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

- Chapter 743 – 774

Important Agenda

Lucas stared coldly at the man blocking him. "Get lost!"

The bodyguard wearing sunglasses looked inside the car and then shouted, "How arrogant!"

Then he clenched his fist and swung it at Lucas.

Since Florence had already given him the green light to hit Lucas, the bodyguard naturally wouldn't stand on ceremony.

"Hmph!" Lucas sneered. He raised his fist and swung it directly at the other party's striking fist.

Bang!

Both fists clashed fiercely.

The tremendous force from their fists emitted a loud sonic boom in the air.

Lucas didn't move, while the bodyguard took seven steps backward before he could barely stabilize his figure and stand firm on his feet.

The bodyguard's fingers were trembling and twitching violently, but the shock in his heart was indescribable!

He was actually punched so far back by a young man only in his twenties.

If he hadn't rapidly retreated to mitigate the force, the unparalleled force coming from his opponent's fist would have been enough to shatter the bones of his hand!

"If you dare to attack me again, I won't let you off so easily!" Lucas said to the bodyguard coldly before leaving without turning back.

"..." Inside the black Mercedes-Benz business car, Florence's eyes widened in disbelief.

This bodyguard was the strongest expert beside her, and Florence was very clear about how powerful he was.

Her bodyguard's strength ranked among the top even in all of DC.

But he had just been knocked back seven steps by Lucas's punch. Even his hand was almost crippled!

"Madam..." The bodyguard walked back to Florence with a grave and somber expression. "I'm sorry, Madam. That punk's martial arts skills are far superior to mine. I can't deal with him."

Hearing the bodyguard say this himself, Florence immediately dug her fingers into the cushion of the backseat with all her might.

"He's actually more skilled than you. How is that possible?

"According to the information we found, Lucas Gray is clearly just an ordinary, penniless man!

"Something must have happened in the six years he disappeared! Unfortunately, we weren't able to find out any information about him during that time... Could he have obtained some unknown opportunities?"

Florence muttered, analyzing the situation.

The bodyguard was also extremely shocked.

In fact, there was one more thing he didn't say just now—the immense power of Lucas's punch was almost enough to shatter the bones of his right hand. But even so, Lucas hadn't used all his strength.

If Lucas really used all his strength and wanted to take his life, he would have almost no room to fight back.

Even in DC, Lucas's strength was extremely terrifying, not to mention that he was now only in his twenties.

At this moment, Florence felt a sense of panic surge within her. It was as if she had just accidentally lost something extremely important, causing her to feel a vague uneasiness.

Florence forced herself to put aside her uneasy thoughts and said calmly, "Forget it. Let's not talk about him for now. Don't forget that besides dealing with Lucas Gray, there's a more important matter on our agenda for our trip to Orange County this time!"

She had come to Orange County for two purposes this time. She had initially thought that she could easily deal with Lucas, and it should have been just a matter of a few words. Thus, she came to Lucas first.

But she didn't expect Lucas to be so defiant, causing her to face a setback in the execution of her first plan.

However, her other plan was the key purpose of her visit to Orange County this time.

The bodyguard frowned slightly. "Madam, according to the information that we've found, I'm afraid this matter won't be easy to handle."

Florence's beautiful eyebrows furrowed tightly as she said with frustration, "Yes. I heard that at the Elite Business Exchange in California, even the Smiths and the California branch of the Peerless Martial Association intervened. Vince Smith and Axel Fox, the head of the California branch of the Peerless Martial Association, both wanted to get a piece of the pie. However, they had both lost to the Master of California.

"I heard that the Master of California is still very young, but he's domineering, tyrannical, and competent. Even Vince Smith, who's usually fierce and stern, was forced to kneel down and apologize in public. A man like him is really godly! No matter what, the Howards must find a way to befriend him and get closer to him!"

A look of determination to get what she wanted appeared on her face.

Indeed, she had come to Orange County this time because the Howards had received some news. So they had specially sent her to Orange County and instructed her to think of a way to establish a connection with the famous Master of California and get close to him.

Even if they couldn't recruit him to join the Howards, it wouldn't be too late to devise a strategy to rope him in later once they established a friendly and cooperative relationship.

A young man only in his twenties actually managed to dominate all of California, making some 60-odd top families and forces in California bow down to him. What kind of a terrifying talent was he? He was definitely talented and competent enough to spur any of the eight giants in DC to do everything possible to form friendly ties with him!

If the Howards could seize the opportunity first, it would be of crucial help to their future development.

"Andy, immediately mobilize all the forces you have at your disposal to find out the identity of the Master of California is!" Florence ordered in a deep voice.

"Yes, Madam!" Andy, the bodyguard wearing sunglasses, immediately agreed, and then he asked hesitantly. "In that case, how should we handle Miss Cheyenne?"

At the mention of Cheyenne, Florence's eyes had an extremely complicated gaze.

After a long time, she sighed and said firmly, "No matter what, she's my flesh and blood that I gave birth to after nine months of pregnancy. She must acknowledge me as her mother!

"As for Lucas Gray, although his martial arts skills are good and even better than yours, so what? Can he compare to the Master of California?

"They're both young men, but Lucas Gray is much worse than the Master of California, who unified all of California!

"Even if my daughter is married, she should be married to a powerful man like the Master of California! If she does, she will not only be able to obtain an extremely prestigious status, but she will also be able to help the Howards take control of California!

"Lucas Gray is just a stumbling block getting in the way! If he chooses to be stubborn and refuses to leave my daughter, I'll have no choice but to get rid of him!"

A ruthless murderous intent emerged in Florence's eyes.

Chapter 744: Searching Everywhere

Andy frowned and said worriedly, "Madam, are you trying to matchmake Miss Cheyenne with the Master of California? But the family..."

Before he could finish speaking, Florence interrupted, "Save it. My daughter is naturally the Howards' best candidate. How can Pamela Howard compare to my daughter?"

Pamela was a female descendant of the Howards, whom they had selected to matchmake with the Master of California.

Pamela was only about twenty-five years old this year, two years younger than Cheyenne. She had also inherited the excellent genes of the Howards and was gorgeous.

In addition to having a good family background, she was beautiful and of marriageable age. Thus, Pamela was extremely popular among the upper-class circle in DC, and countless wealthy families liked her. She had plenty of suitors who had openly confessed their love to her.

But Pamela's standards were very high, and she had always been indifferent toward the wealthy young scions who relied on their families' power. She was also extremely resistant to her family's various marriage arrangements.

This time, the Howards toughened up and didn't intend to pay any attention to Pamela's refusal because they wanted to have a good relationship with the Master of California, who had an unlimited future. Instead, he instructed Florence to bring Pamela to Orange County so that she could seize the opportunity to create more chances to develop a relationship between Pamela and the Master of California as soon as possible.

This showed how much importance the Howards attached to the Master of California, who had popped up out of nowhere.

However, since Florence was aware of the extremely young Master of California and his promising future, she was naturally reluctant to let her niece have the wonderful opportunity to marry him.

Such a good man should be left to her daughter!

She reckoned that once the Master of California fell for Cheyenne and married her, her status in the Howard family would definitely rise since she would then become the mother-in-law of the Master of California.

Thus, no matter what, she had to find a way to make things work between Cheyenne and the Master of California!

Seeing that Florence seemed unhappy, Andy hurriedly bent forward and said respectfully, "Of course. Madam, your daughter is naturally outstanding. Everything is up to you. You call the shots!"

Only then did Florence's face ease up a little. But she was now faced with a big problem that she had to solve before she could set Cheyenne up with the Master of California-finding out the identity of the prestigious Master of California.

Based on the various information, all they knew was that the Master of California was an extremely young man from Orange County known only as 'Mr. Gray'. Apart from this, there was no other information they could find about him.

An extremely bold thought suddenly flashed in Andy's mind as he said in shock, "The Master of California also has the last name Gray... and he's from Orange County too. Madam, do you think the Master of California could possibly be Lucas Gray?"

He mainly felt that Lucas was way too powerful!

With just one punch, he had knocked Andy backward so far, which showed that Lucas's martial arts skills were far superior. Moreover, like the Master of California, his last name was Gray, and he was a young man from Orange County. His information seemed very similar to the Master of California's.

Florence was dumbfounded, but a moment later, she shook her head and denied vehemently, "That's impossible!

"Lucas Gray is just an abandoned descendant of the Huttons, and the small business in his hands is just what the Huttons had given him out of sympathy.

"On the other hand, the Master of Californi is able to command sixty-odd top forces in California and make them pledge allegiance to him. How can Lucas Gray have such great power?"

Florence would never believe this speculation.

Andy thought about it and felt that Florence had a very reasonable point.

Orange County was a large place with millions of people, and there were thousands of young men with the last name Gray. It was unlikely that there would be such a great coincidence that Lucas was the Master of California.

It seemed that he was still affected by the strength that Lucas had just shown, so he kept letting his mind wander.

"Forget it. It's useless to keep guessing here. Let's head to San Francisco right now and ask the Coles' helmsman directly. These people in California are as stubborn as mules, but I refuse to believe that he'll be so obstinate as to not tell me the true identity of the Master of California!" Florence said with indignation. She was particularly enraged when she thought of the situation when she met the heads of a few top families earlier.

She had actually boarded a flight to Orange County this morning. Afterward, she visited the four top families in Orange County in order to find out the true identity of the Master of California.

The helmsmen of these four families were all surprised by her sudden visit. But once she asked about the Master of California, their faces changed, and they either deliberately changed the topic or said with a bitter face that they couldn't reveal any further information.

Even though Florence tried to shock and deter them with her family's status, they refused to speak at all, as if the Master of California's status was higher than her family's. She was truly furious.

Now, her remaining hope was that the head of the Coles, the only top family in San Francisco, could provide her with some actual information!

Just as Florence took Andy and her entourage to San Francisco, Lucas suddenly received a phone call from Bruce, the former helmsman of the Hales.

"Mr. Gray, there is one thing I think I should report to you," Bruce said. "Just a short while ago, a lady from the Howard family in DC came to pry into the matter of the Master of California. But according to your previous instructions, I didn't say anything about you."

When Lucas heard this, his lips curled into a strange smile. "The woman you're talking about should be named Florence Howard, right?"

Bruce instantly replied, "Yes, that's right. Furthermore, according to the information I just received, she also went to the Sawyers, the Wallaces, and the Taylors. But I doubt she managed to get any information about you.

"Since you ordered all of us to keep silent about you at the Elite Business Exchange, I reckon the other families won't dare to reveal your identity."

Lucas nodded. "Okay, I know."

Then he hung up.

But he was feeling rather weird at this moment.

Not long ago, he had just met Florence, who put on airs and behaved high and mighty in front of him, demanding that he divorce Cheyenne immediately.

Now, he received news of Florence asking around for information about the Master of California.

How would she react if she found out that he was the very Master of California she was looking for?

It would definitely be an exciting scene!

But at the thought of the relationship between Florence and Cheyenne, he was no longer amused.

Should I tell Cheyenne about this?

Lucas looked up at the logo of the Brilliance Corporation on the building not far away from him.

Chapter 745: Begging The Coles

Translator: Atlas Studios Editor: Atlas Studios

Logically speaking, the sudden appearance of Cheyenne's biological mother was definitely good news, especially since Cheyenne had been feeling extremely insecure after learning that Karen was not her biological mother and that the Carters had adopted her.

Even though William and Charlotte both said that they had long regarded Cheyenne as a part of their family and didn't change the way they interacted with her. Cheyenne still felt flustered.

Lucas could understand the feeling of someone not knowing where they came from and why they had been abandoned, wandering around without being able to find their roots.

If Cheyenne knew that her biological mother had appeared, she would definitely burst into tears of joy!

But Florence was actually so mercenary.

Having a snobbish adoptive mother who exploited her all the time had already made Cheyenne very miserable.

If her biological mother was also like this-constantly using her status as her mother to get Cheyenne to do things against her wishes-then Cheyenne would be even more miserable.

If Cheyenne knew that her mother wanted her to divorce Lucas, she would definitely be extremely miserable.

Of course, Lucas and Cheyenne had already developed a very loving relationship over this period of time. Even if Florence demanded Cheyenne to comply, she wouldn't agree to it.

But she would definitely be extremely sad and miserable. Lucas definitely didn't want to see this.

He didn't want the woman he loved to feel any misery at all.

The Howards.. I hope you won't go overboard. Otherwise, I cant guarantee what III do.

In the end, he still decided to hide the truth about Florence from Cheyenne for the time being.

He didn't want the kindhearted and sensitive Cheyenne to be miserable. In the Coles' guest hall in San Francisco.

"Haha, Madam Howard, you're truly a distinguished guest. It's our honor! Please have a seat." Edmund chuckled and let Florence take the master seat. After all, she was an honored guest from one of the eight most powerful families in DC, so Edmund naturaly wouldn't be negligent

Florence took a sip of tea. Then without saying any nonsense, she cut straight to the chase and made her intention clear. "Mr. Cole, I won't beat around the bush with you. To be honest, I'm here today because there's something I'd like to ask you about, Mr. Cole

Upon hearing this, Edmund had a look of surprise on his face. He smiled and said, "Your family is so powerful, while Im just an old man. What can I possibly

help you with, Madam Howard?

He obviously didn't want to reply to Florence, making her feel infuriated. She was clearly from the esteemed Howard family, and she was willing to lower her pride and come to ask him a question. A family like the Coles should have answered all her questions respectfully instead of being perfunctory. However, once Florence thought of the fact that she was now on Edmund's turf, she didn't vent her anger immediately. But her voice was much colder than before.

"Mr. Cole, why bother being so humble? Since over a week ago, when the Kingstons and the Walkers, who were originally the Coles' rivals, were eradicated, the Coles have become the most powerful family in San Francisco, or rather, in California. As the helmsman of the Coles, what could you not know? Mr. Cole, you just don't want to help me."

When she said the last sentence, a wisp of anger clearly appeared in her eyes.

But Edmund simply picked up the teacup in front of him and sipped it slowly, as if he didn't see it at all.

In fact, long before Florence arrived, Edmund had already received news from Bruce that she was asking around for infomation about Lucas, the Master of California.

Since he knew her intention, and he couldn't possibly tell her about Lucas, why would he bother with her?

Edmund narrowed his eyes slightly and sipped on his tea calmly like an old monk.

Florence had a gloomy gaze in her eyes as she silently glared daggers at Edmund.

Standing behind Florence, Andy stared at Edmund with a cold gaze while clenching his fists.

No one said anything, and the tension in the hall was palpable After nearly one minute, Florence finally couldn't endure it anymore a coldly, "Mr. Cole, I just want to know one thing. Who is the Master of California?

Edmund touched his eyebrows without putting down his teacup. He merely said indifferently, "The Master of California is the Master of California. Please pardon me. I have no other comments."

"Edmund Cole!" Florence smacked the table and hollered furiously, "I don't like people beating around the bush with me! Since you know my identity, I want you to tell me all the information about the Master of California immediately. This concerms not only me but also the Howards! If you mislead the Howards, your family will no longer have to exist!"

She unceremoniously mentioned the Howards to threaten Edmund. The polite smile on Edmund's face faded as he said with a cold expression, "Madam Howard, is this the attitude you should have when you're begging someone for information?"

"Huh? The attitude of begging" Florence raised her head upward and laughed loudly, as if she had heard an extremely hilarious joke. She said disdainfully, "What kind of identity do I have? What kind of identity do you have? Why must

I beg you? Do you have the qualifications?

Edmund said coldly, "In that case, take your time. I won't see you off!"

He didn't say any nonsense and simply told Florence to leave.

Florence had never suffered such exasperation from such a minor figure, and her hands began trembling with anger.

Behind her, Andy had a dark expression as he suddenly stepped forward and shouted, "How dare you! Edmund Cold, how dare you be so rude to Madam Howard? Are the Coles tired of living?

Edmund simply ignored him and said coldly, "This is the Coles' turf! It's not your turn to order me around here!

After he said this, several bodyguards of the Coles darted out from the corners of the hall, all amed with pistols on their waists. They were ready to draw anytime.

When Florence and Andy saw the bodyguards amed with guns, their expressions abruptly changed. Lightning struck their minds as they immediately sobered up with shock on their faces.

The Coles actually dared to get their bodyguards to surround them with guns!

Chapter 746: Half-Truths

At this moment, Florence's face was extremely sullen.

Edmund was right. 'Ihey were in California, on the Coles' turf, where Edmund could command as many people as he wanted.

Andy was the only expert she had brought to protect her.

She wanted to force Edmund with her power, but Edmund didn't buy it at all.

If the two sides really fought each other, Andy might be able to kill Edmund,

but the two of them definitely wouldn't be able to survive under the guns of the

Coles' bodyguards.

Besides, Florence's main purpose in coming to California this time was to win over the Master of California. Thus, it wasn't a good idea to make enemies of the powerful families of California.

Moreover, there used to be three top families in San Francisco. But after the

exchange, the other two families vanished, leaving only the Coles. This was enough to show that the Coles and the Master of California had an extraordinary relationship.

Unless necessary, Florence wouldn't dare to make enemies of the Coles.

"Okay, you're fierce!" Florence forced herself to say through gritted teeth as her chest heaved up and down vigorously.

She was in a terrible mood.

Ever since she came to Califomia, starting from when she had visited the four major families of Orange County, she hadn't been able to get any useful information.

Lucas had even reprimanded her mercilessly, making her infuriated.

Now, she still didn't gain the slightest benefit from the Coles. Not only did she not get any news about the Master of California, but Edmund even told her to leave without the slightest regard for the threat of the Howards.

An extremely absurd thought suddenly emerged in Florence's mind, and she wondered if the influence and deterrence of the prestigious Howards had become so neak in California.

If her family learned about her repeated setbacks, who knew how they would laugh at her and ridicule her!

It would absolutely be shameful!

Florence was full of anger, but she couldn't vent it. Her face became extremely gloomy.

But the thought of her family s order for her to build a good relationship with

the Master of Califomia left Florence uith no choice but to put up with it.

After taking a final glance at Edmund, she said to Andy beside her, "Let's go!" "Goodbye!" Edmund said viithout seeing Florence off. Instead, he remained seated leisurely and continued drinking tea.

Florence's face became even gloomier, and she angrily left the Coles with Andy.

But the moment Florence disappeared outside the gates of the Cole residence,

Edmund immediately put down his teacup, took out his cell phone, and called

Lucas to tell him about the situation in detail.

In response to Edmund telling Florence to leave, Lucas merely said, "Well done!"

Lucas was really impressed with Edmund.

Doesn't Florence like leveraging the Howards' power to bully people everywhere?

Then let her also have a taste of being crushed and suppressed!

As for the possible retaliation of the Howards that she said, Lucas didn't take it seriously at all.

At about the same time, a distinguished guest appeared in the San Francisco branch of the Peerless Martial Association.

As the domineering and overwhelming figure stepped inside the branch, an extremely powerful pressure immediately engulfed everyone.

"Welcome, Mr. York!"

"Welcome, Mr. York!"

Under the lead of Axel, the branch head, and Heath, his assistant, everyone in

the California branch put their right hands in front of their left chests and

The person who came was none other than Julian York from the headquarters.

Julian ignored the other people of the Peerless Martial Association and stared straight at Axel with his haw-k like eyes. "I just need you to tell me how my brother, Jude, died."

A trace of grief appeared on Axel's face. The murderer of Jude is named Lucas Gray, and today, he's well known as the Master of California!"

"Master of California. Hmph!" A clear trace of mockery appeared on Julian's face. Seems like hes really brazen. How dare he use the title the Master of California?!

Seeing that he had succeeded in provoking Julian's hostility toward Lucas, Axel smiled smugly. "Mr. York, please listen to me slowly, and you will know why despite having no definite evidence, I can still conclude that the person who killed Jude is definitely Lucas Gray!"

Axel was only saying this to pin Lucas as the murderer.

Reason being, he knew that Julian was a tyrannical but particular person who paid great attention to evidence. Since he said that Jude had been killed by Lucas, Julian would definitely try to find out from him how Jude had gotten into a conflict with Lucas, how he died, and where his corpse was.

Axel naturally couldn't produce this evidence because he had framed Lucas for Jude's death in the first place. Since he didn't even know where Jude had died, how could he produce plausible evidence?

So he had to take the initiative to report the matter to him clearly.

After Julian heard what Axel said, his face immediately darkened. •In that case, do you have any evidence?"

Axel hurriedly explained, "Mr. York, please listen to me slowly, and you will know why I'm certain that the person who killed Jude is definitely Lucas Gray even though I have no definite evidence.

aren't many experts in California, and Jude is your brother, so he's naturally very povverful. In the Califomia branch, his combat power is second only to mine. Generally, it'd be difficult for anyone to defeat him, let alone kill This time, Jude somehow disappeared for a long time for no reason. I sent my people out to search for him and eventually determined that he should have been lolled. But I haven't been able to find any clues as to who killed him. "But a week or so ago, I found an extremely powerful young expert at the Elite Business Exchange in Califomia!

"Although this young man named Lucas is less than thirty years old, his martial arts skills are impressive. Even the expert brought by a successor of the Smiths of DC wasn't a match for Lucas Gray. He was so scared by the opponent's shout that he didn't dare to step forward, and he could only watch Lucas Gray press Vince Smith down onto the floor and force him to apologize on his knees!

"Lucas Gray is extremely arrogant, and he kills people at every turn. He even killed several people who were disrespectful to him in front of so many families, and he didn't take the Peerless Martial Association seriously at all! "In addition, according to the news from my men, Lucas took in a woman who

betrayed us, and all the experts I sent were killed by him even though they

already announced that they were from the Peerless Martial Association.

"He's powerful and extremely hostile toward us, so it's not surprising that he

killed Jude."

Axel indignantly spoke many half- truths.

This was the method Heath had taught him previously—to mix some

falsehoods among the truths...

Chapter 747: Gisele Taylor

Julian had an exceptionally gloomy look on his face. "It seems that this kid is indeed quite arrogant. How dare he look down on the Peerless Martial Association and kill my brother? I will never let him off!"

Axel hurriedly said, "Mr. York, it's also my fault that I'm not capable enough to beat that kid Lucas Gray, so I had no choice but to ask for help from the headquarters. But fortunately, a top expert like you came. Once you make a move, that punk definitely won't be able to escape!"

While speaking, he flattered Julian.

Julian wasn't moved at all. He merely stared at him coldly. "I naturally have no qualms about avenging my brother. But if I find out one day that you got up to some nonsense, you should know what I'm capable of!"

Axel's heart skipped a beat, afraid that Julian had discovered something, His heart was about to leap out of his chest.

But fortunately, he was experienced and sly, so he still had good control over his facial expression. Making himself look as sincere as possible, he said earnestly with a tinge of grievance, "Mr. York, I won't dare to tell any lies to you to fool you! I'm telling the truth. Everything is true!"

"Hmph, I bet you wouldn't dare!" Julian snorted coldly. "Where was my brother before something happened to him?"

Since Axel claimed that he had been investigating Jude's disappearance for a long time, it was impossible that he wouldn't be able to find out such a trivial matter.

Axel quickly said, "The Taylor residence in Orange County! At that time, Jude received a request for help and went there. There are records in the branch! But since then, Jude has never returned.

"We also went to the Taylors to ask about it. However, they said that Jude had indeed gone to their place that day, but he soon left. They don't know where he went afterward"

Julian pondered for a moment before narrowing his eyes slightly. "Hmph, regardless of whether there's anything wrong with the Taylors, I have to make a trip there! Immediately arrange a driver and a car for me.!"

"Yes, Mr. York!" Axel knew that Julian was about to take action. He was overjoyed, so he immediately agreed and proceeded to make the arrangements.

Only when he saw the black Bentley carrying Julian and vanishing at the intersection did Axel feel relieved, feeling as if a boulder had been lifted off his chest. He was completely relaxed.

Moreover, it was nly at this moment that he finally discovered that his singlet was drenched in sweat. He had unknowingly broken out in cold sweat.

It indeed required great emotional capacity to lie in front of a terrifying expert like Julian.

Heath walked over and said with a smile on his face, "Sir, don't worry. As long as Julian York makes a move, Lucas Gray will die for sure! And we're not exactly framing him. After all, Jude died for no apparent reason, and Lucas Gray is the greatest suspect.

"Besides, even if he really didn't kill Jude, he can only blame himself for behaving too arrogantly and courting disaster." Heath smiled insidiously.

After thinking about it, Axel laughed. "That's right. He only has himself to blame! I hope Julian's trip goes well and he beheads that punk. That way, I'll be able to take California back!"

But if Julian fails, I will be in great danger.

But this is almost impossible!

Axel thought with certainty.

In the Taylor residence in Orange County

It was just after six o'clock in the evening, the time when ordinary people generally started eating dinner. The Taylors were no exception either.

But there were only three people at the Taylors' dining table.

Frederick initially had three sons, Gaston, Preston, and Scott.

But not long ago, Preston and Scott had died one after another because they were involved in a series of events related to Karen. Now, Gaston was Frederick's only remaining son.

The third person at the table was Gaston's daughter, Gisele, the heiress of the Taylors.

The Taylors had lost many descendants, so Frederick particularly doted on his granddaughter Gisele. In fact, even after dinner, he deliberately asked Gisele to accompany him and have a chat in the courtyard.

Frederick looked at his granddaughter, who had grown up well, and suddenly remembered that she was still unmarried.

For some reason, a domineering figure surfaced in his mind, and he couldn't help being shocked.

In fact, there wasn't a large age gap between Gisele and Lucas, and their backgrounds were also quite compatible. He reckoned that he wouldn't have to worry about the Taylors' development in the future if he could matchmake Gisele with him. Perhaps because Frederick had been staring at Gisele for too long, she couldn't help finding it strange.

"Grandpa, why are you looking at me like that? Is there something on my face?" Gisele deliberately asked playfully.

Frederick returned to his senses, but he still wanted to try asking. "Gisele, you saw everything that happened at the Elite Business Exchange that day. I want to ask you. What do you think about Lucas Gray?"

As soon as she heard this question, her face became extremely complicated.

To be honest, she didn't want to hear Lucas's name at all now.

She and Lucas had probably met about five times in total.

The first time was at the entrance of the Wallaces' Club Splendor, where she had wanted to use Lucas as a shield to avoid the incompetent Kyle's pursuit. She had tried to ask him to pretend to be her boyfriend, only to have him reject her on the spot. She felt belittled, and her ego was bruised. Thus, she deliberately incited Kyle to teach Lucas a lesson. But instead, Lucas taught Kyle a lesson and warned her sternly.

That time, Gisele had a terrible first impression of Lucas.

The second time was at the auction in Club Splendor, where she chanced upon a conflict between Lucas and Marc, Liam, and Kyle. But the rich scions ended up on the losing end, while Lucas bought all the beauties up for auction that day.

At the time, Gisele was still very uncomfortable with Lucas's arrogance, but she had no choice but to admit that he did seem to be very rich, as he had spent tens of millions to buy multiple women. He was completely like a lecherous upstart with nowhere to spend his money.

Gisele was disgusted with Lucas after her first two encounters with him.. Afterward, the third meeting made her impression of him worsen to the point that she hated him to the core!

Chapter 748: Questioning

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:**

Atlas Studios

The third time the two met was in the Lion Restaurant, where Gisele was having a meal with a gigolo whom she was infatuated with at the time. During the meal, they met a beautiful waitress who caught the gigolo's attention, and he kept gawking at her. As a matter of course, Gisele taught her a lesson.

But Lucas turned out to be the waitress's friend and even stepped out to protect her. He even forced Gisele to slap herself ten times, greatly shaming her.

From that day on, Lucas became the person Gisele hated the most, and she wished she could kill him immediately.

The fourth time they met was when Lucas came to the Taylor residence to question Preston and demand that he hand Karen over. At the time, Gisele mocked Lucas for being a fool and taking the initiative to come to her door to seek death. She thought that she could finally avenge herself for the

humiliation she had suffered at his hands previously.

But she didn't expect Lucas to have such terrifying strength. Not only did he beat the Taylors' bodyguards alone, but he even easily defeated Jude, the expert the Taylors had specially invited from the Peerless Martial Association.

Gisele didn't actually witness the battle between Lucas and Jude in the villa that day. But afterward, Lucas left the Taylors' unscathed, while Jude, the martial arts expert of the Peerless Martial Association, never appeared again. This was enough to explain the result.

From that day on, Gisele understood that she would probably never be able to take revenge on Lucas.

Even the expert of the Peerless Martial Association was killed by Lucas, so what else could she do?

The fifth time they met was at the Elite Business Exchange in California more than a week ago.

Lucas was the center of attention at the exchange.

'When she saw that the experts of the Kingstons, the Walkers, and the Smiths were going to deal with Lucas, Gisele was exhilarated, thinking that she could finally see him being taught a lesson and put to death. But she ended up being disappointed.

Lucas's strength was so terrifying that he defeated the several experts one after another, and even bullets couldn't do anything to him.

In fact, Lucas even managed to force Vince Smith to get on his knees and apologize to him in front of so many top families before eventually becoming the Master of California!

When the family heads all knelt down on one knee in front of Lucas and addressed him as the Master of California, Gisele was on the verge of yelling in exasperation, but she didn't dare to. In the end, she could only humiliatingly follow behind the Taylors and get down on one knee in front of Lucas, whom she hated.

Upon hearing her grandfather's sudden question about her opinion of Lucas, she really had mixed feelings and an ominous hunch.

Truth be told, of course she wanted Lucas to die immediately. But by now, she also understood that this was only something she could think about in her head. Lucas was so strong that even the helmsmen of the 60-odd top families of California were subservient to him, and the same was true of the

Taylors. Thus, if she badmouthed Lucas now, she would only make her grandfather dislike her.

"Lucas Gray... I think he's indeed a powerful person since he has become the Master of California at a young age without his family's help. I'm afraid it's difficult to find such a person out of a million people," Gisele said reluctantly with her head hung low. No matter how much Gisele hated Lucas, she could only admit that he was indeed very outstanding.

Frederick looked at Gisele, who had her head lowered, and thought that she had to be shy. He smiled. "Hehe, indeed, many girls should like a young and talented man like Lucas Gray."

He looked at Gisele and suddenly said, "Gisele, would you agree if I asked you to become Lucas's woman?"

"What?!" Gisele abruptly raised her head with shock all over her face. "Grandpa, what are you saying? He..."

But before she could finish, a strong chill suddenly surged in the Taylors' courtyard, and a figure appeared like a menacing god descending.

"Who's there?!" Frederick shouted angrily and subconsciously pulled Gisele behind himself to shield her. At the same time, a dozen bodyguards immediately poured from the corners of the courtyard to surround the figure that suddenly appeared. But the aura emanating from the figure was extremely strong. He was just like a fierce beast wanting to devour others, making the Taylors' bodyguards feel as though they were facing a formidable enemy, and they didn't dare to act rashly. Frederick was shocked and furious, but the figure was obviously not to be trifled with, so he tried his best to ask calmly, "Who are you? Why did they suddenly barge into the Taylors' late at night?"

"Are you Frederick Taylor, the helmsman of the Taylors?"

The person who came stood on the courtyard wall that was more than two meters high like a god looking down at the Taylors in the courtyard.

His voice was extremely cold, seemingly filled with the snowy wind of winter.

The person had obviously come for the Taylors with hostile intentions!

This made Frederick keep his guard up.

"Who exactly are you? Why are you here?" Frederick asked cautiously with narrowed eyes.

"I'm Julian York from the Peerless Martial Association. Jude York is my brother. Do you know who I am now?" Bruno said coldly and arrogantly.

Boom!

As soon as he heard Julian's name, Frederick immediately felt his scalp turn numb and his heart pound rapidly.

The person who came was Jude's brother!

In that case, Julian had to be here to take revenge.

The scene that had occurred in the Taylor residence surfaced in Frederick's mind again. He knew clearly just how Jude had died and how the corpse had been dealt with!

But he knew that he couldn't breathe a word about what had happened that day. Otherwise, the Taylors would all die today!

Enduring his horror, he gulped several times before forcing himself to smile calmly. "It turns out that you're Mr. Jude York's brother. I'm sorry! Please come down to my humble abode and let me host you."

"Haha!" Julian sneered furiously. "Screw you! I didn't come here to have tea with a small fry like you. The last time Jude appeared was in your house. Later, he went missing and seemed to have been killed. Let me ask you. Was he killed or not?"

Julian had an extremely terrifying aura, so much so that the bodyguards surrounding him couldn't help taking two steps back, not daring to get close to him..

Chapter 749: Please Wait

Translator: Atlas Studios Editor: Atlas Studios

Cold sweat trickled down Frederick's head incessantly while his heart pounded rapidly. But he controlled himself and said with a look of shock, "What? Jude went missing and even died. I really didn't know about this!

"Mr, Jude York did come to the Taylors' the other day, but he left right after he finished his business. I don't know what happened at all!"

"Quit pretending in front of me!" Julian roared angrily. He ignored the Taylors' bodyguards below the courtyard wall and jumped to the spot in front of Frederick.

"You'd better tell me honestly what happened here that day. Otherwise, I'll kill you right now!" Julian's eyes were full of unconcealed murderous intent.

Frederick's heart was beating wildly, but he nevertheless followed the lines he had thought of beforehand. "The Taylors have always had a strong cooperative relationship with the Peerless Martial Association. Just a short while ago, the Taylors encountered a troublesome matter that we couldn't solve

ourselves, so we asked the Peerless Martial Association for help, and the person who came was Mr. Jude.

"But even Mr. Jude was no match for that man. After a brawl, Mr. Jude sustained some injuries and left in anger. I have no idea what happened afterward!"

After Jude had died in the Taylors' villa, Frederick had someone secretly dispose of Jude's body, fearing that the Peerless Martial Association would find out and take revenge. He had even made sure that all the family members had the same story and instructed them to give the same answers regardless of

who questioned them. The Taylors were told to say that Jude's whereabouts were unknown to them ever since he left the Taylor residence that day.

Although Frederick was still speaking according to his previous plan, he was diffident and lacking in confidence.

The reason was the terrifying aura that Jude's brother, Julian, was exuding. It was even more horrifying than that of Axel Fox, the head of the California branch of the Peerless Martial Association.

This was enough to show that the powerhouse from the Peerless Martial Association in front of him was probably much more powerful than the head of the California branch.

Lying in front of such an expert put terrifying psychological pressure on one's mind and soul. Thus, it really wasn't an easy task at all.

Aslight bit of carelessness would arouse Julian's suspicion, and then not only him but all the Taylors would face destruction.

Julian's face darkened. "Nonsense! Jude's strength is incomparable to ordinary people's. Apart from Alex Fox, who else in California can hurt him?

"Given Jude's character, how could he possibly leave in indignation after suffering an injury? Who is the person who hurt him?

"You'd better tell me the truth about everything. If I find out that you're lying to me, I'll destroy the Taylors immediately!"

Frederick's hand hidden in his sleeve was trembling, but he said persistently, "That's indeed the truth. I wouldn't dare to lie to you at all!

"As for who hurt Mr. Jude, his... his name is Lucas Gray!"

"Lucas Gray…" Julian had an uncertain expression on his face after hearing this name.

If Axel was the only one who had said that his younger brother's murderer was Lucas Gray, Julian wouldn't trust him. This was why he had gone to the Taylors to confirm it himself.

But now that the helmsman of the Taylors had also said that the person who had injured his younger brother was the young man named Lucas, Julian was almost certain Lucas had done it.

"Is Lucas Gray the one being called the Master of California recently?" Julian asked coldly.

"... Yes. Lucas Gray's martial arts skills are extremely impressive, and he's the one who just became the Master of California!"

Frederick pushed the blame to Lucas because he would rather Lucas be the one to face Julian's wrath.

Anyway, Lucas was very powerful. Even against a top expert like Julian, he should be on par with him.

Besides, Jude had indeed died in Lucas's hands, so he wasn't really framing him.

But the Taylors had to draw a line between this incident and themselves no matter what!

Julian narrowed his eyes.

Since Axel and Frederick had already said so, he reckoned that Lucas had to be very powerful.

It wasn't impossible for Jude to die in his hands.

But the fact that he could achieve such terrifying strength at such a young age meant that he was undoubtedly a rare elite expert.

It would indeed be a pity to kill him just like that.

If he could rope Lucas in and bring him back to the Peerless Martial Association, Lucas would be of great help to him and give his status in the headquarters a boost.

But if Lucas had really killed his younger brother, he couldn't forget this hatred just like that.

Julian pondered about how he should deal with Lucas, and Taylors' courtyard fell silent for a while. Since Julian wasn't saying anything, no one dared to speak.

"Where is Lucas Gray now?" Julian asked after a long time.

Frederick hurriedly said, "I know. He lives in the villa in the middle of Pearl Lake in southern Orange County. That place is very eye-catching and easy to find."

At this moment, he heaved a long sigh of relief in his heart. As long as Julian went to look for Lucas, the Taylors would be safe today.

As for the situation following that, he would have to see who won between Lucas and Julian before he could slowly make plans.

Julian shot Frederick a deep glance before snorting coldly and walking toward the gates of the Taylor residence.

From beginning to end, he didn't take the Taylors' bodyguards seriously at all, as if there was no one around.

"Mr... Mr. York, please wait a moment!" A clear voice suddenly called out to stop Julian from leaving.

Frederick's expression changed drastically. He turned around and saw Gisele standing up behind him.

The voice belonged to Gisele.

Frederick was furious and flustered. He couldn't wait for the terrifying Julian to leave. But just as the latter was about to go, his granddaughter actually took the initiative to call out to him and stop him!

What is Gisele trying to do?

Julian stopped, slowly turned around, and stared at Gisele with his sharp eyes. "Did you call out to me for something important?"

Gisele gritted her teeth and said loudly, "I want to tell you that Lucas Gray really killed your brother, Jude!"

The moment she said this, a look of shock and panic appeared on Frederick's face..

Chapter 750: On the Brink of Death

Does Gisele know what she's doing?

Does she want to reveal everything that happened that day right in front of Julian York?

Does she not know that once she tells the truth, even the Taylors will be implicated and won't be able to escape death?

At this moment, Frederick really wanted to pry open the head of her granddaughter, who had always been well-behaved and sensible, to see just what it contained! "Gisele, you…" Frederick tried to stop Gisele.

But Gisele didn't wait for him to finish and simply said, "I was there that day, so I saw everything that happened. Mr. Jude York was indeed injured by Lucas Gray, but after he was injured, Lucas Gray didn't let him off but instead chased after him. Since then, Mr. Jude has been missing, so I think that he must have died in Lucas Gray's hands!"

Gisele spoke flusteredly and quickly, and her eyes were resentful and maniacal. 'When Julian revealed his identity just now and said that he came to avenge Jude, Gisele knew that it was the perfect opportunity that she had long been waiting for to kill Lucas!

Julian was extremely powerful and undoubtedly even more powerful than Jude and Axel of the Peerless Martial Association. Since this top expert had come to seek revenge on

Lucas, how could Gisele possibly let go of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity? After hearing what Gisele said, the nervous Frederick finally relaxed a little.

Sure enough, his granddaughter wasn't so stupid as to tell Julian the entire truth about what had happened that day. Instead, she made up another lie to blame Lucas for Jude's death.

He now finally understood that his granddaughter probably didn't have any romantic interest in Lucas but instead hated him to the core and even wished that he would die right away. Otherwise, she wouldn't have called out to Julian to stop him and get him to hate Lucas.

But Gisele's action was indeed very dangerous because Julian was clearly not someone she could deceive. The slightest mistake would cause all the Taylors to perish!

Frederick really wanted to stuff Gisele's mouth with something and make her stop talking.

After hearing Gisele's words, Julian immediately appeared in front of Gisele and strangled her. "You said you witnessed everything with your own eyes?"

A terrifying light flashed in Julian's eyes as he stared into Gisele's eyes. "If you dare to lie to me again, I'll strangle you to death immediately!"

As soon as he finished speaking, a terrifying murderous aura surged from his body, causing Gisele to feel so suffocated that she couldn't breathe.

Her face was pale, and only then did she understand how terrifying this middle-aged man was!

A trace of remorse flashed in her eyes.

Perhaps she had really done the wrong thing and shouldn't have called out to this terrifying person.

Frederick was horrified as he watched Julian strangling Gisele and quickly begged for forgiveness. "Mr. York, my granddaughter is still young and ignorant. Don't... don't lower yourself to her level!"

Julian didn't even look at him. He merely stared at the petrified Gisele and said coldly, "Tell me exactly what happened that day! If you dare to make use of me, the only consequence you'll face is death!"

Julian had been in society for many years and had trained himself to have sharp eyes. When Gisele spoke earlier, he saw that her eyes were full of resentment and madness.

Clearly, Gisele resented Lucas, so it was difficult to be certain whether she had told the truth or was just making something up to harm Lucas.

Julian hated being made use of the most.

In particular, this woman was just a small fry from a lowly family, yet she actually had the audacity to try and make use of him. She was simply courting death!

At this moment, Gisele was also utterly stunned by the genuine killing intent in Julian's eyes. Tears and snot gushed out of her eyes and nose as she said hurriedly, "I... I'll say it! I'll tell you everything!"

Julian threw Gisele onto the ground in disgust and said coldly, "Speak!"

Large sweat droplets had already appeared on Frederick's head. He knew that if his granddaughter really told the truth under Julian's threats, the Taylors would all have to die today!

"Gisele, don't talk nonsense. You should know what happened that day." Frederick had no choice but to use this way to warn Gisele about what she could and couldn't say.

"Shut up!"

But as soon as he finished speaking, Julian instantly flew into a rage and sent Frederick flying with a vicious kick.

Bang!

Frederick, who was already about seventy years old, was kicked by Julian and rolled ten meters away before colliding into the tree trunk at the wall and finally stopping.

But Frederick had long lost consciousness under the kick.

"Mr. Taylor!" The Taylors' bodyguard cried out in panic, but none of them dared to go forward to deal with Julian.

His power and strength were far beyond what they could deal with. Even if they risked their lives to rush forward, they would only die in vain.

Witnessing all of this, Gisele slumped to the ground and began trembling in fear.

Julian was way too ruthless and terrifying!

She truly regretted it now. She knew that she shouldn't have stopped this terrifying man from leaving because of her resentment for Lucas.

"Hurry up. My patience is wearing thin!" Julian shouted, his menacing eyes enough to kill.

Gisele shuddered, and the overwhelming horror finally crushed her, causing her to be unable to hang on any longer. "I... I'll speak!"

Gisele stammered, "That day, Lucas Gray came to our house looking for trouble. Mr. Jude also came, and they fought in the villa. I didn't witness the scene, but my grandfather saw everything.

"Later, Lucas came out of the villa in one piece. My grandfather... my grandfather even sent him out of the Taylor residence. But since then, Mr. Jude never appeared again!

"Then... then my grandfather instructed all the Taylors not to breathe a word about this matter and also made all of us tally our statements. We were all told to say that Mr. Jude left on his own after getting injured and we don't know anything about what happened after!

"So I… I think that Lucas Gray… has already killed Mr. Jude in the villa that day…"

Under Julian's terrifying aura, Gisele didn't dare to hide it and stammered out everything that had happened that day.

Bang!

Hearing this, Julian had anger written all over his face. He moved his feet, and the thick green stone tiles on the ground immediately crumbled.

"Great! Lucas Gray and the Taylors are really something!"

An extremely angry and violent aura burst out from Julian's body.

Chapter 751: The Taylors' Annihilation

Amid the terrifying aura, Julian was like a fierce god coming out of hell. His entire body was exuding a shocking murderous intent.

"No!"

This was the thought that emerged in the heads of every single person who felt this murderous intent!

And the very next moment, Julian's body moved and streaked through the air to appear beside Frederick, who had long passed out.

Snap!

Julian raised his foot and stepped on Frederick's chest mercilessly.

With the terrifying sounds of bones breaking, all the bones in Frederick's chest snapped, and his chest collapsed. As for his heart and lungs, they had already become badly mangled under the foot.

The helmsman of the Taylors was killed by the stomp of his foot!

Moreover, his death was extremely tragic!

The Taylors were all horrified.

No one thought that Julian would make such a ruthless move without saying anything!

But this was just the beginning.

Julian, who had heard the truth from Gisele, obviously wouldn't let the Taylors off.

His younger brother, Jude, had come to help the Taylors solve their problem, but the Taylors had instead allowed Lucas to kill his brother and tried to hide the truth!

This was absolutely unforgivable!

With a crazy desire for revenge in his heart, Julian rushed toward the Taylors and killed everyone he saw. All the Taylors, even the bodyguards and the servants, none of them could escape Julian!

"Ah!"

"Help..."

"Spare me... Ah!"

Countless pleas and shrieks resounded as Julian took countless lives like a devil without any humanity.

The pungent odor of blood engulfed every corner of the villa.

Gisele sat on the ground, staring blankly at the hellish scene in front of her while trembling violently without being able to utter a single word.

All the Taylors were killed by this man in front of her!

Her grandfather, father, the housekeepers, bodyguards, and servants all died one after another.

The entire Taylor residence had really tuned into a living hell!

And it was all her fault!

If she hadn't stopped Julian in order to retaliate against Lucas and make him hate Lucas even more, Julian would have already left the Taylor residence.

The Taylors wouldn't have ended up in such a plight either!

It was all her fault!

Tap-tap!

Reeking of a sharp and pungent odor of blood, Julian stood in front of Gisele.

He had deliberately not harmed Gisele because he wanted her to witness with her own eyes the destruction of the Taylors. He wanted her to know the consequences of those who tried to lie to him or make use of him.

Now that everyone in the Taylor residence was finally dead, it was Gisele's turn.

Deep horror appeared in Gisele's eyes as she got on her knees to beg for forgiveness. "P-Please! Please spare me on account that I told you everything!"

She kowtowed frantically, and seemingly suddenly recalling something, she said eagerly, "As long as you're willing to let me off, I'm willing to do whatever you want! I will give you all the Taylors' assets! And I... I... I'm not married yet! I'm willing to do whatever you want! I..."

Bang!

But before Gisele could finish speaking, Julian kicked her in the head expressionlessly.

Her hard skull immediately collapsed, leaving Gisele with no chance to speak her unfinished words ever again.

"Heh, what a stupid woman. She actually offered herself without checking if she's worthy," Julian said to Gisele's corpse indifferently before walking out of the Taylor manor without turning around at all.

The enormous Taylor manor was deathly silent as the strong stench of blood spread around in the air.

By the time the other members of the Taylors arrived, there wasn't a single soul alive in the entire manor.

Frederick originally had three sons, and there were many direct descendants of the Taylors. But now, all the direct family members living in the Taylor manor had been ruthlessly killed. The rest who came here were from the side branches of the Taylor family.

They didn't care who had killed them. Even though such a major thing had happened, their immediate reaction was to split the Taylors' assets overnight!

The next morning, the news of the Taylors being exterminated overnight spread throughout California.

The Taylors were one of the top four families in Orange County and had long risen to the top, but this powerful family was wiped out overnight. It caused many other families to panic.

Many people turned their attention to Lucas.

After all... just after he became the Master of California, the Taylors suffered this tragic extermination. It was undoubtedly a provocation to Lucas.

Thus, many people wanted to see how Lucas would handle this matter.

At this moment, Lucas was sitting in the chairman's office of the Stardust Group, watching a video playing on the monitor in front of him.

Edmund, the helmsman of the Coles, was sitting on the couch beside him and frowning.

Only after Lucas watched the video did Edmund say solemnly, "As you've seen, only one man went on a killing spree and annihilated the Taylors yesterday. He must be an elite expert!"

Lucas nodded, agreeing with Edmund's judgment. "You're right."

The video playing on the computer just now was footage taken from one of the Taylors' surveillance cameras, which had recorded the massacre that had occurred in the Taylors' courtyard.

Although the video was extremely blurry because of the weather and other reasons, and people's faces couldn't be seen clearly, it was obvious that the person who did it was a tall, middle-aged man who was fast, sharp, and ruthless.

Edmund had gotten the video from a camera installed by a spy that he had placed in the Taylor manor. But the spy had also died in the massacre.

"What do you think of this person?" Lucas looked at a certain freeze frame in the video.

Looking at the blurry figure in the video, Edmund said grimly, "This person is extremely powerful. Although the bodyguards hired by the Taylors are not top experts, they actually died so simply.

"Moreover, none of the more than one hundred people in the Taylor manor managed to escape. Clearly, this person moved very quickly and killed everyone without giving them the chance to react and escape.

"I's almost impossible to find someone so powerful in California. I think that apart from the eight top families in DC, only the Peerless Martial Association has such top experts.

"Therefore, I think that the murderer in the video is very likely to be from the Peerless Martial Association!

"But the Taylors have always had a good relationship with the Peerless Martial Association, which is their backer. I can't think of a reason why someone from the Peerless Martial Association would kill them.

"But..." Edmund raised his head and looked at Lucas.."I have a premonition that this person might be after you!"

Chapter 752: Martial Arts Competition

Lucas frowned, pondering why the Peerless Martial Association would suddenly make a move against the Taylors, who were almost considered their subordinates. But he suddenly recalled something that he had almost forgotten.

'When he went to the Taylor residence to ask about Karen's whereabouts previously, he had gotten into a conflict with the Taylors and had also killed an expert named Jude of the Peerless Martial Association.

At the time, the Taylors were afraid of the strength he showed, and they were also afraid that the Peerless Martial Association would know about it and not let them go. Thus, they took the initiative to dispose of Jude's corpse and tallied their statements.

Since the Taylors had been exterminated by the Peerless Martial Association, it meant that it was very likely that the matter had been exposed.

Other than that, Lucas couldn't find any other reason to explain the extermination of the Taylors.

Moreover, in that case, the other party probably wouldn't let him off either.

Lucas took a sip of tea and said indifferently, "It seems that this is likely the reason, and they are indeed coming for me."

Edmund's heart trembled, and he became a little nervous. "Then, what should we do? Based on the video, it seems that that person is terrifyingly powerful. I'm afraid he's a high-level member of the Peerless Martial Association. If he's really coming for you, then you're in an extremely dangerous position!"

Although Lucas was very powerful too, he was facing a top expert of the Peerless Martial Association. Most importantly, they didn't know how many people that expert

had brought with him. If a team of strong powerhouses attacked Lucas, Lucas might not be able to handle it.

Edmund was really worried that Lucas would be in danger because of this.

Lucas smiled faintly. "It's okay. After annihilating the Taylors, that person didn't come to me immediately, so he must have some concerns. But no matter who he is, I will definitely teach him an unforgettable lesson as long as he dares to appear in front of me!"

His words were extremely confident.

It was as if he didn't take any strong enemy seriously at all.

Besides, Lucas indeed had the confidence!

If he couldn't even deal with a few Peerless Martial Association experts, how could he have become the leader of the Falcon Regiment and hold the title of the invincible God of War?

Edmund remembered Lucas's identity. A sense of pride immediately rose in his heart, and he felt much less nervous than before.

Knock-knock.

At this moment, someone outside suddenly knocked twice on the door of the chairman's office. An assistant walked in and handed a large red invitation card to Lucas respectfully.

"Chairman, this is an invitation someone just sent. He wanted me to ensure that I deliver it to you personally," the assistant said carefully.

Lucas nodded, took it, and gestured for the assistant to go out.

Looking at the words 'Peerless Martial Association' printed on the invitation card, followed by the contents of the invitation, Lucas chuckled.

"Mr. Gray, is this... invitation from the Peerless Martial Association? What do they want?" Edmund asked curiously after seeing the strange expression on Lucas's face.

"Take a look at it yourself." Lucas handed the invitation card to him.

Edmund took it, opened it, and saw a few concise lines written on the front page of the invitation card.

"Dear Mr. Lucas Gray, the Peerless Martial Association will be holding the California Martial Arts Tournament at the Orange County Exhibition Center at 10 a.m. on the 15th of October. When the time comes, we will determine the true Master of California

through a martial arts competition. You are welcome to come!

——Peerless Martial Association California Branch."

After Edmund read these few lines, his expression immediately changed.

Just a week or so ago at the Elite Business Exchange, Lucas had become the veritable Master of California, after which 60-odd top families pledged allegiance to him.

But the Peerless Martial Association had suddenly come up with a martial arts competition to determine the true Master of California by force, which was a blatant denial of Lucas's position. They were even trying to replace him! It was a complete provocation to Lucas!

Edmund was hot-tempered by nature, so he immediately flew into a rage. "These bastards! At the Elite Business Exchange, Axel Fox was no match for you, so he cowered before you and fled like a chicken. Now, they're suddenly playing this game because they've invited experts from the Peerless Martial Association's headquarters. That's why they are so arrogant.

"since when did these bastards of the Peerless Martial Association become the ruler of California? Does anyone approve of this bullshit competition? Who are they to suddenly send you this invitation and want to select a new Master of California?" Lucas's expression didn't change much, and he merely said indifferently, "Since they want to fight, I'll fight them until they're convinced."

Edmund hurriedly advised, "Actually, given your status, you can completely ignore these people! You're already the Master of California. All the first-class families in California recognize this, so why bother confronting these people personally?"

In his opinion, Lucas was not only the Master of California but also the leader of the Falcon Regiment. His status was high enough for him to ignore this unreasonable request from the Peerless Martial Association.

Lucas said calmly, "It doesn't matter. One day, I have to go to DC. It's not a bad thing to find out more about the Peerless Martial Association in this tournament."

Lucas had some other plans in mind, but it was not the time to reveal them yet.

Seeing Lucas's resolute attitude, Edmund didn't advise any further.

The Peerless Martial Association had not just sent an invitation card to Lucas alone. The other first-class families in California also received the invitation cards from the California branch, or rather, the letter of challenge to Lucas one after another. This matter immediately sparked an uproar in California.

Just last night, the Taylors had just been destroyed by unknown people. While everyone was on edge, many smart ones reckoned that this should be a provocation to Lucas, the new Master of California.

Immediately afterward, all of the top families received an invitation from the Peerless Martial Association that openly declared that they would hold the California Martial Arts Tournament and use combat skills to determine the true Master of California. This could be considered a declaration of war on Lucas.

It seemed that the Peerless Martial Association was going to fight against Lucas this time!

Be it the Peerless Martial Association or Lucas, none of these families could afford to provoke them.

Although all the powerful families were invited to participate in the competition for the title of the Master of California, those who were not stupid could tell that this competition had nothing to do with their families. The ultimate Master of California would only be between the Peerless Martial Association and Lucas.

It was undoubtedly another thrilling and exciting event for these powerful families of California!

Chapter 753: On-Site Observation

The helmsmen of these prestigious families felt a strong urge to curse.

At the Elite Business Exchange exchange a week ago, Lucas had managed to rise to become the leader of all the powerful families in California with his domineering and powerful strength. After an intense competition that lasted for over two hours, Lucas had managed to gain the allegiance of countless powerful families and become the Master of California.

Although a small number of families weren't convinced, the unification of California without any turmoil was already something worth celebrating for them. However, the peace was short-lived. Just a few days later, they had to experience the terrifying process of picking a side to stand on again, which made all of them horrified.

During the last Elite Business Exchange, the helmsmen of four families were killed on the spot by Axel for standing on the wrong side. The Kingstons and the Walkers had also been eradicated overnight.

If they accidentally stood on the wrong side this time, who knows what kind of fate they would face!

Under this pressure that concerned the future of the entire family, many families held emergency meetings to discuss what choice they should make.

"The Peerless Martial Association is really aggressive this time. It's said that they invited several top experts from the headquarters. That's why they provoked Mr. Gray!"

"also heard that the Taylors' extermination was actually done by that expert from the Peerless Martial Association to establish dominance!"

"Hey, two powerful forces are fighting each other. What can our small families do? In case we're on the wrong team, we'll be dead meat!"

"Isn't that the case? Whether it's the Peerless Martial Association or Mr. Gray, they're both extremely powerful. We really don't know which side to stand on!"

Among the powerful families in California, there were such voices almost everywhere. In a luxurious villa in Orange County, Florence was sitting in the garden with a look of impatience.

Since she came to California, things hadn't been developing well, making her wonder if California was not the place for her.

At this moment, a middle-aged bodyguard with sunglasses walked up to Florence and reported to her, "Madam, we just got the news that Alex Fox, the head of the California branch of the Peerless Martial Association, has sent invitations to all the big families in California. It says that a martial arts

competition will be held at 9:00 a.m. on October 15th at the International Exhibition Center in Orange County, and the purpose of the event is to formally determine the true Master of California!"

The middle-aged bodyguard was Andy, who had been following beside Florence.

Florence's face showed a hint of surprise. "What did you say? The Peerless Martial Association is actually going to compete with Mr. Gray for the position of the Master of California? I heard that the Peerless Martial Association has always stayed out of the affairs between these powerful families! What's going on?"

Andy said, "That's right. It used to be the case in the past, and the California branch of the Peerless Martial Association has almost never interfered in any disputes between the powerful families in California. However, the situation has now changed. I also heard that Julian of the Peerless Martial

Association headquarters has also come to Orange County. I'm afraid he's the reason that the Peerless Martial Association sent the invitations."

"Julian York? He actually came to Orange County?" Florence looked even more shocked.

The Peerless Martial Association was a powerful force in DC. And because the Peerless Martial Association's headquarters was in DC, Florence was familiar with Julian.

Even in DC, where there were countless talented people, Julian was a famous top expert.

This time, he had personally come to Orange County, and it seemed that he was determined to obtain the status of the Master of California.

Andy nodded. "It's Julian York. That's not all. Last night, he already created a bloodbath at the Taylor residence on his own. He killed more than a hundred people of the Taylor family, and I heard it's because they're related to the death of his brother, Jude. Moreover, his action is also a show dominance toward the Master of California.

It seems that something big is indeed about to happen here in California." Florence smiled and thought about how the change in the situation would affect her trip to California this time.

She came to California on the order of the Howards, and her greatest mission was to find a way to befriend the Master of California and, better yet, rope him in. In order to fulfill this, the family had even gotten her to bring the Howards' most suitable heiress, Pamela, to get into a marriage alliance with him.

But so far, Florence had yet to even see the Master of California. Rather, she hadn't even figured out who he really was. But the Peerless Martial Association had already begun to challenge the Master of California.

The Howards and the Peerless Martial Association shared the same goal of wanting to take over California and make this place of riches their own.

However, the Howards wanted to win over the Master of California and use him to indirectly take control of California, while the Peerless Martial Association was much more domineering and wanted to use force to take away the Master of California's authority to directly control California.

The Peerless Martial Association's move was indeed a big variable to Florence's initial plan.

Once the Peerless Martial Association really seized the position of the Master of California, Florence's plan to win over the current Master of California through marriage would naturally have to be aborted.

Florence's brows furrowed tightly, and she didn't speak for a long time.

"Madam, there are too many variables in this matter. I think we should immediately report to the family so that they can make a decision!" Andy persuaded.

This matter concerned way too many things. Once something went wrong, the Howards' plan to seize control of California would be completely ruined.

Florence raised her head and looked at Andy, her eyes full of warning. "Andy, I don't like people who talk too much. Remember who you are. I'm the only one who can make decisions!"

Yesterday, Florence had intended to get her daughter, Cheyenne, to marry the Master of California in place of Pamela, going against the Howards' decision. At the time, Andy had been too talkative and accidentally said something that made Florence displeased.

Now, Andy had interjected again and tried to tell her what to do while she was still pondering, thus making Florence, who had always been arrogant, fly into a rage. She couldn't tolerate his behavior at all.

Andy was startled and hurriedly explained, "Sorry, I... I'm just worried that the situation here in California has changed too much, and I'm afraid that your mission will fail. That's why I was talkative..."

"Enough!" Florence interrupted hostilely and said coldly, "You just have to be responsible for my safety and obey my orders. I'll be in charge of everything else. Do you hear me?"

"Yes, Madam! I remember!"

No matter what Andy was really thinking, he still agreed respectfully.

Florence naturally didn't want to report the incidents that happened in California to her family. Once the Howards knew that even the Peerless Martial Association was involved, they would definitely take action and arrange for other people to handle the matter.

She had initially made plans for some things, but they probably had to fall through. Of course, Florence couldn't tolerate it.

"In short, let's wait and observe for now, Don't disclose a single word to the family!" Florence stared at Andy and instructed sternly..

Chapter 754: Mother and Daughter Meet

Andy didn't dare to slack and hurriedly said, "Yes, Ma'am! You call the shots!"

"You are dismissed. Continue helping me inquire about other information, especially about the Master of California. I need to find out about him as soon as possible!" Florence instructed and waved her hand to gesture for Andy to leave. After Andy vanished, Florence showed a trace of exhaustion.

She knew that the uncertainties and possibility of failure in her mission would greatly increase because of the Peerless Martial Association's involvement.

But there was nothing else she could do.

She had to complete her plans!

Cheyenne was Florence's daughter. If Cheyenne could marry the Master of California, Florence would not only be able to reunite with her and let her live an affluent life, but she would also be able to complete the tasks her family had assigned to her. In the future, her position in the family would also greatly improve.

Most importantly, once the Master of California became her son-in-law, her status would skyrocket and far surpass the other Howards.

The mere thought of this scenario and the kind of power she could have in the future immediately made her feel an immense sense of satisfaction.

Ihave to achieve my goals! And you, Lucas Gray, you are just a stumbling block that must get out of my daughter's life!

Two ruthless lights flashed in Florence's eyes.

She firmly believed that it was the best choice for her and her daughter.

Unfortunately, Florence was completely unaware that Lucas, whom she disliked and had even warned to stay away from her daughter, was actually the Master of California, whom she desperately wanted to find and set up with her daughter.

Who knew how she would feel after finding out the truth.

It was 5.30 p.m., and the closing time for most companies.

'There was a black commercial car parked quietly near the entrance of the Brilliance Corporation.

After work, people in groups of twos and threes were streaming out of the Brilliance Corporation building.

'When a slender and slim figure appeared at the entrance of the building, Florence, who had been waiting for a long time in the black car, suddenly had a change of expression and became agitated.

The person walking out of the Brilliance Corporation office building was none other than Cheyenne.

She raised her head and looked around. She didn't see Lucas's car, which would come to pick her up from work every day. She lowered her head and took out her phone to call Lucas.

The door of the black car nearby opened, and a noblewoman wearing an exquisite dress and a white sheepskin coat walked toward Cheyenne.

Cheyenne watched in doubt as Florence stopped in front of her and stared straight at her. She asked confusedly, "Who are you?"

But when Cheyenne looked up and saw the noblewoman's facial features, an indescribable emotion suddenly surged in her heart.

She kept feeling the noblewoman was familiar-looking.

Florence was full of excitement at this moment. The beauty standing right in front of her was her biological daughter.

Holding back the excitement within her, she smiled as calmly as she could and asked, "May I ask if you are Miss Cheyenne Carter, the chairman of the Brilliance Corporation?"

Cheyenne nodded in puzzlement. "I am. May I ask who you are?"

Florence smiled. "I am the chairman of Flor Group, Florence Howard. It's a pleasure to meet you, Miss Carter!"

She extended her hand.

The Flor Group was an enterprise under the Howard Corporation. It was extremely famous in DC, and it was also a Fortune 500 company.

Cheyenne was the chairman of the Brilliance Corporation and had been running the company for years, so she was naturally familiar with the Flor Group.

She was surprised to learn that the noblewoman in front of her was the chairman of the Flor Group, but she didn't lose her poise because of it. She extended her hand politely and shook Florence's hand in a business-like manner.

"Hello, Ms. Howard. It's a pleasure to meet you."

Cheyenne quickly retracted her hand after the brief handshake. But to her surprise, Florence gripped her hand tightly, refusing to let go.

'At the same time, Florence was staring at Cheyenne with an extremely complicated gaze of excitement and eagerness, as well as pride and contentment.

Cheyenne was her biological daughter. But after so many years, it was Florence's first time interacting with her own daughter. So she didn't want to let go of Cheyenne's soft and tender hand at all.

Her daughter was now a great beauty who had inherited her beauty. Even in DC, where there were countless beautiful women, she was definitely a ravishing beauty standing out from the crowd.

Beauty was a woman's best weapon.

Florence was confident that with Cheyenne's looks, she could get any man.

Florence looked at Cheyenne, her eyes shining vibrantly. Not only was she staring at her daughter, but she was also staring at a glistening gem.

Florence had been holding onto Cheyenne's hand and staring at her with a peculiar expression, which gave her goosebumps.

"Ms. Howard!" Cheyenne broke free from Florence's grip and even took two steps back while looking at her warily. Why is this woman who claims to be the chairman of the Flor Group behaving so strangely?

If not for the fact that Florence was an older, dignified woman, Cheyenne would have suspected that she had some strange fetishes.

Only then did Florence realize that she was behaving inappropriately. She said awkwardly, "Ah, Miss Carter, I'm so sorry. When I saw you, I felt like I was looking at an old friend, so I lost my composure for a bit."

Cheyenne didn't want to delve into the reason. Regardless of how noble of a status Florence had, Florence was still just a stranger whom she was meeting for the first time.

"Ms. Howard, may I ask why you are looking for me?" Cheyenne asked in a detached manner.

Florence smiled. "I would like to ask you for a favor."

Before Cheyenne could say anything, she continued, "Don't worry. It's definitely something good. I don't like beating around the bush, so I'll be straight with you. I'm going to set up a branch of the Flor Group here in Orange County, and I'd like to hire you to be the general manager."

Hearing this, Cheyenne was very surprised.

She never thought that the chairman of the famous Flor Group would come to ask her to be the general manager of the group's Orange County branch!

Chapter 755: That Dimwit

Cheyenne was surprised, but she still turned Florence down without hesitation. "I'm sorry, Ms. Howard. Thank you for your appreciation and trust in me, but I am now the chairman of the Brilliance Corporation, so I'm afraid I'll have to turn you down." Florence had expected this. Before she came, she had already sent someone to check on Cheyenne's current situation, so she naturally knew that she was now the chairman of the Brilliance Corporation. But so what?

"Miss Carter, I've actually checked on the Brilliance Corporation's situation. To be honest, the scale and annual turnover of the Brilliance Corporation really isn't that great.

"In Orange County alone, a company like the Brilliance Corporation can barely be considered a second-rate enterprise. But compared to the large enterprises in DC, it's total garbage.

comment

"How can such a garbage company be worthy of your capabilities and status, Miss Carter?

"The Flor Group is different. Not to mention that the Flor Group's headquarters in DC's assets have already exceeded two billion dollars. Even if I want to set up a branch in Orange County, my start-up capital is a full one hundred million dollars. And the subsequent value created by the brand will be far stronger than that of the Brilliance Corporation that you currently work at. Don't you agree?

"As for your compensation, you can rest assured. I'll give you a six-figure annual salary and twenty percent of the branch's shares! You will be the biggest shareholder of the branch besides me!"

Florence ruthlessly belittled the Brilliance Corporation and offered an extremely attractive compensation in a bid to poach Cheyenne to her company.

A registration capital of 100 million dollars and 20% of the branch's shares, which amounted to 20 million dollars, was an extremely large amount!

Florence seemed certain that Cheyenne would definitely agree as she added, 'T've already drawn up the contract. Miss Carter, I just need your signature, and the contract will take effect immediately!"

Then she instructed Andy beside her, "Go to the car and bring me the contract."

While doing this, she didn't look at Cheyenne's expression or think about whether Cheyenne would agree with her proposal or not. She simply made the decision right away.

Of course, Florence had never considered the possibility that Cheyenne would reject her.

"That's not necessary," Cheyenne said coldly, interrupting Florence from getting the contract.

She was in a rather bad mood right now.

Florence's offer was so attractive that it could be described as a godsend opportunity falling into her lap. Anyone would be pleasantly surprised by the staggering amount of 20 million dollars and agree to it immediately.

Unfortunately, the person Florence was facing was Cheyenne.

In particular, Florence had even belittled the Brilliance Corporation in front of Cheyenne and called it a garbage company.

This was something that Cheyenne couldn't tolerate at all!

"Ms. Howard, did you just say that the Brilliance Corporation is garbage?" Cheyenne asked with pursed lips.

Florence said righteously, "Yes! I've already had people check the Brilliance Corporation's situation. It didn't develop well in the past few years, and it has been going downhill since. The situation only became slightly better in the last few months. But the annual profit rate is not optimistic at all, and the yearly net profit is only around four million dollars.

"But the Flor Group branch that I want to set up in Orange County has a registered capital of a full one hundred million dollars. Given our company's reputation and the Howards' status, we will achieve amazing growth as long as the company is established. I believe it's better than you staying in the Brilliance Corporation, right?

"Tbelieve that in just a few months, the operation scale of the Flor Group's Orange County branch will far exceed that of the Brilliance Corporation, which has been established for eight years.

"In comparison, isn't the Brilliance Corporation a complete garbage company?"

Florence had an extremely proud expression. In her eyes, the Brilliance Corporation was indeed a small company that wasn't worth mentioning at all and that Cheyenne shouldn't be wasting her time in this garbage-like company.

'The Howards had countless companies, any one of which was much better than the Brilliance Corporation that Cheyenne was currently working at.

After Cheyenne heard what Florence said, her expression was even worse.

"T would like to ask you a question, Ms. Howard. I'm just the chairman of a garbage company. Why are you willing to give so much to get me to be the general manager of the Flor Group's Orange County branch?" Cheyenne asked.

Florence raised her eyebrows. "Of course it's because I appreciate your ability, Miss Carter. That's why I want to ask you to help me manage my company."

She gave an almost flawless and foolproof reason.

"Is that so? But I'm just the head of a small garbage company, so how did you manage to see my abilities?" Cheyenne sneered slightly, stressing the words 'small garbage company'.

At this moment, Florence finally noticed that Cheyenne was displeased, and she became slightly panicked.

"Well, this is actually very obvious. The Brilliance Corporation's original business situation was even worse. But after you became the chairman, the company developed well. Isn't that enough to prove your ability?" Florence smiled faintly and praised Cheyenne.

But Cheyenne's expression didn't change. Instead, she suddenly asked a question that surprised Florence. "Ms. Howard, do you know who the founder of the Brilliance Corporation is?"

"Founder?" Florence frowned. She had merely looked at the Brilliance Corporation's profile twice. Apart from knowing that the company was around eight years old, she didn't really pay attention to who the founder was. After all, it wasn't within the scope of her concern.

"T don't know who the founder of the Brilliance Corporation is. But after so many years, the Brilliance Corporation is still operating on such a small scale. That's enough to show that the founder's ability is really mediocre. They're probably just a dimwit.

"If it were me, I would definitely develop the business and make it become stronger in the fastest time possible so that it can become the leading enterprise in the region and industry. The Brilliance Corporation is obviously far from achieving this. 7

"T doubt that dimwit is even qualified to carry your shoes, Miss Carter."

Florence insulted the founder of the Brilliance Corporation to the point of worthlessness and even praised Cheyenne in the end. But all Cheyenne responded with was a sneer.

'Tm really sorry then. I'm the dimwit you're talking about. Ms.. Howard, you should reserve your invitation for those who are truly talented!"7

Chapter 756: True Relationship

'What Cheyenne said instantly made Florence freeze on the spot.

"What? You... you are the founder of the Brilliance Corporation?" she asked in disbelief, her mouth wide open.

Cheyenne was expressionless as she merely nodded. "Yes, I'm sorry I've disappointed you."

Boom!

Florence only felt as if her brain had been smashed.

Cheyenne was actually the founder of the Brilliance Corporation!

She was the founder of the garbage company that she had criticized as worthless!

At this moment, Florence deeply felt what it meant to shoot herself in the foot.

The reason she just denounced the Brilliance Corporation and its founder as garbage was to make Cheyenne recognize the difference between them. She would then immediately leave the company and join hers instead.

But she never expected that Cheyenne was the founder!

If she had known that this was the case, she wouldn't have needed to attract Cheyenne with the establishment of a branch office. If she had directly extended an invitation for cooperation to the Brilliance Corporation, she could have even quickly built a close relationship with her!

After Cheyenne finished speaking, she remained gracious and nodded. Then she turned around and left without looking back.

"Hey, wait... wait a minute!" Florence was shocked. She hurriedly chased after him while yelling nervously, "Miss... Miss Carter! I accidentally said something wrong just now. I really didn't know you were the founder of the Brilliance Corporation!
"But I didn't mean to humiliate you. Please listen to my explanation!

"Miss Carter, I really didn't mean it that way!"

Florence was wearing stilettos with seven-centimeter high heels and a slim-fitting dress that made her look elegant and dignified. But she didn't care about maintaining her image as she ran after Cheyenne.

But what she said earlier was too hurtful, so Cheyenne was unwilling to hear the nonsense of a person who had denounced her company, which she treated as her child.

A tall figure suddenly appeared in front of Cheyenne and blocked her.

"Miss Carter, Madam would like you to stay." Andy blocked in front of Cheyenne to stop her.

Cheyenne recognized this person blocking the way to be Florence's bodyguard. Her delicate face turned sullen as she shouted angrily, "Get out of the way!"

"No, Madam has something to say to you. You'd better finish listening to her." Andy stood still domineeringly.

Cheyenne was so furious that her face turned red, but the man in front of her looked like a bodyguard who couldn't be provoked easily. She couldn't force herself through him and could only stand still in place, waiting to see what Florence had to say. Florence caught up reluctantly in her stilettos and said anxiously, "Miss Carter, I truly didn't mean to humiliate you. It's just that I really value your ability, so I hope you can join my company.

"Tm sorry if I hurt you with my thoughtless words! In order to express my apology, I've decided not to set up a Flor Group branch but to invest one hundred and fifty million dollars in the Brilliance Corporation!

"[sincerely want to cooperate with you. This money is to express my sincerity. As for the company operations, I won't interfere at all. I'll leave it all to you, Miss Carter!

"Also, I don't need any of the company's dividends. I just hope that you can use this money to give full play to your talents and achieve your goals in life!"

Florence was extremely sincere, and she even promised to invest 150 million dollars in the Brilliance Corporation. It was no different from giving Cheyenne 150 million dollars for nothing since she didn't even want the management rights of the company and dividends.

Now, she didn't know how to salvage her relationship with Cheyenne, so she could only use money, which she had the most, to try and touch Cheyenne.

If it was anyone else, they would be immediately moved.

Unfortunately, Cheyenne would never buy this.

Besides, she had never believed that anything would fall into her lap. The more earnest Florence behaved, the more wary Cheyenne became.

People often said that random acts of kindness out of the blue were for evil intentions.

To Cheyenne, Florence was just a stranger whom she had met for the first time, but she actually offered 150 million dollars to her. Cheyenne knew that there had to be a trap.

"No need, Ms. Howard. I won't accept a single penny of your investment. You'd better keep it for yourself," Cheyenne refused without hesitation.

Hearing this, Florence thought that Cheyenne felt that 150 million dollars was too little. She quickly said, "Miss Carter, if you don't think it's enough, I can invest three hundred million dollars or even five hundred million dollars! As long as you accept my investment, you can immediately turn the Brilliance Corporation into one of the largest enterprises in Orange County, or rather, in

Five hundred million dollars was already the largest amount Florence could get from the Howards.

In order to reconcile with Cheyenne so that she would obey her arrangement to marry the Master of California, Florence really went all out.

But what she said made Cheyenne even more disgusted. "I just said that I won't accept your investment. It's not that it's too little but that I don't want to accept any investment from you, regardless of the amount! Ms. Howard, take care of yourself. That's all I have to say!"

'With that, Cheyenne turned around again and left.

Florence looked extremely dismayed.

California!"

She didn't expect Cheyenne to turn her down even though she had used her full authority to invest a huge sum of 500 million dollars in Cheyenne's company!

The Brilliance Corporation was just a small company with a market value of only 100 million dollars and a total annual revenue of less than 15 million dollars. Its net profit was only around four million dollars.

With such a volume, her five hundred million dollar investment could easily buy five companies like the Brilliance Corporation. But Cheyenne actually rejected her kind intentions without even a hint of hesitation.

Why? It isn't a wise act at all!

Moreover, Florence was Cheyenne's biological mother, and she had already lowered her pride enough. How could she still talk to her with such an attitude?

Anger suddenly surged in Florence's heart. "Hold it right there!"

Cheyenne turned around and saw the look of irritation on her face, but she somehow thought to herself, It's finally coming.

"Ms. Howard, are you angry just because I refused to accept your investment? In fact, it's unnecessary. You don't need to use the reason of investing in my company to deceive me. What exactly is your purpose? Just tell me straight, lest you make things awkward for us both," Cheyenne said calmly.

She had never believed that Florence would be so kind as to invest hundreds of millions in the Brilliance Corporation, which was still operating on a small scale.

Cheyenne wanted her to remove her hypocritical pretense and directly declare her purpose.

'The expression on Florence's face was changing rapidly.

She originally planned to start contacting Cheyenne through business before pretending to inadvertently discover that she was her biological daughter and then acknowledge her.

This method would be more natural, and there would be much less bad blood between them.

But her original plan was no longer feasible.

In that case, she had to use a more direct method.

In the end, Florence raised her head and asked directly, 'Do you know who I really am?"

Chapter 757: Another Warning

Hearing what Florence said, Cheyenne immediately found it ironic.

These people from noble families often liked using their family and status to force others. It seemed that Florence was the same.

Cheyenne stood still and said loudly, "I'm not interested in your identity at all. If you just want to use the Howards or the Flor Group to suppress me, I won't succumb just because of this."

In the past, she might have chosen to swallow her pride for the survival of the Brilliance Corporation, which she saw as her child.

But her thoughts had now changed under Lucas's influence.

Even if Florence really wanted to use the power of the Howards and the Flor Group to suppress her, she had a strong and reliable husband who definitely wouldn't stand by and watch her get bullied.

Furthermore, as Lucas's wife, Cheyenne was very clear about the power and ability he had. If Florence really made a move, it'd be uncertain who would end up suffering!

Florence was almost driven mad to her grave by Cheyenne.

She didn't expect Cheyenne to be so obstinate and difficult to convince.

As her mother, she had tried hard to talk to her. But Cheyenne kept being so adamant, making Florence, who had always been very controlling, furious.

But she didn't consider the fact that although Cheyenne was her daughter, she had never met her before, and they were just like strangers.

Besides, Cheyenne didn't even know that she was her mother, so how could they possibly have any bond?

"What do you know? I am your..."

"You are nothing!"

'While Florence was enraged and wanted to reveal their mother-daughter relationship, an extremely cold and indifferent voice suddenly interrupted her.

Lucas stood beside Cheyenne and said coldly, "No matter what your identity is, I won't let you off if I ever see you try to bully my wife again!"

He stared at Florence, his eyes full of warning.

"Lucas Gray, how did you...?!" When Florence saw this person suddenly appear in front of her and even interrupt her, a trace of surprise showed in her eyes.

Florence had purposely arranged for someone to lure Lucas far away before she came to look for Cheyenne, afraid that Lucas would suddenly turn up and cause trouble. But she didn't expect him to appear and stop her from revealing her relationship with Cheyenne.

Andy's expression immediately became solemn as he subconsciously blocked Florence, as if he was facing a great enemy.

After all, Lucas's strength was far above his. If he suddenly attacked Florence, it would be difficult for Andy to block him.

The moment Cheyenne saw Lucas, a trusting and blissful smile instantly emerged in her eyes. She quickly walked to Lucas and took his arm.

The moment Lucas appeared, she felt a great sense of security because no one could harm her anymore. Be it getting used by others or other forms of harm, she no longer had to worry now that Lucas was by her side.

Lucas smiled at Cheyenne. "You can just ignore people you don't want to talk to in the future. If you can't deal with them, immediately call me."

"Okay, Hubby," Cheyenne said compliantly.

Ever since she and Lucas opened their hearts to each other, she became more and more of a gentle and adorable wife because she knew that Lucas was always thinking of her.

Seeing how intimate they were, Florence was even more enraged.

Since she still wanted to break up Cheyenne and Lucas and then get Cheyenne to marry the Master of California, she obviously couldn't stand watching them being so loving in front of her.

Florence pointed at Lucas in annoyance and rebuked, "Lucas Gray, what right do you have to interfere with what I want to do?"

Lucas merely glanced at her lightly and said, "If you don't appear in front of us, I won't bother about whatever you want to do.

"But if you want to break our peaceful lives, I won't forgive you easily. You'd better remember my words!

"If you really annoy me, I won't care what your identity is. In my eyes, you will just be an enemy! I don't think you want to try my methods!"

Lucas's words were full of domineering threats, and the murderous aura exuding from his eyes seemed substantial, making Florence's heart skip a beat.

Beside her, sweat gushed out from Andy's tense and nervous face.

But Lucas didn't have the intention to take action now. He merely glanced at them before pulling Cheyenne's hand and leaving.

It was only when their figures completely disappeared from sight that Florence clenched her fists and roared angrily, "This damn Lucas Gray! I must make him vanish from the world immediately!"

From the first time they met, Lucas had defied her wishes and reprimanded herself mercilessly. Since then, Florence had a bad impression of Lucas, not only because she felt that he was a stumbling block getting in Cheyenne's way but also because she felt that he was an unruly bastard who had no respect for her.

At the thought that he had stopped her from revealing her identity to Cheyenne and even threatened her, Florence was so mad that she wished she could destroy Lucas immediately.

She was the eldest daughter of the Howards and a born noblewoman. Yet she was repeatedly rebuffed in front of Lucas, whom she thought was penniless.

Even her daughter Cheyenne, as well as Edmund and the other heads of notable families in California, didn't seem to take her seriously.

This made Florence, who had always thought highly of herself, extremely peeved.

Andy thought about it, but he still didn't hold back and reminded, "Madam, I'm afraid it'll be difficult to make that punk Lucas Gray vanish immediately. Even I am no match for him. You..."

Before he could finish, Florence interrupted him harshly, "Shut up! Trust you to have the cheek to say that! Don't you always pride yourself on being one of the top five experts of the Howards? What happened? You can't even beat this kid who's only in his twenties! What a good-for-nothing!"

Andy's face turned pale and then red. But he could only hang his head low and keep silent, not daring to speak again.

After Florence lashed out at Andy, the anger and frustration filling her heart finally eased up alittle.

She stared in the direction Lucas and his wife had disappeared and said with a gloomy expression, "Just let him be smug for two more days. As long as I can find the Master of California and make him attracted to Cheyenne, Lucas Gray will naturally become a thorn in his flesh!

"When the time comes, the Master of California will personally kill him! No man can tolerate the woman he loves being in a relationship with another man!

"When that time comes, it will be Lucas Gray's time to di She spoke viciously, as if she could already see Lucas dying under the hands of the famous and powerful Ruler of California at a young age. But Florence didn't know that the image she envisioned would never come true..

Chapter 758: The Change

Meanwhile, Lucas was driving Cheyenne to Amelia's kindergarten.

Cheyenne, sitting in the front passenger seat, kept thinking about everything that had just happened.

'The sudden appearance of Florence out of the blue and her inexplicable actions, especially when she said "I'm your...", were impossible for Cheyenne to ignore.

Moreover, she could tell from the way Lucas and Florence spoke that it was obviously not the first time they had met.

"Do you know the woman just now?" Cheyenne asked doubtfully.

Lucas nodded and said while driving, "Yes, I met her once yesterday. I heard she's from the Howard family in DC, but she's a really strange woman. It's best that you ignore her.

Strange, this word was a completely perfect description of Cheyenne's impression of Florence.

But since Florence was a noblewoman of the Howard family, one of the eight most powerful families in DC, there obviously wasn't anything wrong with her brain. In that case, was there a deeper meaning behind her actions?

Cheyenne said with some concern, "But no matter what, she's from the Howard family, one of the eight giants in DC. Yet you just threatened her like that. Aren't you afraid she'll take revenge on you?

"After all, she's a Howard, and she owns the Flor Group, a Fortune 500 enterprise. Although I don't think you'll lose, having another enemy isn't a good thing, right?"

Lucas merely smiled before saying, "Don't worry. She can't do anything to me. Your husband is no longer a pushover that anyone can bully! Besides, if she hadn't taken the initiative to provoke you, I wouldn't have warned her."

A sudden warmth surged in Cheyenne's heart. Indeed, the reason Lucas and Florence went toe-to-toe against each other was to help her get rid of this trouble.

She looked at Lucas with a gentle gaze. "Honey, I'm so happy I met you."

Lucas smiled without saying anything else.

Anyone who wanted to take Cheyenne away from him was his enemy, even if this person was Cheyenne's mother!

Today, he didn't tell Cheyenne about Florence's true identity and even stopped Florence when she was about to speak.

It wasn't that Lucas wanted to hide the truth. But after interacting with Florence twice, he could almost conclude that she had an ulterior motive for trying to reconcile with her long-lost daughter.

Lucas would never let anyone treat Cheyenne like a pawn and manipulate her as they pleased, not even her mother!

So before finding out Florence's true purpose, Lucas didn't want Cheyenne to reconcile with her mother.

In his heart, Cheyenne was kind and innocent. Once Cheyenne reconciled with her mother, she would definitely have deep feelings for her. If she learned that Florence had an ulterior motive, she would absolutely fall into misery.

This had been the case with Karen too.

Therefore, Lucas didn't want Cheyenne to feel this pain a second time.

"But I keep having a weird feeling. When I saw Florence, I found her really familiar, but I'm certain that I've never seen her before," Cheyenne said in bewilderment.

Hearing this, Lucas couldn't help tensing up. That's probably the wonderful sense between those related by blood.

In order not to let Cheyenne dwell on this, Lucas hurriedly changed the subject. "Honey, let's take Amelia out for some fun this weekend."

"Huh? You want to take her out to play again? We just took her to the amusement park last week, and she still has enrichment classes on the weekend!"

"Amelia is still young, and she should have fun during her childhood. As for her interest and enrichment classes, there are plenty of opportunities for her to attend them. Besides, it's very rare for us to go on a holiday together as a family of three."

".. Okay, but where are you going to take Amelia this time?"

"Let's go to Dinosaur Valley this time, or maybe the Science and Technology Museum. You and Amelia can decide when the time comes."

The two were soon full of excitement while discussing the weekend outing with Amelia, and Cheyenne gradually forgot about the matter with Florence.

The orange-reddish light of the setting sun shone in through the car window, casting on Cheyenne's face and making her look gentle and beautiful.

As Lucas looked at the tender and beautiful smile on Cheyenne's face, his heart seemed to be immersed in warm wine, making him completely intoxicated.

Such simple and happy moments was the life he wanted.

After picking up Amelia from kindergarten, the family of three happily returned to their home at Pearl Lake villa.

But Lucas's cell phone rang the moment he returned home.

It was a call from Edmund.

After Lucas answered the phone, his expression instantly became glum, and a strong sense of fury surged in his heart.

But he didn't show it and instead said to Cheyenne, "I still have something to do. I have to go out."

Only after Lucas drove his car out of the Pearl Lake villa did anger finally show on his face.

'What Edmund said on the phone was extremely brief but extremely important.

Edmund had said that just this afternoon, one of the top wealthy families in Oregon had been exterminated by the Peerless Martial Alliance.

Oregon was right next to California, and the family that was exterminated today was the Ledger family. In terms of status, they were similar to the Coles of California.

This top family was destroyed by the Peerless Martial Association within such a short period of time.

If it was just this matter alone, Lucas wouldn't take it seriously. After all, it happened in a neighboring state, and Lucas's power didn't extend that far.

But Edmund's other news was why he looked extremely gloomy.

Edmund said that all the powerful families in Oregon had also received invitations from the Peerless Martial Association's Oregon branch. The content of the invitation was the same as what the families of California received. Even the date was almost identical. On the 15th of October, a martial arts competition would be held in Oregon to determine the Master of Oregon!

Both were branches of the Peerless Martial Association, and they had sent out invitations to the top families to join the competition used to determine the position of the master of the respective states.

Anyone could tell that the Peerless Martial Association was going to start a big operation!

Chapter 759: Joint Conference

In this situation, the major families of Oregon contacted each other urgently and also contacted several major families of California to discuss how to deal with the Peerless Martial Association.

As the Master of California, Lucas was also invited to the joint conference between the two states.

Edmund had called mainly to tell Lucas about this.

After Lucas received the call, he drove straight to the border of Oregon.

In the Campbell residence in Oregon

'The Campbells were the second most powerful family in Oregon after the Ledgers. Since the Ledgers' extermination by the Oregon branch of the Peerless Martial Association, the Campbells had become the most powerful family in Oregon. In the spacious living room, there were already dozens of helmsmen of powerful families in Oregon.

They were all called over to discuss important matters by the helmsman of the Campbells, Noah.

But among these attendees, there were two people who didn't belong to Oregon sitting at the conference table.

'They were Edmund Cole and Damon Parker of California.

After the Kingstons and the Walkers retreated from California, the Coles became the top family of San Francisco, while the Parkers were the second family after the Coles.

Even here in Oregon, the two of them were still at the top.

At this moment, the dozens of people attending the conference were all holding a glistening, golden invitation card in their hands, which was the same as the one Lucas received before. But the sender had changed from "The Peerless Martial Association California Branch' to 'The Peerless Martial Association Oregon Branch'.

A solemn-looking old man stood up, looked around at the helmsmen in the room, and said in a deep voice, "By now, I think everyone here has received this invitation from the Peerless Martial Association's Oregon branch and that you're all aware that the Ledgers have completely disappeared from the history of Oregon this afternoon.

"Twould like to hear your opinions regarding this matter."

The old man who spoke was the current helmsman of the Campbell family, Noah.

After the people at the conference table looked at each other, a man with a gaunt face stood up and said indignantly, "What else is there to say about this? The Peerless Martial Association is obviously trying to take over Oregon. That's why they resorted to this trick!

"First, they exterminated the Ledgers, the strongest in this state, to establish their dominance in front of us. Next, they sent us these invitations, which is clearly a ploy to force us to admit that the Peerless Martial Association will become the overlord of Oregon!

With this person taking the lead, the other helmsmen began discussing as well.

"Yes! This is clearly a trick the Peerless Martial Association is playing! They also said that the Ledgers suffered their tragedy because they offended the Peerless Martial Association."

"That's right! The Peerless Martial Association previously claimed that they would never interfere with the feuds between us powerful families. Yet they have now taken the initiative to jump out and exterminate the Ledgers. They even sent us these invitations. It's obvious what they're trying to do!

Everyone knows it! I'm not willing to submit to the Peerless Martial Association and do their bidding!"

"Now that the Ledgers are dead, who knows which family will be the next to die? To this overbearing strategy that makes us panic, I refuse to succumb!"

them.

"Yes! The Peerless Martial Association has gone overboard. I won't agree either!"

The crowd got into an uproar as the helmsmen began to rebuke the Peerless Martial Association for being too cruel and brutal.

At this moment, Noah turned his attention to Edmund and Damon, who hadn't spoken much. "What do you two think?"

Edmund frowned. "Just last night, a first-class family in Orange County, California, was also exterminated by the people of the Peerless Martial Association. And early this morning, the people of the California branch of the Peerless Martial Association also sent invitations to all the top families of

California. They claimed that they were going to hold a martial arts competition in California on the 15th of October to determine the true master of California.

"The content of the invitation is almost identical to the ones you're holding now. The word California is just replaced with the word Oregon.

"This is enough to show that the branches of the Peerless Martial Association in California and Oregon are both doing the same thing at the same pace. As for the other states, there's no news from them yet, but it also shows that the Peerless Martial Association is running a full operation to take over California and Oregon.

"If we can't use any effective means to stop them, I'm afraid that we will all become the vassals of the Peerless Martial Association.

"I think you are facing the same situation as us in California. We're facing the same crisis and the same enemy.

"Therefore, I think that our families should unite and resist together against the common enemy that is the Peerless Martial Association!"

Edmund was clearly declaring his stand that he wouldnt sit back and do nothing. Instead, he would work together with the powerful families.

After hearing what Edmund said, many of the Oregon families, who were feeling anxious at first, finally heaved a sigh of relief and relaxed.

Damon chimed in, "That's right. This is no longer just a matter of California and Oregon. The Peerless Martial Association is so powerful that if we can't unite and resist together, we will only end up facing defeat."

'When Noah heard what two helmsmen representing the two strongest forces within California said, a hint of joy appeared on his face.

"Mtr. Cole, Mr. Parker, since you two are willing to lend a helping hand to fight against the Peerless Martial Association together with us, I hereby express my gratitude to you on behalf of the major families in Oregon!" Noah bent forward and saluted to both Edmund and Damon.

Edmund hurriedly held him. "Mr. Campbell, there's no need for that! In the face of the threat of the Peerless Martial Association, it's only right for us to stand together!"

Noah stood up straight and suddenly asked, "I wonder when Mr. Gray, the Master of California, will arrive. We're going to discuss proper business soon. We need this big shot around!"

Nowadays, everyone knew about the famous and esteemed Master of California, who had suddenly emerged.

They were discussing the major events of California and Oregon today, so they naturally wouldn't dare to leave out this big shot who could control all of California.

Edmund looked at his watch and said, "Orange County is quite a distance away. Mr. Gray should still be on his way now, but he's probably almost here."

"Hmph!" At this moment, an extremely disdainful voice suddenly came from the conference table. "He's just a young man in his twenties. How dare he claim to be the Master of California? You people are too funny!

"Moreover, so many heads of powerful families are waiting here for a brat. I'm afraid that if word gets out, you people will become a joke!" a middle-aged man with a squarish face sitting beside Noah said with extreme disdain.

Chapter 760: Original Form Revealed

After the square-faced middle-aged man finished speaking, the crowd in the spacious hall immediately fell into a strange silence.

Smack!

Edmund slammed the table and was the first to fly into a rage. He glared at the person who spoke and snapped, "What did you say? How dare you be so disrespectful to Mr. Gray?!"

Damon also looked coldly at the middle-aged man. "Insulting Mr. Gray is unforgivable! Apologize now! Otherwise, you will be an enemy of the families in California!"

"Hah... Who are you to represent the families of California? Just with the title of the worthless Master of California that you keep talking about?" the middle-aged man with the squarish face said with contempt. "This is my territory. It's not up to you two outsiders from California to tell me what to do! And you want me to apologize? No way!"

Edmund was so livid at this man's careless attitude that his face turned blue. It was the same for Damon.

"We are the honored guests specially invited by Mr. Campbell. So you can tell him that we outsiders aren't in any place to interject!

"Besides, Mr. Gray isn't someone people like you can criticize and insult as you please. You don't even have the right to talk about him!" Edmund said furiously.

"How dare you?!" The middle-aged man was enraged and slammed his hand against the table.

Bang!

With the slamming of his hand, a shocking crack appeared on the solid rosewood table with a thickness of about six centimeters. Countless pieces of debris flew up and scattered everywhere.
"ant"

"Waahhh!"

The few people sitting on the edge of the conference table screamed and took several steps backward, their faces full of shock.

The slap from the square-faced middle-aged man actually broke the sturdy conference table in half!

This scene shocked countless people around.

It was a thick solid wood conference table with a thickness of about six centimeters and made of a hard material. Yet the middle-aged man's casual slap smashed it into pieces like it was a piece of tofu.

Edmund and Damon were also shocked.

Not everyone could do this!

'The atmosphere in the hall was stifling for a while before Noah finally said, "Master Lewis, please calm down on my account. Don't get too worked up."

"Hmph, okay, for your sake, I won't hold it against these two dogs. Otherwise, I definitely wouldn't spare them!" The square-faced middle-aged man known as Lewis glanced at Edmund and Damon with a hostile gaze, his tone full of contempt and derision.

But it seemed that Noah didn't hear the insults in Lewis's words. Instead, he smiled and called his men to come over and clean up the messy venue.

This time, Edmund and Damon both look displeased.

Lewis, who had been sitting beside Noah from the beginning, was obviously an expert who worked for the Campbells.

But when Lewis insulted Lucas, Noah didn't stop him. Instead, he merely asked him to calm down after he broke the table in half.

Afterward, he even turned a deaf ear to Lewis's blatant humiliation to the two of them.

Based on their actions just now, Edmund and Damon could conclude that the purpose of Noah's invitation to them was definitely not for them to work together to deal with their common enemy, the Peerless Martial Association. Instead, he had another purpose.

Noah glanced at the helmsmen of the powerful families in the meeting hall and said indifferently, "Since Mr. Gray is not here yet, we don't have to wait for him. The meeting shall proceed."

After Lewis revealed himself, Noah's attitude changed drastically.

Before, Noah had had an easygoing and benevolent attitude, like he was a nice brother. But now, he was ambitious and domineering, and he no longer cared about anyone's opinions.

He was like a beast that had been hibernating for a long time finally revealing its true colors.

In this regard, not only Edmund and Damon but also the other helmsmen attending the confereince felt this way.

But these powerful families of Oregon didn't say much about it.

After all, after the destruction of the Ledgers, the former top family in Oregon, the Campbells became the strongest.

Noah said proudly, "Although the Peerless Martial Association is aggressive, it's a great opportunity!

"We all know that just over ten years ago, California and Oregon were originally one, and this time, we will unite again too!"

Edmund's expression changed slightly, and he laughed coldly. "Mr. Campbell, what do you mean by uniting again?"

Noah smiled. "Naturally, it's for our two states to unite under the command of a certain force."

"Mr, Campbell, you have quite a big appetite. Don't forget. There's still the Peerless Martial Association waiting in front of you. It's too early to say that!" Edmund mocked.

Noah laughed indifferently. "It's not that I have a big appetite, but it's just a natural reaction since things have come to this!

"Nowy, it's almost beyond doubt that the Peerless Martial Association is going to fight against us, and it's either us or the Peerless Martial Association that wins.

"If it's the latter, we don't have to say anything else. We'll all just be under the Peerless Martial Association's command."

Noah's eyes were full of a scheming gaze.

Edmund frowned. "We naturally want to remain status quo! The two states will deal with matters within their own matters without interfering with each other!"

Noah shook his head. "That's impossible! If the Campbells fight hard against the Peerless Martial Association and end up winning, won't you people of California just take advantage without putting in any effort? How can there be such a good thing?!"

"Hah, Mr. Campbell, the competition with the Peerless Martial Association hasn't even started yet, but you're already thinking about how to divide the pie later. You're even trying to interfere in the affairs of the California families. Aren't you being too hasty?" Edmund looked coldly at Noah. "One more thing, Mr. Campbell, if you're bent on taking things that don't belong to you, what makes you different from the Peerless Martial Association?"

Damon suddenly burst into laughter and interjected, "Mr. Cole, you have no idea that there's an obvious difference between the Campbells and the Peerless Martial Association! At least, the Peerless Martial Association is much stronger than the Campbells. The Peerless Martial Association, however, is far inferior to the Campbells in terms of shamelessness!"

"Hahahah, Mr. Parker, you're right!"

Damon and Edmund immediately fell out with the Campbells and mocked them for being shameless.

Noah's face turned gloomy, and a hostile gaze appeared in his eyes.

At this moment, Master Lewis, sitting next to him, said mnhappily, "Mr. Campbell, I told you long ago that we don't need to bother about these disobedient people. We just have to kill them! I promise the rest will be obedient then.."

Chapter 761: Joining Qualifications

'As soon as Lewis finished speaking, the faces of the people present changed one after another.

It was too overbearing to kill people just because they didn't agree!

"How dare you?!" With a sudden shout, a bodyguard in black who had been standing quietly behind Edmund stepped forward and shielded him while glaring at Lewis vigilantly.

He was Iron Wolf, the Coles' top expert who had followed Edmund for years!

Iron Wolf was also a top expert. But he felt a power from Lewis that made him shudder.

This square-faced man is likely much stronger than me! Iron Wolf thought with a wary look.

Lewis glanced at Iron Wolf and said disinterestedly, "You're too weak. I suggest you get lost! Otherwise, you will only die!"

Lewis said this because he was confident in himself.

He was a secret trump card that the Campbells had hidden for a long time, and his martial arts skills were extremely good.

'The Campbells had poached him over and had planned to find an opportunity to deal with the Ledgers. But unfortunately, man proposes, God disposes. Before they could even do anything to the Ledgers, the Ledgers were killed by the Peerless Martial Association.

But a powerful expert like Lewis couldn't go to waste just because of this. Thus, he became an important figure in the conference between the families of the two states today. He was responsible for deterring the families.

Noah had absolute trust in Lewis's ability. Even the experts of the Peerless Martial Association wouldn't be Lewis's opponent, let alone the people of California.

'As long as they wanted to, they would be able to get rid of Edmund, Damon, and the bodyguards they had brought from California at any time.

Seeing the situation in front of them, the bodyguards around Damon also stepped forward and protected them together with Iron Wolf.

But Edmund and Damon both looked very displeased.

They originally thought that they were only here to cooperate with each other and unite the strengths of the two states to fight against the Peerless Martial Association together.

But they didn't expect that Noah would suddenly have a change of attitude and want to take control of both California and Oregon for himself. Thus, Edmund and Damon were in an extremely dangerous situation.

Even if Noah didn't kill the two of them, he could use them as hostages to threaten Lucas and the others in California.

They had been too careless and trusting toward Noah.

But at the thought that Lucas was on his way here and would arrive soon, Edmund and Damon felt a sense of comfort.

'As long as Lucas was here, there was no way something would happen to them!

This was how confident they were in Lucas!

"Noah Campbell, what we should first do now is unite forces and prepare for war against the Peerless Martial Association. Are you trying to start internal strife?" Edmund questioned.

Noah shook his head and laughed. "No, internal strife isn't the right word. But since we're talking about joining forces, I think we should first assess if your abilities are enough for us to join forces. This is understandable, isn't it?

"If the people around you are all inexperienced greenhorns, this so-called joining of forces is pointless. Once we succeed, I'll share half of the achievements in Oregon with you. No matter how we look at it, it doesn't seem fair, does it?

"You two are the two strongest families in California, and the strength of the bodyguards following you should also be at the top in California. How about this? Get two of your bodyguards to work together and see if they can beat Master Lewis. How about it?" Although he really didn't take Edmund and Damon seriously, he didn't want to kill them now either.

It would have to wait until Noah took complete control of both states and obtained the allegiance of all the powerful families.

"Hah, those two are nothing but good-for-nothings." Lewis cracked his fingers leisurely, completely ignoring Iron Wolf and the Parkers' expert.

He then hooked his finger at the two of them insultingly.

"How arrogant!"

No one would be able to stand getting insulted and provoked like this!

The Parkers' expert roared angrily and charged at Lewis, his fists stirring up a gust of wind.

Iron Wolf moved almost the same time as him. He exerted force with his feet and darted at Lewis like an arrow leaving its bow to attack him from the other side.

Iron Wolf new that he was no match for Lewis with his strength alone. But if he and the Parkers' expert attacked together, there was a chance of victory.

Besides, the Campbells were the ones who proposed a two-on-one. They weren't bullying an outnumbered party.

Bang!

But before the Parkers' expert could touch Lewis's chest, Lewis kicked him hard in his waist.

"Ugh!"

His kick was too fast, and the angle was so tricky that the Parkers' expert was completely caught off guard. His body flew backward and slammed against the wall. Then he slid down the wall with blood gushing out of his mouth. This scene shocked the countless people waiting to see an exciting fight.

This... this was clearly a one-move defeat! There was an absolute disparity in strength!

Meanwhile, Iron Wolf's pupils constricted. The kick he had just thrown was easily dodged by Lewis.

Moreover, the plan to attack Master Lewis from both sides had failed the moment his teammate was taken out.

Iron Wolf gritted his teeth and dealt with Lewis's attacks on his own.

But their strengths were obviously not on par. Even though Iron Wolf exerted his full strength, he could barely touch Lewis's clothes. Instead, Lewis managed to land punches on Iron Wolf from time to time, and every strike made him feel like he was being hit hard by a sledgehammer, causing unbearable, excruciating pain.

"Hah, is this the strength of a top powerhouse of California? It's nothing much!" Lewis mocked mercilessly while punching and kicking Iron Wolf like a cat teasing a mouse. Iron Wolf's face instantly flushed red, and he became even more menacing.

Unfortunately, the difference in strength was too much after all. Tried as he might, he couldn't touch Lewis's clothes.

"Enough!" Lewis seemed tired of fighting and punched Iron Wolf on his chest.

Bang!

Iron Wolf's body instantly flew backward and crashed onto the floor with a heavy thud.

Everyone was astonished!

Lewis stood with hands behind his back and said with contempt, "The experts of California are nothing much.. How disappointing!"

Chapter 762: Agreeing To The Bet

It was dead silent in the spacious conference hall.

Everyone stared at Lewis and the two experts on the floor who had been easily defeated.

'As Noah said before, how could the personal bodyguards of the two most powerful helmsmen of California be ordinary?

But Lewis had defeated these two experts in a two-on-one situation without breaking a sweat!

In that case, how terrifying was Lewis's strength?

While the crowd was shocked, some quick-witted people immediately began to praise him.

"As expected of Master Lewis. Such incredible martial arts skills!"

"Even the two top experts from California couldn't lay a finger on Master Lewis. Master Lewis is truly amazing!"

"Yes, as long as Master Lewis is around, even the Peerless Martial Association won't be a match for him!"

"Master Lewis will undoubtedly be the winner of the martial arts competition on October 15th!"

Amid the praises of the crowd, Lewis looked at Edmund and Damon with pride and contempt written all over his face.

Edmun4d felt furious and vexed after seeing Iron Wolf, his longtime bodyguard who had worked for him for years, get beaten up into a pulp by Master Lewis.

Seeing how smug Lewis was, he couldn't help saying, "You've merely defeated my bodyguard. Is this worth being so proud of? Yes, I admit that the Coles' experts are no match for you, but Mr. Gray is the strongest in California!

"Wait until you surpass Mr. Gray before you show off! But I don't think you will have this chance!"

Damon said, "Yes, Mr. Gray is the strongest person in California, and his power is beyond your imagination!"

But after the two of them finished speaking, many people began mocking them.

"Hah, who doesn't know how to brag? We can't take your word for it just because you say he's strong. Who knows what his true abilities are?"

"Surely it's not that you people from California can't afford to lose, right? If you have what it takes, get your Mr. Gray to come here and give us an eyeopener. Let's see how powerful he really is."

"Haha, the Mr. Gray they're talking about is the Master of California. I'm really curious about how powerful he is. I hope these people aren't just bragging about him."

"Didn't you say that the Master of California would come soon? How come he hasn't appeared yet? Is he too scared to come?"

The helmsmen of all the powerful families in Oregon were full of contempt and mockery. Edmund and Damon were both infuriated. But Lucas hadn't arrived, so no matter what they said, it wouldn't be convincing.

Only after these people witnessed Lucas's strength with their own eyes would they know how ridiculous their mockery was!

Noah was elated as he admired the look of frustration on the faces of these two helmsmen.

"Mrr. Cole, Mr. Parker, it seems you're still unconvinced. How about we make a bet?" Noah smiled.

"What trick are you trying to play?" Edmund snapped in displeasure.

Noah said with a raised brow, "Actually, we all know that the people we need to deal with the most urgently now is the Peerless Martial Association. In that case, let's make a bet on who will defeat the Peerless Martial Association!

"If the people of Oregon defeat the Peerless Martial Association, the Campbells will be the overlord of California and Oregon from now on. All the families in both states will have to submit to us!

"But if you people of California defeat the Peerless Martial Association, both states will bow down and pledge allegiance to the Coles! What do you think of this bet?"

It wasn't that Noah suddenly became generous and wanted to give the families of California a chance. But rather, he felt that it wouldn't be ideal to completely fall out with them and have internal strife before the showdown with the Peerless Martial Association. Thus, he had to come up with a reason to make them calm down for the time being.

But Noah had a lot of faith in Lewis's strength, and he believed that Lewis would be the ultimate winner. Thus, there was no harm in giving them an empty promise for now.

After hearing Noah's proposal, Edmund sneered and immediately agreed. "Okay, that's what you said. I just hope you'll keep your word when the time comes!"

Noah burst into laughter. "Haha, the helmsmen of so many powerful families are witnessing it. Are you still afraid that I will deny it?

"Anyway, on October 15th, the families of California and Oregon will each send a team. Whoever wins in the end will be the hegemon of the two states!"

There was a look of certainty on his face.

Edmund mocked, "You're quite talkative now, but don't cry when the time comes!"

"Cry? Hah, you can say those words when someone from the Coles defeats Master Lewis. Otherwise, I'm afraid you'll end up embarrassing yourself when the time comes!" Noah retorted, refusing to show any weakness.

Lewis couldn't be bothered to hear them talk. He simply sneered and said, "On the day of the competition, I'll kill all the people sent by the Peerless Martial Association! As for the others, we don't have to bother about them at all!"

He was really domineering to say that he would kill every person sent by the Peerless Martial Association. Everyone's jaws dropped.

What kind of a terrifying existence was the Peerless Martial Association?!

Lewis actually had the confidence to say that.

His courage alone made the countless people present bow down to him!

"Haha, how ridiculous!" A hoarse voice full of ridicule suddenly spread from a dark corner of the conference hall.

"Who's there?!" Noah shouted angrily.

Everyone looked over at the corner.

slender figure slowly walked out from the dark shadows in the corner. He was wearing black compression wear.

If he hadn't taken the initiative to speak, the people present wouldn't have noticed when he had stealthily entered and how long he had been lurking in the corner.

The man in black ignored Noah's question and instead turned to look at Lewis.

"You just said that you'd kill any member of the Peerless Martial Association that you see, right?"

His eyes were like a poisonous snake as he stared intently at Lewis's face..

Chapter 763: Quickly Taking A Side

Everyone was shocked.

This person was actually from the Peerless Martial Association!

Noah's face immediately darkened. This was a conference organized by the Campbells, so all the security matters were the Campbells' responsibility. Yet this member of the Peerless Martial Association had somehow snuck in. There was no telling as to how much information he had heard.

"This is the Campbells's territory! How did you get in here?" Noah questioned furiously.

"Hah, what's so great about the Campbells? I, Kai, can come here as and when I please. Can any of you idiots possibly discover me?" The man in black, Kai, smirked mockingly.

But as soon as he said his name, an uproar immediately broke out.

"He's Kai? He actually came here on his own?"

"T've only heard this person's name before, but I didn't expect to see Kai here in person!"

"Who... is Kai?"

"You don't even know Kai? He is an expert of the Peerless Martial Association headquarters, and he is also the eldest disciple of the extremely terrifying Master Julian York. His martial arts skills are superb!"

"Wow, he's definitely a big shot then! In that case... did he hear everything we said earlier?"

Kai's appearance caused a commotion in the conference hall.

'The reason they had gathered here for a conference was to discuss how to deal with the Peerless Martial Association. But it turned out that a top expert from the Peerless Martial Association had been stealthily lurking here and had even witnessed everything. Some of the helmsmen who had just bad-mouthed the Peerless Martial Association were so frightened that they turned pale.

'They didn't want to experience the feeling of being caught red-handed on the spot, especially in front of such a terrifyingly strong person, again!

"Kai, right? It's not very polite of you to trespass into the Campbells' conference hall," Noah said with a solemn look while suppressing his shock.

He was the head of the Campbells and the host of this conference. Despite feeling extremely nervous, he had to bite the bullet and say this.

"Hah, what damn politeness? Is it edible?" Kai snorted coldly. "I was just curious about what you losers could come up with during your discussion. It turns out that it's just bullshit!

"Lcan't be bothered to talk to you. In short, my master sent me here to relay a message to you. Regardless of what plans you have, you will only end in failure!

"Also, if you guys want to rope in other experts, it's up to you!

"I don't care. My master said that if the families of Oregon are willing to join the Peerless Martial Association, we might even give you some credit when we take over Oregon in the future.

"But if you want to oppose the Peerless Martial Association, we won't be polite to you!

"This is a choice that affects your life and your family's future! You have three minutes to think about whether you want to stand on the Peerless Martial Association's side or go against us!

"Once you've made up your mind, you can't go back! The countdown begins now!"

After saying his piece, Kai pulled a chair over, sat on it with his legs crossed, and took a sweeping glance at the crowd.

His words were like a boulder thrown into a lake, instantly stirring up a huge splash.

Everyone looked horrified and uneasy.

They had to make a choice concerning their life and death.

There was a reason for the Peerless Martial Association's name. It was an absolutely peerless force with branches all over the world, and even the eight top families of DC didn't dare to offend it easily!

Although they were currently discussing how to deal with the Peerless Martial Association, it was because of the unification of the dozens of families from California and Oregon that they had the courage to do so.

If they had to face the Peerless Martial Association alone, no one would be able to withstand the tremendous pressure!

Indeed, Kai was really here to pressure them by giving them only three minutes to consider which side to stand on.

Kai's carrot-and-stick strategy was indeed very effective. The helmsmen of several families were clearly struggling to make a choice.

The Peerless Martial Association was very powerful, and it was difficult to defeat them.

If they chose to follow the Peerless Martial Association, and if the Peerless Martial Association won, their families would gain strong backing and be able to develop further.

On the contrary, if they choose to be hostile to the Peerless Martial Association, these families would be miserable if the Peerless Martial Association won.

'Thus, many of these helmsmen began to waver.

But no one wanted to be the first to take a stand, so they all looked around at each other, waiting for someone to stand first.

Watching this scene, Edmund and Damon frowned.

Although the Peerless Martial Association's method was simple, it was very effective, as it managed to easily divide the families of California and Oregon, which were in a state of disunity in the first place.

Besides, once the first person who chose the Peerless Martial Association came forward, the situation would probably blow out of proportion and become even worse.

Noah was very clear of this too.

He had long coveted Oregon and even California, and it took him a lot of effort to get to this situation today. How could he be willing to let the people of the Peerless Martial Association ruin things for him and snatch away these families' allegiances, which should belong to him?

The furious Noah pointed at Kai and threatened, "Kai, don't be too arrogant! Don't think that the Campbells are afraid of you! I advise you to behave and leave now, or else you won't be able to leave even if you want to later!"

With an extremely exaggerated smile, Kai patted his chest and made himself look terrified. "Ah, I won't be able to leave even if I want to? I'm really scared. Psht!"

He spat on the floor.

Noah's chest heaved up and down violently, clearly infuriated by the deliberate mocking.

With an icy cold gaze, he turned to Lewis beside him.. "Master Lewis, it seems that I'll have to trouble you!"

Chapter 764: Determining Victory With One Move

"Hah, it's just a small fry from the Peerless Martial Association. I can beat ten such people alone!" Lewis stared at Kai with a chilling expression. He was extremely displeased as well.

After he had just said that he would kill every person of the Peerless Martial Association who came, Kai had humiliated him in public. Given Lewis's arrogant nature, he had long lost his temper.

After hearing Lewis's domineering words, many frightened helmsmen immediately returned to their senses, as if they had found their pillar of support.

"That's right! Master Lewis is so powerful. So what if he's an expert from the Peerless Martial Association?"

"Yeah! We were discussing going against the mysterious and powerful Julian York. Now, the person who came is only Julian York's apprentice. What's there to be afraid of?"

"Master Lewis is so powerful, so he can definitely defeat Kai! Why should we bother taking a side? There's no need for it at all!"

"That's right. Master Lewis, you must get rid of Kai from the Peerless Martial Association and show him who's boss!"

Lewis raised his head even higher amid these praises. He felt extremely proud. Kai suddenly grinned. "Haha, Master Lewis? How dare a small fry call like you calling yourself a master in front of me?"

"Even your master wouldn't dare to be so arrogant in front of me!

"If you don't want to die, get lost right now, and I can spare your life! Otherwise, I can kill a small fry like you easily!"

He was even more arrogant than Lewis!

"Hmph. Let me see what you're capable of and what qualifications you have to talk like this in front of me!" Lewis had been enraged by the merciless mocking, and his desire to fight surged.

He stood up and stepped on the floor with all his might, causing the wooden floor to crack with the spot under his feet as the center.

Bang!

At the same time, Lewis used the recoil to shoot toward Kai like an arrow shot from its bow!

'These two top powerhouses were finally going to exchange blows!

'The numerous people present couldn't help standing up to look at the battle in front of them agitatedly.

"Quick, take a look! Master Lewis is as quick as lightning! Kai hasn't even reacted yet. He's still sitting on his chair stupidly!"

"Haha, I think he's just a braggart. In terms of ability, he's nothing compared to Master Lewis!"

"He's just throwing his weight around because he's from the Peerless Martial Association! Just wait. Master Lewis will beat him into a pulp!"

"Wasn't he very arrogant just now? He even gave us three minutes to pick a side. Hah! He's going to be beaten to death by Master Lewis. Let's see how arrogant he can be then!"

In the hall, apart from Edmund and Damon, everyone else was from Oregon. 'They naturally hoped that Lewis, who represented Oregon, could put the Peerless Martial Association to shame.

Although the battle just started, Master Lewis's act of breaking the wooden floor with his foot was already shocking enough.

On the other hand, Kai was still sitting on his chair with his legs crossed, seemingly yet to react.

'The ending was almost certain!

Noah said proudly to Edmund, "Mr. Cole, this is Master Lewis's power. I'm afraid there isn't a single person in California who can compare to him, right?"
But before he could finish speaking, a loud bang resounded. A thunderous sound caused the entire hall to shake.

Someone inhaled sharply. "How is that possible?"

Edmund sneered. "You'd better first take a look at how badly the Master Lewis you're so proud of is doing!"

Noah couldn't be bothered to talk to Edmund and hurriedly turned his head to look in the center of the hall.

Kai was still sitting on his chair with his legs crossed. But there was a foot about ten centimeters to the right of his brain.

However, the foot didn't land on Kai's head, and instead, a hand grasped the ankle tightly, rendering it immobile.

It looked like a scene out of a martial arts movie!

The loud sound was from the collision of Maser Lewis's foot and Kai's palm!

The contact of their bodies alone could produce such a loud sound. Clearly, their power and speed were incredible.

'The most terrifying thing was that Kai still looked extremely relaxed, seemingly not using his full strength at all!

On the contrary, veins were bulging from Master Lewis's forehead. He was clenching his jaws, his face was red, and even his grabbed leg was trembling.

Any layman could tell who lost.

"Master Lewis?

"Kill every single member of the Peerless Martial Association that you see?

"Want to teach me a lesson?" Kai said teasingly.

Every sentence he said was like a hard slap to the faces of Master Lewis and the bigwigs of Oregon.

Noah was extremely upset. He didn't expect that Master Lewis, the top expert he had placed high hopes on, would be restrained and subdued by Kai in one move!

"Hmph, it's just the first time you've exchanged blows! Master Lewis hasn't brought his strength into full play yet, so why are you so proud? Master Lewis, you don't have to hold back with him. Just defeat him with all your might! Even if you kill him, the Campbells will negotiate with the Peerless Martial Association!" Noah said loudly through clenched teeth.

What he meant was that Master Lewis had shown Kai mercy only because he was concerned about the power of the Peerless Martial Association. As a result, he lost the first round to Kai.

Hearing what Noah said, many helmsmen seemed to come to a sudden realization.

"I knew it. How could Master Lewis not defeat Kai? It turns out he's going easy on him."

"Master Lewis, don't go easy on him. We'll take responsibility if you end up killing him!"

After hearing Noah's words, Lewis felt like cursing at him!

Are you f*cking blind!?!

My leg is about to break. How am I supposed to defeat him? Use my head?

It's okay to kill him? Damn it. The person in danger now is me!

Lewis was about to roar!

Chapter 765: Lucas Appears

In fact, from the first moment Lewis saw Kai, he felt that Kai was not a simple expert at all. The fact that he had failed to notice Kai had been lurking in the venue was enough to arouse Lewis's wariness.

But he had merely thought that Kai was someone he couldn't deal with easily. In Lewis's heart, Kai was no match for him at all because Lewis's target was Kai's master, Julian York!

So Lewis was furious at Kai's ridicule. Deep down, he wanted to teach Kai a hard lesson.

Therefore, Lewis didn't hold back when he kicked him just now. Instead, he went all out and exerted all his power!

But when his kick was about to land on Kai, he suddenly felt a terrifying aura erupting from Kai's seemingly nonchalant eyes.

The next moment, Kai effortlessly stopped his kick!

Even though he was exerting all his strength, he couldn't break through nor break free from Kai's palm!

But as the expert of the Campbells, Lewis had the dignity of a powerhouse.

Although he now knew that he had suffered a loss for underestimating his enemy and was actually no match for Kai, he wasn't willing to admit defeat and beg for mercy.

He gritted his teeth and used Kai's grip on his foot as leverage to draw closer to Kai while putting his fingers together and striking at Kai's face with his palm like it was a

knife in a bid to force Kai to let go of his ankle. But at this moment

Snap!

An extremely clear sound of bones breaking spread to the ears of everyone present!

At the same time, an incomparably harsh and miserable scream emanated from Lewis's throat, making people's scalp tingle!

"Abhbhhh!"

Lewis's ankle bones were actually crushed by Kai!

"Hmph, you overestimated yourself!" Kai snorted coldly. Then he lifted Lewis's crushed calf, raised him upside down like a sack, and swung him around in the air before smashing him hard onto the floor.

Bang!

Kai's slam was so powerful that when Lewis's head slammed into the floor, his brain immediately exploded. He was no longer alive!

This bloody and terrifying scene instantly made countless people scream.

Noah's pupils constricted violently, his fingernails dug into his hand, and he began shuddering vigorously.

The powerhouse Lewis, whom the Campbells had been the proudest of, actually died in Kai's hands!

Moreover, he had managed to do so using only two moves!

He died so miserably that his corpse wasn't even recognizable!

Not only Noah, but also all the noblemen of Oregon felt a chill run down their spines when they saw this.

Horror!

Kai's strength was terrifying!

"Hah, you people asked for this. You want to deal with the experts of the Peerless Martial Association? Seems like you're nothing!" Kai clapped his hands disdainfully.

His words instantly made almost everyone present fall into despair.

Indeed, the reason they had gathered here was to discuss plans and to find experts to deal with the people of the Peerless Martial Association.

Lewis was the strongest expert in Oregon!

But even he had been killed so easily by Kai, so how could they possibly defeat his master, Julian?

At the martial arts competition on October 15th, who else could they use to compete with the Peerless Martial Association?

Everyone was terribly dejected.

"As I said earlier, I'll give you three minutes to think it over and decide if you want to stand on the Peerless Martial Association's side or oppose us and become our enemies.

"although there were hiccups in between, your three minutes are up. You should have already made your choices!

"Now, tell me what your choice is!"

Kai stood in the center of the venue and looked at everyone domineeringly.

With the bloodied corpse of Lewis as deterrence, the helmsmen of the big families of Oregon didn't dare to hesitate any longer and immediately chose to join the Peerless Martial Association.

"The Peerless Martial Association is really domineering!"

But at this moment, a mocking voice came clearly from the entrance of the venue.

Hearing this familiar voice, Edmund and Damon burst with surprise and turned their heads to look at the entrance. They exclaimed joyfully in unison, "Mr. Gray!"

Lucas was finally here!

With Damon's and Edmund's shout, the crowd in the hall immediately understood the identity of the person who appeared.

The only person who could be called 'Mr. Gray' by the heads of the two largest families in California was the Master of California!

But although the crowd had heard of the Master of California and knew that he was very young, they were still shocked to see him in person.

Was this young man who seemed harmless and innocent really the Master of California, who had unified all of California?

Noah sneered. "Hah, I thought the Master of California would be some heroic figure, but I never expected him to be just a greenhorn! It seems that there really aren't any competent people in California. This young man actually managed to make dozens of big families in California acknowledge him as their master. What a joke!"

Edmund retorted, "What's wrong with him being a young man? If strength is measured by appearance and age, then an old and ugly person like you should be a peerless master! The Master Lewis you invited wasn't young either. You bragged so much about him, but so what?

"If you think Mr. Gray is incompetent, then stop struggling and surrender your allegiance to the Peerless Martial Association right now. We don't have to bother with the martial arts competition either. We'll just take the Peerless Martial Association as our master!"

Edmunéd criticized Noah so badly that he was speechless.

Although he didn't approve of Lucas, he was absolutely unwilling to kneel down to pledge allegiance to the Peerless Martial Association!

There were many people in the venue who shared the same thoughts as Noah.

It was mainly because they all felt that Lucas was too young and wouldn't be a match for Kai.

This Master of California was really a disappointment to them!

But the moment Kai saw Lucas, he suddenly stopped looking nonchalant and became solemn.

From Lucas's seemingly calm body, He could sense a hidden aura that even made him feel frightened.

Since he could have this terrifying ability to conceal his aura, Lucas definitely wasn't a simple person!

"Are you the Master of California?" Kai asked as he stood up from his chair, seemingly preparing to face a great enemy.

Chapter 766: Fragile

As Julian's personal apprentice, the reason Kai had come to the conference of the families of the two states held by the Campbells wasn't as simple as breaking up the alliance between the two states and making the major families in Oregon submit to the

Peerless Martial Association.

The other reason was to test Lucas's skills.

Julian could be among the top ten experts in the headquarters of the Peerless Martial Association was certainly not just because of his martial arts skills.

Since he could reach such a high position, he obviously had a brain.

Last night, he had learned from the Taylors that his brother, Jude, had indeed been killed by Lucas. After causing a bloodbath at the Taylors', Julian had truly wanted to kill Lucas immediately to avenge his brother.

But just before he went, he forcibly held back his plan.

This was because he learned from Gisele that Lucas had killed Jude in a very short amount of time, and it could almost be considered an instant kill.

Julian was very clear about his brother's strength. Someone who wasn't powerful enough absolutely wouldn't be able to kill him!

He had always been a cautious person, so he had simply given Kai the task of testing Lucas's ability.

Thus, Kai didn't take Lucas lightly just because he was a young man under thirty years old. Instead, he was extremely cautious and wary from the start.

If he wanted to seize control of California and Oregon at the Peerless Martial Association's martial arts competition in seven days, Lucas definitely had to die!

"Who are you?" Lucas asked rhetorically while standing with his head held high.

"Me? I'm the one who came to take your life!" Kai shouted before dashing toward Lucas.

He was as quick as a bolt of lightning as he cut a streak in the air and instantly appeared in front of Lucas.

This attack was completely unexpected, and there seemed to be no time for Lucas to react at all.

His purpose was to test Lucas and kill him directly if possible. There was no point in standing there and talking so much nonsense.

Only when Kai appeared in front of Lucas did many people present realize that they had already started fighting over a slight conflict!

"Mr. Gray, be careful!" Edmund exclaimed anxiously.

Beside him, Damon looked at Lucas worriedly.

Noah, standing on the other side, narrowed his eyes slightly.

His mood was a bit complicated now.

On the one hand, Noah didn't want to admit that this young man in front of him was the Master of California, and all the more, he didn't want to believe that he was more powerful than Lewis.

Even Lewis had lost to Kai, so this young man named Lucas Gray would definitely not be a match for him!

If he could beat Kai, wouldn't it mean that the expert he had found was no match for him?

Thus. Noah didn't want to see Lucas win.

But on the other hand, if Lucas also lost to Kai, the various families present would probably be deterred by the Peerless Martial Association's strength and surrender to them.

When the time came, there would be nothing he could use to compete with the Peerless Martial Association for the title of the Master of Oregon.

The weak and powerless Campbells would lose all hope!

From this perspective, he still hoped that Lucas could defeat the Peerless Martial Association.

No one paid attention to the look of dilemma on Noah's face, as everyone's eyes were attracted to Lucas and Kai.

Kai was extremely fast, and he reached Lucas almost immediately. He raised his hand and threw a ferocious hook at Lucas's face.

But Lucas stood still, seemingly dumbfounded, as he watched Kai's fist getting closer and closer to him.

"Damn it. Is this kid scared stupid?! Why is he standing there motionlessly?"

"Is this the Master of California? What a lousy reaction and performance! What kind of expert is this?"

"Why is he standing there like a log! Given his level, any of my family's bodyguards can easily become the Master of California. How lousy!"

The helmsmen of the wealthy families of Oregon began yelling when they saw Lucas standing still because they had expected better from him.

Seeing Lucas not moving, Kai couldn't help feeling a touch of disappointment in his heart.

This Master of California's strength seemed to be much worse than he thought. He couldn't even dodge a punch from him.

But even if Lucas couldn't dodge it, Kai had no intention of going easy on him.

If someone was not as good as others, their only fate would be death!

"Go to hell!" Kai smashed his fast at Lucas's fist!

Whoosh!

But to his surprise, his ferocious punch that was supposed to hit the target suddenly missed!

Lucas, who had been less than 20 centimeters away from his fist, suddenly disappeared in an instant!

Indeed, he seemed to have vanished instantly. So the punch, which contained all the power he accumulated, hit the air, and Kai lunged forward because of the inertia. Before he could think about what happened, a strong sense of danger suddenly came from behind him, giving him goosebumps.

Oh god!

As this thought flashed through his mind, Kai quickly adjusted his body in the air to avoid the danger.

But it was already too late!

He had just started to move when a massive and unparalleled force came from behind him and struck him in the back like a huge mountain!

Bang!

Bang!

Two explosive impact sounds rang out almost consecutively.

The first sound was the sound of Lucas's leg viciously smashing into Kai!

The second sound was that of Kai's body slamming into the floor!

The force of this blow was so great that a deep crater formed in the wooden floor beneath Kai, and countless spider web-like cracks burst around it and spread in all directions.

Kai's spine was broken, and his face was full of horror, but his life was over!

This scene left everyone shocked!

Everyone looked at the young figure in astonishment, unable to speak for a long time. All that was left was the sound of rapid heartbeats and gulping.

Just a few minutes ago, Kai, an expert of the Peerless Martial Association, beat Lewis, the Campbells top expert, to death in two moves.

But now, the young man Lucas killed him in one move!

Did this mean that Lewis and Kai were weak and unable to take a single blow?

No, it only meant that Lucas was far stronger than them!

Chapter 767: Stronger Expert

After a long period of dead silence, Edmund was the first to return to his senses and laughed out loud. "Hahaha! Did you see that? That's the strength of Mr. Gray, the Master of California!"

At this moment, there was joy written all over Edmund's face. He felt confident and proud.

He initially thought that the meeting at the Campbells' today was just a discussion for the families of the two states. But he didn't expect the Campbells to be so ambitious as to want to be the ruler of California and Oregon.

Edmund hadn't been well prepared, and since he was in Oregon, he was restricted and restrained in every aspect, making him feel tied up.

Until this moment, when he saw Lucas killing the arrogant Kai in one move, he immediately felt refreshed, energetic, and proud.

It was the same for Damon. Lucas's move was a complete blow to the pride of the Campbells and the people of Oregon. It brought prestige to the families of California!

"Haha, as we said before, Mr. Gray is the strongest person in California. As long as he's around, there's no reason to fear the Peerless Martial Association!"

Damon burst into laughter. Then he seemed to recall something as he smiled at Noah, who looked sullen beside him. "Mr. Campbell, the bet you mentioned earlier should still stand, right? In both states, anyone who can defeat the Peerless Martial Association will be the common hegemon of California and Oregon!"

Noah's face was extremely gloomy, but he had indeed proposed this bet in front of all the families here. Now, he naturally couldn't deny it. Otherwise, the prestige of the Campbells would be tarnished!

"Hmph, there are still seven days until the competition. Before then, we families of Oregon will definitely find a stronger powerhouse! We don't know the final outcome yet, so don't get too complacent!" Noah said resentfully.

Edmund and Damon both took it as Noah being stubborn and didn't bother with him. Instead, they walked toward Lucas happily. "Let's go, Mr. Gray!"

'Thus, it had only been two minutes since Lucas appeared in the meeting hall before he left under the escort of Edmund and Damon.

Lucas was in a daze for a moment.

He drove several hours to get here, but what exactly did he come here for?

Did I just settle the matter by killing a person from the Peerless Martial Association?

"Haha, Mr. Gray, the matter here has indeed been settled. I'll tell you the details when we're in the car!" Edmund said excitedly and invited Lucas into the car.

On the other hand, in the Campbells' meeting hall, there was nothing but dead silence for a long time until Lucas and company left.

From time to time, some people turned to look at Noah, while others secretly glanced at the corpses of Kai and Lewis on the floor.

Everyone had a common thought. Lucas Gray, the Master of California, is so strong. Do we still have any chances of winning?

"Mr. Campbell, there are only seven days left until the competition. Can we really find a supreme expert who's strong enough to rival the Master of California within such a short period of time?" Finally, one of the helmsmen spoke up.

Everyone immediately looked at Noah, waiting for his answer.

Right now, the Campbells were the strongest family in Oregon and also the initiator of this conference to discuss measures for dealing with the Peerless Martial Association!

Seven days later, the competition would not only be a battle between the families of Oregon and the Peerless Martial Association but also a battle with California.

It was because Noah had proposed a bet that stipulated that the final winner would become the overlord of both California and Oregon!

'When Noah proposed this bet, all the powerful families of Oregon had the utmost confidence in Lewis, especially after seeing him easily deal with the bodyguards of the helmsmen of the two most powerful families of California.

Therefore, when Noah and Edmund both proposed this bet, none of the families of Oregon stepped forward to oppose it. After all, the conditions were favorable to them at the time, so why not?

But there was now a drastic change in the situation.

Lewis, whom they had had high hopes for, had been killed in seconds by Kai of the Peerless Martial Association. But the powerful Kai had unexpectedly been killed in seconds by Lucas Gray of California!

Didn't this mean that Lucas, the young man from California, would be taking over the hegemony of the two states?

They, the wealthy families of Oregon, would actually have to bow down to a young man from another state.

Such a result was completely unacceptable to them!

Noah's face was naturally extremely gloomy as he faced the questioning gazes of these helmsmen.

Lewis had been a top expert that the Campbells had hidden for many years. Noah had planned to use this opportunity to make the Campbells become the overlord of the two states. But he didn't expect his plans to be foiled.

Now that Lewis was dead, where else could he go to find an even more powerful expert within seven days?

But Noah naturally couldn't tell the truth to these wealthy families. Otherwise, the situation that he had worked so hard for would immediately collapse, and the wealthy families of Oregon would no longer respect the Campbells.

Noah would never be able to tolerate that!

He bit the bullet and said, "Everyone, rest assured. Since there are still seven days left, I will definitely find a stronger powerhouse. We families of Oregon won't lose!"

"There are only seven days left, so how can you be sure that you'll be able to find a top powerhouse?" someone asked from below.

With a trace of displeasure, Noah said, "Since I have already said this, I will definitely not go back on my word! If any of you are in doubt, you may go find some powerful experts yourself. The Campbells won't interfere!"

As soon as he said this, the members of the other families closed their eyes in thought.

"Okay, I hope the Campbells will find an expert soon!"

"Our hopes are lying on you, Mr. Campell!"

"Mtr. Campbell, we're depending on you!"

The families bade farewell one after another. In no time, only a few direct members of the Campbells were remaining in the spacious conference hall.

A middle-aged man in his forties stepped forth and asked worriedly, "Dad, can we really find an expert stronger than Master Lewis and comparable to Lucas Gray in such a short time?"

This middle-aged man was Noah's eldest son, Marvin.

Many other Campbells also looked at Noah anxiously.

How could an expert stronger than Lewis be found so easily?

Noah pondered for a long time before suddenly saying, "There is a place where we might be able to find a supreme expert.

"We'll have to go to the academy that Master Lewis came from, the Octa Faction!"

Chapter 768: Bloodbath and Feud

"The Octa Faction?" Marvin exclaimed in amazement.

As a direct descendant of the Campbells, he naturally knew the origins of Lewis's mastery.

The Octa Faction was a force in Oregon that was not to be belittled.

But the Octa Faction had always laid low and rarely got involved in conflicts or feuds between other families.

"Yes, the Octa Faction!" A strange look appeared in Noah's eyes as he continued, "Master Lewis is the junior of the faction leader. The leader will definitely not stand by and do nothing if he finds out that his junior was killed by someone from the Peerless Martial Association!

"Of course, the Campbells will certainly pay some price if we want to invite this top powerhouse. However, before we achieve our family's ultimate goal, this is nothing!"

He looked up at his excited son and instructed, "I'll leave it to you to handle this matter. No matter what, you must invite the leader of the Octa Faction to come over!"

"Yes, Dad. I'll immediately get someone to prepare some gifts and invite the faction leader, Mr. Alonso, to come over!" Marvin promised with fists in the air and then ran out to make preparations with great enthusiasm.

In San Francisco.

In the middle of San Francisco was a villa cluster that covered an enormous area.

It was the base of the California branch of the Peerless Martial Association.

At this moment, in one of the villas, there were several figures sitting upright and looking at the middle-aged man sitting in the master's seat, waiting respectfully for him to speak.

"Lasked you to come here to inform you of something." The middle-aged man opened his eyes, looked around at the crowd in the room, and drawled, "Kai is dead!"

"What?!"

Hearing this, the few people present were in disbelief.

"Master York, Kai is favored by you, and he's very capable. Who here could kill him?" Axel Fox, the head of the California Branch of the Peerless Martial Association, said in surprise.

Julian was a senior member of the Peerless Martial Association and rarely left DC, but his apprentice Kai was often on various missions outside. Thus, Axel and the others were very familiar with Kai's strength.

Strictly speaking, Kai was even stronger than Axel.

How did an expert who could almost dominate California suddenly die?

Anger welled up in Julian's eyes. He narrowed his eyes and said through gritted teeth, "It's Lucas Gray! I underestimated him, so I sent Kai to test the waters. But Kai ended up getting killed by him!"

His eyes were red, and his fists were clenched.

If Lucas was in front of him right now, he would definitely crush his head!

"It's really Lucas Gray!" Deep horror appeared in Axel's eyes.

He had only met Lucas once at the Elite Business Exchange not long ago.

But he had left an unforgettable impression on Axel at the time because of how domineering he seemed to be.

He had been humiliated by Lucas, but he felt that he couldn't defeat Lucas himself. Thus, he had asked for help from the Peerless Martial Association's headquarters and used Jude's death to invite Julian, a powerful killing god, to California. However, he didn't expect that Lucas would immediately kill Kai, Julian's top apprentice!

While being shocked, a trace of joy welled up in Axel's heart. He felt thankful for choosing not to put on a brave front and confront Lucas himself back then. Otherwise, he would have probably died.

"Lwant you to give me all the information about Lucas Gray. Do not leave out a single detail!" Julian said coldly as he glowered at Axel with a terrifying look on his face.

"Yes, Mr. York!" Axel's heart skipped a beat as he hurriedly agreed. He immediately sent his subordinates to collate all the information about Lucas.

Sitting in the master seat, Julian was full of fury and regret.

Kai had been his most favored apprentice, and he had intended to have him take over his position in the future. He might even make greater achievements in the Peerless Martial Association in the future.

But Kai ended up dying just because Julian had sent him to test Lucas's true power!

He had to get revenge for him!

"Notify them that the martial arts competitions that the Peerless Martial Association is holding in seven days in California and Oregon will both be changed to the same venue, the San Francisco International Expo Center!

"On October 15th, the Peerless Martial Association must completely take down California and Oregon!"

"If you fail, these two branches will no longer have any value or reason to exist! Do you understand?"

Julian exuded a domineering aura that overwhelmed the crowd.

The people present, all of whom were from the California branch of the Peerless Martial Association, had a change of drastic expression.

Julian, a top expert of the Peerless Martial Association, had the right to decide the affairs of these branches.

If the California branch was really abolished, those who originally belonged to this branch would definitely be reassigned to other local branches, and everything they had worked hard for years to obtain would be gone. They would have to start from scratch! None of them wanted to encounter that!

Axel hurriedly promised, "Mr. York, we will do our best! The final winner of the tournament will definitely be the Peerless Martial Association!"

His assistant, Heath, and several senior members of the California Branch all spoke up and pledged that they would definitely take control of California and Oregon.

Julian looked at the crowd in front of him, and a dense murderous intent gradually appeared in his eyes. "Lucas Gary, first you killed my brother Jude, and now you killed my apprentice Kai. I'm definitely going to go all out against you for this feud!"

At this moment, Lucas was still sitting in Edmund's car and making his way back to California from Oregon.

Edmund reported all these events that had happened in the Campbells' home in Oregon today to Lucas.

"In that case, it was Noah Campbell who took the initiative to propose a bet with you that as long as the experts of both states can defeat Julian from the Peerless Martial Association, they will be able to become the overlord of California and Oregon?" Lucas asked with a somewhat strange expression.

Edmund nodded and said with a smile, "That's right! However, Lewis, whom the Campbells claimed was their top expert, died at the hands of Kai of the Peerless Martial Association. And then Kai was killed by you, Mr. Gray. So it's safe to say that as long as you defeat Julian at competition seven days later, you will become the overlord of both states!"

Zeal and fervor suddenly surged in his chest. Lucas was surprised.

He didn't expect that things would actually develop into such a situation so quickly.

Of course, Lucas wasn't worried about whether he could defeat Julian or not. What he was thinking about now was how much help it would bring to his future plan once he really became the overlord of California and Oregon.

After all, Lucas would deal with the Huttons one day!

Chapter 769: Heartwarming Moment

Edmund wasn't worried about whether Lucas could beat Julian or not.

He said with a smile on his face, "Mr. Gray, with your current strength, the Peerless Martial Association is no match for you at all. When the time comes, you will be the lord of both California and Oregon, holding the power of hundreds of first-class families in your hands. With such a force, even the eight giants of DC won't dare to treat you with contempt!

"Tm really looking forward to October 15th. Haha!"

There was joy all over Edmund's face, but Lucas wasn't as optimistic as him.

"Tm afraid this competition won't be that simple."

'When Edmund heard this, the smile on his face faded, and he asked solemnly, "Did you discover something?"

Lucas shook his head without any further explanation.

In fact, he didn't hold any evidence in hand, but his inherent intuition told him that everything that had happened lately was extremely unusual.

In the previous years, the eight giants of DC had been standing at the top of the hierarchy in the country for a long time. Although the conflicts between them were inevitable, they would almost never interfere with the matters between the giants of other states.

But there was obviously a change in the pattern during this time.

For example, Vince, the successor of the Smiths, one of the eight giants of DC, wanted to take over California.

Florence, who had suddenly appeared in Orange County in the past couple of days, was from the Howards, which was also one of the eight giants of DC. Besides, Lucas was certain that she definitely wasn't here just to acknowledge her daughter, Cheyenne.

In addition, the Peerless Martial Association's actions were also extremely strange.

Before this, the Peerless Martial Association clearly never interfered with the feuds between the powerful families in the states. But at this moment, they had also made a declaration of their intention to take control of California and Oregon through this battle. Of course, these were only a few families that Lucas knew about. He had no idea if there were other families that were secretly taking action.

But just by adding these unusual things together, Lucas felt that this matter was like a bottomless pool where he could never see what was still lurking below the surface of the water.

Edmund thought about it and said, "Since things are unusual, why don't you just choose not to participate in the competition in seven days?

"You are now the esteemed Master of California. This is a fact that more than sixty families in California have recognized. Even if the Peerless Martial Association refuses to recognize it, it'll be pointless! Besides, they are not qualified to send an invitation to provoke you!"

A look of annoyance appeared on his face. If the Peerless Martial Association hadn't interfered, there wouldn't have been such a nonsensical competition at all.

Lucas was already the Master of California right now, so why would he have to fight with them for the title once more?

Lucas looked at Edmund standing up for him and couldn't help laughing. "No, I'm still going to attend the competition, even though this is indeed a provocation from the Peerless Martial Association.

"If I don't show up, the Peerless Martial Association may think that I'm afraid of them, and they'll probably act even more recklessly and arrogantly in the future. When the time comes, I'm afraid that it won't be clear who the true Master of California is.

"So not only do I have to attend, but I also have to achieve a beautiful victory to give them a hard slap on the face to let them know who calls the shots in California!"

Lucas's face was calm, but his tone of voice was full of dominance and aggression.

Edmund was a man who was determined and never afraid of sacrifice. He immediately said full of pride, "Yes! We'll let those bastards know who calls the shots in California now!"

By the time Lucas returned to his home in the middle of Pearl Lake, it was already past 1 a.m.

At this moment, everyone in the family was already asleep.

Lucas took a shower in the bathroom downstairs and returned to his bedroom with light footsteps. Just as he was about to lie down on the bed, Cheyenne turned over and said softly, "You're finally back."

Only then did Lucas realize that Cheyenne had actually been lying on the bed, wide awake and obviously waiting for him.

'When he went out earlier, he had merely told Cheyenne that he was going out to do something because the matter had been urgent. Cheyenne must have stayed up because she was worried about him.

Asense of guilt surged in Lucas's heart.

He gently laid down on the bed, held Cheyenne's hand, and said apologetically, "I'm sorry for making you worried and keeping you up so late."

Cheyenne shook her head, and her soft hair brushed lightly over the pillow as she moved.

She said gently, "I'm your wife. I'm naturally worried about you, but it's a good thing that you're back."

Cheyenne's kindness and concern made Lucas feel a sense of bliss.

This is what home feels like.

'When you're outside, there's always someone at home waiting for you and worrying about you. When you come home, they'll be ready to welcome you with open arms and a reassuring smile. This was the happiness that Lucas wanted the most. He lowered his head and kissed Cheyenne's brow, only to find in surprise that Cheyenne had already fallen asleep.

It seemed that she was very sleepy and had only been forcing herself to stay awake because she was worried about him not being home yet.

After seeing him arrive home safely, she was completely relieved and fell asleep at ease.

Lucas gently brushed away the hairs in front of Cheyenne's forehead and gazed at her beautiful sleeping face with complicated emotions. At the same time, he felt guilty.

He had previously promised Cheyenne that he would make her the happiest woman in the world.

But their life had never been able to calm down because he had been facing troubles one after another, leaving him without much free time to spend at home with his wife and daughter. Instead, he even made them worried.

But there were some things that he had to do.

As soon as he thought about how his mother had been treated, he knew that his trip to DC to confront the Huttons was inevitable.

Besides, the enemies he was facing now were becoming stronger and stronger.

Although Lucas was not afraid of danger, he was afraid that his wife and daughter would be in danger.

This was what he feared the most and felt the most guilty about.

Looking at Cheyenne, who had already fallen asleep, and Amelia, who was fast asleep in her bed with her limbs spread, a look of determination appeared in Lucas's eyes.

No matter what, I will protect your safety and won't let anyone hurt you in the slightest!

He took out his phone and immediately sent two messages.

"You must rush back to Orange County before October 15th!"

Chapter 770: Biological Mother Apologizes

The next morning, after breakfast, Lucas sent Amelia to the kindergarten before sending Cheyenne to work at the Brilliance Corporation as usual.

But when the black Jaguar pulled over beside the Brilliance Corporation's office building, Lucas saw a familiar black Mercedes-Benz sedan parked in front of the Brilliance Corporation. The person standing beside the door was Florence's bodyguard, who was always wearing sunglasses.

There was no doubt that Florence had come to look for Cheyenne again.

At this moment, Cheyenne also saw the familiar middle-aged man with sunglasses. She said with a sullen look on her face, "Why is she here again?"

Florence had honestly left a bad impression on Cheyenne yesterday.

First, she had wanted to poach Cheyenne to become the general manager of the Flor Group's planned Orange County branch. She had even criticized the Brilliance Corporation, which was founded by Cheyenne, before saying that she wanted to invest a staggering sum of five hundred million dollars in her company.

If not for the fact that Cheyenne had indeed seen what the chairman of the Flor Group looked like in the media, she probably would have thought that Florence was a liar or a lunatic.

Yesterday, she had clearly rejected Florence and refused to go to her company or accept her investment. Yet she came over again early in the moming. She still hadn't given up yet?

An icy cold gaze appeared in Lucas's eyes. He thought that Florence had come to see Cheyenne again today because she was indignant after getting stopped from revealing her true identity yesterday.

"I's okay. I'll get out of the car with you." Lucas patted Cheyenne's hand comfortingly and took the lead to get out of the car.

Seeing both Lucas and Cheyenne getting out of the car, Florence opened the door of her car and stepped out too. She then walked straight toward them.

Andy, the bodyguard wearing sunglasses, followed closely behind Florence, with an expression of facing an enemy.

Although he knew that if Lucas really wanted to fight, he would be no match for him. But he still had to fulfill his responsibilities as a bodyguard.

But Lucas didn't even look at him and merely glanced at Florence indifferently.

"Ms, Howard, why are you here?" Cheyenne said to Florence with a cold expression.

Florence suddenly said, "Miss Carter, I came here today to apologize to you! I didn't do my due research yesterday and ended up inadvertently offending you and your Brilliance Corporation. It was indeed my fault, and I hope to seek your forgiveness." She was already an elegant noblewoman, and now that she was apologizing gently with an sincere expression on her face, she immediately seemed very magnanimous.

Cheyenne was stunned for a moment. She didn't expect the chairman of the Flor Group, a Howard, would come so solemnly just to apologize to her.

Florence's attitude was so good that it even made Cheyenne subconsciously think that she had really misunderstood her yesterday.

Lucas quietly took Cheyenne's hand and said coldly, "Madam Howard, if you can stay out of my wife's life and not disturb her from now on, I think that would be a better form of apology."

Florence raised her head, looked deeply at Lucas, and suddenly smiled. "Mr. Gray, it seems you still have a strong misunderstanding of me. But that's fine, we still have plenty of time in the future, and I'm sure we'll clear the misunderstanding." Then she showed an ambiguous smile and tured around to get inside her car to leave with Andy without further ado.

This move surprised Lucas.

He originally thought that Florence would use this opportunity today to put on another dramatic act in front of Cheyenne or directly reveal that she was Cheyenne's biological

mother. He didn't expect her to really leave after just apologizing. But her last sentence was rather meaningful.

Cheyenne watched Florence's car drive away and suddenly felt a little sympathetic. "She... came to apologize to me. Were we a little too harsh with her?"

Lucas burst into laughter, thinking to himself that Florence likely deliberately staged this because she knew how soft-hearted Cheyenne was.

He definitely didn't think that a woman who always had her nose high up in the air and had a strong desire for power and control would really come to offer a sincere apology for going overboard with what she said.

"Cheyenne, this woman is from one of the eight most powerful families in DC, and she is the chairman of the Flor Group. Ordinary people will never be able to imagine how scheming she is. You'd better stay far away from her before knowing her agenda. After all, you're too kindhearted," Lucas said earnestly.

Cheyenne listened attentively, but she blushed a little at Lucas's last sentence. She glared at him. "We're at the entrance of the office. What nonsense are you saying? I'm going to work. You should get about your own business too!"

Lucas smiled, gently, "Okay, then I'll pick you up when I get off work."

In the backseat of the black Mercedes-Benz sedan, Florence, who had just left the Brilliance Corporation, was thinking about something with her eyes narrowed. While driving, Andy hesitated for a moment before saying, "Madam, can an apology really change Miss Carter's attitude?"

Florence opened her eyes and said indifferently, "According to my investigation, she's a very soft-hearted person. Today, I waited at her office early in the morning and deliberately lowered my pride to apologize to her. She may not forgive me immediately, but she will definitely be soft-hearted. As long

as I look for more opportunities to contact her, she will come to my side sooner or later!"

At the mention of her daughter, she didn't have any motherly feelings for her. Instead, she was like an extremely shrewd businesswoman who chose the most appropriate plan to target the human heart after collecting sufficient information about her. Andy was surprised, but since this was between Florence and her daughter, he had no say in the matter as an outsider.

"Well then... Madam, what should we do about Miss Pamela?" Andy asked.

At the mention of Florence's niece, a look of displeasure appeared in her eyes.

She was the best candidate chosen by the Howards to marry the Master of California and win him over. But deep down, Florence wanted her daughter to marry the Master of California. So she could hardly have any friendly feelings toward Pamela. Besides, Pamela had been studying abroad for years and wasn't close to her at all.

"You're right. Since we're already in Orange County, we have to go and meet this niece of mine."

Florence picked up her phone, dialed a number, and said kindly, "Pamela, this is Aunt Florence speaking. Are you still in the hotel? I'll go over to you now."

After she hung up, a cold smile appeared on her lips.

All the stumbling blocks getting in her daughter's way had to be kicked away!

Chapter 771: Lover

Half an hour later, Florence saw her niece Pamela in an upscale suite of the Oasis Hotel in Orange County.

Inall fairness, Pamela was indeed very beautiful. She had a pair of large eyes, a pointed chin, and fair, supple skin. Her appearance was typical of many Howards.

Moreover, she was in her prime at only 25 years old.

But Florence and Pamela didn't have many opportunities to meet in the past because Pamela had spent four years in college and a couple more years in graduate school abroad. She had only returned to the US a few months ago, so there had been barely any interaction between them.

"Aunt Florence."

'The two met at the entrance of the hotel suite, and Pamela merely greeted Florence lightly before letting her in without saying anything further.

She also knew Florence's purpose for taking her to California, but the highly educated Pamela absolutely couldn't accept a marriage alliance.

Florence took the initiative to walk toward Pamela and said lovingly, "Pamela, do you hate the marriage alliance that much? The Master of California is a handsome and talented young man. At such a young age, he's already..."

"Aunt Florence, you don't have to go on," Pamela interrupted before Florence could finish. "No matter how good that person you mentioned is, I won't like him. I already have feelings for someone else, and I won't marry anyone except him!"

Despite keeping a straight face, Florence was overjoyed.

Although Pamela was the candidate the Howards had chosen to marry the Master of California, it would be hard to say what would happen if Pamela wasn't willing to do it.

Besides, Florence didn't want Pamela to marry the Master of California at all because she felt that her daughter was the one who should marry him!

Pamela being unhappy was exactly what she wanted!

But Florence naturally wouldn't show these intentions. She frowned slightly and advised as an elder, "You can't think like this. You have to understand that you're a daughter of the Howards, and the family has raised you to this age. Isn't it time to repay the family? "Besides, this marriage is an order from the helmsman. If you can't complete it, you will have no place in the Howards in the future. What should have originally belonged to you will also be confiscated and redistributed to others. You have to think through this carefully!"

She knew that Pamela didn't like to hear such words about a woman's duty being to repay her family for raising her. Thus, she deliberately said so to invoke a sense of rebellion in Pamela.

"It's not up to me to decide which family I'm born in. I can work for the family to repay them. But if I have to sacrifice my happiness for the rest of my life and marry a man I don't even know and am not interested in. I would rather die!

"Also, I don't care for those things that the family has given me. Anyone can take them away!"

With that, Pamela no longer wanted to talk to Florence about this matter and immediately asked her to leave. "Aunt Florence, I'm feeling under the weather today, so I won't chat with you anymore. Please leave!"

"_." Blorence was silent for a moment before continuing to say gently, "Alright, I'll get going first then. Have a good rest. I'll contact you again after I find the Master of California."

After waiting for Florence to leave, Pamela lay on the bed and took out a photo from her phone case.

In the photo was a young soldier dressed in a camouflage uniform. He was in his twenties, and he was staring in a certain direction with a blazing gaze.

Pamela brushed her finger gently against the young soldier's cheek with love and adoration in her eyes.

"Where are you now?" she gently murmured while looking at the person in the photo.

If Florence saw this photo, she would be extremely astonished because the person in the photo was actually Lucas, whom she had already met twice!

But Lucas was wearing a camouflage uniform in the photo, and his hair was much shorter than his current hairstyle.

Moreover, from the angle of the photo, the photographer had clearly taken it without permission.

Looking at the resolute-looking man in the photo, Pamela couldn't help having her mind wander off to a year and a half ago.

At the time, she had still been studying in Canada and was extremely influenced by many romantic cultures. Pamela had decided to use the summer break to travel to some scenic towns on her own. She had even recorded her journey as a memoir of her youth.

But she didn't expect to suddenly encounter a terrorist attack in a remote town!

These attackers were obviously a gang, and there was crossfire between two gangs for some unknown reason.

Pamela was extremely unfortunate to have been near the area.

Pamela, who had lived in a peaceful and comfortable environment since she was a child, had never seen such a scene. She immediately turned pale with fear and tried to find a place to hide.

Unfortunately, she wasn't lucky enough. When one of the gangs had completely wiped out the other and was about to retreat, they discovered Pamela, who was hiding in a corner and shivering.

"Hey, quickly, look what I found. There's a beautiful girl here!"

After discovering Pamela, a man covered in blood immediately grabbed her by the arm and pulled her out while calling out to his brothers.

With his shout, ten-odd masculine men gathered around and looked at the petite and beautiful Pamela with lustful and lecherous smiles on their faces.

"Haha, this chick isn't bad! She's gorgeous and young too! I like her!"

"Heh, this beautiful girl should obviously be enjoyed by the boss first! When he's done having enough fun, it'll be our turn!"

"Hahahaha, no problem!"

They laughed bizarrely before reaching out to grab Pamela.

Pamela was scared out of her wits and could only beg for mercy to the group, "You... don't come over! Please let me off! My family is rich, and I can give you lots of money! I'll give you all the cash and bank cards I have. Please let me go!"

But Pamela didn't know that the more a beautiful woman begged for mercy pitifully, the more it would invoke men's desire to torture. It was impossible to let her off.

"Haha, little beauty, just stop struggling. You're mine now!"

'The leader of the gang went up to Pamela, pressed her onto the ground in public, and wanted to rip off her clothes.

Pamela desperately struggled, wailed, and screamed her lungs out. But a petite and vulnerable woman like her obviously couldn't compete with the strong and bloodthirsty men.

The large group of people around them cheered, and Pamela wished she could die right there and then.

At this moment, a clear and cold voice penetrated the repulsive hellhole, striking her in her heart.

"Stop what you're doing, scumbags!"

Chapter 772: Karma of Past Events

The moment she heard his voice, Pamela was shocked because it was an accent that she was familiar with!

While she encountered a crisis in a border town far away from home, she suddenly heard the voice of a fellow countryman. It almost made Pamela burst into tears!

comment

"Who's there?" The leader of the gang immediately raised his head and searched around for the owner of the voice in a rage.

'The other burly men all raised their guns and searched around for suspicious people. At this moment, Pamela, who was lying on the ground, widened her eyes in shock. A figure wearing a military camouflage uniform jumped down from a tree more than ten meters tall beside her and landed next to her like a god descending.

This person was naturally Lucas.

Although he jumped down from a high position, the fall was silent, and even the dust on the ground wasn't stirred up at all. His movements were as lithe as a cat's.

This scene immediately made the burly men, whose bodies were covered with

bloodstains, completely dumbfounded.

But the gang leader soon came back to his senses and shouted angrily, "Who are you?!"

Then he picked up the rifle at his waist and aimed the muzzle at Lucas's head.

'The other people around him immediately followed suit and aimed all sorts of guns at Lucas.

Just a short while ago, they had used these guns to kill another gang of nearly fifty people. Bow that they were facing only one person, they felt that they could definitely turn Lucas into a sieve.

Pamela's heart immediately tensed up.

This unknown fellow countryman was all by himself, and she was certain that he wouldn't be able to deal with all these people armed with firearms!

If this person died trying to save her, Pamela wouldn't be at ease even if she died. But surprisingly, even when he was being held at gunpoint by so many people, the young man didn't panic or get scared. Instead, he said indifferently, "Those things you're holding are useless to me.

"If you don't want to die, put down your weapons and surrender with your hands on your head."

But as soon as he said this, the people around immediately burst into contemptuous laughter.

"Hahaha, is this pig joking with us?"

"He actually said that our guns are useless and wants us to put down our weapons to surrender?"

"He probably hasn't woken up yet! I think we need to teach him a lesson!"

"Boss, kill him immediately!"

"Kill him!"

Everyone in the gang laughed out loud, and no one took Lucas seriously.

Even though he had just jumped down from a tree more than ten meters tall unharmed and seemed rather light, what did this mean? It was undoubtedly a special martial arts skill.

comment

But with these 'martial arts', it was clearly impossible for him to dodge so many bullets! "Bastard, how dare you be so arrogant to the Red River Gang? For that, I'll send you to hell now! Reflect on your actions on your way to hell and never poke your nose into others' business again!"

After the leader of the Red River Gang finished speaking, a ferocious grin appeared on his face as he pressed his finger against the trigger of his rifle and shot Lucas! Bang!

The loud gunshot shook everyone's eardrums.

The gangsters smiled smugly.

The only outcome for those who dared to go against them was death!

But the smile on their faces soon stiffened.

It was because the young man who should have died under the bullet actually appeared in front of their leader in one piece, completely unscathed.

All of them had shock and bewilderment written on their faces. None of them had seen how the young man in front of them had avoided the bullet from such a close distance. "Lwarned you earlier," Lucas said indifferently before pressing his finger down. Snap!

With this sound, the leader's neck was immediately crushed. His eyes were still full of disbelief, but his head had already drooped down, and it was impossible for him to speak anymore.

This scene immediately shocked the other gang members.

"He... he actually killed the boss!"

"We can't let him go! Kill him immediately!"

"Everyone, shoot him. Shoot together! We must kill him!"

'The gang panicked and frantically yelled while pulling the triggers of their guns aimed at Lucas at the same time.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang! Bang!

The sound of intensive gunfire rang out continuously, and bullets began flying everywhere.

But Lucas, at the center of their shooting, disappeared again like a phantom.

'When he reappeared, he was already standing behind one of the gang members and holding a thin dagger in his hand. He cut the man's neck with a swish! Before the body fell to the ground, Lucas had already reappeared behind another person with the bloody dagger to end another life.

Lucas's figure was like an intangible phantom moving around the gangsters. Every time he appeared, he would be like the coldest god of death and mercilessly take lives. Less than a minute later, all thirty-odd gangsters were on the ground.

The blood that spurted out from their necks had completely dyed the ground blood-red.

The air was full of the suffocatingly intense odor of blood.

The only living person left on the scene, except for Lucas, who was not stained with a trace of blood, was the disheveled Pamela sitting on the ground.

Despite being surrounded by this hell-like scene of blood and corpses, Pamela didn't notice these things at all.

She was staring at Lucas with glistening eyes.

Just a few minutes ago, she had felt that her life had reached the end, and she had been full of despair and unwillingness.

comment

But this young man, who fell from the sky like a god from heaven, had saved her and killed all the gangsters.

The way he moved around them suavely and slit the enemies' necks coldly were deeply etched in Pamela's mind.

From this moment on, Lucas became a god in Pamela's heart and the man she loved most in her life.

From then on, Pamela never became interested in any other man in the world.

He was the only person she would marry!

1

But her family was now forcing her to be in a marriage alliance and marry a stranger.

comment

How could she tolerate this?

Even if she angered her family and ended up losing their protection and everything to her name, she wouldn't compromise!

Looking at the handsome and resolute face in the photo, Pamela's eyes were full of determination... One day, I will definitely find you!

Chapter 773: The Martial Arts Competition Is Around The Corner

In fact, Lucas, the person involved, had long forgotten about this incident that Pamela was reminiscing over.

After all, in the past few years, he had carried out too many similar missions and saved countless people. Pamela was just one of the countless people he had saved.

Even though Pamela was gorgeous, Lucas was not a man who cared about looks. Moreover, his wife, Cheyenne, was much more beautiful than Pamela. Thus, when he saved Pamela, he didn't feel any emotions, and he soon forgot about it.

Even if Pamela was standing in front of Lucas now and told him about the incident, he would probably only think of it as one of the missions that he had been on.

In the blink of an eye, seven days passed quietly, and it was soon time for the Peerless Martial Association's martial arts competition with the strongest people of California and Oregon to determine the ruler of both states.

Over the past few days, the major noble families in California and Oregon had been keeping themselves busy as they sent people out on a search to invite experts from all over the world to increase their chances of winning the competition.

The final venue for the competition was set in San Francisco, and it was an extremely important event that caused a huge uproar in California. So during this period of time, many people had been rushing to California to witness the event.

At the same time, all the major hotels in California were full, and the tickets to the San Francisco International Expo Center, the venue of the martial arts competition, had all skyrocketed up to tens of thousands of dollars. Even then, it was still difficult to get one.

All the news media and discussions revolved around the unprecedented meeting.

Of course, the core discussion revolved around two points. One was the true identity of the mysterious Master of California and whether or not he would show up at the martial arts competition. Two was who the final winner of the competition would be and who the ruler of California would be.

There were heated discussions about it online.

But Lucas, the subject of the discussions, ignored all the comments.

On October 15th, he was dressed in an ordinary outfit as usual. He first drove Amelia to the kindergarten and then sent Cheyenne to the Brilliance Corporation before driving to the San Francisco International Expo Center by himself.

There were at least tens of thousands of people standing around outside the San Francisco International Expo Center.

Not only were there people who came from all over California but also many who came from all over Oregon to watch the battle. After all, the competition today concerned the fate of both states.

"Lucas Gray!"

Lucas parked his car at a place near the periphery. Just as he got out of the car, he heard an extremely surprised voice coming from the side.

Lucas turned around and saw a black Mercedes-Benz parked nearby. Florence and her personal bodyguard Andy were getting out of the car and looking at him in surprise.

Although Lucas had no good feelings toward Florence and was keeping his guard up against her to prevent her from approaching Cheyenne, she was still Cheyenne's mother after all. As long as she didn't take the initiative to cause trouble, Lucas would be willing to give her some respect.

Thus, he nodded at Florence in greeting.

Florence sized Lucas up. Seeing that he was still dressed shabbily, she looked at him with a critical and disdainful gaze and asked coldly, "Do you know where this place is? What are you doing here?"

She would often speak to Lucas in a condescending tone, as if she was questioning him.

Lucas glanced at her and said indifferently, "What does it have to do with you?"

His impolite reply immediately made Florence glare at him.

She thought that Lucas was just a small fry married to her daughter, so he should answer her questions obediently. But she didn't expect his attitude to be as terrible as before.

Florence looked at Lucas with annoyance. "Everyone in California knows that the highly-anticipated martial arts competition concerning the hegemony of California and Oregon will be held here at the SF International Expo Center today. Many people from both states are here to watch!

"Unfortunately, the tickets for the competition have already sold out. Even the tickets for the outermost seats of the venue have gone up to more than twenty grand each! You're here too. Do you want to go inside to take a look?

"Hah. Look at what your status is! You're just a live-in husband relying on my daughter for support. You probably bought the ticket with my daughter's money, huh?

"You're here squandering my daughter's money, yet you're asking what it has to do with me? It's only right that I deal with you!" Florence shouted angrily at Lucas.

But what she said was enough to show how poor her understanding of Lucas was.

In fact, Florence had simply asked someone to investigate Lucas's basic information. Ever since she knew that Lucas was a penniless man who only married Cheyenne as her live-in husband because he was framed in a scandal, she felt that he was a bottom feeder of society.

Even when she later saw in the information that Lucas used to be from the Huttons of DC, she thought that he was just an outcast driven out by the family and that the so-called Stardust Corporation's Orange County branch was just an empty shell handed over to him to fool him.

In Florence's heart, Lucas was just a stumbling block hindering her daughter from marrying the Master of California, so she didn't even bother to get to know Lucas.

Lucas looked at her with amusement. "Don't you refuse to acknowledge that I'm your son-in-law? What right do you have to meddle in my affairs? How ridiculous."

With that, he ignored Florence and turned around to leave.

Florence didn't expect Lucas to have the audacity to speak to her like this. For a while, she was so upset that she couldn't even maintain her usual ladylike demeanor.

"You damn piece of garbage! You're just a stumbling block in my daughter's life! You're not worthy of her at all! Just you wait. I'll definitely make you divorce her!

"Only someone like the Master of California is worthy of my daughter! You're not even worthy of carrying the shoes of the Master of California!

"Ah! I'm so angry!"

Florence vented her anger without restraint. Unfortunately, Lucas had long left and didn't hear a single word.

Seeing how furious Florence was, Andy thought about reminding her that she was losing her composure.

But at the thought that she had reprimanded him for giving her a reminder previously, he decided to keep his mouth shut and not look for a scolding.

But Andy looked at Lucas and had a vague conjecture that perhaps the legendary Master of California was Lucas!

Chapter 774: Old Friend

Ever since Lucas effortlessly struck him back that day, Andy kept feeling that Lucas was an extremely complicated person. Previously, he had wondered if Lucas might be the mysterious Master of California and mentioned it to Florence. But she had denied it outright.

Later on, he had suggested to Florence that she should investigate more about Lucas. But she thought that Lucas was just a wastrel kicked out by the Huttons and that there was no point in investigating him.

So although Andy was feeling extremely uneasy, he didn't want to tell Florence about his conjectures anymore.

"Aunt Florence."

At this moment, a beautiful woman wearing a beige trench coat got out of a car nearby. She was Pamela, Florence's niece.

She didn't want to come here at first, but Florence had informed her early in the morning that she had to come and take a look at the heroic appearance of the legendary Master of California. She couldn't out-argue her aunt, so she could only come.

But her car was parked a little farther away, and she happened to miss Lucas's appearance.

'When she got closer, she found that Florence had a sullen expression and couldn't help asking doubtfully, "Aunt Florence, did someone make you angry just now?"

Florence took two deep breaths to calm the anger within her before saying, "It's nothing. It's merely a brat who doesn't know any better.

"Forget it. Let's not talk about this. The martial arts competition is about to begin soon. We'd better enter the venue quickly! You'll be able to witness the heroic Master of California soon!"

A trace of impatience immediately appeared on Pamela's face.

She had already made it clear to Florence that she had no interest in the Master of California and wouldn't agree to marry him. She was upset that her aunt kept forcing her.

"Aunt Florence, there are too many people here. I think I'd better give it a pass," Pamela said and then turned around to walk out of the parking lot.

"Hey! Pamela, wait a minute. don't leave!" Florence hurriedly grabbed Pamela's arm and persuaded her like a caring elder. "Okay, I understand your point, but we're already here, so why don't we just go in to take a look? I mean, there's nothing to lose from doing this, right? As for whether you can like the Master of California, let's wait until after the competition, okay?"

Although Florence wished that Pamela wouldn't get involved with the Master of California, there were still some superficial motions she needed to go through. Otherwise, when the Howards asked about it, if they found out that she didn't even bring Pamela to attend the martial arts competition where the Master of California would appear, she wouldn't be able to answer to the family.

Under Florence's repeated persuasion, Pamela eventually stayed and entered the San Francisco International Expo Center.

Meanwhile, Lucas had already walked to one of the entrances of the expo center and was about to enter.

"Huh? Are you... Lucas Gray?" A slightly familiar male voice came from behind Lucas.

Lucas stopped and turned around to take a look.

Ashort distance behind him, a young man was walking over with surprise written all over his face. Beside him were two women dressed to the nines. One of them was holding onto the arm of the young man.

Lucas took a closer look at the young man and revealed a surprised expression. "It's you, Asher Holmes! It's been years since we've met!"

Asher walked over to hug Lucas excitedly and patted his back twice. "It looked like you in the distance just now, but I didn't dare to acknowledge you. It tuned out to be you! We haven't seen each other for years!"

Asher and Lucas had been classmates in high school, and they had gotten along pretty well.

At the time, Lucas was only 17 years old, and due to poverty, he often dressed shabbily and didn't have good food to eat. He was gaunt and often bullied in school.

Back then, Asher was tall and burly, and he had a great sense of justice. He couldn't tolerate seeing Lucas get bullied, so he would often help him. Thus, the two of them became very close friends.

But after graduating from high school, the former classmates went their separate ways.

It had been nearly ten years since they last met.

At this moment, the two of them were naturally excited.

"Lucas, I didn't expect to meet you here today. Are you also here to see the martial arts competition?" Asher asked excitedly.

Just as Lucas was about to answer him, the woman holding onto Asher's arm suddenly snorted with laughter. "Asher, are you blind? Look at how he's dressed. Does he look like someone who can afford to enter the venue? He probably works here!" 'The woman's voice was slightly high-pitched, and she was looking at Lucas with clear contempt in her eyes.

Lucas's simple outfit was indeed very ordinary.

The people attending the martial arts competition today were all from the powerful families of California and Oregon. Those who could afford the expensive tickets were all wealthy and powerful, which was apparent from the way they dressed. And Lucas's clothes were so ordinary that they seemed to cost less than a hundred dollars. Indeed, he didn't look like he could afford the expensive tickets for the competition.

Asher understood. Lucas's family had been poor since he was in high school, so it made sense that he couldn't afford to buy a ticket to the venue.

He was afraid that his girlfriend's words would be too straightforward and embarrass Lucas, so he hurriedly changed the subject. He said with a smile, "It's okay, buddy. I just happen to have an extra ticket here. I'll give it to you!"

Then he took out a ticket for the expo center from his pocket to hand to Lucas.

But as soon as Asher stretched his hand out, a hand with fingernails painted with bright red nail polish immediately reached over from the side and took the ticket away.

"Asher, are you out of your mind? Do you know how much this ticket can be sold for here? Look at all the people gathered outside. They're all trying their best to get tickets to watch the competition! As long as I take this ticket and announce that I'm selling it, it will immediately sell for more than thirty grand!

"But you actually want to give away this expensive ticket for nothing? I don't agree with that!" Asher's girlfriend said with a sullen face.

Asher looked extremely embarrassed and a little upset. "Anyway, we have exactly one extra ticket in our hands, and you didn't intend to sell it at first, so what's wrong with giving it to my buddy? Are you going to keep it and waste it?"

His girlfriend rolled her eyes. "Who said I was going to keep it and waste it? I promised to give this ticket to my friend a long time ago, but he hasn't arrived yet!"

Then she placed the ticket directly into the Givenchy clutch in front of Asher and Lucas, making it clear that she wasn't willing to give it to Lucas.

This time, Asher's face was covered with displeasure..