voice, he shivered, and a layer of cold sweat broke out on his forehead. He was so frightened that he almost peed his pants after hearing the rebuke from the foolish helmsman beside him!

"Bastard! That's the helmsman of the Coles family. How dare you insult him, you scoundrel?" Matthew slapped this helmsman hard on the face, and the powerful force made him fall to the ground.

As soon as he turned his head, he saw that the gray-clothed bodyguard behind him was still holding the pistol in his hand. He hurriedly cursed, "And you, bastard! Who told you to take your pistol out? Do you have a death wish?"

Despite being lectured harshly, the bodyguard didn't dare to retort and immediately put the pistol away.

Matthew's unusual behavior and the fact that he called the elderly man 'Mr. Cole' gave the people present a clear idea of the identity of this old man.

It was Edmund Cole, the helmsman of the Cole family!

"Oh my god! Could he be the helmsman of the legendary Cole family from San Francisco?"

"I once heard that the Bensons are subordinate to the Coles? Could he be the helmsman?"

"Wow. I can't believe that I'd be able to meet this legendary figure in my lifetime! It's the esteemed Mr. Cole! They're truly a noble family that's countless times superior to even the Parkers!"

...

Edmund's appearance caused yet another uproar in the ballroom.

After lashing out at that helmsman who spoke rudely to Edmund, Matthew immediately ran to him and said with a fawning smile while wiping the cold sweat on his forehead. "Mr. Cole, what brings you here all of a sudden?"

Edmund said coldly with an indifferent expression, "If I hadn't come, I wouldn't have gotten the chance to see you behaving so arrogantly, would I?"

Matthew's heart skipped a beat, and a layer of cold sweat once again broke out on his face. He hurriedly said, "Mr. Cole, I... I was just scaring that good-for-nothing with my gun. I definitely wouldn't really dare to shoot him dead!"

"Good-for-nothing? Who are you calling a good-for-nothing?" Edmund's gaze was cold and austere.

Matthew's bodyguard had been aiming his gun at Lucas and Stanley.

Matthew didn't dare to say that he had been trying to force Stanley to work for him because Edmund knew of Stanley too. Matthew was afraid that Edmund might also be here to poach Stanley. He merely pointed at Lucas, who was behind Stanley. "I... This good-for-nothing disrespected me. That's why I wanted to scare him!"

Edmund suddenly hollered in exasperation, "How dare you?! How dare you call my life savior a good-for-nothing? Matthew, have you lived in luxury for too long and forgotten what you really are?"

He used to be from the military, so he was extremely stern by nature. At this moment, he flew into a rage and roared at Matthew with a thunderous voice, causing the latter's legs to turn limp as he fell to his knees.

Thud!

Matthew's heart started beating wildly, and his face was deathly pale as large beads of sweat trickled down his face.

Edmund's sudden rage almost scared him to death!

But he found Edmund's words to be even more terrifying.

What did I just hear?

Lucas Gray is Mr. Cole's life savior?!

W-what's going on?

Not only was Matthew frightened, but everyone else in the ballroom was also in fear and stunned by Edmund's words.

It turned out that Lucas, whom they thought was a good-for-nothing, was acquainted with Edmund.

Could it be that Mr. Cole is here for Lucas Gray too?

Chapter 467: Really Good Luck

Edmund didn't bother to look at the expressions of others and merely stared at Matthew sternly as he drawled, "If it weren't for this young man you called a punk, I'd be dead now! How dare you point a gun at him? You must be tired of living!"

"From now on, the Coles will no longer have anything to do with the Bensons. All the cooperations between us will cease!" Edmund ordered in a cold voice.

The expression on Matthew's face immediately froze, and immediately afterward, a strong sense of fear surged from the bottom of her heart.

Edmund was undoubtedly expressing that the Coles were abandoning the Bensons and would no longer be their backer from now on. The Bensons would no longer receive any help from the Coles!

In the past few years, the Bensons had relied on their connections with the Coles to develop their struggling business and become a second-tier family in San Francisco now.

If the news of the Coles severing ties with the Bensons got out, the rivals the Bensons had provoked in the past would definitely encroach on everything they had within a short period of time!

At the thought, Matthew was so terrified that he got on his knees and begged Edmund, "Mr. Cole, it's indeed my fault today! I didn't know this person was your savior. Otherwise, I wouldn't have dared to touch him! I really know my mistakes. Please withdraw your orders and give me another chance! I promise I won't dare to do it again!"

Edmund didn't waver and merely glanced at Matthew coldly. "You have to pay the price for your mistakes! If you aren't satisfied with my punishment, I won't mind letting the Bensons vanish from San Francisco immediately!"

As soon as he heard this, Matthew looked as though he had been dealt a huge blow, and he didn't dare to plead any further.

He knew that Edmund had always been a man of his word, especially because he used to be from the military. It would be very difficult to change his mind. If he continued to plead with Edmund, the Bensons might perish today before their competitors and rivals even tried to do anything to them.

Matthew seemed devastated and aghast as he started trembling while kneeling on the ground.

The other powerful helmsmen around them also seemed rather horrified as they had all turned terribly pale.

They were naturally thrilled when they had ganged up against Lucas, Flynn, and Ethan just now. But now, Edmund, who was several social classes above them, was standing on Lucas's side!

Even the Bensons, who had just been high up in the sky and arrogant, had been abandoned by the Coles like a dog. Since Matthew didn't even dare to say a word in front of Edmund, what would happen to them?

How did Lucas Gray coincidentally turn out to be Edmund Cole's savior?

Ethan had previously mentioned that he was willing to stand on Lucas's side at all costs because Lucas was his life savior.

Now, Edmund was also standing on Lucas's side for the same reason.

Why is Lucas Gray so lucky?

Why am I not the one who saved Edmund Cole?

All of a sudden, an uncontrollable sense of envy toward Lucas rose in the hearts of all the people present.

If Lucas could read their minds, he would probably burst into laughter.

These helmsmen, who had been living in the lap of luxury for years and were only interested in climbing the ladder of power and gaining more benefits, would probably just think that Edmund was an old man blocking their way if they saw him on the streets. They definitely wouldn't save him.

After all, when Edmund had a heart attack and collapsed on the street, there had been a large group of people around him, but none of them had been willing to give him a helping hand out of fear that he might be a conman out to swindle their money.

Even ordinary people refused to help, let alone these ruthless and unfeeling helmsmen who cared only about profits.

At this moment, Damon stood at the side nervously, his heart pounding rapidly.

If Edmund really stood on Lucas's side, he would definitely lash out at him and question him after finding out about what had happened in the ballroom.

The reason being, Damon was the one who had brought his men with him to confront Lucas to avenge his grandson. Later on, he had also called over the helmsmen of the top LA families to join forces against Lucas and Flynn. Even Matthew had come here to go against Lucas after obtaining information from Damon and getting instigated by him.

Regardless of the perspective from which the matter was perceived, Damon was still the culprit. Even if Edmund let him off, Matthew wouldn't spare him!

The moment he thought of the storm he might have to face next, Damon's body began to shake while his heart hammered rapidly. He almost lost his balance too.

At this moment, the young girl who had been following Edmund suddenly smiled at Lucas playfully. "Hey, Lucas! We've really met again!"

Lucas had felt a hint of surprise from the moment he saw Edmund.

He didn't expect that the old man who had suffered a heart attack and was rescued by him on the road yesterday would be the helmsman of the Coles, a top family in San Francisco.

The appearance of this young woman also caught him by surprise.

It turned out that the young woman of the Cole family he had met at the antique exhibition in the LA Arts Center yesterday afternoon was the granddaughter of the Cole family helmsman.

Her attitude toward him at the exhibition yesterday had been rather bizarre. She was infuriated to hear him questioning the authenticity of the Coles' antiques at first. But after she got a clear look at his face, her attitude changed drastically.

In particular, she repeatedly rebuked Nikki and Kenneth, who had been hostile to Lucas, and even threw them out of the exhibition.

In hindsight, Lucas reckoned that she must have recognized him to be the one who had saved Edmund.

Lucas smiled faintly without saying anything.

Beside him, Cheyenne immediately recognized the young woman too and couldn't help being surprised.

Standing nearby, Nikki naturally also recognized her to be the one who had driven her and Kenneth out of the exhibition hall yesterday, which caused her to end up in a wretched state and even suffer a slap from Kenneth. She was naturally displeased, but she knew that the young woman was from the Cole family and thus definitely had a superior status. Since Nikki couldn't afford to provoke her, she had no choice but to bear with the disgruntlement.

But Lucas now turned out to be the savior of Edmund, which meant that the entire Cole family, including the young woman, would be on Lucas's side!

Lucas would thus have several powerful people to help and protect him, making it even harder to kill him!

Nikki's heart was brimming with resentment, and she was clenching her fist so tightly that her nails dug into her palms while she glowered at Lucas.

Why... just why is this good-for-nothing so lucky?

He was already about to be shot dead by Matthew Benson, yet such a powerful person popped up out of nowhere to help him. Why?!

Chapter 468: Extremely Pleased

The other people in the ballroom naturally had no time to pay attention to Nikki's mood. After Edmund saw Lucas, he chuckled and walked toward him smilingly.

“Little friend, I’ve finally seen you again! If it wasn’t for your help yesterday, I would have already died! You are truly my savior!” Edmund smiled with excitement.

After regaining consciousness yesterday, he had wanted to thank the young man who saved his life. But he didn’t expect the latter to leave without claiming credit after making sure that he was fine.

Fortunately, the Coles had a wide network of connections and managed to find Lucas soon.

He had originally wanted to thank Lucas yesterday afternoon. But his granddaughter Alexis had still been worried, so she had forced him to go for a full-body checkup in the hospital. They had ended up spending too much time at the hospital, and it was already quite late by the time he finished.

So he had to wait until today to thank Lucas.

Facing Edmund’s grateful expression, Lucas said indifferently, “It’s just a small favor. Don’t mention it, Mr. Cole.”

When Edmund heard this, his eyes lit up, and he was even more pleased with Lucas.

Yesterday, when he suddenly had a heart attack and collapsed on the street, many onlookers had slowly gathered around him, but none of them had dared to come forward to lend him a helping hand. Although he had some special medicine that would save his life during a heart attack in his breast pocket, no one had dared to go forward to help him.

While he was experiencing difficulties and feeling like he was about to die, Lucas ignored the warnings of the people around him and shoved the life-saving pill into his mouth.

When he could finally breathe properly again, Lucas had already vanished quietly from the crowd before he could thank him. Lucas didn’t have expectations of being thanked by him either.

Even now, after learning of Edmund’s identity, Lucas still didn’t seem to have any change in expression, unlike the others who were getting agitated, excited, anxious, and nervous.

Even when Edmund declared that Lucas was his savior and expressed his intentions to repay him for his kindness, Lucas didn’t seem overjoyed and merely said indifferently that it was just a simple favor.

Indeed, it might have been an effortless favor for Lucas. But for Edmund, it was a tremendous favor because he had saved his life!

The qualities Lucas showed made Edmund thoroughly pleased with him, and he even felt a sense of admiration for Lucas despite having met all kinds of people in life!

"Young man, Lucas, how old are you this year?" Edmund asked with a benevolent smile.

"I'm twenty-eight this year," Lucas answered with raised brows.

"Lucas, you're still so young, so you should still be single, right? My granddaughter is a nice girl. What do you think of her?" Edmund asked with a smile as he pushed the young woman beside him toward Lucas smilingly.

"Grandpa!" Alexis immediately felt awkward and embarrassed as she blushed and complained, "What are you doing? He got married a long time ago to the beautiful lady beside him!"

During the antique exhibition in the arts center yesterday, Alexis had already seen Lucas holding hands with Cheyenne and calling her his wife. *What's up with Grandpa today? He's trying to set me up with someone without even informing me in advance. This is so embarrassing!*

Hearing Alexis say that Lucas was already married, Edmund immediately looked disappointed and awkward.

He hurriedly looked at Lucas and the extremely gorgeous Cheyenne beside him. He frantically apologized, "Ah! I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I didn't know you two were already married. I didn't mean to offend you in any way. I'm really sorry!"

Edmund, the esteemed helmsman of the Cole family, was actually apologizing to the two of them in such a personable manner. Lucas and Cheyenne naturally wouldn't pursue the matter, and they were merely amused by it.

They didn't expect that Edmund would want Lucas to marry his granddaughter despite having only met Lucas once, making them feel caught between laughter and tears.

The others around them were surprised to see the prestigious Edmund speaking to Lucas in such a nice and grounded way.

The scene of Edmund losing his temper and making Matthew Benson kneel down in front of him was still fresh in their memory. But he was now behaving like a completely different person toward Lucas.

Besides, Edmund actually immediately took a liking to Lucas and even wanted him to marry his granddaughter, making countless people so surprised that their jaws dropped.

The Turners looked incredibly sullen.

They had always despised Lucas, this live-in husband, but Edmund looked at him differently, making them somehow feel extremely frustrated and depressed.

The two other old men who followed Edmund were Sam and Robert, who had previously visited the Turners as well.

Robert saw his son, Justin, standing in the crowd with his head hung low and hesitating to go forward despite having already seen his father. He inwardly cursed Justin for being stupid, but he nevertheless asked him to come over. "Justin, what are you still standing there for? Hurry up and come over to greet your Uncle Edmund!"

Justin was still afraid of Edmund's imposing aura at first. But when he noticed that his father seemed quite close to Edmund and had even walked in together with him, he immediately hurried toward them gleefully. He then greeted Edmund respectfully, "Hello, Uncle Edmund! I'm Justin."

Robert happily pulled Justin over and introduced him to Edmund. "Edmund, this is my son, Justin. I've already handed over the Heron Corp. to him, and he's doing quite well in all aspects."

Edmund glanced at Justin indifferently and merely said, "Oh."

Standing at the side, Sam immediately felt that something was amiss.

As an old comrade of Edmund, Sam understood him very well and thus knew that Edmund hated people trying to seek connections with him the most.

So despite being longtime friends with Edmund, he had never tried to recommend anyone to Edmund or try to leverage the Cole family's power.

Otherwise, his family's status in LA wouldn't have stagnated at the second-tier level for such a long time.

But Robert actually now took it upon himself to introduce his son to Edmund and even praised the latter for his competency. He was obviously hoping that Edmund would give his son more help.

This was an enormous taboo for Edmund!

Although the three of them were friends and even considered themselves fellow comrades, Sam was, strictly speaking, the only one actually close to Edmund. Back then, Robert hadn't had much interaction with Edmund in the army, and he had merely gotten to know him through Sam much later.

So Robert actually didn't know Edmund too well and was thus unaware of this taboo.

But Sam couldn't explain this explicitly to Robert now, and all he could do was shoot him a meaningful glance in hopes that Robert would catch his hint and stop provoking Edmund.

Unfortunately, Robert failed to notice Sam's efforts and was still praising his son in front of Edmund smilingly.

"Grandpa, you're here too!" At this moment, Nikki walked over and greeted Robert obediently before looking at Edmund with a gleaming gaze.

She had already noticed that her paternal grandfather, Robert, was acquaintances with the prestigious Edmund Cole, so she definitely wouldn't let go of such a great opportunity.

Sam's heart sank. *Is Robert going to act foolishly again?*

Chapter 469: Sowing Discord

Indeed, upon sight of his granddaughter Nikki walking toward him to greet him, he immediately said to her, "Quick, Nikki. This is Edmund. Hurry up and greet him."

"Hello, Mr. Cole!" Nikki immediately greeted obediently with a sweet smile on her face.

She had always been good at socializing, and she naturally knew that the elderly who belonged to the same generation as her grandfather all liked obedient and sensible juniors. Thus, she behaved very well.

Unfortunately, Edmund didn't even look at her and simply turned a deaf ear to her greeting as if he didn't see her at all.

Thinking that Edmund merely didn't hear her, Robert introduced again, "Edmund, this is my granddaughter, Nikki. She..."

"Robert, cut it out!" Sam hurriedly pulled Robert's arm and whispered to him to hint him to stop talking.

At this moment, Robert finally noticed that Edmund seemed extremely displeased. It wasn't that he hadn't heard Edmund, but rather, he was ignoring him on purpose.

His heart tensed up, and he finally realized that Edmund wasn't an ordinary person but the helmsman of the Cole family, who had a noble and prestigious status and was not someone that ordinary people could get acquainted with.

Yesterday afternoon, Robert had managed to speak to Edmund for quite a bit, thanks to his friendship with Sam. So he unknowingly thought he was considered close friends with Edmund now and tried to recommend his family members to him.

Seeing that Edmund wasn't buying it at all and that his face was sullen, only then did Robert realize that he had been too presumptuous, so he hurriedly kept quiet.

Nikki suddenly winced in pain and clutched her stomach with a grimace on her face before clenching her jaw and pretending to be alright.

But her cry of pain had already attracted the attention of several people around her.

Only then did Robert notice that there seemed to be something wrong with his granddaughter. Not only was she clutching her stomach with her hands, but she seemed to be in pain, and even her clothes were stained with filth. There seemed to be traces of dust and water stains on her clothes, as if she had rolled around on the floor before this.

It was definitely not the appearance that someone should have when meeting guests.

Robert's face immediately darkened, and he frantically asked, "Nikki, what's wrong with you? Did someone bully you?"

Nikki deliberately pretended to be aggrieved and gritted her teeth while her eyes turned red and watery, as if she was on the verge of tears. Pointing at Lucas, she said, "Grandpa, it was him. He just kicked me hard in the gut and caused me to be unable to stand up for a long time. My stomach really hurts now..."

She was a woman, and she was deliberately making herself look pitiful like she had been bullied. Those who didn't know would definitely think that she had been bullied.

After all, no matter what happened, hitting a woman and kicking her in the gut was really quite horrid.

Nikki really hated Lucas. She initially felt extremely dejected when she saw that Edmund knew Lucas and was even standing on his side. She was full of resentment toward Lucas.

But now, tables had turned, and she was surprised to find that her grandfather turned out to actually know Edmund too and had even come over with him. She thought that they were obviously close to each other.

She thought that since Robert had already asked her to come over and greet Edmund, they were obviously closer to the Coles than Lucas was. So she naturally wouldn't let go of this opportunity, and she thought that she had to complain about Lucas to Edmund so that the latter would know who exactly Lucas was and then do her justice!

As soon as she finished speaking, there was a peculiar silence around her.

Robert widened his eyes in disbelief. "What did you say? Did... did Lucas Gray bully you?"

An ominous premonition arose in his heart. After what happened just now, he had already gotten quite a clear idea of the situation, so he didn't have a sense of superiority like Nikki did. He didn't think that Edmund valued his family much either.

In fact, if not for his friendship with Sam, Edmund wouldn't have known him at all, nor would he have had any dealings with the Herons.

However, Lucas had saved Edmund's life!

Robert could easily figure out who was more important to Edmund.

How could he allow his granddaughter to get into a conflict with the Cole family? Robert suddenly felt really troubled.

Justin hurriedly chimed in, "Yes, Dad! Lucas Gray is really vile! You missed what happened earlier. That punk is so arrogant that he not only beat up Nikki, but he even got someone to kick me. Dad, look. His footprints are on my body!"

Then Justin showed the footprints on his body left by Ethan's kicks.

"..."

Edmund didn't say a single word nor show any emotion on his face.

Robert felt really embarrassed that his middle-aged son, who was already in his late forties, was still complaining about someone much younger than him. Besides, he still wasn't entirely certain of what Edmund's attitude toward Lucas was like and thus didn't dare to be too firm about his stand. He merely glowered at his son and rebuked, "What nonsense are you spouting? Lucas is Edmund's life savior. Hurry up and keep your mouth shut."

Justin said indignantly, "What life savior? That punk is just a penniless live-in son-in-law. With his abilities, how could he have possibly saved Uncle Edmund? I bet he's just a conman who claimed credit for someone else's effort, right?"

Nikki also hurriedly said, "Yes, Lucas Gray likes deceiving others. That's how he managed to trick my cousin back then. Yesterday, he even lied to the scions of the Parkers and Bensons that he was the grandson of a prestigious family. He totally had us fooled. That's why Mr. Parker and Mr. Benson are here today to confront him!"

She looked at Edmund again and said with a sincere expression, "Mr. Cole, your status is prestigious. Lucas Gray must have gotten information from some source and

deliberately impersonated the person who saved your life. He's trying to lie to you and make you think that he's your savior. Don't fall for his trick!"

She let her tongue run. Not only did she allude to the reason for Matthew and Damon's arrival here and said that Lucas deserved it for being a liar, but she even tried hard to slander Lucas in front of Edmund, making him out to be an unscrupulous villain who was full of lies.

Lucas sneered and said nothing.

Cheyenne was enraged. Just as she was about to defend Lucas, someone suddenly rebuked furiously.

"Stop spouting nonsense, you vicious and stupid wench!" The one who rebuked her was none other than Alexis, who looked just as repulsed and furious.

Chapter 470: Two-Faced

As the heiress of the Coles, Alexis hated the scheming tricks of pretentious women.

Just now, Nikki was still pretending to be a pitiful victim of bullying, and now, she called Lucas a chronic liar who couldn't be trusted.

Alexis remembered how conceited and arrogant Nikki was at the antique exhibition yesterday. She also remembered how the man beside Nikki kept insulting and humiliating Lucas and Cheyenne.

Yet she was now deliberately pretending to be a vulnerable woman. Who was she putting on a show for?

She looked at Nikki coldly and said with disgust, "Do you think the Coles are all fools who can't even find out who saved my grandfather's life and would be duped by an impersonator?"

Nikki received a great shock and hurriedly said, "No, no, no, Miss Cole, I definitely didn't mean that! I really just wanted to give you a reminder out of good intentions..."

"Save your good intentions! I don't want to hear any more of this stupid nonsense that you're saying to sow discord! Don't think everyone is as stupid as you are. If you dare to say one more word of nonsense, I will make the Herons vanish from LA immediately!"

Although Alexis was young, her tone was full of an imposing and formidable aura. Besides, she was the heiress of the Cole family, so she definitely had the confidence to say this and wasn't just trying to scare her.

Nikki was completely intimidated and deterred by Alexis's aura, so much that she shuddered and immediately fell silent, not daring to say another word.

She was obviously displeased to be chided by a young woman several years younger than her, but the Coles were clearly prestigious and powerful, so she didn't dare to show her emotions.

Seeing that Nikki had angered the heiress of the Cole family with just a few words, Robert was so enraged that he wanted to slap Nikki on the spot. "Ignorant brat, hurry up and apologize to Miss Cole!"

He had merely managed to get acquainted with the Coles because of his friendship with Sam. If his foolish granddaughter ruined it for him, he might even have the desire to kill her!

Petrified, Nikki hurriedly lowered her head to apologize to Alexis, "Miss Cole, I... really didn't mean it! I'm indeed a fool who didn't think twice before speaking, so please be magnanimous and not hold it against someone like me!"

Alexis harrumphed coldly in disdain. "Of course I can't be bothered to stoop to your level."

She turned her head to look at Robert and said coldly, "But Mr. Heron, you ought to take your granddaughter in hand. I just arrived in LA yesterday, and I've already met her twice. She has left a very bad impression every single time. She's either deliberately bullying others or pretending to be weak and vulnerable just to frame others. I'm magnanimous enough not to bother, but if your granddaughter ends up offending someone else and digging her own grave, they may not be as kind and forgiving as me."

Robert turned pale while being chided by a junior and felt extremely awkward. But Edmund merely stood at the side without saying anything, so he clearly agreed with his granddaughter's words, making Robert feel even more dismayed.

He wiped the cold sweat on his forehead. "Yes! Miss Cole, you're right. I'll definitely discipline my granddaughter and prevent her from creating any trouble again from now on!"

Seeing that even the patriarch of the Heron family was being so respectful to a young woman in her twenties, all the guests didn't dare to say anything more.

Although she was young, she was still the heiress of the Cole family, and it was only normal for her to be spoiled and arrogant. The guests were in no place to make any comments.

Even Matthew and Damon didn't dare to say anything else.

But the next second, Alexis, who was an arrogant heiress in the eyes of everyone, grinned at Lucas radiantly and even beamed with joy when she saw the lovely little girl beside him. She immediately walked over and bent down. "Wow! Lucas, is she your daughter? She's so pretty!"

When the Coles sent their subordinates to find out who Edmund's savior was yesterday, they hadn't only found out about Lucas but also checked out his family. So Alexis knew since yesterday that Lucas was not only already married but also had a five-year-old daughter named Amelia.

But after seeing Amelia for the first time, she was immediately full of adoration for Amelia, who had inherited the excellent genes of both Lucas and Cheyenne.

If not for the fact that there were so many people around, she would have gone forth to pinch the cheeks of the incredibly adorable and doll-like Amelia.

Amelia was frightened by Alexis's enthusiastic gaze and quickly covered behind Lucas, but she nonetheless said politely, "You're very pretty too."

Although she was still young, she could tell the difference between good and bad by intuition. After watching Alexis lash out at Nikki, who often badmouthed her parents, Amelia had developed a good impression of Alexis.

Alexis's heart was about to melt from Amelia, who was keeping her eyes wide open. After making a strange sound, she immediately squatted down beside Amelia to speak to her. Now, she no longer had the domineering and intimidating aura of an heiress, which made many people's jaws drop in shock.

The difference in attitude was immense!

Edmund had long gotten used to seeing his granddaughter behave in such a manner, so he didn't bother about her. He merely said to Lucas smilingly, "Lucas, is it your relative's wedding today?"

The flower stands, congratulatory slogans placed at the hotel entrance, and decorative arrangements in the hotel lobby were all signs of a wedding.

The glass doors and windows at the entrance seem to have been shattered, and there was also an awkward tension in the lobby.

But Edmund was a knowledgeable person who had seen a lot of the world and naturally didn't ask about what had happened.

Lucas was about to speak. But from the side, Eddie immediately strode over, with his heart skipping. He laughed and interjected, "Mr. Cole, nice to meet you! I am Lucas's

grandfather-in-law, Eddie Turner, and it's my grandson's wedding day today. It's a great honor to have you here, and we are all pleasantly surprised and flattered!

"This way, please. Lucas, don't just stand there. Quickly invite Mr. Cole to take a seat!"

Eddie's face was flushed, and he was now speaking to Lucas with unprecedented enthusiasm, as if he had never mocked Lucas and looked down on him before.

The drastic change in his attitude didn't take Lucas by surprise because most of the Turners were just that mercenary and would tend to bully the weak while fearing the strong. They had probably inherited it from Eddie.

Although Lucas found it ridiculous, he didn't want to embarrass Eddie in public on Cheyenne's account.

However, while Lucas couldn't be bothered to get back at him, Charlotte couldn't tolerate it any longer because she was absolutely disgusted by the Turners' mercenary attitude and hypocrisy.

"Grandpa, did you forget something? You refused to acknowledge Lucas as your grandson-in-law and kept forcing him to divorce my sister. Just now, you even yelled at him like you were going to kill him. Why are you suddenly calling yourself his grandfather-in-law now? Is it just because Lucas now knows a powerful bigwig?"

Chapter 471: Enraged

Charlotte's words were clear and merciless.

Eddie's expression changed drastically.

If not for the fact that the Coles were right beside him, he would have really given his trouble-making granddaughter two tight slaps on her face!

"Charlotte, what are you babbling about? I did have some misunderstandings about... Lucas before this, but they've long been resolved. He and Cheyenne got married a long time ago, and I've long treated him as my grandson-in-law. Otherwise, I wouldn't have invited him to attend my grandson's wedding today," Eddie hurriedly explained and then glared at Charlotte to hint to her to behave herself and not cause any more trouble.

Charlotte was unmoved, as she felt that Eddie was being totally absurd and ridiculous.

Lucas had deliberately given them gifts worth millions of dollars, but they had thrown them away like garbage and even hurled all sorts of insults at him. When Damon and Matthew had come to confront Lucas earlier, the Turners had not only not put in a single

word for Lucas, but they had even wanted Lucas to kneel down and apologize to them. They had also lashed out at him for creating trouble for them and said that they would have driven him out if they had known earlier.

Those uncouth words made Charlotte feel extremely upset, so how could the Turners have the cheek to make Lucas help them entertain the extinguished guest and build connections for them?

They were simply ridiculous!

She knew that Lucas didn't want to hold it against them for hers and Cheyenne's sake. But it was precisely this reason that she didn't want these people who had bullied Lucas to gain benefits by making use of him and his connections!

"Grandpa, just a few minutes ago, you guys said that you wanted to kick Lucas out and even wanted him to get on his knees and apologize. Why didn't you consider the fact that Lucas is your grandson-in-law at the time?" Charlotte rebuked sullenly.

"Shut up!" Eddie roared loudly with obvious anger on her face.

Cheyenne stepped forward, walked toward Charlotte, and then said to Eddie firmly, "Charlotte is right. Why should she shut up?"

Tears welled up in her eyes as she slowly said, "Yesterday, Lucas gave you some premium tea leaves worth more than a million dollars, as well as some other expensive gifts. But you discarded them into the trash can in front of us, accused Lucas of giving you imitation tea, and even drove him out of the house. Did you spare a thought for our feelings then? Did you consider Lucas your grandson-in-law at the time?"

"Today, Lucas was chastised and insulted by Aunt Gretchen for no rhyme or reason at all, but did you stand up for him? No, you didn't. When the helmsmen of the Parkers, the Bensons, and several notable LA families ganged up against him earlier, did you stand up for him? No, you didn't!

"Not only did you not stand up for him, but you even made things worse by wanting him to get on his knees to apologize. You even eagerly tried to draw a line between him and yourself because you were so scared that you would be implicated!

"Now that you're aware Mr. Cole has a higher status and that Lucas knows him, you're making Lucas help you serve him, and you're finally acknowledging him as your grandson-in-law. Grandpa, I'm really disappointed in you. You're supposed to be our family and kin, but why have you become like this?"

Cheyenne was extremely disappointed, and she also felt aggrieved for Lucas, so she couldn't control herself and burst into tears.

Eddie turned pale, and he felt extremely embarrassed to be rebuked in public by his granddaughters. But he couldn't find a reason to refute, so he could only stammer and explain, "Cheyenne! Ah, I... I don't know how things turned out like this either. I... I can't help it! I'm just an old man. What can I say?"

Alex couldn't stand it any longer and lashed out at Cheyenne as her uncle. "Cheyenne Carter, what nonsense are you saying? He is your grandfather. Do you have any manners at all? Is this the way you should be speaking to your grandfather?"

Cheyenne was even more enraged!

She sneered and looked at Alex. "Who are you to chide me for being rude? All these years, you and your family have been loafing around and leeching so much money from us. Even the money used to build your house was taken from my mother. It's normal to borrow money from relatives, but you actually denied it and accused us of cheating you out of your money instead. How ridiculous!

"You are my mother's younger brother, and you're living off my mother's money. Yet you called her by her full name and spoke to her rudely. Do you think you're fit to talk to me about manners?"

Alex was so infuriated that he was speechless.

He was the only son in the family, so he had been treasured by Eddie and his wife since he was a child. Not only had he gotten used to taking money from Karen, but he would even scold her whenever he was displeased with something. But he didn't expect Cheyenne to chide him using these reasons.

Since he had already lashed out at his biological sister, he indeed wasn't fit to scold Cheyenne for being rude.

Seeing that things were going awry, Gretchen quickly said, "Cheyenne, we're all family. Why..."

Before she could finish speaking, Cheyenne turned to face her and snapped, "And you too! Aunt Gretchen, you love throwing your weight around as an elder, but since when have you acted like one? You deliberately created trouble time and time again and even insulted Lucas and Charlotte. When I was going through the toughest time of my life, you told me that your company was facing financial difficulties, so I lent you all my savings. However, not only did you owe me money for such a long time, but you even said that I maligned you because I'm money-crazy!"

Gretchen looked extremely petulant as well.

Previously, they had already embarrassed themselves because of this matter, and things had finally blown over after a while. Yet Cheyenne once again exposed her in front of everyone mercilessly. Even the rest of the Turners were sullen.

Cheyenne turned to look at Nikki, who had been staying silent at the side but had secretly rolled her eyes. She snapped, "You're the most detestable one! For so many years, I have always treated you like a cousin and taken good care of you. But what about you? You tried to use me as a bargaining chip with other men and repeatedly tried to set me up! If not for Lucas, I would have been completely ruined by you now!"

"But despite all this, I still thought of you as my cousin and begged Lucas to save you. But how did you repay us? Today, you have deliberately provoked and insulted him again and again, and you even badmouthed him in front of others! You're just an ingrate who bites the hand that feeds you!"

Cheyenne looked at the Turners around her and said with anger and disappointment on her face, "I've really had enough of all of you so-called relatives! Ask yourselves. We have treated you as our family, but what about you people? Have you ever treated us as your family?"

Cheyenne flew into a rage, which was rare of her. The Turners were rendered utterly speechless.

The other guests looked at each other in dismay, secretly shocked by the Turners' behavior.

Amid the awkward silence, Cheyenne pulled Lucas's and Amelia's hands and said without any hesitation, "Hubby, let's go!"

Then the three of them walked toward the exit.

Chapter 472: Wedding Guests Disperse

Charlotte looked at the dumbfounded Turners and harrumphed coldly while following closely behind Cheyenne, Lucas, and Amelia. They left the hotel lobby.

There was dead silence in the ballroom.

Now that things had developed to this point, no one dared to say a word.

Even Damon and Matthew, who had come to confront Lucas, as well as the helmsmen of top LA families, all fell silent and didn't dare to chase after Lucas as they watched him leave.

After all, there was a terrifying figure in the ballroom, so they didn't dare to create trouble at all.

In fact, they were all anxious, terrified, and on tenterhooks.

Even a fool would be able to tell that Edmund was clearly going to stand on Lucas's side, so they didn't know what the Coles would do to those who had come to confront Lucas and make things hard for him!

Edmund glanced at the sullen-faced Eddie coldly and said indifferently, "Most people tend to belittle those who are inferior and suck up to those who are more powerful. However, it's too harsh to be doing this to your family! You have an excellent grandson-in-law, but you don't even know how to cherish him at all. No one can help you!"

As Eddie was being reprimanded, his face turned red, and he lowered his head while trembling. He muttered softly, "You... you're right!"

He was now full of regrets. If he had known earlier that Lucas had some ties with the noble Edmund and ended up saving his life, he would never have treated Lucas like this today!

As long as Lucas put in some good words for the Turners in front of Edmund and asked him to stay for Dylan's wedding, it would definitely have given the Turners' status a huge boost. It would only have been a matter of time before they became a top family in LA.

Unfortunately, he had done something wrong, and all of this would remain only as his imagination!

Edmund turned to look at Robert and his family again, and he couldn't help frowning when he saw Nikki again.

According to what Cheyenne had said, Nikki might look weak and vulnerable on the surface, but she was actually very vicious and ruthless. She was truly an ingrate, as she hadn't hesitated to harm Cheyenne and do so repeatedly even after receiving her help.

Edmund shook his head and frowned at Robert. "You must never neglect the education of your children and grandchildren! Your son's and granddaughter's characters are really unacceptable. Stop thinking of trying to expand your company and connections. It's time you start handling the things that you ought to manage!"

Robert's face was as red as a tomato, and he lowered his head in embarrassment while nodding in compliance.

Just a few minutes ago, he had been singing high praises about his son and even tried to get his granddaughter acquainted with Edmund. But in the blink of an eye, his son and granddaughter were criticized for having unacceptable characters. From now on, they would probably become the subject of ridicule. And to make matters worse, he even got chided by Edmund. He was chagrined and full of regret.

Edmund looked at Sam, seemingly having expected better from him. He reprimanded, "You're already advanced in years. How are you still so poor at judging others? You should sever ties with him before it's too late!"

Sam looked at Robert with a bitter smile, nodded, and sighed guiltily. "Edmund, you're right. I'm far inferior to you when it comes to judging people's character!"

Robert's body stiffened!

He wasn't a fool, so he could naturally tell that Edmund was referring to him.

Sam's reaction also showed that he would probably choose to unfriend Robert, thus causing the latter to lose a backer forever!

The members of the big and powerful families of LA didn't dare to say a word and quickly lowered their heads. *Oh dear! Edmund will probably criticize us next!*

Edmund glanced at this group of people and said coldly, "I've heard a little about what happened between you and Lucas. You're all a bunch of dignified figures of status, and yet you're here to bully a young man in his twenties just for the sake of sucking up to someone more powerful. You people are really shameless!"

These helmsmen of wealthy families were so ashamed and guilty that they wished they could bury their heads in the ground.

"I don't care what you people think. All of you who offended him just now, go and apologize to him! If he refuses to forgive you, I don't think there's a need for your families to continue to exist!"

After Edmund said this, the helmsmen were overwhelmed with fear. He stopped looking at the expressions on their faces and left the hotel together with his granddaughter, Alexis.

When the Coles completely disappeared from the hotel, the people who had been holding their breaths quickly came back to their senses.

It was just too... terrifying!

Although Edmund didn't lose his temper and lash out at them just now, his mighty aura and status as the helmsman of the Cole family made everyone horrified.

The first to react were the helmsmen of the top LA families.

They reacted immediately after recovering from the fear. Their top priority now was to quickly get Lucas's forgiveness. Otherwise, with the Coles' influence, getting rid of them would be a piece of cake!

They couldn't be bothered to bid farewell to Damon, Matthew, and the others. Moreover, they couldn't be bothered to say any nonsense to the Turners and simply scurried out of the hotel.

Damon and Matthew both looked rather sullen, but they couldn't care less and also hurriedly left the hotel with their respective companions.

Many of the guests of the Turners also left after bidding farewell to Eddie.

Dylan's wedding was considered to have been completely ruined, and the reputation of the Turners had also been tarnished.

Relatives tended to only be close to each other on the surface, and most people stayed connected to their relatives in hopes that their relatives would be able to give them a helping hand during times in need.

But they had all seen clearly everything that had happened today.

The Turners were so cruel and harsh even to their close family members, let alone normal relatives. If something really happened, the Turners would definitely flee faster than anyone else. How could they possibly be willing to help them?

The Turners all seemed extremely gloomy and were trying their best to make them stay, but none of them was willing to stay.

Sam looked at Robert with a complicated expression. In fact, he had already talked to Robert about Edmund's taboos and strong abhorrence for those who liked relying on connections to climb the social ladder. But Robert had been all muddled up and let the temptation of sucking up to the Coles get to his head, thinking that he would be able to let the Herons rise to power and save themselves at least a decade of hard work. However, it turned out to be a tremendous loss.

He didn't expect Robert's son and granddaughter to have such unacceptable characters. Previously, he had still thought that they were obedient and capable. *Edmund is right. I'm indeed terrible at judging people!*

"Sam, we've been friends for decades. You..." Robert still wanted to give it one last try.

Sam looked deeply at his old friend of decades and suddenly felt like he was a complete stranger.

"Robert, you... you're on your own now!" With that, Sam also turned around and left.

Although he and Robert had been old comrades for years, he had also helped the Herons countless times before, and he no longer owed Robert anything in the future.

Watching his old friend walk farther and farther away, Robert understood that he probably wouldn't be able to salvage things. Thus, he was enraged.

Smack!

Smack!

He slapped Justin hard on his face, followed by Nikki!

Both their faces immediately reddened and swelled.

"Bastards!"

Chapter 473: Vying To Be the Driver

Robert was enraged and lashed out at Justin, "You dimwit! I told you early this morning that a big shot would be here today, so you ought to behave yourself and never offend anyone. Is this how you should behave? What a disgrace!"

After scolding his son, he turned his head to Nikki and rebuked unceremoniously, "And you! I thought you were smart, but I didn't expect you to be so foolish! Are you so blind that you couldn't tell that Mr. Cole values that punk Lucas Gray greatly? Or are you deaf, so you didn't hear Mr. Cole saying that Lucas Gray is his life savior? How dare you accuse him in front of Mr. Cole and even ask him to help you deal with Lucas Gray? Have you lost your mind?"

Both Justin and Nikki couldn't even hold their heads up while being scolded, let alone argue with Robert.

But a trace of greater resentment appeared in Nikki's eyes.

Lucas Gray!

It's all because of Lucas Gray! If not for him, I wouldn't have not only failed to suck up to the Coles, but I even ended up offending Mr. Edmund Cole and caused Grandpa to lose two powerful backers for no reason!

All of this is his fault!

Robert didn't notice this. After reprimanding his son and granddaughter, he looked at Eddie with a hostile expression and said coldly, "Eddie Turner, don't come looking for me when your family faces any trouble again in the future! Nothing good will ever come out of getting involved with your family! Hmph!"

After snorting coldly, he walked straight toward the hotel entrance before the Turners could even react. He even rebuked, "What are you two waiting for? Hurry up and apologize to Lucas Gray immediately!"

In a short while, only a few people were left in the hotel, which had still been extremely crowded just now.

The Turners' faces were exceptionally gloomy.

They were initially all prepared and ready to show off during the wedding, but their plans were now all completely ruined.

When Dylan brought his bride and her family over to the hotel at noon, they would be greeted with an unsightly scene.

...

After exiting the hotel, Lucas and his family walked directly to the parking lot not far away, intending to leave.

The wedding ended prematurely on an unhappy note, and they wouldn't be returning to the Turners. Thus, they decided to head straight back to Orange County.

Stanley was originally ordered by Lucas to show up and protect Cheyenne, so he naturally tagged along.

But on the way, Stanley came close to Lucas's ear and whispered something to him.

Lucas pondered quietly for a moment before saying to Cheyenne, "Honey, you guys head home first. I still have some business to take care of in LA. I'll return once I'm done."

Cheyenne nodded. She knew that the matters in LA had yet to be resolved and that the Parkers were still suspecting Lucas of being related to Tristan's death. Many of the matters regarding the families in LA had yet to be resolved as well.

She was worried about Lucas. But she also knew that even if she stayed, she probably wouldn't be of much help to him. On the contrary, she might even hinder him.

So after giving a nod of agreement, Cheyenne said worriedly, "Be careful then. You must make sure to pay attention to your safety. If anything happens to you, you must inform me too!"

With the support of Edmund and the presence of Flynn and Ethan, she wasn't worried that Lucas wouldn't be able to handle those matters. But she was afraid that someone would interfere or secretly resort to some unscrupulous means.

Lucas nodded and said with a faint smile, "Rest assured! I'll be back soon."

Then he solemnly instructed Stanley next to him, "Their safety is in your hands!"

Stanley had already shown up, so Lucas simply got straight to the point and openly arranged for him to protect and escort Cheyenne, Charlotte, and Amelia back to Orange County.

Wade would also follow them and protect them in secret.

Lucas's family was his greatest weakness, so he would protect them at all times.

Stanley, as the former assault team leader of the Falcon Regiment, had incredible reflexes. And now that he had gained Lucas's trust, he was definitely the best candidate for protecting Lucas's wife and daughter.

Stanley naturally understood that Lucas trusted him, so he said solemnly, "Rest assured, Lucas! I'll definitely complete my mission properly!"

"Okay, be careful along the way."

After Lucas watched Stanley drive away with his family, he finally turned around and was about to go to the place Stanley had told him about when he suddenly heard someone calling out to him from behind.

"Lucas! Lucas! Wait for us!"

Lucas turned around and saw Edmund hurrying toward him with his granddaughter, Alexis.

Lucas stood in place and waited for Edmund, who was panting heavily, to walk to him. He asked, "Mr. Cole, you've already thanked me earlier. Is there something else?"

Seeing how nonchalant Lucas was, Edmund couldn't help being dumbfounded for a moment. He appreciated Lucas even more.

Because of his identity as the helmsman of the Cole family, most people would subconsciously be scrupulous and respectful toward him whenever they saw him. The people who knew his status either feared him or would try their best to suck up to him.

But people like Lucas, who was composed and calm as if he was just facing an ordinary passerby, were really rare.

Alexis also looked at Lucas with great interest and asked curiously, "Lucas, my grandpa is the helmsman of the Cole family. Since you saved my grandpa's life, you are the benefactor of our family. Aren't you curious about what benefits you can get from us?"

Lucas shook his head indifferently, "I've already said that me saving Mr. Cole was just a lift of a finger. It's not that great of a favor, and I've never thought of getting any benefits from you. If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave now."

Alexis's eyes widened in shock.

She could tell that Lucas really didn't take the fact that he had saved Edmund seriously and wasn't expecting Edmund to thank or repay him.

This made Alexis become even more interested in Lucas.

At this moment, Flynn and Ethan both hurried over.

Seeing Lucas in the parking lot, Ethan immediately said with a smile, "Mr. Gray, where are you going? Let me send you!"

Flynn glanced at Ethan with displeasure. "You don't have to go to the trouble, Mr. Sawyer. I'm more familiar with LA, so I can send Mr. Gray to his destination!"

He had been working for Lucas for a while now, and Lucas had also set high expectations for him. So even though Ethan was the richest man in Orange County, Flynn reckoned that he mattered more to Lucas!

Edmund looked at the two people in front of him, who were both scrambling to be Lucas's driver, and felt a little amused and shocked.

According to the information he had obtained, Lucas really didn't seem to have any powerful status or background. He was just the husband of Cheyenne Carter from Orange County.

But the two people vying to be his driver were Ethan Sawyer, the richest man in Orange County, and Flynn Davis, a powerful figure who had recently risen to fame in LA. They were both extremely respectful to Lucas.

In fact, they even seemed to have failed to notice Edmund, who was standing right in front of them. *Could Lucas have an extraordinary identity?!*

He had only asked people to find out the identity of the Samaritan who had saved his life, so his subordinates had merely done a brief check on Lucas's background. But it seemed that he had to run a thorough check on Lucas's identity!

While thinking about it, Edmund suddenly smiled and said, "Lucas, I know you don't need any gifts, but no matter what, you've saved my life. How about this? It's about time for lunch. Regardless of where you're going, you still have to eat. Why don't I treat you to a meal to thank you? What do you think?"

Chapter 474: Veteran of the State of Calico

Lucas thought about it for a while and agreed, "Since you've offered, alright. Pardon me for disturbing you."

Lucas had quite a good impression of Edmund. And since Edmund was a powerful figure of a top family in San Francisco, forming friendly relations with him would be beneficial to his future expansion of the Stardust Corporation.

Although he didn't care to do so, he wouldn't be so foolish as to vehemently push away those who had good intentions toward him.

Edmund was overjoyed to see Lucas agreeing to have a meal with him.

The reason he had rushed out of the hotel to meet Lucas was that he hadn't even had time to speak to Lucas inside before he had been interrupted by various people and incidents.

At first, he had just wanted to contact Lucas to repay him for saving his life. But now, he was more interested in Lucas as a person.

The more he looked at Lucas, the more he appreciated him. To an old man like him who had met countless people, Lucas was a rare find.

Thus, Edmund happily asked Lucas to get inside the car while inviting Ethan and Flynn along. Together with his granddaughter, Alexis, they made their way to the Royal Lake Restaurant in a grand manner.

When the helmsmen of the top LA families rushed out from the hotel and learned that Lucas had left together with Edmund, their expressions became even more interesting.

...

In the large and luxurious private room on the top floor of the Royal Lake Restaurant, all the dishes had been prepared according to Edmund's instructions.

After they took their seats, Alexis personally poured wine for Edmund and Lucas.

Edmund lifted his glass and grinned at Lucas with pleasure. "This is a toast to Lucas. Thank you so much for saving my life!"

Lucas lifted his wine glass and clinked glasses with him, after which both of them downed it all in one go.

“Haha, great!” Edmund wiped the wine stains on the corners of his lips with his hand and laughed out loud. “Mr. Gray, you really are a nice young lad! Young men like you who are brave enough to do a good deed to save others are rare these days!”

Flynn and Ethan had only heard Edmund say that Lucas had saved his life, but they didn't know exactly what had happened and so asked about it.

Edmund didn't put on any airs as he told them straight about the incident that had happened yesterday morning when he suddenly passed out from a heart attack on the road and had fortunately been saved by Lucas, who had helped him up and fed him the pill.

At the end, there was a trace of nostalgia in his eyes as he said emotionally, “But it's no wonder that people are now afraid to do good. There are just too many con artists out there who have ruined society. Back in the day, when we were just soldiers fighting on the battlefield in Calico, people were much simpler! Even when someone knocked into you by accident, they'd ask if you were okay and needed help, not to mention save someone who passed out on the road. Such people basically don't exist anymore these days!”

When Lucas heard the familiar words ‘Calico’ and ‘soldiers’, his hand shook slightly while holding his wine glass. “Mr. Cole, you served as a soldier when you were young?”

The proudest thing in Edmund's life was not the great fortune he had created but his experience as a soldier in the state of Calico decades ago. So he was immediately enthused when he heard that Lucas also seemed to be interested in it.

“Haha yes! When I joined the army back then, I was only twenty years old, and I was a soldier who fought in Calico for more than ten years. I fought in dozens of battles!”

As he spoke, Edmund began to tell Lucas about the war affairs and anecdotes of his past as a soldier, the victories and accolades he had earned, and the sacrifices of his comrades.

While listening to Edmund's recount, Lucas also seemed to have been transported back to the time when he was a zealous soldier of the military.

Although Edmund had not been in the Falcon Regiment, and the two of them had different experiences in different times, the desire to defend their country and the precious camaraderie in the military camp were all so rare and valuable.

Alexis had already heard about the history of her grandfather's military experience countless times before.

She originally thought that Lucas would perhaps get bored and impatient from listening to her grandfather talk about these old stories. But she discovered that Lucas was

listening very seriously, and as her grandfather recounted the past, he seemed nostalgic and emotional from time to time.

Alexis blinked, feeling even more curious about Lucas.

While the few of them were having a conversation about Edmund's past in the army over the meal in the private room on the top floor of the Royal Lake Restaurant, there were more than ten people feeling uneasy on the first floor of the restaurant.

The manager of the restaurant was naturally aware that they were the helmsmen of the top LA families. Usually, it was rare to see any of them. But now, so many of them had appeared at once. Even Damon Parker, the helmsman of one of the two top LA families, was present.

The manager was overjoyed and hurriedly ran out to greet these distinguished guests to have them be seated in the luxurious private room on the top floor, but his offer was rejected.

"Okay, you go about your business. We'll just stand here as we wait for someone." One of the helmsmen impatiently dismissed the manager, who had offered his hospitality.

Thus, they became the focus of discussion.

"Wow! Guess what I just saw? The helmsmen of a bunch of notable LA families are all gathered in the lobby on the first floor, and they seem to be waiting for someone!"

"Wow! Is something big happening? Or is there some big shot coming? I saw the helmsman of the Parker family standing in the crowd on the first floor. Could the person they're waiting for have a higher status than the Parkers?"

"For sure! Would the helmsman of the Parkers wait for someone with a lower status? But it doesn't seem right. Why do they need to stand there and wait? Even if they're waiting for a certain person, they can just do so in a private room!"

"I have a feeling that they're in some kind of trouble. Look at their faces. They don't seem right! Everyone looks worried and fidgety. I'm afraid something has really happened."

...

There were quite a few people coming and going in the Royal Lake Restaurant, and the news soon spread like wildfire.

Many people speculated about the intentions of these big shots.

...

And at this moment, in the Owens' villa in LA...

Callum was sitting on the couch and looking at the latest news about the stock market on his phone, but he seemed rather distracted.

His younger brother, Elijah, was resting his long legs on the coffee table. After taking a look at the time, he couldn't help asking, "Callum, it's almost time, isn't it? That punk should have been crippled by the Parkers by now, right?"

"Well, probably," Callum answered casually. Although things were going according to his plan, he somehow had a vague uneasiness within him.

Elijah asked with puzzlement, "Callum, why does it seem that you're not in the least bit happy about this? Aren't things going according to your plan?"

He moved his legs off of the couch and said with great interest, "Those fools from the Parkers all think that punk Lucas Gray killed Tristan and will definitely go confront him. No, actually, they've already gone and have definitely crippled him! In that case, even if that punk really has some powerful background, it will be the Parkers incurring his wrath and offending him. We just have to sit back and watch them fight. Once the Parkers' power is weakened, we will become the greatest family in LA! Callum, you have a wonderful plan. What else are you still worried about?"

Chapter 475: Deviation In Plan

Callum frowned, rubbed the middle of his forehead, and said faintly, "No. Before the final outcome is determined, there are still a lot of variables to consider. Anything can happen."

Seemingly responding to his words, his phone suddenly started vibrating. It was an incoming call from one of his subordinates responsible for following up on the matter.

Callum immediately picked up the phone. "What's the outcome?"

"B-bad news! Mr. Owens, something terrible has happened!" On the other end, the subordinate sounded extremely flustered. It turned out that their plan had gone awry.

Callum's expression changed, and he immediately asked loudly, "What happened in the end? Hurry up and tell me clearly!"

The subordinate didn't dare to delay any longer and hurriedly told Callum the information he had found out this afternoon.

"Everything was going smoothly at first, and things were proceeding exactly according to your plan. Damon Parker brought a large group of bodyguards with him to the wedding venue and confronted Lucas Gray. The bodyguards were really about to break

Lucas Gray's legs in public, but the general manager of the Solar Corporation, Flynn Davis, suddenly arrived at the scene and sent his bodyguards to stop Damon Parker's bodyguards. Later on, the richest man in Orange County, Ethan Sawyer, also rushed over. And for some reason, he stood on Lucas Gray's side. No matter how Damon Parker forced him, it didn't work.

"Later, Damon Parker called the helmsmen of many LA families to come over and declare their stand to go against the Sawyers. Even the helmsman of the Bensons stood on his side and asked his bodyguards to take Lucas Gray away forcefully. Their bodyguards were so close to nabbing Lucas. Then Edmund Cole from San Francisco suddenly rushed over too!

"Edmund Cole said that Lucas Gray saved his life. With him around, no one could lay a finger on Lucas Gray. Moreover, Edmund Cole declared that he would be severing ties with the Bensons and made all the LA helmsmen who offended Lucas go and beg for his forgiveness. Otherwise, he will get their families removed from LA!

"Now, it's said that Lucas Gray and Edmund Cole are having a meal in the Royal Lake Restaurant, and the helmsmen of many LA families are waiting in the lobby on the first floor to apologize and make it up to Lucas Gray!"

The subordinate told him about everything that had happened in one go. At the beginning, Callum's expression began to change. Toward the end, it became increasingly gloomy.

"Got it. Continue keeping an eye on the situation!" Callum immediately hung up and stayed silent for a long time.

People often say, 'Man proposes, God disposes'. People could make plans, but as detailed as they might be, they were bound to face changes.

But an intelligent and shrewd planner would take variables into consideration and thus would be able to put their thwarted plans back on track through some backup means and plans.

However, the variables brought about by the news his subordinate gave him were far beyond Callum's expectations.

Flynn's and Ethan's sudden appearance and decision to protect Lucas were just a minor hiccup, and it wouldn't have affected Callum's plans as long as the helmsmen of the Parkers and the other families went against them. It might have even brought him some unexpected gains.

But now that Edmund had forcefully intervened, the outcome of the plan had rapidly developed in an unfavorable direction. If he was careless, even he, the mastermind behind this plan, would probably get involved too.

Callum's brows furrowed deeply.

Elijah asked in bafflement, "Callum, what did he say over the phone? Is there an outcome now?"

Callum slowly nodded and told him a summary of all the things his subordinate had said to him just now.

"Uh, Callum, although it has deviated from your initial plan, the outcome isn't that bad!"

Elijah thought about it and suddenly slapped his thighs before exclaiming, "Think about it. That punk Lucas Gray may have escaped a disaster, but the Parkers and the other top LA families have already completely offended him. That's tantamount to offending Edmund Cole! If we use some tactics and make Edmund Cole get rid of them, wouldn't LA be ours to control? That'd be even better than the expected outcome of your original plan!"

Callum glared at his younger brother, whom he had expected better from, and rebuked, "Why do you only take things at face value? If we don't handle this well, our family will be in big trouble!"

"How is that possible? We're obviously in a favorable situation. How can we possibly be in big trouble?" Elijah questioned in disbelief with a frown.

Callum said in a deep voice, "Don't you forget that Tristan didn't really get killed by Lucas Gray but the person we hired! If Lucas Gray is really that close to Edmund Cole, his investigation may lead to us as long as he leverages the power of the Coles! When that happens, we will face a huge crisis, and we can forget about dominating the whole of LA!"

Elijah was shocked to hear this, and he finally thought of the danger involved.

Indeed, his former best friend, Tristan, had not been killed by Lucas but by a henchman they had hired according to his brother's plan.

If the Coles investigated and found out about this matter, the Owens would definitely not be able to gain any benefit. Not only would they face the wrath of the Parkers, but they would also be dealt with by the Coles at the same time, as well as the mysterious force behind Lucas. Moreover, his reputation would also be completely ruined!

After all, he and Tristan used to be close. And over the years, many people had thought that they were best friends. If someone exposed the fact that he had killed his 'best friend' and even framed someone else for it, his life would be over too!

"The Coles have a prestigious status. I doubt they'd help Lucas Gray investigate such a matter. Besides, we didn't leave behind any evidence that night, and... everyone knows

that we're close to Tristan. No one will suspect us!" Elijah was overwhelmed with fear, and he seemed to be comforting himself with these words.

Callum didn't agree with him. "Edmund Cole said that Lucas Gray saved his life, and he even threatened the helmsmen of so many LA families to force them to apologize to Lucas Gray. If Lucas Gray says that he didn't kill Tristan and asks Edmund Cole to help him with the investigation, he definitely won't turn him down.

"Also, although the Parkers didn't manage to find any information, this plan of ours isn't seamless, and we're not necessarily safe. At the very least, the person we hired is still alive, and our monetary transaction records aren't that well hidden. As long as someone suspects us, it's not difficult for them to find evidence against us."

Elijah's face gradually paled as he listened to Callum's analysis.

He initially thought that no one would ever find out about their plan, but Callum made it sound like the scandal about to be unraveled.

He definitely didn't want to be exposed in such a manner and then have his reputation ruined!

Elijah was so anxious that he was about to get riled up. "Callum, what should we do? Hurry up and think of a solution! I don't want my reputation to be ruined nor anything to happen to our family! Callum, you're the smartest person in the family, and you're the one who came up with this plan too. You must have a solution, right?"

Chapter 476: Asking for Forgiveness

Callum chastised, "Look at the way you're behaving. We're not being investigated yet, but you're already so flustered. Are you trying to expose yourself?"

Elijah scratched his head and ruffled his hair, causing it to become extremely messy. He said with a bitter expression, "Callum, didn't you say that they might find out that we're the culprits very easily? Why are you blaming me for being too panicky? Aren't you worried?"

"I mean, you shouldn't let your guard down and think that everything will be fine just because you can rest easy now. Besides, I also said that they might be able to find some clues only if they suspect us. Otherwise, how can it be that easy when it's like finding a needle in a haystack?" Callum said with displeasure, feeling completely speechless about his brother, who was far less intelligent than him.

Seeing Elijah's face immediately light up, Callum warned him again in a deep voice, "Anyway, only the two of us know about this matter. Remember to keep your lips sealed about this. No one is to hear about this, not even Grandpa!

“Furthermore, you’d better stay at home the next few days and don’t go anywhere. Don’t meet your sordid friends for drinks either. If you spread a single word about this, the Owens will be dead meat. You hear me?”

Elijah hurriedly nodded. “Okay, okay! I’ll stay at home. I won’t go anywhere! You can rest assured, Callum!”

Callum was slightly relieved to see that Elijah had finally understood.

He was actually saying these words to himself too. *Yes, we shouldn’t panic. We’re usually very close to Tristan, so they’re definitely not going to suspect us.*

Just like that, no one will know the truth.

However, Callum was still feeling anxious, and his eyelids twitched, as if something major was about to happen.

Naturally, none of the Owens was aware of this matter.

In the private room on the top floor of the Royal Lake Restaurant in LA, Lucas, Edmund, and the rest were almost done eating. After rattling on for an hour about his past in the military, Edmund was finally satisfied and was even more pleased with Lucas, who was willing to hear his stories.

He had found it a pity a few times. In his opinion, Lucas was a handsome young man with a good character, and the two had plenty of topics in common. He was a good candidate to be his grandson-in-law, but unfortunately, he had settled down, gotten married, and had a child a long time ago.

He naturally couldn’t break Cheyenne and Lucas up, so he merely inwardly lamented.

Ah, why didn’t I meet this young man earlier?

It’s such a pity!

After the few of them chatted, Edmund suddenly said, “Lucas, what do you plan to do with those people downstairs?”

The LA helmsmen below were waiting for the news, so naturally, someone had already come to inform them a long time ago.

Lucas gave it some thought and said, “Just leave this matter to me to handle. You don’t have to bother any longer, Mr. Cole.”

A trace of surprise and appreciation appeared in Edmund's eyes.

He was surprised because he had already hinted to Lucas just now that he could help him get rid of these people anytime if Lucas wanted it. Even if Lucas wanted to make these ten or so powerful families disappear from LA overnight, he would be able to do it. But Lucas seemed to be implying that he didn't need Edmund's help, which was a direct rejection of his good intentions.

As for the appreciation, it was naturally because of Lucas's temperament. He chose to solve issues with his own abilities instead of asking others for help, which was truly the attitude of a powerhouse.

This also meant that Lucas could easily deal with these families without his help. Regardless of whether Lucas was capable and strong because of his own abilities or whether he just had a powerful background, Edmund was even more interested in him.

Alexis also seemed extremely surprised. She blinked and asked in puzzlement, "Lucas, are you really going to turn down my grandpa's help? In fact, with just one word from my grandpa, he can help you perfectly settle this matter. Wouldn't it be more troublesome for you to handle it yourself? Is that really okay?"

"Alexis, don't butt in. He has his own plans," Edmund whispered to his granddaughter and told her to stop. Then he turned to Lucas and said seriously, "Lucas, you don't have to be polite with me. If you ever need my help in the future, just feel free to say so!"

While speaking, Edmund handed Lucas a business card with his personal cell phone number on it.

He generally didn't like people who sucked up to him through connections, so there were very few people who could have Edmund's personal number. But Lucas was someone he valued and the person who had even saved his life. Edmund wished Lucas would quickly ask him for a favor so that they could become closer.

"Sure." Lucas nodded, took Edmund's business card, and casually put it in his pocket.

Apart from Edmund, Alexis, and Lucas himself, Flynn and Ethan stood firmly on Lucas's side because both of them knew that Lucas was actually a part of the Hutton family from DC. Hence, they didn't react much when they saw Edmund handing him the business card.

If it was anyone else in LA, they would have been agitated, thrilled, or jealous because of this small business card.

By the time the few of them reached the first floor via the elevator, the helmsmen of the major LA families, who had been waiting here for more than an hour, immediately came

over with great excitement. “Mr. Gray, I was reckless and offended you this morning. I’m the owner of Breeze Culture. I sincerely apologize to you!”

“Mr. Gray! I, too, didn’t think through what I said this morning and offended you. Please forgive me!”

“I’m the owner of Glory Fashion. Please be magnanimous and forgive me for being disrespectful to you, Mr. Gray!”

...

The helmsmen of the top LA families who had previously taunted Lucas, Ethan, and Flynn had now all swallowed their pride to apologize to Lucas one after another while fearing that they might not gain his forgiveness if they weren’t sincere enough.

After all, Edmund had already said that if they couldn’t get Lucas’s forgiveness, there wouldn’t be a need for their families to continue to exist in LA.

Even Damon bit the bullet and went all out to apologize to Lucas.

But to their surprise, Lucas merely nodded at Edmund beside him and then got inside Flynn’s car with Flynn without paying any attention to them!

“What... what’s going on?”

“It looks like he hasn’t forgiven us yet. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have left without saying a word.”

“But what should we do next?”

“Continue looking for chances to apologize to him?”

“Or should we send some money or gifts to him instead? Maybe he doesn’t think a verbal apology is sincere enough.”

The crowd was at a loss for a moment.

Some people wanted to ask for Edmund’s opinion on what they should do, but unfortunately for them, Edmund had already left.

“Mr. Parker, what should we do? Lucas Gray doesn’t seem to want to forgive us at all!” The few helmsmen asked Damon for some suggestions with sorrowful expressions.

Damon was just as stumped and vexed. He said with great annoyance, “If I knew what to do, would I still be standing here like an idiot?”

With that, he stormed away in exasperation without looking at their reactions.

On the other side, Lucas sat on the backseat of Flynn's car and told him an address. "Drive to this place."

Flynn acknowledged. "I know. That's where Stanley locked up the real murderer after catching him, right?"

Chapter 477: The Killer in Black

The two men drove the car to a private house in a remote area of LA.

After pushing the door open and entering, they saw a man in black skin-tight clothes tightly secured to a chair with a black cloth covering his eyes and a towel stuffed in his mouth to prevent him from yelling.

Lucas stood in front of him. Flynn understood what he meant, so he went forward and pulled away the cloth around his head and the towel in his mouth at once.

The man in black squinted and tried to adapt to the light for a while before he raised his head and looked at Lucas and Flynn in front of him, his eyes full of hatred and intimidation.

He was about forty years old, and his entire body reeked of a faint odor of blood. Lucas knew at a glance that this man had taken many lives.

"I'm warning you. This is illegal detention! You'd better let me go, or I will definitely sue you!" he bellowed.

Lucas remained expressionless and merely sneered. "You're just a hitman who kills for a living and has no bottom line, but you have the nerve to sue us?"

The man in black's pupils constricted as a trace of obvious panic appeared on his face. "I... I don't know what you're talking about."

"Don't you dare try to deny it." Lucas stood in front of him and said in an icy cold voice, "My subordinate caught you near the scene of Tristan Parker's car accident yesterday. There is concrete evidence. You can't deny it."

Seeing the immediate change in the man in black's expression, Lucas questioned overbearingly in a condescending manner, "Tell me. Who actually sent you to kill Tristan Parker?"

Indeed, the person who killed Tristan was not sent by Lucas.

Last night, Tristan had hired an assassin to kill Lucas at the top of Caldo Mountain, so Lucas would naturally not let Tristan live any longer. So after going down the mountain, he had arranged for Stanley to take action on Tristan.

But before Stanley could do it, he discovered that someone had gotten ahead of him and killed Tristan first.

Due to the sudden power outage and sparse traffic on the roads on the outskirts at the time, it was difficult to find useful clues.

But Stanley had personally witnessed the incident, and he had immediately controlled the murderer at the scene.

Lucas was initially just curious about who else would want Tristan dead, but then he soon thought of Lena.

Lena had also encountered several sudden assassination attempts. If he had not happened to be at the scene to rescue Lena, she would have probably been dead by now.

Tristan and Lena had previously been engaged, and through his intuition, Lucas sensed that there might be some kind of connection between the two.

The most direct speculation Lucas made was that someone didn't want the marriage alliance between the Sawyers and the Parkers to happen. But they could use open means to stop it, so they resorted to assassinating either Lena and Tristan in order to prevent the marriage.

So Lucas made Stanley control Tristan's murderer to find out who exactly the person who repeatedly sent people to assassinate Lena was.

They couldn't keep their guards up all the time either, so only by finding the mastermind behind the assassination could Lena be free from danger.

However, when Damon brought a large group of people over to accuse Lucas of being Tristan's murderer and wanted to take him away to avenge his grandson, Lucas realized that the plot behind this matter wasn't that simple.

The killer in black sneered and said adamantly, "Do you think I will tell you? In our line of work, the rule of thumb is to keep our lips sealed about our clients' information. I won't tell even if you kill me!"

Lucas raised his eyebrows.

The killer seemed to be quite a person of principle. But seeing the panic on his face that he couldn't hide, Lucas reckoned that he probably wouldn't be as tight-lipped as he claimed to be.

If subjected to some torture methods, he certainly wouldn't be so unrelenting.

Lucas had been in the Falcon Regiment for six years and caught many spies from various forces, so forceful interrogation with torture methods was not new to him.

He had more than a hundred ways to force this killer to speak.

But Lucas really couldn't be bothered.

"The person who sent you to kill Tristan Parker is Callum Owens, right?" Lucas suddenly asked.

A fleeting trace of surprise appeared on the face of the killer, and he blurted, "How do you know..."

He immediately stopped himself from going on when he realized what he was saying, but it was already too late. His action just now was enough to prove that what Lucas said was absolutely true.

Since he already confirmed from the killer who the mastermind was, there was no need for Lucas to ask about anything else.

Lucas had long suspected the reason for Callum's actions, and it actually wasn't hard to guess something based on the relationship between the Owens and the Parkers.

Lucas turned around and casually said to Flynn, "This person has killed many people. I'll leave him to you."

With that, he walked toward the door.

Flynn had astonishment written all over his face. He initially thought that they would have to interrogate the killer to get the information they wanted. But he didn't expect Lucas to guess who the mastermind was just by taking a glance at him. He also didn't expect that the real killer was Callum, a scion of the Owen family.

Based on the information he had gathered during his time in LA, Callum and his brother, Elijah, had always been very close to Tristan. If Lucas hadn't pointed it out, he wouldn't have believed that they were the ones who had plotted to kill Tristan!

Flynn was extremely curious as he wondered, *How on earth did Lucas guess it?*

It should be the first time Lucas has met this killer, so how does he know that he has killed many people?

However, he could only keep his thoughts to himself. After all, Lucas had always been an extraordinary person. So even though he had worked for Lucas for a long time, he couldn't guess what other abilities and secrets Lucas had.

Now, his most important task was to finish the task Lucas gave him.

Flynn gestured toward the bodyguards behind him, and the two elite bodyguards immediately stepped forward toward the killer.

The bodyguards naturally had experience in getting rid of people in a clean and fast manner.

The killer's eyes suddenly widened as he realized that Lucas's words just now were not merely a casual remark. Rather, he was really going to have someone kill him!

"No! No, you can't kill me! I am a member of the Peerless Martial Association. If you dare to kill me, the rest of us will definitely not spare you!" the killer roared in exasperation.

When Flynn heard the name 'Peerless Martial Association', his expression changed slightly.

Chapter 478: Peerless Martial Association

Flynn had heard a little bit about this organization on a few occasions, and it was said that the Peerless Martial Association was a large martial arts association that had recruited many skilled martial artists.

It was said that many of its experts were often paid to commit illegal acts for others and were extremely protective of one another. Once a member of the organization died, it would send many experts to take revenge.

If this person in front of them was really a member of the Peerless Martial Association, Lucas would encounter more trouble in the future, given its usual practice.

"Uh... Lucas, what do you think we should do?" Flynn hesitated for a moment but decided to ask Lucas's opinion.

In his opinion, although he had heard about the Peerless Martial Association from others, there was a great possibility that it was indeed true. He felt that it would be best to avoid getting into a conflict with the Peerless Martial Association as much as possible.

“Hmph, I’m sure you have heard of the Peerless Martial Association. If you let me go, I can still pretend that nothing has happened, and I can also not hold it against you for catching me. Consider us even!”

The killer seemed to see Flynn’s scruples, and a smug expression appeared on his face as he said dangerously, “But if you dare to lay a hand on me, the members of the Peerless Martial Association will definitely kill you to avenge my death!”

Lucas’s expression turned dark as he said coldly, “Kill him!”

“Yes!” Flynn was shocked, but he immediately agreed.

The killer’s certain and smug expression stiffened. He didn’t expect that Lucas would actually order for him to be killed even after knowing the name of the organization he belonged to!

Is he not afraid that the Peerless Martial Association will make him its enemy?

Or is this person the type that hates being threatened?

However, regardless of the reason, the killer panicked in the face of impending death and hurriedly said, “Don’t... don’t kill me! I’ll tell you anything you want to know! Yes, it was a young man named Callum Owens who gave me a hundred and fifty thousand USD to get me to help him kill Tristan Parker without leaving a trace! If you have any other questions, I will definitely tell you everything I know! Just don’t kill me! Please... ah!”

Lucas frowned and picked a small stone on the table next to him. Then he flicked it at the killer.

Pfft!

Like a bullet out of a gun, the marble-sized stone directly pierced through the brow of the killer, making him stop speaking. He would never have the chance to say anything again in his life.

If the killer could be as tough as he was at the beginning and abide by the rules of his industry, perhaps Lucas would have still thought highly of him. But Lucas didn’t see the need to be kind to someone who was greedy for money, afraid of death, and would kill anyone through unscrupulous means for money.

The stone was the exact same thing that the killer had used to cause the accident that killed Tristan. Now that he had died at the hands of his own weapon, he had brought it upon himself in a certain sense.

Flynn and his bodyguards were also shocked.

They had just witnessed Lucas flicking a small stone and achieving an effect comparable to a pistol without any firearms or other weapons. It was too terrifying, and it could be considered an inhuman means!

Flynn couldn't help gulping and asked cautiously, "Lu-Lucas, the Peerless Martial Association..."

Lucas said indifferently, "It's just a minor assassin. Even if the president of that Peerless Martial Association is standing right in front of me, I have nothing to fear."

He exuded a shocking aura, confident and powerful. It was as if no one could make him take a step back at all.

Flynn felt uncontrollably exhilarated. *What's there to fear when working for a man like Lucas?*

"Lucas, since the Owens are behind this matter, and they even framed you, I will go to them and demand an explanation, okay?" Flynn asked.

Lucas shook his head. "There's no need to do anything to them for now. Go to the Parkers now, and remember to take this killer's corpse with you."

Flynn gladly obeyed.

At the Parkers...

Damon had waited a long time for Lucas at the Royal Lake Restaurant, but he didn't expect Lucas to leave arrogantly without giving any of them a chance.

This made Damon enraged, but there was nothing he could do except go home and think of a solution.

As soon as he returned, a bunch of people rushed out from the villa and looked at Damon with an expectant expression.

"Dad, did you catch that punk and bring him back?"

"Dad, Lucas Gray killed my son. Hand him to me, and I will make his life a living hell to avenge Tristan!"

"Yeah, Grandpa. Where is that bastard? I will skin him alive!"

...

They were all direct descendants of the Parkers, the most anxious of which were the parents of Tristan and several other juniors.

Although Tristan had been incompetent and had long been ruled out as a potential successor by Damon early on, he was still his grandson and a direct descendant of the family after all. Yet he had now died an unclear death in the outskirts of LA, which was simply a blatant provocation and humiliation to the Parkers!

Although the dead couldn't be brought back to life, they had to avenge Tristan and bring the brazen murderer to justice while also torturing him to death!

Damon was already overwhelmed with anger, and now that he was surrounded by a group of people asking about Lucas's whereabouts, he felt even more annoyed and frustrated.

"Get lost!" he hollered. He pushed away the few family members blocking the way and went straight back to his villa.

They almost fell to the ground and looked at each other in dismay.

Based on Damon's reaction, they reckoned that things probably didn't develop as they expected. Moreover, the fact that none of Damon's bodyguards had returned was enough to indicate that Damon had failed to bring Lucas back and might have also encountered something.

Seeing Damon's furious expression just now, they didn't dare to follow him in at this time and ask him for a clear explanation.

The only one who went in and tagged along behind Damon was Ray, Tristan's father.

Immediately after he went in, he learned about the events that had occurred today from the secretary that Damon had brought there and also found out that that punk Lucas Gray had suddenly gotten into the good books of Edmund Cole. Not only did Edmund warn them against harming Lucas, but he even forced all the helmsmen present to apologize to Lucas and seek his forgiveness. Otherwise, their families would be removed from LA.

"How did that happen..." Ray was in disbelief.

He couldn't believe that the murderer of his son would actually be that lucky to save Edmund Cole and gain his protection. The helmsmen of many top LA families even had to apologize to him. It was as absurd and dramatic as the plot of a third-rate novel!

But when he saw his father's pale face, he understood that it was absolutely true!

Why is my son's murderer getting the help of a nobleman even after causing my son to die tragically? Doesn't this mean that I'll never be able to avenge him?! He was indignant!

At this moment, someone hurriedly ran in from outside. "Mr. Parker, bad news. A man named Lucas Gray has barged in with his men!"

Chapter 479: Visit

Damon and Ray were both enraged.

They wished they could skin Lucas alive, but they had to apologize to Lucas and ask for his forgiveness under Edmund's orders.

But they had now already returned to the Parker residence, and Lucas was being too much of a bully if he trespassed and barged into their home!

"Let's go. I want to see what else he wants to do!" Damon was boiling with fury, and with a roar of exasperation, he led Ray to the gates of their residence.

Damon saw from some twenty meters away that Lucas was standing at the gates with Flynn. It seemed that they didn't bring anyone else with them.

Given the current situation, they reckoned that Lucas probably wasn't here to confront them and pick a fight. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been so foolish as not to bring a bodyguard with him.

However, Damon was still as infuriated.

Many of the Parkers' bodyguards were crowding around Lucas and glaring at him intently.

Although Lucas wasn't from LA, and many of the Parkers didn't know him, there were some who knew him, such as Kenneth. So Lucas was surrounded by the bodyguards as soon as he arrived at the Parker residence.

If not for the fact that Damon, the helmsman of the Parkers, had ordered them against doing so, they would have instructed their bodyguards to beat Lucas to death at the entrance as a warning to those who tried to harm them.

"Lucas Gray, how brazen of you to show up here!" Damon glared at Lucas gloomily and walked through the crowd that parted for him toward Lucas.

Lucas smiled faintly. "What? Mr. Parker, are you trying to threaten me? So much for bringing a gift for you."

“Gift?” Damon narrowed his eyes with suspicion. He wasn’t that naive to think that Lucas would really bring him any gift. Given the current relationship between the two parties, he would have had someone break Lucas’s limbs this morning if Lucas didn’t have the protection of Edmund. He reckoned that Lucas was well aware of this too.

Lucas didn’t say much either. He raised his hand and tossed the killer behind him.

The heavy corpse fell to the ground, revealing the look of panic and horror that had already stiffened on his face. There was a hole in the middle of his eyebrows, from which blood was gushing out endlessly.

Clearly, the corpse belonged to a person who had just died.

Greatly startled, Damon and the rest of the Parkers subconsciously took two steps back. Many of them even exclaimed in astonishment.

But Damon had been through all sorts of situations and had broad horizons after all. Moreover, he was the head of the Parker family. So he quickly calmed down and questioned Lucas coldly, “Lucas Gray, do you mean by this? Are you trying to threaten us with a corpse?”

Ray was even more enraged, as he felt that Lucas was insulting them by tossing a corpse at them.

“Dad, now that he has brought himself here, let’s just kill him and take revenge for Tristan!” Ray glared at Lucas with bloodshot eyes.

Flynn sneered and said coldly, “Mr. Parker, if this stupid son of yours continues to speak with such an arrogant attitude, there’s no point for us to keep wasting our breaths and time here.”

“You!” Ray flew into a rage after hearing Flynn’s hostile words.

“Shut up!” Damon glared at his son, from whom he had expected better.

If Lucas was someone who could be killed directly, Damon would long have ordered the Parkers’ bodyguards to take him down. There wouldn’t be a need for them to continue wasting their time talking nonsense here.

He initially thought that Lucas was just an ordinary live-in son-in-law of the Carters. Even though he used to be one of the Huttons from DC, he had been kicked out more than twenty years ago and didn’t have any power or useful connections to back him up.

But Flynn and Ethan had both been defending Lucas today and behaving completely out of the ordinary, as if they had been bewitched. They were willing to put everything

they had on the line and stubbornly refused to change their minds. This made Damon baffled, but at the same time, he also had more scruples.

Were Ethan and Flynn dimwits?

Obviously not.

In that case, their full-swing efforts to protect Lucas at the risk of losing everything were very questionable.

Besides, the fact that Edmund valued Lucas highly seemed to be very unusual too.

Even if Lucas had saved his life, it would be perfectly fine for Edmund to repay Lucas with some money and gifts. For a prestigious and notable family like the Coles, giving monetary gifts to repay favors was much simpler than returning the favor in the same manner.

But Edmund was overly defensive and protective over Lucas. Not only did he stand on Lucas's side and forbade others from harming him, but he even threatened the helmsmen with the future of their families to force them to apologize to Lucas.

If Lucas didn't have any outstanding qualities, he wouldn't have deserved such great treatment from Edmund.

So Lucas certainly should also not be so naive as to show up at their door with a corpse with the sole purpose of deterring them.

After thinking about it for a long time, Damon finally made up his mind and said, "What do you have to say? Come inside and talk."

"Dad, you can't!" Ray immediately tried to stop it.

"Shut up!" Damon rebuked coldly and then chased his son, who was overwhelmed with anger, out. He then brought Lucas and Flynn to the hall of the villa.

"What exactly are you here for?" After Damon sat down on the couch, he didn't intend to beat around the bush and simply cut straight to the chase.

Lucas sat down on the couch opposite Damon and only nodded at Flynn, who was beside him. "You tell him."

"Yes!" Flynn answered and then said to Damon, "Mr. Parker, do you want to become the most powerful and wealthy family of LA?"

Damon had been sizing up the two of them, and from the moment he saw Lucas sitting down by himself and casually giving an order, which Flynn obeyed deferentially and stood at the side like a subordinate, Damon's heart pounded rapidly.

The scene in front of him could only mean that Lucas had a superior status to Flynn, who was clearly subservient toward him.

W-what's going on?

Before he could even think about it, he suddenly heard Flynn's words, which made him nearly lose his composure.

"What do you mean by that? Do you have the ability to ruin the Parkers to such a state? No. If you really have this ability, I'm afraid you would be the one to benefit, Mr. Davis. Otherwise, why would you give us such a great benefit?" Damon said with a derisive gaze in his eyes. He could almost guess what Lucas and Flynn's purpose of coming to the Parkers was.

He was just trying to give him false hope and then use the Parkers' resources to rake in profits for himself!

Having lived for decades, he had seen countless such tricks before.

At the thought of this, Damon couldn't help but be less scrupulous about Lucas. *That's it?*

Flynn sneered. "This is a rare and precious opportunity for the Parkers given by Mr. Gray. If you're willing to accept it, we will help you eliminate the Owens. If you don't, there won't be a need for your family to continue to exist in LA."

"You...! No, wait!" Damon subconsciously wanted to lose his temper, but after hearing what Flynn said, he clearly felt that something was amiss. "What do you mean by that? What's the matter with the Owens?"

Flynn smirked. "Seems like you're not that stupid. See that corpse at the door? That is the real murderer of your grandson Tristan. The mastermind behind this is the Owens!"

Chapter 480: How To Decide

Damon stood up abruptly with a huge change in expression. He blurted, "Impossible!"

"What's impossible? Do you think the Parkers and the Owens get along that well with each other? Just think about the marriage alliance between the Parkers and the Sawyers, and maybe you'll have the answer."

“Anyway, we’ve already handed the murderer over to you and said what we have to say. It’s up to you to decide the outcome that you want. By the end of tonight, you must give us a clear answer. Otherwise, you shall bear the consequences!”

After saying this coldly, Flynn turned around to look at Lucas and said softly, “Mr. Gray, I’ve said my piece. We can go now.”

“Wait a minute!” Damon’s mind was in a whirlwind as he had countless questions for Lucas.

He wanted to ask how Lucas found out who the real murderer of his grandson was and how he managed to discover that the Owens were the culprit.. He also wondered if this was all just a grand scheme devised by Lucas. He also wanted to ask what Flynn’s words meant and whether they could really make the Parkers the only top family in LA. Of course, what he wanted to ask more than anything else was why Lucas was doing all this and what his agenda was.

Due to the fact that there were too many questions surfacing in his mind at once, and he didn’t know which one he should ask first, Damon called out to them but was at a loss for words.

Lucas answered with a faint smile, “To tell you the truth, I need someone who will help me take charge of the affairs in LA. Even if I make the Parkers the only top family in LA, the person who has the power to make the final decision is me. In other words, if I let the Parkers rise to the top, you will have to take care of everything in LA for me.

“Once, the Brookes also pretended to pledge allegiance to me while secretly betraying me because of their lack of foresight. All of you have seen what happened to them in the end. I think Mr. Parker should be wise enough not to repeat the same mistake as the Brookes, right?”

Lucas stood up, and although he had a smile on his face, Damon somehow felt a chilliness surging from the bottom of his heart.

Damon didn’t react for a long time, even after Lucas and Flynn left.

The overnight destruction of the Brookes had left all the notable families in LA in fear. They had once speculated about the reason and eventually unanimously agreed that the Brookes must have provoked a terrifying existence, which caused them to be destroyed overnight.

Some even speculated that the destruction of the Brookes might be related to the people behind the Solar Corporation because the Solar Corporation took the documents left behind by the Brookes and took over all of the Brookes’ businesses rightfully.

Prior to this, Damon did think that Lucas might have something to do with this matter, especially since the general manager of the Solar Corporation was always defending Lucas, as well as the fact that Stanley, who used to work for the Brookes, was now following Lucas around and protecting him.

However, Damon could never have imagined that the truth would be even more shocking than he had guessed—Lucas was the mysterious and unfathomable person behind Flynn!

Furthermore, the destruction of the Brookes was indeed related to them, but it was also the Brookes who had once recognized Lucas as their master. But they ended up betraying him, which was the reason they faced such a calamity and disappeared from LA overnight!

The moment he thought of the force that Lucas might have behind him, Damon couldn't help but break out in a cold sweat.

If the truth was really as Lucas said, the Parkers' behavior in the past few days was completely tempting fate!

Moreover, Damon didn't think that Flynn was lying about the fact that the Owens were the ones who had plotted Tristan's death. In particular, when Flynn mentioned the engagement between Tristan and Lena, Damon had a sudden realization.

Since the destruction of the Brookes, the Parkers and the Owens were the remaining two top families.

Had the Owens ever thought of suppressing the Parkers and becoming the only top family of LA? They definitely had!

Damon didn't believe that the Owens had no qualms and intention to stop the marriage alliance between the Sawyers and the Parkers, which would create a win-win situation for both families!

Tristan's life had been rather peaceful in the past few years. But he had been in several dangerous accidents in the last two months, during which the news and rumors of the marriage alliance between the Parkers and the Sawyers had been spreading.

Sometimes, some things might seem unassuming, but once you thought about it carefully, you would find that there were many traces and clues.

However, Tristan had always been close friends with the Owen brothers, so the Parkers had never suspected the Owens of being the culprit of Tristan's murder.

But now, he could no longer think so!

He reckoned that his assumption of Lucas being the real murderer and attempting to seek revenge on him was also part of someone's scheme!

If he had really done something to Lucas, he reckoned that the entire Parker family would have been destroyed by now!

Damon stood in the middle of the empty hall, his expression constantly changing with his thoughts, and he couldn't utter a single word for a long time.

"Dad, what's wrong with you? Is everything okay?"

After seeing Lucas and Flynn leave the Parker residence safely, Ray was displeased and wanted to ask Damon what exactly they had said. But to his surprise, Damon's face seemed extremely sullen, and he couldn't help but ask this question.

Only then did Damon come back to his senses, and at the same time, he made up his mind and said, "Go and call all the direct descendants here. I have something important to talk about!"

"Is it about that bastard Lucas Gray? Do you want me to get someone to go bring them back here right now?" Ray immediately asked excitedly.

"Dimwit! Just do as I say and call them here. Don't do anything presumptuous, or I'll break your legs!" Damon was really enraged.

Ray was incredibly frustrated and indignant, but he could only suppress his hatred for Lucas and go to call over all the direct members of the Parkers as Damon had instructed him to.

Meanwhile, Lucas and Flynn were on their way back.

Flynn was still rather uncertain. "Lucas, what if the Parkers end up choosing the wrong path?"

Sitting in the backseat, Lucas said indifferently, "It doesn't matter."

Flynn was flabbergasted for a moment, and he also quickly responded.

Lucas was not dead bent on getting the Parkers' help, but rather, he had just gone to them out of convenience.

From the beginning, what Lucas wanted was just a family who could help him manage the businesses in LA, and it didn't matter which family it was. If the Parkers had a death wish, Lucas could always replace them.

In fact, if not for the fact that Flynn would soon be rushing to DC to help Lucas at the Stardust Corporation headquarters there, Flynn would be completely capable of managing everything here.

Lucas looked out of the window at the passing scenery with an icy cold gaze. "But I won't let off those who dare to use me! The Owens must die!"

Chapter 481: Huge Blow

At the Parkers...

Ray's actions were swift, and he soon gathered all the direct descendants of the family in Damon's villa. There were more than ten of them, and they were all standing together, waiting for Damon's instructions.

But when Damon officially gave the orders, many of them were astounded.

Damon said, "I declare that the Parkers and the Owens are mortal enemies from now on! Everyone, immediately come up with a plan to deal with the Owens!"

After a brief moment of astonishment, everyone was puzzled.

"Damon, we've always been close to the Owens, and we have several cooperation projects with them. There has always been mutual support between us and them, so why are we suddenly going against them?"

"Yeah, Grandpa, what exactly is going on?"

"Could the Owens have done something to harm us behind our backs? But we don't seem to have suffered any losses lately! Is there a misunderstanding or something?"

"Dad, could this matter have something to do with Lucas Gray, who just came over? Did he sow discord between us and the Owens? Why are we suddenly going against them?"

"Even if we want to make an enemy of the Owens, it seems... too hasty to implement this plan all of a sudden. We should at least spend some time preparing..."

The Parkers began discussing incessantly and voicing their opinions, but most of them seemed puzzled. There were also some who absolutely resented Lucas and thus thought right away that Lucas must have fooled Damon.

Smack!

Damon's face was solemn as he slammed his hand against the table with all his might. He hollered furiously, "All of you, shut up!"

When he lost his temper, everyone immediately fell silent, not daring to make a single sound.

“I called you all here to inform you of my decision, not to discuss it with you! I have already made up my mind to go against the Owens, and I won’t change it! All you have to do now is to follow my instructions and come up with an effective and feasible plan to strike them immediately!

“When the Owens are destroyed, you will naturally find out why I want to deal with them!”

With a stern and domineering attitude, Damon adamantly made his decision.

He glanced at his family members and said indifferently, “I know that some of you have dealings with the Owens, but if anyone dares to spread a single word about this matter, I will immediately expel them from the family! Have you all understood?”

“Yes!” Everyone chorused in unison.

Although they were all surprised and in disapproval of Damon’s decision, Damon was the head of the family and held the highest authority after all. No one dared to oppose his decision.

Soon, the crowd began to plan to strike the Owens and decide which aspects to target first.

After the people came up with a preliminary plan of attack, Damon went to his study alone, took a deep breath, and made a call to Flynn.

“I’ve already made up my mind, and the Parkers are ready too. We can start taking action against the Owens at any time!”

Flynn immediately relayed Damon’s words to Lucas. Although Damon didn’t state so explicitly, he had indeed already chosen to pledge allegiance to Lucas.

Lucas smiled faintly. “You will cooperate with the Parkers and carry out the plan together with them!”

Inside the garden of the Owens residence in LA...

Joseph Owen, the helmsman of the family, was standing in a corner of the garden and focusing all his attention on trimming the branches and leaves of some potted chrysanthemums carefully with a pair of silver scissors.

In high spirits, he hummed an unknown tune while trimming the branches.

At this moment, the Owens' butler dashed in. As soon as he saw Joseph in the corner of the garden, he exclaimed with a look of panic, "Mr. Owen, bad news. Something terrible has happened!"

Joseph was so shocked that he accidentally snipped a precious chrysanthemum bud to pieces with the scissors in his hand.

Heartbroken, he picked up the half flower bud and roared in exasperation, "Why are you being so flustered? You've ruined a good pot of precious flowers!"

The butler touched the cold sweat on his forehead and didn't have time to apologize at all. He said, "Mr. Owen, something terrible has really happened! I received a report just now that many of our mainstays and pillar businesses have been notified of issues with our products, so we have to cease operations at the factories for inspections. If it's serious, the factories will be shut down immediately, and legal action will be taken against us!

"The bank also called to say that there are issues with our asset evaluation and that they're going to withdraw all our loans. We are also given a time limit of one week to pay off all our existing loans from the bank!

"There are also several companies that have made major financial mistakes. We are now being suspected of serious tax evasion, and people from the IRS will be coming over to investigate!

"And..."

The butler revealed a series of shocking news.

Every single one of these pieces of news was enough to make the Owens overwrought, what more so many serious issues at once. It was like a nuclear weapon-level disaster to them!

The silver scissors in Joseph's hand had long since fallen to the ground.

At this moment, he could no longer care about trimming his potted flowers and plants. His expression changed drastically, and he grabbed the butler by his collar. "Why is this happening? Why did these problems suddenly break out at once? Or is someone deliberately trying to harm us?"

The butler was being strangled so hard that he could hardly breathe. His face deathly pale, he exclaimed, "I-I don't know either, Mr. Owen! All these pieces of news have just been urgently relayed to us, and we're waiting for you to make a decision! If any of these issues are mishandled, the Owens will be doomed!"

The butler had worked for the Owens for decades. In the past, he used to work as Joseph's secretary, so he had a clear idea of how detrimental the impact of all this bad news would be on the Owens. The slightest mistake would result in extremely serious consequences to the family!

"Summon everyone immediately and get them to come over. I want to know the details of everything!"

The matter happened so urgently that Joseph was completely caught off guard. Regardless of how capable he was, he would first have to get a clear idea of what exactly had happened and who he had offended so that he would be able to resolve these disasters.

While the Owens were in chaos, Damon, who was in the Parker villa several kilometers away, had also learned of the disastrous issues that the Owens were facing through various channels.

When Damon heard his subordinate's report, his heart started beating rapidly.

Each of the crucial issues was enough to deal a massive blow to the Owens, and the sudden onslaught of so many left the Owens with no room to breathe at all. They were simply forced into desperation.

None of these things were part of the Parkers' plan but were actually done by Lucas and Flynn.

Compared to their menacing means, the Parkers' plan, which they had spent an hour on devising, was completely ineffective!

Even if it was slightly effective, the time it would require to take effect was exceptionally long. There was no way they would be able to render the Owens powerless within such a short period of time.

Only then did Damon finally believe that Lucas was really powerful enough to destroy the Owens!

What would the Parkers, who were on par with the Owens, do if they faced such a brutal strike from Lucas?

At this moment, Damon finally felt a sense of fear as he thought about it in hindsight.

If he had chosen to go against Lucas an hour ago, the Parkers would probably be the ones to suffer from these terrifying blows now.

Fortunately, he had chosen to stand on Lucas's side instead of making an enemy of him!

Damon wiped the cold sweat on his forehead, feeling extremely thankful for the decision he had made.

Chapter 482: Surrender The Culprit

After just two hours, the Owens faced the greatest crisis they ever had.

But despite investigating so laboriously, they still didn't manage to find out who they had offended.

Moreover, the situation going on at the Owens' companies were not false accusations either. There were indeed issues with their products, and they were also guilty of tax evasion. Not only had many of their factories been closed for rectification, but many of their business partners had also ceased cooperation with them after hearing the news.

Not only did the Owens have to repay a large sum of money to the bank, but they also had to compensate numerous partner companies for breach of contract. They also had to pay the penalties for the taxes they had evaded on top of this.

Now that the bank had cut off their financial source, the Owens definitely wouldn't be able to come up with such an enormous amount of cash.

Thus, they were left with the last resort—declaring bankruptcy and liquidating their assets, including all their immovable properties and financial securities. They also had to auction off all their other valuables. Only then would they be able to pay off such an immense amount of compensation.

But this wasn't all. Since the news of the Owens' predicament spread, the share prices of their companies plummeted within a short period of time. The senior executives of the companies tendered their resignations one after another while the shareholders showed up at their doorstep furiously to curse their hearts out at the Owens.

Within just a few short hours, the entire Owen family was reduced to a wretched state.

At this moment, Damon led all the Parkers to the main hall of the Owens' villa.

Joseph Owen seemed to have aged several years within just these few hours.

The moment he saw Damon, he thought that Damon had come to help him, and an expectant expression immediately appeared on his face as he quickly went over to welcome him. "Damon, you're here! The Owens are in deep trouble!"

Joseph walked over with an expectant expression, but to his surprise, he discovered that Damon didn't seem worried at all. Instead, there was only an indifferent expression and a faint sense of pleasure.

“Damon, you... What are you doing?” An ominous premonition rose in Joseph’s heart, but he didn’t dare to think in that direction.

Damon sneered and said without any intention to hide, “Joseph, I didn’t expect this to happen to the Owens one day!”

As soon as he said this, all the Owens knew that Damon was definitely not here to help them but to gloat.

Joseph’s face turned sullen, and he snapped, “Damon, you and I have been friends for decades, and I have never offended you. Now that my family’s in trouble, not only are you not helping us, but you’re rubbing it in and kicking us when we’re already down. Why are you doing this?”

“Haha!” Damon sneered twice and said coldly, “You’ve never offended me? Yes, you may not have personally done something to offend us. But your grandsons Callum and Elijah are really daring to have disregarded us. Those beasts are even thinking of scheming against us! Do you think that’s considered an offense?!”

Only then did Joseph realize that Damon’s anger seemed to be directed at his grandsons. *Have my grandsons really done something traitorous out there?*

In particular, Damon had even used the word ‘beast’ and said that his grandsons had schemed against Parkers and wrapped them around their fingers.

He couldn’t help but wonder what was going on as he turned to look at Callum and Elijah, who were standing at the back of the crowd.

The rest of the Owens looked over in confusion too.

Callum had a calm expression, and he even seemed bewildered, seemingly unable to understand what Damon just said.

But next to him, Elijah wasn’t as good at hiding his guilty conscience as his brother was. Panic was written all over his face. His eyeballs darted around, his face turned pale, and drops of sweat emerged from the tip of his nose and forehead.

“Joseph, I advise you to hand over these two beasts immediately. On account that we’ve known each other for decades, I can consider sparing their lives!” Damon said coldly.

A gloomy expression formed on Joseph’s face. He had already guessed that his grandsons must have done something terrible to offend Damon, but he couldn’t possibly hand over his grandsons just because he was being threatened by Damon.

Even if the Owens were going to be destroyed, they couldn't let their dignity be trampled on!

"Damon, if you have anything to say, say it properly. If you're thinking of threatening me into handing over my grandsons to you, you can forget about it because that's impossible!" Joseph stood firmly in front of both his grandsons.

Damon's gaze darkened, and he sneered, "Okay, since you're not willing to hand them over to us, I'll have to have people take them away by force!"

With that, he gestured towards his back, and more than twenty heavily armed bodyguards immediately walked out from behind and toward Callum and Elijah.

"How impudent of you to forcefully take my grandsons away on my turf!" Joseph bellowed furiously at the top of his lungs and immediately instructed the Owens' bodyguards to come forth and shield Elijah and Callum.

Although the Owens had been severely struck, their bodyguards were still considered their employees, and naturally, they would defend them.

There were more than twenty people from each side, and they were all aggressively about to strike each other, seemingly ready for a full-swing brawl.

Seeing how protective Joseph was of his family, Damon suddenly felt a touch of sadness for him. "Joseph, you're still thinking of defending these beasts even though things have already come to this. You still have no idea what they've done, and you don't know that this disaster that you're facing today is caused by your dear grandsons. How pathetic!"

Joseph's heart sank further. "Isn't the disaster we're facing today caused by you? No, the Parkers shouldn't be able to do so alone. Otherwise, you would have long been the only top family left in this city! Is someone secretly helping you?"

Damon shook his head and said regretfully, "What a pity. Your family has already reached a dead end, and you still don't know who you've offended. How pathetic and sad!"

Joseph frowned. "What do you mean by that? Make yourself clear!"

Damon didn't bother to reprimand him for his attitude and merely said with a complicated expression, "You're right. It is indeed impossible for the Parkers alone to have your family destroyed in such a short period of time. However, I will let you die with a little more understanding of the reason for your fate!"

"Not only did those two grandsons of yours send someone to kill my grandson Tristan, but they even tried to frame someone else for it so that my family and that person would

both end up suffering heavy losses. This would have destroyed my family! Now, do you understand why I want you to hand over these two grandsons of yours?”

Lucas had indeed instructed Damon to take Callum and Elijah away, but it was what Damon wanted to do too.

They were the culprits who had killed his grandson, and he definitely wouldn't let them off!

After hearing Damon's words, Joseph was instantly astonished. The rest of the Owens also looked at Elijah and Callum in huge disbelief.

What did we just hear?

Tristan Parker was actually killed by someone sent by Elijah and Callum?

Chapter 483: Mastermind

Callum had always had a high EQ, so even though Damon had called him out, his expression remained unchanged as he said calmly, “Grandpa, there must be a misunderstanding. We and Tristan have been close friends for years, and almost everyone in LA knows this. How could we have killed him? I bet the Parkers are just using this as an excuse to attack us. Can they produce any evidence?”

He was actually not as calm as he seemed to be on the surface.

The fact that the Parkers had already suspected them meant that it was definitely a huge warning. If they searched along the clues, they would definitely be able to find traces of evidence from their bank transaction records and call history pointing to them.

They had planned this murder too hastily. In fact, Callum had begun devising it immediately after Lucas rejected his friendship and he left Caldo Mountain, which was less than an hour before Tristan's death.

Thus, he hadn't been able to leave all stones unturned. But his greatest reliance was his friendship with Tristan, which seemed close in the eyes of outsiders. So basically no one would suspect him.

However, now, not only did the Parkers suspect him, but they also accurately claimed that he had tried to frame someone else for the matter to make him the scapegoat. So he ended up harming the Owens instead.

Callum knew that the person he had framed was none other than Lucas, so he wondered if the disaster was caused by Lucas. *That's incredible!*

But no matter what, the top priority now was to absolutely not admit that he was the one who had plotted Tristan's murder!

At the side, Elijah also nodded and chimed in, "Yeah, Grandpa, we've been friends with Tristan since we were kids, and everyone knows that we're best buddies. How... how could we have possibly plotted his murder? Mr. Parker, you... you can't put the blame on us and make my grandfather lose his grandsons too just because yours is dead, right?"

His EQ was no match for Callum. So although he was also defending himself, he stammered from time to time, and his voice was obviously shaky too.

"Hmph, how ridiculous!" Damon sneered. "You two are really shameless! You made such a big mistake, but you still refuse to admit it. You're even accusing me of setting you two up, huh? Don't think that your plan is seamless. As long as we investigate it, we can naturally find countless evidence and clues! Don't try to deny it in front of me!"

He glanced at the Owens and continued, "The disaster that your family is facing today is all because of you two bastards. Now that things have come to this, you still refuse to admit it. Do you want to drag the entire Owen family down with you?"

Elijah immediately looked even more flustered.

Callum's face also turned pale, and he could no longer seem as innocent as before.

Seeing the changes in their expressions, the Owens also vaguely guessed the truth and couldn't help resenting Elijah and Callum.

"I was wondering why the Owens were suddenly facing such a disaster when we were doing fine before. It turns out it was caused by the two of you!"

"You guys actually dared to lay your hands on Tristan Parker? You are really terrifying. To think that you'd actually backstab your best friend! We don't mean anything to you, do we? Mr. Parker is right. You guys are just out to drag us down with you!"

"Joseph, the truth of the matter has come to light. These bastards Callum and Elijah did something unforgivable and caused such a big mess for our family! I suggest we kick them both out immediately and hand them over to the Parkers to deal with!"

"I agree! These two scourges must be disowned! They're the reason we've landed in this mess! Mr. Parker, I hope you and that mysterious man will spare us innocent people!"

...

Many of the Owens members were enraged and demanded that Elijah and Callum be expelled from the family immediately to quell Damon's anger.

Callum's face was gloomy and extremely ugly.

At this point, Joseph could tell that his grandsons must have done something malicious to implicate the entire family. Regardless of how protective he was, even if he wanted to let the matter rest, the angry, implicated family members wouldn't agree.

In the end, Joseph nodded with a bitter smile and said through clenched teeth, "Okay, I can hand them over to you. But you must promise me to let the Owens go and not to make another move against us!"

Within just a little over two hours, they had been dealt a massive blow that was bigger than ever. It could be said that there was only a fine line between bankruptcy and annihilation. But if the Parkers and the people behind them were willing to stop and let them off, they would at least be able to keep their reputation and slowly make a comeback despite having taken a big hit.

Callum's and Elijah's hearts sank in dejection.

Since Joseph already said this, it meant that he was really going to hand them both over to Damon.

They were indeed the masterminds who had plotted Tristan's murder, and the Parkers wouldn't let them off lightly!

All of a sudden, they turned pale, and Elijah's legs went limp as he fell straight onto the ground.

To their surprise, Damon slowly shook his head after hearing Joseph's request. "It's impossible to spare the Owens. It's not me you've offended but someone else. This is what he wants to do."

Joseph's face became even more sullen, and after thinking about it, he gritted his teeth and said, "Since you can't make the decision, let me go talk to him!"

Damon raised his head, looked at Joseph like he was a fool, and then burst into laughter. "Do you think that's possible? The Owens are destined to be exterminated by that man. Only then will his anger be appeased. This is the price you pay for offending him and trying to use him!"

Damon didn't want the Owens to continue surviving either.

As long as the Owens were destroyed, the Parkers would be able to become the absolute hegemon of the city. Although they would still have to follow Lucas's orders from now on, it wouldn't affect them much as long as no one knew about it.

The Parkers would only be valued by Lucas after the Owens were completely destroyed. They would then no longer have to worry about Lucas changing his mind and deciding to support the Owens instead.

Regardless of the perspective, the Owens had to die!

Joseph moved his mouth, but a sense of misery surged in his heart immediately.

Things were truly unpredictable in this world. Just a few hours ago, he was leisurely trimming flowers in his garden. But in the blink of an eye, the building collapsed, and the Owens were about to vanish in his hands.

This was the place where he had put in decades of hard work and also the efforts of his ancestors. Joseph was extremely indignant to let his family get ruined just like that!

"Damon Parker, you're not qualified to decide if the Owens can survive or not! No matter what, I have to speak to that mysterious man behind you!" Joseph said with exceptional determination.

Damon frowned slightly and was just about to say something, but he suddenly saw a blue Porsche park at the Owens' doorstep and a familiar figure stepping out of it.

"Mr. Gray!" Damon immediately exclaimed in panic!

Chapter 484: Finding Out the Truth

After seeing Lucas also arrive at the Owen residence, Damon immediately went forward to greet him respectfully.

The Owens were stunned by Damon's respectful attitude toward him.

Joseph looked at Lucas walking over, and countless thoughts flashed through his mind immediately. *Seems like this young man is most likely the mysterious person Damon mentioned.*

Standing among the Owens, Callum and Elijah were extremely stunned to see Lucas.

In particular, Callum had long guessed that Lucas's identity might be extraordinary, so he had taken the initiative to express his intentions to befriend Lucas but had been unceremoniously rejected by the latter. He also knew that it was only a matter of time before Lucas would find out that Tristan and Elijah had hired someone to assassinate him.

Thus, he had simply decided to go all out and kill Tristan and then frame Lucas for it to make the Owens go toe-to-toe against him. This would have made both parties lose a lot of their power, and the Owens would have then been able to take advantage and rise to greater power. Lucas would have also no longer had time to settle scores with the Owens.

Although Callum had made excellent plans, things didn't go according to plan, and he even ended up exposing himself while offending powerful people like the Parkers and Lucas. It could be said that his plan was a complete failure.

Now that Lucas showed up here, they were certain that he must be here to hold them accountable!

Callum clenched his fists, his palms covered in cold sweat.

Watching Lucas walk toward him, Joseph suddenly said, "Are you the person behind Damon? Are you the one who wants to annihilate my family and take away my grandsons?"

Lucas glanced at him coldly. "They hired someone to kill Tristan Parker and even framed me for it. They only have themselves to blame!"

Joseph gritted his teeth and insisted, "You said my grandsons hired a murderer, but do you have any evidence to prove that? Aren't you going overboard by making false accusations against my grandsons and forcing us to hand them over?"

Lucas sneered. "Evidence? It seems that it's not over 'til it's over for you, huh? Fine, I'll be merciful and satisfy you. In order to prevent you from saying that I'm falsifying evidence, I'll make your grandsons admit the truth themselves!"

Then he walked toward Callum and Elijah.

"What are you... you trying to do? Quickly stop him!" Callum's face was all tensed up as he shouted sternly at the Owens' bodyguards standing in front of him.

The few tall and burly bodyguards immediately stood in front of Lucas, stopping him from continuing to walk forward.

"Get lost!" Lucas roared furiously, raised his leg, and kicked the bodyguard in front of him, causing him to fly away immediately!

The man, who weighed about 90 kilograms, was flung more than ten meters away in midair before crashing on the ground like a heavy sandbag. He had fallen so hard that he couldn't get back up at all!

This scene immediately made the remaining bodyguards' bodies tremble as they subconsciously took two steps back, not daring to continue blocking Lucas.

They weren't fools. They had seen how Lucas had rendered the bodyguard immobile with a hard kick that had sent him flying. Clearly, they wouldn't be able to stop Lucas.

The Owen brothers were obviously terrified.

A sudden chill surged in Callum's heart while his hands and feet began to tremble. But he was still barely standing and maintaining a trace of decency.

Elijah had a guilty conscience to begin with. When he saw Lucas kick the bodyguard away with a single kick and walk toward him aggressively, he was so frightened that he fell to the ground and began shivering in fear.

Lucas walked straight up to Callum, looked at his calm face, and said indifferently, "Callum Owens, you sent someone to kill Tristan Parker and framed me for it. You've even been secretly spreading rumors and urging Damon Parker to deal with me, haven't you?"

Callum naturally refused to admit it, so he stubbornly denied, "I didn't do those things at all. These are all just one-sided allegations from you! You and Tristan have long had several altercations because of Lena Sawyer!

"And last night at Caldo Mountain, Tristan deliberately challenged you to race against a professional car racer he had brought to the mountain, and he had even hired a killer to ambush you at the top. But you escaped and came down safely, but you must have borne a grudge against him. That's why you wanted to take revenge and pay him back in his own coin! Isn't that so?"

"Elijah and I have always been on good terms with Tristan, so how could we possibly kill him? You're just spouting nonsense!"

After Callum said this, Lucas's expression still remained unchanged. But Damon, standing near them, instantly had a change of expression.

He knew that his incompetent grandson had indeed had a few minor conflicts with Lucas over Lena, but he didn't know that Tristan had hired someone to kill Lucas before his death last night!

If Tristan was still alive now, Damon would have definitely brought him here and given him two tight slaps on the face!

With Lucas's ability to destroy the Parkers with a lift of his finger, the stupid thing Tristan had done yesterday would alone be enough to provoke Lucas into annihilating them!

Although Damon first thought that Callum's allegation that Lucas had killed Tristan for revenge seemed to make sense, he quickly dismissed the thought.

The reason was simple. It was because the incredible power that Lucas had shown had greatly deterred him. If Lucas had really killed Tristan because he had offended him, Lucas wouldn't have had to deny it in front of him at all because the Parkers wouldn't have any power to fight back against him anyway!

Lucas raised his eyebrows and continued to ask, "Oh? But no one else should have known that Tristan Parker hired a killer to assassinate me at the top of the mountain yesterday, right? How do you know about it? Did Tristan Parker specifically make it a point to inform you about it before he did so? Or did you guys hire that killer to assassinate me together?"

After hearing Lucas's words, Elijah began to shiver while looking at Callum pleadingly in a moment of panic.

Lucas had guessed the truth! What should they do now?

Callum's heart sank as well. He had been too preoccupied with drawing attention to Lucas's motive of murder that he had forgotten that he shouldn't have been aware that Tristan had hired someone to assassinate Lucas.

Callum quickly thought of an excuse and retorted, "Ahem, of course this matter has nothing to do with us! I merely heard Tristan mention it after you left. That's how I found out."

Anyway, Tristan was already dead, and there was no evidence to refute his claims. Naturally, they had to take his word for it.

Lucas looked at him and suddenly raised his hand to give Callum a hard slap on the face.

Smack!

This slap was so forceful that it immediately knocked Callum's head to the side and caused his front teeth to dart out of his mouth with blood. Callum also fell hard onto the ground.

Seeing Lucas suddenly hit his grandson, Joseph shouted angrily, "Callum!"

"Hmph, you're still so stubborn even on the brink of death. I hope your younger brother can be as stubborn as you are."

Lucas sneered and walked up to Elijah, who had long gone limp and was now lying on the ground. Staring at him from above, he said in an emotionless tone of voice, "It's your turn to speak now."

Chapter 485: Clarifying The Truth

Elijah had long been shocked by the scene just now. Seeing Lucas walking toward him with an oppressive and domineering aura, he was so frightened that he started shuddering and shrinking backward while yelling, "I... I don't know anything! Don't ask me!"

Although he said he didn't know, anyone could tell that he definitely knew about the situation.

Lucas stared at the look of horror on his face condescendingly and smiled. "I haven't asked you anything yet, and you already said you don't know. It seems you're just being perfunctory with me."

His face suddenly turned gloomy, and Elijah was so terrified that he was almost going to scream. "I'm asking you a question now! Answer me honestly! If you dare to lie or hide anything from me, I'll break your limbs right away! I've always had a bad temper. Do you know what to say now?"

Elijah was overwhelmed with panic, and he was on the verge of peeing in his pants out of fear. He knew that Lucas was definitely not scaring him by saying that he would break his limbs. He knew that Lucas would definitely do it, so he didn't know what he should do now.

Seeing his grandson panicking, Joseph couldn't bring himself to continue looking at him. He stopped Lucas in displeasure. "Young man, are you trying to malign and punish an innocent person?"

Lucas frowned and glanced at Joseph coldly before saying indifferently, "Those standing at the side better shut up when I'm questioning someone!"

His eyes were sharp like daggers that immediately made Joseph panic and shut his eyes tightly.

Joseph's heart began pounding rapidly. The way Lucas glared at him made him feel horrified, even though he was advanced in years and had experienced plenty in life.

Only then did he understand why Damon would be that respectful to Lucas. It was because Lucas was indeed someone he couldn't afford to provoke!

Lucas looked at Elijah again and asked softly, "Now, tell me. How did Tristan Parker die?"

His tone was soft, but after Elijah heard his words, his throat tensed up, and he was so nervous that he could barely breathe.

“He... he...” Elijah swallowed two mouthfuls of saliva resentfully, but he didn’t dare to say those words again.

In the face of Lucas’s questioning, he didn’t dare have any intentions to lie and make up excuses to muddle through. Of course, his intelligence couldn’t allow him to come up with any other lies.

But if he told the truth, his and Callum’s reputation would be ruined, and the Owens would all be dragged to rock bottom by them.

In short, it was a dead end!

At this juncture, he regretted it immensely and thought, *Why did I choose such a path?* In fact, he even developed some feelings of resentment toward Callum for coming up with this idea. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have ended up in such a predicament. *What exactly should I do now?*

“Speak up! Who exactly killed Tristan Parker?!” Lucas didn’t have the time to care about what was going through Elijah’s mind, nor did he want to continue wasting time here. So he suddenly snapped and hollered at him.

His holler made Elijah shiver violently in absolute fright. At the same time, a warm liquid gushed out from the nethers of his body.

Elijah shuddered, and he was on the verge of tears. While trembling, he said, “I... I’ll tell you! He... he...”

“Shut up! Don’t say anything!” Callum suddenly let out an angry roar.

He had just received a hard slap from Lucas, which knocked out several of his teeth, causing air to move through the gaps in his teeth when he spoke. But he was panic-stricken and anxiously wanted to stop the dimwit Elijah from spilling the beans at all costs.

He had already told Elijah long ago that he had to vehemently deny it regardless of what happened.

If he denied it insistently, Lucas wouldn’t really do anything to them in front of so many members of the Owen family, and they would still have a way out.

But if Elijah told the truth, they would all be finished!

Lucas had reached the limit of his patience with Callum. He could already tell since a long time ago that the smart-looking Callum was the mastermind who had come up with the idea and devised the plan.

“You’re being too noisy!” Lucas glanced at Callum coldly, and with a flick in his hand, a shiny coin flew out of his hand and immediately pierced through Callum’s neck, cutting his vocal cords. At the same time, the aorta of his neck was sliced too.

Bright red blood instantly gushed out from the wound in Callum’s neck and reached nearly a meter high. Callum covered his neck with his hand but to no avail. He could only watch the blood spill over his head as his body began convulsing.

Everyone was horrified!

They didn’t expect that Lucas would be so ruthless and have the audacity to kill someone in front of so many people!

Moreover, he was able to directly kill a person just by flicking an ordinary coin with his finger. How terrifying must his strength be?!

“Callum!” After a brief moment of shock, Joseph yelled at Lucas furiously, “How dare you kill my grandson? I’m not going to spare you!”

Then he rushed toward Lucas and looked like he was going to fight to the death with him.

Lucas glanced at him coldly, and his following words immediately caused him to freeze.

“If you take him to the hospital now, there might still be a chance to save him,” Lucas said expressionlessly while pointing at Callum on the floor.

Joseph gritted his teeth and finally turned his head to yell at the bodyguards and others standing next to him. “What are you still standing there for? Hurry up and take him to the hospital for emergency rescue!”

Although Callum’s carotid artery had been cut, he was not completely out of breath yet, so if he was sent to the hospital in time, there might still be a glimmer of hope.

The Owens hastily carried Callum to a car and sent him out as fast as they could.

But the matter had yet to be resolved.

Lucas once again fished out a coin from his pocket, stood in front of Elijah, and said indifferently, “You haven’t told me the answer to the question I just asked you. Do you have an answer to why Tristan Parker died now?”

There was still a large amount of blood on the floor, and it was emitting a foul and terrifying odor.

The coin in Lucas's hand, which was like a murderous weapon, was emitting a frighteningly cold aura in front of Elijah.

Elijah had long broken down completely and burst into tears. "Yes... I'll tell you everything! It's my brother! My brother hired someone to kill Tristan! He said that you definitely wouldn't let us off for the mistake we've made and that we should just... go all out and kill Tristan! That way, you wouldn't take revenge on us, and we'd be able to destroy the marriage between the Parkers and the Sawyers. You and the Parkers would also get into a huge conflict, and we could even take advantage of the opportunity to kill you! That way, the Owens would become the most powerful family in LA!"

Lucas raised an eyebrow and continued to ask, "You were afraid that I'd take revenge on you? What else have you done?"

Chapter 486: The Mightiness of Deterrence

Elijah said while crying, "The hitman you... you met last night on Caldo Mountain was hired by Tristan and me. Callum said that you'd definitely find out that it was us and that you'd definitely take revenge on us. So he said we might as well kill you first!"

At this point, Joseph's expression was already extremely ugly.

He never thought that his grandchildren, who seemed to be quite sensible, would do such a thing in private!

"In that case, were you the ones behind Lena's repeated assassinations?" Lucas asked again.

Elijah hurriedly nodded. "That was my brother's doing! He said that if the Parkers and the Sawyers united in a marriage alliance, they would surpass us sooner or later! Lena wasn't the only one. He even hired people to assassinate Tristan several times, but he happened to escape."

Elijah was so intimidated by Lucas that he almost revealed everything.

At the end, he begged Lucas repeatedly, "Those things were all done by my brother! I didn't know anything about it... No, I was just aware of his plans at most, but I didn't get involved in them at all. It had nothing to do with me. Please let me off! Don't kill me!"

At this point, it was no longer necessary to continue asking any more questions.

The faces of the Owens were all gloomy.

Even if they still wanted to continue to argue, what Elijah said cut off all their possibilities of defense.

Joseph looked like he had aged more than ten years, and he couldn't even keep his back straight anymore.

His unfilial grandchildren had done such a terrible thing, so much so that he was really ashamed and disappointed.

Lucas looked at Damon behind the crowd and instructed him, "The matter is already clear. I'll leave the rest to you."

He actually already knew the truth of the matter a long time ago. But to completely deter others, he decided to make a trip to the Owens to expose the truth and reveal everything.

He knew that Callum was cunning. And if he was allowed to defend himself, he would definitely try to distort the facts and even turn the situation around, causing Damon to misunderstand. Damon might waver and betray Lucas some time in the future.

As such, now that Damon knew the truth of the matter, he wouldn't be worried anymore and would even be grateful to him.

Besides, he had just deliberately attacked Callum ruthlessly in front of so many people.

It was certainly because Lucas wouldn't let off anyone who dared to frame him and make use of him. The other reason was obvious—to deter them!

Not only was he trying to deter Damon so that he wouldn't dare to have second thoughts about him, but he was also trying to deter the Owens and the rest of the families in LA so that they wouldn't dare to provoke him.

Damon walked up to Lucas and said sincerely, "Mr. Gray, thank you so much!"

Not only was he thanking Lucas for helping him figure out the truth about his grandson's murder, but he was also thanking Lucas for destroying the Owens' empire and giving them the chance to become the strongest family in LA.

If it wasn't for Lucas's magnanimity, the fact that his grandson had atrociously hired someone to assassinate Lucas last night alone was enough to trigger Lucas to destroy the Parkers.

Lucas looked at him and said in a deep voice, "I don't want to say anything else. You only have to remember one thing. I will never tolerate any form of betrayal! If the Parkers dare to betray me in the future, I guarantee that you will definitely end up much worse than the Brookes!"

Damon's heart tensed up, and he quickly lowered his head and promised, "There will definitely not be such a day! I swear that the Parkers will be loyal to you, Mr. Gray. From now on, we will never betray you in the slightest!"

He could now say that he was convinced by Lucas, be it because of the massive power Lucas had displayed when he destroyed the Owens or the fact that Lucas had casually shot a coin through Callum's throat. These actions were daunting enough to make Damon too terrified to disrespect him.

He didn't dare to have the slightest intention of betraying Lucas because he didn't want to die!

After leaving all the matters here to Damon, Lucas didn't say anything else and simply drove away with Flynn.

After Damon saw Lucas leave, he walked up to Joseph, raised his head, and asked with a gloomy expression on his face, "Joseph Owen, your grandson has already admitted to hiring someone to kill my grandson Tristan. He even admitted that your family was behind the previous assassinations. What else do you have to say now?"

Joseph's face was ashen, but he couldn't defend himself at all and could only let out a long sigh. "My family is unfortunate. My grandsons have done such an unforgivable thing, and I won't defend them anymore. Damon, we have let you down! But this is all Callum's doing, and the rest of us were unaware of it. I still hope that you will be merciful and spare the rest of us!"

As he said this, his emotions were extremely complicated.

His son didn't have much talent and just liked leading a lavish lifestyle and squandering money. On the other hand, his grandson Callum had always been smart, reliable, and decisive, so Joseph had valued him greatly. He had even decided to let Callum take over and become the next helmsman of the Owens in the future.

Joseph also heard that the reason that Callum had done those things was that he hoped to suppress the Parkers and make the Owens the most powerful family in LA.

He had the talent and wits, but he had unfortunately taken the wrong path. And even more so, he had misjudged Lucas's strength, which led to the total destruction of their family.

Since things had already come to this point, he had to give up even if he couldn't bear to let his grandson go.

Damon sneered. "You're trying to shirk all responsibility and make me let you people off while putting all the blame on your grandsons? How can there be such an easy deal?!"

Putting aside the fact that his grandson Tristan had been fooled by Callum and Elijah and even ended up dying in their hands; putting aside the fact that they had also tried to frame Lucas for the murder so that the Parkers would face a huge disaster, the various battles that the Parkers and Owens had been fighting against each other alone made Damon determined not to let go of this opportunity to take advantage and beat the Owens while they were down.

“The Owens have already declined to such a state. What else do you want?” Joseph bellowed furiously.

The Owens were almost reduced to bankruptcy after the heavy blows today.

Even if they sold all of their non-liquid assets, such as factories, villas, and stores, they would only be able to pay off the massive amount of fines and compensation for breach of contract.

After Callum’s murder plan was exposed, there was no way the Owens would be able to rise again either.

The Owens no longer posed any threat to the Parkers, so why was Damon still refusing to spare the rest of them?

Damon looked at Joseph gloomily. “If you were in my position, would you let go of the enemy who killed your own grandson so easily? I want everyone in your family to cut off their own arms in order to avenge my late grandson! This is also the punishment for all of you!”

Chapter 487: Supreme Existence of LA

As soon as Damon finished speaking, all the Owens had a drastic change of expression.

In a moment of fear, many of them immediately pleaded, “Mr. Parker, please withdraw your orders! We really weren’t aware of the evil things that Callum had done!”

“Exactly. How could Callum have possibly told us what he did in private? Why should we cut off our own arms because of his mistakes?”

“Mr. Parker, please! My son is just under ten years old this year. If he really cuts off one of his arms, how is he supposed to continue with his life in the future?”

“Yes, our family is no longer the same as it used to be in the past. Without money, we will definitely have to go out and get a job so that we won’t starve to death! If we lose an arm, who will want to hire us? You’re severing our livelihoods!”

...

Hearing the Owens' words, Joseph, the head of the family, began trembling violently as he went through a complicated emotional struggle.

Finally, Joseph suddenly got down on both knees in front of Damon.

His knees hit the ground with a loud thud, which sounded extremely painful.

Damon was stunned by Joseph's sudden move, and for a moment, he didn't know how he should react.

Joseph was an extremely arrogant person. But now, he actually gave up his dignity and knelt in front of him!

"Mr. Parker, I know that my grandsons have committed an unforgivable mistake, and it's understandable that you'd refuse to forgive them, but the rest of us are really innocent. If you make each of us cut off an arm, we won't be able to make a living in the future! If you must punish us before your anger is appeased, I'm willing to give my life in exchange for the safety of all the Owens! All I beg is that you'll spare them! They're innocent!" Joseph was kneeling on the ground with a look of determination on his face.

At this moment, Damon gained some respect for this old rival of his.

He was willing to use his own life to exchange for the safety of his family. Even as a rival, he had to admit that Joseph was indeed worthy of the position of the helmsman of the Owens.

Unfortunately, he didn't teach his grandsons well, causing his family to be reduced to such a state.

Damon even thought that if Callum hadn't done something that not only offended Lucas but also touched his bottom line, Lucas might have chosen to let them take over his matters here. When the time came, the Owens would definitely have been in the Parkers' current position instead of the other way around.

If that happened, would I be able to sacrifice my grandsons' lives? What decision will Joseph Owen make?

Damon once again confirmed, "Are you really willing to die for the sake of your family?"

Joseph nodded without hesitation. "Yes! Anyway, I've already lived for decades, and I have experienced everything. I've lived long enough, and it's no big deal even if I die. But there are dozens of people in our family, and they all have long lives ahead of them. Besides, they're really innocent. Please let them off!"

Although his face was ashen and despondent, he was extremely determined. Clearly, he had long made up his mind.

After thinking for a long time, Damon finally sighed and nodded. "Okay, since you've made such a request, I will fulfill your wishes! However, I have one request. From now on, everyone from the Owen family must leave LA and promise not to take revenge on the Parkers! If anyone disobeys, we Parkers will definitely do our best to kill all the Owens!"

When Joseph saw Damon agree, a trace of joy appeared in his eyes.

He stood up, looked around at the Owens, and warned solemnly, "All of you, you'd better listen up clearly. Leave LA by today and never come back again! And you must never take revenge on the Parkers. Otherwise, I won't be able to die in peace!"

"Damon!"

"Grandpa!"

"Dad!"

...

All the Owens understood what was going to happen soon, and one by one, tears filled their eyes as they tearfully agreed to Joseph's last request.

They all understood that the reason that they could be safe and sound was that Joseph had given up his dignity and got on his knees.

Joseph smiled faintly and said to Damon, "Thank you so much, Damon!"

Then he suddenly took out a pair of silver scissors and stabbed himself in the chest with it!

"Mr. Owen!" the butler exclaimed in a shrilling voice. It was the scissors that Joseph usually used for trimming the branches of his flowers. But now, it had become the weapon that killed him.

The silver scissors pierced deeply into his left chest, and his white shirt became soaked in blood. He slowly fell to the ground and closed his eyes forever.

"Damon!"

"Grandpa!"

"Mr. Owen!"

...

The Owens were devastated and grief-stricken as they got on their knees and began wailing.

Damon was full of uneasiness.

He was the one who forced Joseph to his death, and things developed to this point because of him too.

But he wasn't at all pleased to see Joseph dying like this.

However, if he could turn back time and start all over again, he would still choose to do the same.

The reason was that the Owens had committed a huge mistake, and someone had to take the blame!

Well, at least he was still smiling during his last moments out of relief that Damon had promised to spare the rest of the Owens.

Damon stayed silent for a long time before suddenly exclaiming, "Send Mr. Owen off!"

"Send Mr. Owen off!"

"Send Mr. Owen off!"

...

All the Parkers who Damon had brought with him also exclaimed.

Joseph's decision deserved all their respect!

It didn't take long for the news of the destruction of the Owen family and Joseph's demise to spread throughout LA.

In the past two hours or so, major events had repeatedly occurred in the Owen family, and the news of their family's collapse and the resignations of the senior executives of their companies spread quickly. Everyone placed their attention on the Owens as they were eagerly waiting to see the subsequent developments.

However, they didn't expect that what happened next would be beyond their expectations.

The head of the Owen family had committed suicide, and Callum, the one most likely to succeed him, had succumbed to his injury while being conveyed to the hospital for emergency treatment.

The great Owen family was exterminated in just one short day!

The déjà vu scene made many people in LA shudder, and they didn't even dare to talk about it publicly.

After the destruction of the Owens, the Parkers rightfully became the most powerful family in LA, gaining a supreme and unparalleled position.

The Parkers had become the well-deserved hegemon of LA!

But Damon knew that it was all thanks to Lucas.

The Parkers were now under Lucas's command.

Chapter 488: Unexpected Person

Over the next few days, Flynn was extremely busy handing many affairs to Damon.

Lucas had initially arranged for Flynn to be in charge of all the affairs of LA, but since there were unexpected changes, he now had new arrangements for Flynn. He planned to have Flynn go and take over the matters at the Stardust Corporation headquarters in DC.

So Lucas had once told Flynn to hand over all the matters to someone he could trust and even gave him ample time of one month to do so.

But since the Parkers had already surrendered and pledged allegiance to Lucas, and the Parkers had already developed their empire in LA for decades, Flynn could now just leave the matters here to Damon, the head of the current hegemon family of LA. Moreover, he wouldn't need a month's time.

Once Flynn was done handing over the matters to Damon, he would be ready to leave for DC at any time.

Just one week later, Flynn appeared again in the chairman's office on the top floor of the Stardust Corporation building in Orange County.

"Lucas, I've already handed over all the matters in LA, so I can leave for DC at any time," Flynn said, full of vigor and still dressed in an immaculate suit.

Lucas shot him a deep glance and said slowly, "I told you before that the situation in DC is full of dangers. Are you really sure you want to go there?"

Flynn nodded with determination and said with a resolute gaze, "Yes, I'm already prepared!"

In fact, to be honest, the reason he agreed to go to the Stardust Corporation headquarters in DC was mostly that he wanted to take a gamble. Although he believed in Lucas's abilities and wanted to stay by his side in hopes that he could carve an outstanding career for himself, he had still been anxious and flustered.

But what Lucas had done to the Owens in LA a week ago gave him a new understanding of the power Lucas possessed and more confidence about his trip to DC.

Although he had played a role in the Owens' destruction, he had learned those terrifying and formidable means from Lucas.

He had unknowingly gotten hold of so many trump cards that could destroy his opponents. Flynn didn't even dare to think about how much power Lucas still had.

So he was sure that his plan to go to DC would definitely be a huge success this time!

This was how much Flynn believed in Lucas.

"Great, since you're all prepared, you can leave for DC this afternoon!" Lucas then looked at Stanley, who was standing behind him. "Stanley, get ready to go to DC together with Flynn. You will be responsible for protecting him and ensuring his safety throughout the whole process. Make sure that there are no mistakes!"

When Stanley saw the serious expression on Lucas's face, he understood that this matter was absolutely important, so he immediately answered loudly, "Yes! I will complete the mission!"

Lucas looked at the two people in front of him and smiled. He said softly, "Even I can't predict what will happen in DC. So if you really encounter a difficult problem or end up in a dangerous predicament where your lives are at stake, you must make it back alive, even if it means having to give up your mission! It doesn't matter if you fail the mission, but I want you both to be safe and sound. Do you understand?"

Flynn and Stanley both appeared rather touched.

All along, they had always seen Lucas as a powerful and domineering man who would never fail in any way.

So they had already made up their minds that they would still try to complete the mission Lucas gave them even if they had to go all out and risk everything.

But Lucas would rather they fail to complete the mission and return in one piece than have them lose their lives. This just went to show that Lucas valued their lives more than the goal he wanted to achieve. How could they not be touched by this?

"Lucas, I will do my best to complete the mission!"

“Don’t worry, Lucas. I’ll also do my best to protect Flynn’s safety until he comes back in one piece!”

Flynn and Stanley both guaranteed.

Lucas patted their shoulders without saying anything else. Everything was tacit.

Soon, the two of them packed their bags and took an afternoon flight to DC.

Lucas stood in front of the floor-to-ceiling windows on the top floor, looking into the distant east with some uneasiness in his heart.

“The Huttons, just you wait! One day, I will go back there and settle the scores that you owe me from back then!”

...

This afternoon, Lucas suddenly received a call from Lena.

“Lucas, do you have time tonight? My dad said he wants to invite you to dinner. Are you willing to accept his invitation?” Lucas asked with some playfulness in her voice.

Lucas burst into laughter, gave it some thought, and soon agreed. “Okay, just send me the time and address.”

Although Ethan had some relations with the Huttons, he was smart enough to have taken the initiative to contact Lucas a long time ago. Besides, Ethan had also given him lots of help since he returned to Orange County.

In fact, strictly speaking, Ethan was not associated with the Huttons but merely shared a friendship with the chief butler, Chad Kennedy.

In particular, when Lucas was besieged by the group of helmsmen, including Matthew and Damon, Ethan had stood firmly on his side.

Regardless of what Ethan’s motive was, Lucas was touched.

Since it was just a meal, Lucas was still willing to give Ethan this courtesy.

Soon, Lena sent him the address of the restaurant where they would be having dinner. Lucas couldn’t help smiling when he saw the name of the restaurant.

The Lion Restaurant.

It was indeed a familiar place.

When Lucas first dined at the Lion Restaurant, he had thought that it was the property of the Sawyers until he learned that the proprietor of the restaurant chain was actually the Bensons from San Francisco, and Ethan was just a sole franchisee of the Orange County branch.

But since Matthew offended Lucas in LA, Edmund, the head of the Cole family, had publicly severed all ties with the Bensons, causing the latter to take a tremendous blow and fall to the doldrums. Even the Lion Restaurant that they owned became Ethan's property.

In fact, if the Bensons had behaved themselves, they wouldn't have declined to such a sorry state even if the Coles had severed ties with them.

But Matthew had always been ruthless and spared no mercy toward others. Besides, he had also been guilty of tyranny and throwing his weight around just because he had leveraged the power of the Cole family. So after the news of the Coles' unilateral severance of ties with the Bensons spread, the Bensons faced great suppression in all aspects, and many of their businesses were easily acquired.

For example, this Lion Restaurant had officially become the property of the Sawyers.

After Lucas called Cheyenne to inform her about the dinner, he drove to the venue.

As soon as he walked into the lobby and was about to go to the reserved private room under the ushering of the waiter, he suddenly heard an ear-splitting noise in the lobby.

"Are you blind or crippled? How dare you spill vegetable soup on my clothes? Do you know how expensive my clothes are? A waitress at the bottom of society like you won't be able to afford to pay for my dress even if you work here for years! Tell me! What you should do!" The woman's voice was so sharp and shrill that it instantly penetrated the entire hall on the first floor of the restaurant, attracting the attention of many people.

Lucas initially didn't want to bother with this, so he just casually glanced over. But to his surprise, he actually saw a very familiar person.

Lucas stared and wondered, *What is she doing here?*

Chapter 489: Old Friend Gets Humiliated

There was a young woman, who, despite being decked out in designer wear, seemed a little tacky and uncouth, seated by the window. She was yelling her lungs out at a slender woman clad in waitress's clothes and continuously lowering her head to apologize.

“Yes... Sorry, Miss, I really didn't mean to do it!” Perhaps because it was her first time encountering such a thing, she was panic-stricken and at a complete loss for what to do. She was almost on the verge of tears.

“Sorry, and that's it? Listen up. This dress is from Prada's latest collection, and it's worth more than fifty grand. It's my first time wearing it today, and you spilled soup on it. You've ruined my dress! What's the point of saying sorry? I want you to return the money for this dress to me!” the well-dressed woman cursed furiously.

At this moment, a middle-aged chubby man wearing a tag labeled 'lobby manager' pinned on his chest walked over and asked the angry woman politely, “Miss Taylor, may I ask what happened here?”

“Are you blind? It's all your waitress's fault. God knows what's wrong with her eyes. She spilled the soup all over me. Now that my dress is soiled. How can I wear it? This restaurant owes me an explanation!”

When the chubby lobby manager heard this, he immediately scolded the waitress next to him, “What's wrong with your eyes? Or is there something wrong with your brain? All you had to do was serve the soup, and yet you spilled it all over Miss Taylor!

“Do you know who Miss Taylor is? She's Miss Gisele Taylor from one of the four top families of Orange County. Her dress costs more than fifty grand, a price you can't even afford even if you work here for a decade! Tell me, what do you want to do?”

“I'm sorry. I... I really didn't mean to do it. I don't know how it happened...” The waitress was so frightened that tears of desperation streamed down her cheeks, of which one side was still a little red and swollen from the slap she had received. Gisele's fingerprints were also on her face.

How could she possibly afford to pay tens of thousands of dollars?

Gisele sneered while looking at the tear-stained face of the weeping waitress with a fleeting trace of jealousy and resentment in her eyes.

She suddenly stretched out her hand to pick up a bowl of rice on the table and then poured it onto the floor. She then spat on it twice and looked up at the waitress with a malicious smile. “I doubt you can ever afford to buy this dress I'm wearing, and I'm afraid you can't even fork out a penny to compensate for it! How about this? I will be merciful and let you off the hook this time as long as you finish every grain of rice on the floor. Once you do, I'll stop holding it against you for ruining my dress. How does that sound?”

As soon as she said this, a series of shrieks filled the room.

“Huh? Did I hear that right?”

“Oh my God. She asked the waitress to eat the bowl of rice she poured onto the floor. She even spat twice onto it. How disgusting! It’s too humiliating!”

“Must she do that? Didn’t she just get her clothes stained a little? If she takes it to the dry cleaners now, I’m sure the stains can be removed. It’s not necessary to pay tens of thousands of dollars, right? This woman is even making her eat the filthy rice on the floor. That’s too much!”

“Shh! Keep your voice down! Didn’t you hear the manager say that this woman is one of the Taylors, a top family of Orange County? How dare you speak ill of her? Be careful not to get yourself in trouble!”

“She’s actually a Taylors? Ah, in that case, this waitress is in trouble…”

...

The incident attracted the attention of many patrons in the restaurant because it happened in the lobby, where many people were coming and going. Gisele’s voice was sharp and shrill, so almost all eyes were on her, and many began discussing softly among themselves.

Many people were naturally in disapproval of her bullying, but they didn’t dare to speak out against her behavior because they feared the power of her family.

Besides, the victim of her bullying was just a waitress who didn’t have a powerful background. In their opinion, it wouldn’t be worth it to offend Gisele for her!

The waitress remained still and clutched her hands tightly while trembling incessantly. Her face was as red as a tomato because of her anger and embarrassment.

She clenched her teeth tightly, but her tears kept flowing down uncontrollably.

She didn’t know why things had suddenly turned out like this.

She had just followed the instructions she was given and served the food to the patrons who ordered it. She had also placed the food on the table according to the rules, but Gisele suddenly instructed her to get her a bowl of soup.

In order to abide by the motto of ‘the customer is king’, she obediently got a bowl of soup and placed it in front of Gisele.

But at this time, Gisele suddenly waved her hand, causing the bowl of soup to topple over. Before she could even respond, Gisele gave her a hard slap on her face and lashed out at her for spilling the soup and getting her clothes soiled. Gisele even demanded that the waitress pay her the original price of over 50 thousand dollars to compensate for the dress. But how could she possibly afford this?

But if she didn't pay, Gisele would force her to eat the rice covered in her spit on the floor. How could she stand such humiliation?

While she was contemplating and finding herself stuck in a dilemma, Gisele lost her patience and urged, "Are you going to eat or not? I was kind enough to give you a chance. If you don't cherish it, compensate me now! Let me tell you, my patience is limited. Do you know what to do now?"

"Exactly! Don't be ignorant and stubborn. Miss Taylor is kind enough to give you this chance to eat something in exchange for the compensation. If you keep hesitating, you'll lose this chance too!" the chubby lobby manager chimed in callously.

After a long internal psychological struggle, the waitress finally nodded in reluctance. "Okay... I-I'll eat it! Miss Taylor, I hope you'll keep to your word and not pursue this matter any further."

A smug smile appeared on Gisele's face, and she said slowly, "That's for sure. As long as you polish off the rice on the floor, I'll forgive you for soiling my dress!"

The waitress gritted her teeth and slowly squatted down to eat the filthy, saliva-stained rice while curbing her nausea. All of a sudden, a strong hand grabbed her arm to stop her.

"Don't listen to her!" A mellow and familiar voice suddenly rang in the waitress's ears.

She raised her head in surprise and happened to face Lucas's angry gaze.

"Lucas?! Why are you here too?" The waitress blinked. Her face was extremely familiar to Lucas.

This waitress was none other than Grace Keller, with whom Lucas had had a few encounters!