

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

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I Choose Death

Chapter 807 I Choose Death

Lucas raised his eyebrows with a tinge of amusement.

It wasn't his first time hearing such a threat. But whenever he saw these people threatening him seriously and forcing him to make a decision, he still found it amusing.

Oscar looked at Lucas's expression and continued, "I know you're great at martial arts, and I heard that you even defeated Julian York, one of the top ten in the Peerless Martial Association. But so what?"

"The expert next to me is nicknamed Invincible Phantom Hands, and he's one of the top three powerhouses of the Smiths. Even in all of DC, very few people are his match, and even Julian York is far from being his match!"

"Invincible Phantom Hands was protecting the helmsman previously. He's far superior to those small fries you've dealt with before. I can have you killed with a single word!"

"If you're smart enough, you should know what choice to make."

Oscar was full of confidence and arrogance, as if he was now the helmsman of the Smiths and could control Lucas's life at will.

Lucas looked at him with amusement. "Since you're here to see me, you should know why I made Vince Smith kneel down and apologize.

"You're actually repeating the same mistake. You're even more stupid than I imagined!"

"I really wonder if the Smiths are out of competent family members. Is that why they sent someone like you?"

Oscar flew into a rage. "Don't compare me with that idiot Vince Smith! He's now been abandoned by the Smiths. I, on the other hand, am now the most valued person in the family!"

“Besides, you don’t have any top experts like the one I brought! Invincible Phantom Hands is famous in DC, and there’s no way you’re a match for him!”

Lucas ignored what Oscar said and instead narrowed his eyes and looked carefully at the old man named Invincible Phantom Hands.

The fact that this person could become one of the top three top powerhouses of the Smiths and was the personal guard of the Smiths’ helmsman before, which was an extraordinary identity, was enough to show that he was indeed very powerful.

Although this person was absolutely no match for him, Lucas believed that Invincible Phantom Hands should be a top martial artist even in DC.

Yet this powerful expert was sent to protect someone like Oscar.

Could Oscar Smith not be as incompetent as he appears on the surface but actually has other talents?

But whether or not Oscar was a wastrel had nothing to do with Lucas because he didn’t care about such things.

Lucas couldn’t be bothered to waste his breath with Oscar any longer and directly turned around to leave.

Seeing Lucas ignore him and want to leave, Oscar roared angrily, “You... Hey, stop right there!”

“You haven’t made a choice between the two paths I just mentioned. You want to leave just like that?”

Lucas turned around to look at him and sneered. “In that case, you can assume that I chose the second option. I choose to die... if you have the ability to kill me!”

Lucas turned around once again and left.

Lucas’s choice had exceeded Oscar’s expectations.

“Hey! Hold it right there! If you take one more step forward, I’ll immediately have you killed!” Oscar shouted.

Unfortunately, Lucas simply ignored him and quickly walked away without a trace.

“Invincible Phantom Hands, didn’t you hear what I just said? Why didn’t you stop him?” Oscar, who felt greatly humiliated, had nowhere to vent his anger and could only yell at the elderly expert beside him.

“My mission is only to protect your safety. Other matters are not within the scope my responsibilities,” Invincible Phantom Hands said coldly with his arms crossed.

His words immediately made Oscar even more irritated.

But Invincible Phantom Hands was indeed stating facts. He was the personal bodyguard of the Smiths’ helmsman, and he had come to California this time with Oscar only to protect him. Given his current status, Oscar couldn’t order him.

“Damn it! So damn annoying!” Oscar was so angry that he smashed his fist in the air and looked in the direction Lucas had disappeared. He swore furiously, “Brat, since you chose to die, I won’t give you an easy death!”

On the other hand, Lucas ignored Oscar and Invincible Phantom Hands and walked straight home.

As soon as he entered the house, Cheyenne, who had been waiting in the living room, immediately greeted him, sized Lucas up, and asked with concern, “Honey, are you okay?”

Cheyenne hadn’t even changed her clothes and shoes. Instead, she was worried about Lucas and waiting for his return.

Her waiting for him filled Lucas’s heart with a warm and fuzzy feeling.

Lucas held Cheyenne’s hand and smiled. “It’s okay. It’s just a trivial matter. Your husband is very competent!”

Then he wrapped his arms around Cheyenne’s waist and picked her up.

“Ah!” Cheyenne exclaimed and immediately wrapped her arms around Lucas’s neck to maintain her balance, her pretty face red.

“What are you doing? Quickly put me down. What if they see us?” Cheyenne said shyly. Lucas smiled and kissed Cheyenne’s forehead. Then he carried her straight to the bathroom. “It’s getting late. Let’s wash up together!”

The night passed quickly.

The next morning, Lucas sent Cheyenne to the office and Amelia to the kindergarten as usual before driving to the Stardust Corporation and going to the chairman’s office.

Because the news that Lucas had won the martial arts competition two days ago and had become the overlord of California and Oregon had spread, there were numerous companies and families coming to the office to cooperate with the Stardust Corporation.

As the general manager of the company, Charlotte was as busy as a bee.

Although the company had already assigned a few assistants and secretaries to Charlotte, and she also had the help of various departments, there were many things that needed to be handed over to the general manager to decide on.

Seeing that Charlotte was about to lose her mind, Lucas naturally wouldn't leave her alone. He took the opportunity to help her handle some cooperation offers while in the office.

After Charlotte presented some verified contracts to Lucas, she slapped her forehead as she suddenly recalled something. "Lucas, there's something really important I almost forgot to tell you!

"There's going to be a land auction at Emerald International at ten this morning. One of the plots of land is near the Haven Manor, which belongs to Stardust Corporation. Would you like to acquire it?"

Chapter 808 Turn into a Cemetary

Haven Manor was a top-tier villa district developed by the Stardust Corporation and one of the best in Orange County at present.

Lucas had thought about acquiring all the land around Haven Manor before, but these plots of land were not for sale previously, so he could only give up.

Unexpectedly, one of them was about to be auctioned off now.

"Yes. The Stardust Corporation must get this plot of land!" Lucas said with certainty.

The land around Haven Manor was very suitable for constructing a new villa district or other facilities.

"But Lucas, we have too many cooperation orders to screen and approve now. I don't have time to handle this. Can you attend the auction at Emerald International?" Charlotte asked pitifully.

She wanted to go to the land auction, but there were numerous contracts piling up in her hands, so she really didn't have the time to go.

"Okay, I'll go then," Lucas naturally agreed.

Charlotte handed an invitation letter to Lucas, who took it and read it. The venue was in the Emerald International Building, and the auction would begin at ten in the morning.

It was already half past nine.

Without delay, Lucas headed straight downstairs and drove toward Emerald International.

About twenty minutes later, he had already parked his black Jaguar at the entrance of Emerald International.

As soon as Lucas got out of his car, he saw two acquaintances walking out of a Porsche nearby.

They were none other than Oscar Smith and the elite bodyguard he had brought with him, Invincible Phantom Hands.

“Lucas Gray? I didn’t expect you to come too!” Oscar saw Lucas at a glance. A trace of surprise appeared on his face before it immediately darkened. “Heh, you must be here for the land by the river too.”

The land opposite Haven Manor was right by a river.

There was a river flowing through the area, so before the piece of land was officially sold, it was known as the land by the river.

Lucas frowned slightly. Based on Oscar’s behavior, Lucas thought that he was probably here for this plot of land too.

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Lucas didn’t say anything yet, but Oscar said, “Hah, I’ve already sent someone to investigate. The Haven Manor by the river is the property of the Stardust Corporation, which is owned by you, right? I heard that it’s one of the top villa districts in Orange County, and the land prices there have been rising rapidly. Even the surrounding land has had great fluctuations in prices.

“If I were you, I would keep an eye on this plot of land and link them together to maximize the value of the land!

“Unfortunately, your plan is destined to fail because I’ve already set my sights on this plot of land!

“Haha, but I won’t be building villas there. Why don’t you guess what I will do with this land?”

A malicious smile appeared on Oscar’s face.

Lucas didn’t want to pay any attention to him and simply wanted to leave.

“Hey, don’t go! Forget it. I’ll be merciful and tell you!

"I'm planning to build the largest cemetery in Orange County on the land opposite Haven Manor!"

"Once the cemetery is built, do you think the prices of Haven Manor will still be stable? Hahahaha!" Oscar laughed smugly.

Hearing this, Lucas suddenly stopped.

At this moment, he finally realized that Oscar was waiting for him here.

As Oscar said, if he really acquired the land by the river and turned it into a cemetery, the prices of Haven Manor would definitely plummet, and the residents who had already bought villas there would protest or demand a full refund and compensation. The Stardust Corporation would also be greatly affected.

Furthermore, most of the people who could purchase a home in such a top-tier villa district were definitely wealthy and influential. Once they expressed their displeasure and caused the matter to blow out of proportion, the consequences would be very serious.

Oscar was obviously out to destroy the Haven Manor and strike the Stardust Corporation.

Lucas finally discovered that Oscar indeed wasn't just an arrogant idiot.

"Are you threatening me?" Lucas narrowed his eyes.

"No, no, no!" Seeing the anger on Lucas's face, Oscar raised a finger smugly and shook it languidly. "This isn't a threat but a teaser!"

"Are you mad and upset? But it's useless! I'm definitely taking this land!"

"Speaking of which, this land is surrounded by mountains and water, so it's the most suitable place for building a public cemetery. Don't you agree?" Before Lucas could say anything, Oscar continued, "I have already investigated your situation. The Stardust Corporation has a good reputation, but you're only in charge of the branch in Orange County, and you can't draw much cash.

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"Even if you put together all your properties, you can probably gather only a couple hundred million dollars.

"But I'm different. I've prepared four hundred million for this auction today! How can you defeat me?"

“Just wait to cry on your knees in Haven Manor! Hahaha!”

Oscar revealed his intentions and cards without hiding anything and laughing in a relaxed and smug manner.

He was certain that even if Lucas knew about it, there was nothing he could do.

Oscar had the support of the Smiths, one of the eight top families of DC, but Lucas had been abandoned by the Huttons. There was no way he could compete against the Smiths!

Looking at Oscar’s villainous face, Lucas sneered. “It seems you don’t know that much about me! After talking so big, the person crying later will be you!”

“What do you mean by that?” Oscar’s heart skipped a beat as he felt a strange hunch that made his smile fade.

“Hmph, you’ll find out in a bit!” Lucas ignored him and stepped straight into the Emerald International Building.

Chapter 809 Pamela Appears

Lucas’s appearance immediately sparked a commotion in the auction hall.

Ever since Lucas showed his skills at the competition and became the overlord of California and Oregon with his undisputable strength, he had become a popular figure that everyone in California knew.

Everyone qualified to be invited to the auction today was from a powerful and wealthy family in California, so they naturally knew Lucas.

“Wow, I didn’t expect Mr. Gray, the overlord of two states, to show up too!”

“Mr. Gray, are you also interested in the plots of land being auctioned today? If you’re also interested in the plot I have my sights on, I’ll have to give up!”

“That’s for sure! Mr. Gray is now the overlord of two states. Who would be so blind as to compete with him? Do they have a death wish?!”

“Hey, I just hope that Mr. Gray and I haven’t taken a liking to the same plot of land. Otherwise, I’ll have made a wasted trip!”

All the people present were whispering among each other. But many people already seemed frustrated and dejected because they were extremely worried about the final result of the auction.

But Lucas didn't care. He found an empty seat and sat down.

His purpose in coming here was to acquire the land by the river, and he wasn't interested in the other plots of land.

Afterward, Oscar and Invincible Phantom Hands entered the auction venue.

Since neither of them was from a top family in San Francisco, almost no one recognized them. They merely glanced at them curiously before looking away.

But before Oscar took his seat, he took a deep look at Lucas with confidence and menace.

Lucas was indeed not easy to deal with, as he didn't accept any cajoling or threats.

Since he dared to force Vince, the former successor of the Smiths, to kneel on the floor and apologize in front of the top families of California, Lucas was clearly extremely courageous and had no scruples about the Smiths.

So when Oscar came to California with the mission his family gave him, he deliberately brought the family's elite bodyguard, Invincible Phantom Hands, to protect him so as to avoid the humiliating and embarrassing incident that had happened to Vince.

Oscar originally thought that Lucas would be scrupulous about a top bodyguard like Invincible Phantom Hands. But he actually had a calm and somewhat mocking expression, seemingly not taking Invincible Phantom Hands seriously.

He was determined to make Lucas pay for his arrogance!

"Hello, Mr. Gray, we meet again!"

Soon after Lucas sat down, a beautiful and ethereal figure appeared beside him and greeted him sweetly while stretching her fair hand out.

Lucas raised his head and saw a beautiful face with supple skin.

This ravishing beauty was Pamela, Cheyenne's cousin, whom Lucas met last night.

Before Lucas said anything, everyone exclaimed in amazement.

"What a beautiful woman! Which family is she from? How come I've never seen her before?"

"She doesn't seem to be from Orange County. She's really gorgeous! I've never seen such a beautiful woman!"

“I heard that Mr. Gray’s wife was known as the most gorgeous beauty in Orange County! She shouldn’t be any worse than this woman here! They’re both breathtakingly beautiful!”

“But this woman has an impressive bodyguard following behind her, so she seems to be from a powerful family. I wonder if she’s from California.”

“It’d be great if we could find out her name and where she’s from later. Hehe!”

Most of the people present were wealthy men, and most men were attracted to beautiful women.

Pamela’s appearance immediately attracted the attention of many people and sparked numerous discussions.

If not for the fact that this beautiful woman was standing beside Lucas and chatting with him, many suits would have likely surrounded Pamela already. But now, they were too afraid to disturb Lucas.

Lucas looked at Pamela calmly before looking away and ignoring her outstretched hand.

Pamela felt a little awkward, and her outstretched hand began trembling slightly.

Over the years, no one had ever been able to ignore her great beauty.

But he was indeed worthy of being the man she was in love with because he was extraordinary and unlike other lustful men whose eyes were glued to pretty girls whenever they saw one.

Pamela pouted and asked aggrievedly with her pale fingers still outstretched, “Mr. Gray, do you dislike me?”

Pamela looked extremely pitiful.

Lucas looked at her expressionlessly and said indifferently, “I don’t like the Howards.”

Florence caused Lucas to loathe the Howards.

Although the woman in front of him was indeed very beautiful and didn’t have any feud with him, Lucas didn’t want to have any contact with her because she was a Howard.

Hearing Lucas finally answering her and saying he didn’t have a personal grudge against her, Pamela was overjoyed.

It was great that the man she loved didn’t hate her!

With a faint smile, Pamela withdrew her hand and sat down beside Lucas. "Mr. Gray, if you have any bad impression of the Howards because of Florence Howard, it is too unfair to us! Florence Howard is Florence Howard. The Howards are the Howards. Mr. Gray, this isn't fair to us!"

Lucas was slightly surprised to hear what Pamela said because she actually referred to Florence by her name instead of 'aunt'.

Quite interesting.

"I won't hide it from you, Mr. Gray. My aunt and I came to California with the task of forming a good relationship with the Master of California and to never make an enemy of you no matter what.

"However, my aunt took matters into her own hands and presumptuously offended you, Mr. Gray.

"But please believe me that this is definitely not the intentions of the Howards! So, Mr. Gray, it'd be really unjust to us if you blame us for Florence's misdeeds!"

Pamela wrinkled her nose aggrievedly.

Lucas had to admit that a stunning beauty like Pamela indeed managed to reduce his animosity toward the Howards with her aggrieved appearance and humble attitude.

Chapter 810 Bidding For Land

In fact, if not for Florence creating so much trouble and even wanting to make use of Cheyenne, Lucas wouldn't have harbored such animosity toward the Howards.

No matter what, the Howards were indeed blood-related to Cheyenne. If possible, he naturally hoped to be on good terms with the Howards.

This would not only be beneficial to Cheyenne but also give him more support when he went to DC in the future.

Florence had ruined Lucas's impression of the Howards, but Pamela's appearance seemed to have spurred him to want to salvage the relationship between him and the Howards.

Lucas smiled and suddenly asked, "What's your name?"

Pamela was stunned, but she soon felt disappointed.

It turned out that... he didn't remember saving her a year ago. She had introduced herself to him yesterday, but unfortunately, he still didn't seem to remember her.

“My name is Pamela Howard. You have to remember my name this time!” Pamela perked up and smiled sweetly and delicately. It’s okay. It’s fine if he’s forgotten about me. We can make a fresh start. I must make Lucas remember me and fall in love with me!

Lucas looked at Pamela a little strangely before nodding. “Got it.”

A simple nod and answer from him immediately made Pamela’s face bloom like a flower, making her look exceptionally beautiful.

This simple response was enough to show that Lucas’s attitude toward her and the Howards had mellowed down and that he would remember her name.

She believed that as long as she continued to work hard, she would definitely be able to build a good relationship with him.

While the two of them were having a brief exchange, Oscar recognized Pamela and pulled a long face.

He didn’t expect the Howards to show up in California at this time and interact with Lucas.

Although the Howards and the Smiths were among the eight top families of DC, they didn’t have a good relationship, and there were conflicts from time to time.

Oscar had come to California under the orders of the Smith’s helmsman to find a way to deal with Lucas so that they could take control of California and Oregon. The Howards might be after this too.

Seeing Pamela smiling beside Lucas, Oscar concluded that the Howards were tempting Lucas with a beauty. He cursed them for being despicable.

Soon, it was ten o’clock, and the auction officially began.

The auctioneer brought a huge sand table to the front of the auction stage and started the auction while explaining the location and size of every plot of land.

There were seven plots of land today, distributed across the urban and suburban areas of Orange County.

At the beginning, all the participants of the auction were still a little anxious, and from time to time, they turned to look at Lucas. But after seeing Lucas not speaking during the auction of the first few plots of land, they sighed in relief and began bidding freely.

Land auctions were rare but excellent for the wealthy these days.

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As long as they could successfully win a good plot of land and develop it well, they would definitely rake in huge profits.

Of course, if the bids were too high, the profits would end up being too low, and they might even incur losses.

The numerous people present were almost all old and experienced businessmen. So each round of bidding was very intense, and the final prices were basically within their expectations.

“Okay, next, we’re going to bid for the finale of this auction. Its listing number is 2020-S-1031. This plot of land is located on the west bank of the Sierra River, and its size is about 9,865 square meters. The prices of the surrounding land are also rather high, so the starting bid for this land is thirty-five million dollars!

“Those interested in this land may begin bidding!”

The auctioneer was a middle-aged man in his fifties who was slightly rotund. He was holding up the microphone and shouting. “Thirty-five million dollars!” “Forty million!” “Forty-five million!”

“Fifty million!”

Almost as soon as the auctioneer finished speaking, countless people raised their bid cards and began to bid competitively. The price soared.

Of course, although the price was getting higher and higher, the number of bidders gradually decreased. After all, it wasn’t easy to decide on something worth tens of millions.

“Eighty million!” Someone placed this bid.

Afterward, the other two people bidding against him fell silent and didn’t continue placing higher bids.

Clearly, this price had really reached the maximum budget of many.

If the price exceeded this amount, their profit margin would be too low.

“Okay, the current price is eighty million dollars! Is there any higher bid?!” the auctioneer exclaimed excitedly.

“Eighty million dollars, going once!”

“Eighty million dollars, going twice! “Eighty million dollars, going thrice—”

Just as the auctioneer was about to announce the bid for the third time to finalize the auction, a cold voice suddenly sounded.

“Eighty-one million dollars!”

Everyone immediately looked at the person bidding

The joy on the face of the middle-aged man who thought he had successfully won the auction immediately stiffened.

With anger all over his face, he was about to see who had suddenly foiled his plans, only to see that it was a young man. “Uh... so, it’s Mr. Gray bidding on this land. Of course, I’ll give up. Haha!” The expression on this middle-aged man’s face immediately turned from fury to delight as he stretched out a hand palm up toward Lucas and smiled.

Who was Lucas? He was the new ruler of two states, and more than a hundred top families had pledged allegiance to him. Who would dare to vie with him for land?

The reason Lucas waited until this time to place his bid was not because he wanted to deliberately snatch it from someone else at the last moment but because he didn’t want to ruin the auction price.

If he had started bidding when the price was only forty million dollars, no one would bid against him. Winning the auction at a low price would be too overbearing of him, and this wasn’t something Lucas wanted to see.

“Mr. Gray, congratulations on acquiring this plot of land today for eighty-one million dollars!”

“Haha, this small plot of land is exactly opposite Haven Manor, which belongs to Mr. Gray. Since they’re adjacent, this land should rightfully belong to Mr. Gray!”

“That’s right. The most suitable owner of this land is Mr. Gray!”

All of the surrounding wealthy and powerful people gave Lucas their well wishes and congratulations.

But suddenly, an extremely discordant voice rang out in the auction hall. “Who said this land is his? I’m bidding one hundred and fifty million!”

Chapter 811 Three Godly Figures

Everyone was shocked!

Everyone widened their eyes as they looked at the middle-aged man sitting in the middle.

Everyone in the room knew Lucas's identity, but no one thought that anyone would dare to openly vie with Lucas for the land!

Besides, Lucas's bid was 81 million dollars, yet this person actually bid 150 million dollars, which was almost double Lucas's bid.

At this price, it was basically very difficult to profit from this land. ... Unless this person's motive was just to go against Lucas!

This person was naturally Oscar, who had already made up his mind to vie with Lucas for this plot of land. But to the various top families of Orange County, he was just a stranger.

"Damn it. Which fool is bidding? How dare he go against Mr. Gray? He must be tired of living!"

"Yeah, Mr. Gray is the overlord of two states. Who is so audacious as to go against him openly?"

"Quickly look there. It's him. I haven't seen him before. Do you know who he is?"

"I don't know. He's probably from another state, and he definitely doesn't know Mr. Gray's identity. That's why he's foolishly vying with Mr. Gray! Tsk, tsk, who knows where he got his invitation from!"

"Haha, he's going to be in trouble for offending Mr. Gray. He's going to cry later!" The people in the room began mocking Oscar one after another.

Pamela seemed to be gloating as if she was watching an interesting show. She even looked at Oscar with sympathy as if she was looking at a dead person.

Lucas definitely wasn't a pushover who would let anyone walk all over him. She reckoned that the Smiths must have instructed Oscar to confront Lucas. After all, in DC, it was no longer a secret that Vince Smith had been forced to kneel and apologize by Lucas.

However, Oscar was undoubtedly courting death and completely destroying any possibility of reconciliation between the Smiths and Lucas.

Lucas wouldn't be merciful to a family that repeatedly offended him.

Oscar ignored the surrounding gazes as he remained sitting and asked smugly, "Lucas Gray, if you change your mind now and decide to submit to the Smiths, I can give you another opportunity and give you this land as a gift. How about it?"

Lucas sneered. He couldn't be bothered to speak to Oscar.

But while Lucas didn't say anything, the people from California couldn't sit still anymore as they burst into laughter after hearing what Oscar said.

"Hahahaha, this is hilarious. This fool is actually demanding that Mr. Gray pledges allegiance to him? How ridiculous!"

"Mr. Gray is the overlord of California and Oregon. Who in this world can make him submit? This person is dreaming!"

"Who on earth is this fool? He said that his last name is Smith. Is there a wealthy Smith family in California?"

"No, no, he's probably from one of the eight top families in DC! Shut up, everyone!"

"W-what? The Smiths of the eight top families of DC?"

At first, these people from powerful families were laughing at Oscar's overestimation of his own abilities. But when someone guessed that Oscar was from the Smiths of the eight top families of DC, those mocking him immediately had their jaws drop and began shivering and sweating.

The reason they spoke just now was to please Lucas. But when they knew that the person they mocked was a big shot from one of the eight top families, they were instantly frightened and wanted to shove their words back into their mouths.

The two big shots were having a showdown!

They could no longer be involved in who won and obtained the land in the end.

Just as Lucas narrowed his eyes and was about to place another bid, Pamela suddenly beat him to it and raised the bidding card in her hand. "Three hundred million!"

Everyone was in an uproar!

Pamela's bid was twice Oscar's!

The starting price of over 35 million dollars for a piece of land has now increased multiple times to 300 million dollars. It was simply crazy!

“Oh my God! Who is she? This beautiful woman even offered three hundred million in one breath. This is too amazing!”

“Three hundred million! I’m going to have a heart attack! I’ve never seen three hundred million dollars in cash in my life! But this piece of land... will definitely incur losses at a price of three hundred million!”

“This... It was originally two big shots fighting, and now another one has appeared. This level of competition is simply not something we’re qualified to attend!”

The auction hall was noisy and boisterous, and the slightly chubby auctioneer fell into a frenzy of excitement because of the sudden sky-high prices. His voice even broke as he said, “Three hundred million! This beautiful lady has bid three hundred million! Does anyone want to bid higher?”

Oscar’s face was so gloomy and sullen that the veins on his forehead were bursting out as his fingers tightly gripped the armrest of his chair.

He wanted to snatch the land from Lucas’s hand and use it to attack Lucas and his company.

In his prediction, Lucas could at most put together a hundred and fifty million dollars or so, which was incomparable to his financial power.

He planned to use the Smiths’ financial strength to suppress Lucas and take the land by the river to build the largest cemetery in Orange County so as to force Lucas to bow down to him and the Smiths.

But at this time, the woman from the Howards actually jumped out and intervened!

“Hmph, does the Howard family want to get involved too?” A trace of ruthless menace appeared in Oscar’s eyes as he stared at Pamela.

But Pamela smiled radiantly and said, “Uncle Oscar, it’s not right for you to say that. This is an auction where all participants have the right to bid. You can’t forbid the Howards from bidding.”

Oscar shot her a look of abhorrence and warned, “Don’t give me that smile! I advise you not to get involved in this mess!”

“Uncle Oscar, are you scared?” Pamela was not afraid of Oscar’s threat at all and provoked him. “If you’re afraid and don’t dare to bid against me, you should quit!”

“Hmph!” Oscar sneered and raised the bidding card in his hand. “Three hundred and one million!”

Chapter 812 On Fire

Of course, Oscar wasn't willing to lose the bid to Pamela, a young girl. It would be too embarrassing.

But he wasn't that generous either. He had merely bid a million dollars more than Pamela did.

Pamela immediately covered her mouth and laughed. "Uncle Oscar, you're so miserly. You bid almost double the previous bid just now and increased the price by nearly seventy million dollars! I just learned from you and bid double your bid. Anyway, the Howards are rich enough to play this game.

"But you don't seem to be in the right state now. You added only a million dollars. Isn't that embarrassing to the Smiths? If the Smiths don't have enough money, you'd better withdraw sooner and stop competing with me!"

Pamela's tone was full of contempt and mockery.

How could Oscar stand being mocked by such a young girl? In particular, the Smiths could never lose to the Howards!

"You actually said that the Smiths are poor. Hmph!" Oscar raised his bidding card and shouted, "I bid thirty hundred and fifty million dollars!"

After placing his bid, he looked at Pamela provocatively, only to see a trace of contempt in her eyes.

Oscar immediately felt an ominous hunch and some regret.

He had been too impulsive just now!

This time, he had prepared only 300 million dollars, which was the biggest financial support his family could give him. But he had just bid 350 million dollars. Where was he supposed to find 50 million dollars?

He had wanted to force Lucas at first, but he didn't expect Pamela to get involved, causing things to change drastically.

Lucas, whom he should have attacked, was sitting in his chair with a relaxed expression like a spectator watching a show.

This made the feeling of displeasure in Oscar's heart even stronger.

"Okay, now the price for this plot of land has reached three hundred and fifty million dollars!"

“Is there a higher bid than this?”

The auctioneer was so excited that his face was red, and his voice was extremely loud. Three hundred and fifty million dollars was definitely a staggering price for land. The commission he would get as the auctioneer would be enough to last him a lifetime!

Given how high the price was, there was naturally no one daring to bid higher, including Pamela, who had just bid against Oscar. She was now sitting without any intention of continuing to raise her card.

“Girl, weren’t you just competing with us Smiths and saying that you Howards are rich? Why aren’t you bidding anymore?” Oscar said to Pamela provocatively while suppressing his panic.

Pamela tilted her head and showed a girly and mischievous smile. “Uncle Oscar, please don’t take what I just said to heart! I’m just a young girl. How can I possibly make decisions about so much money for the Smiths?”

“I’m not like you, Uncle Oscar. You’re already one of the successors of the Smiths, and you might even be able to take charge of the whole Smith family in the future. All you need to do is say something, and your family’s billions of dollars will be at your disposal. You’ll be able to use the money as you please. I can’t compare to you at all!” Pamela’s words were full of hidden mockery and sarcasm, making Oscar even more furious.

At the same time, the ominous hunch in his heart became increasingly intense, causing him to break out in cold sweat.

“Wh-what do you mean by that? Do you not want to continue bidding? Or is it that the Howards are admitting defeat?” Oscar suppressed the panic in his heart and sneered at Pamela.

“Haha, Uncle Oscar, I told you. I was just joking with you. How can I possibly dare to compete against you for this land?”

“I’m just a weak woman of the Howards, and I don’t have any right over the family’s money. It’s naturally impossible for me to spend so much money. If you want to compete with the Howards, wouldn’t it be more appropriate for you to go to my father and grandfather?” Pamela tilted her head and smiled slyly.

Her words almost drove Oscar to his grave!

He had initially bid 150 million dollars just to force Lucas to admit defeat and bow down to the Smiths.

But Pamela actually jumped out all of a sudden and bid 300 million dollars, only to say that she was just joking!

If this matter spread back to DC, and his family members learned that he had been fooled by a girl from the Howard family, his reputation would be completely ruined.

The Smiths had always valued their reputation. After Vince was forced to kneel down and apologize to Lucas, the Smiths had already been embarrassed, so much so that he lost his position as a successor.

And now, the fact that he was fooled by a young girl was just as embarrassing, and he was certain that the Smiths wouldn't forgive him!

After Pamela provoked him, he had impulsively bid 350 million dollars, but he only had 300 million dollars in total. There was no way he could make up for the remaining 50 million.

If no one else bid, he would definitely have to proceed with buying the land for 350 million dollars. Once he failed to get enough money to buy it, it would be even more embarrassing.

Beads of sweat gushed out of Oscar's body one after another. He turned pale, and he even started swaying unsteadily as if he was about to die.

"Hey, Uncle Oscar, what's the matter with you? You don't seem very comfortable. Are you sick?" Pamela looked at Oscar and pretended to be surprised. "But Uncle Oscar, you were fine just now. Did you suddenly fall ill? Ah, that's terrible. Your family will be worried sick when they find out.

"Wait, Uncle Smith, why do you look even more awful now? Do you want to hide this matter from your family? That's strange!

"Could it be that it's not because you're sick but because you can't afford to take out the three hundred and fifty million dollars you bid?

"Ah, if that's the case, it'll be horrible! If you really can't afford it, it'll be such an embarrassment to the Smiths! I'm afraid they might strip you of your position as a successor too. That would be terrible!"

Pamela seemed to be dead bent on driving him mad as she spoke sarcastically.

Oscar's face was flushed, and he was panting so heavily that the veins on his forehead were bulging. He clenched his fists tightly. Pamela was driving him mad.

Although this was what he really thought, he was still infuriated that a malicious young girl was calling him out in public.

“Shut up!” Oscar roared at Pamela before turning to face Lucas. He snapped furiously, “Punk, weren’t you very arrogant earlier? Didn’t you say that you would fight with me for this land? Why are you being cowardly now?”

“Is that all you’re capable of? Do you have to hide behind a woman because you don’t even dare to bid against me?”

“I’ve already bid. If you don’t dare to beat my bid, just surrender to the Smiths! What kind of an overlord do you think you are?”

“Don’t forget. Once I win the auction for this land, I’ll build Orange County’s largest cemetery on it. When the time comes, I’ll see what you can do!”

Oscar yelled at Lucas to goad him into bidding.

As long as Lucas’s bid was a little bit higher than his, he would immediately give up bidding and put all the pressure on Lucas instead.

But Lucas merely sneered. “Instead of trying to goad me, you’d better worry about how to take out three hundred and fifty million dollars!”

Chapter 813 Settled With a knock off the Gavel

A look of despair appeared on Oscar’s face.

He never expected that Lucas would rather be mocked by him than take over this troublesome matter!

What could he do now?

“Is anyone else bidding a higher price for this plot of land?”

“The highest bid now is three hundred and fifty million dollars. Three hundred and fifty million, going once!

“Three hundred and fifty million, going twice!”

The auctioneer didn’t care about their arguing at all. He raised the auction gavel in his hand enthusiastically.

Oscar looked so sullen at the moment that aghast was not enough to describe his expression. He appeared extremely nervous, and he was sweating profusely. In fact, he was panic-stricken.

He had always prided himself on being the smartest person in the Smith family. After learning that Vince was stripped of his position as the family’s successor because he

had embarrassed the family, Oscar had been feeling extremely smug. He even assumed that he was already set to become the future helmsman of the Smiths.

But he had bid 350 million dollars now, and if he couldn't come up with the money, the Smiths would definitely remove him as a successor for embarrassing the family!

But regardless of how unwilling he was, the gavel in the auctioneer's eventually fell!

"Three hundred and fifty million, going thrice!"

Smack!

With the sound of the gavel, it meant that this auction was officially set in stone and could no longer be changed!

The auctioneer, whose face was flushed, shouted agitatedly, "Come on, let's congratulate today's winner, Mr. Smith! Congratulations to Mr. Smith for successfully winning the auction for the land by the river at a price of three hundred and fifty million dollars! Congratulations!"

"Congratulations!"

"Three hundred and fifty million is a sky-high price!"

"As expected of one of the Smiths of DC, how wealthy and powerful. Impressive!"

Everyone applauded and congratulated Oscar. But many of them were looking at him like he was a fool.

Although the land by the Sierra River was good, the total area was less than 10,000 square meters, and the actual usable area was even smaller. Yet he spent 350 million dollars on it. Regardless of what he used it for, it would definitely incur losses!

Even if he built another Haven Manor, he wouldn't be able to recoup his various investments and construction costs.

Moreover, Oscar had said that he would use the land as a public cemetery. It was a huge waste that was akin to throwing away 350 million dollars. The Smiths were probably the only ones who would have such a wastrel of an heir!

Despite being surrounded by people congratulating him, Oscar didn't process a single word they said but instead remained sitting limply.

He had only wanted to force Lucas to compromise and surrender to him, which was why he had wanted to snatch the land from him and provoked him by saying he would build a cemetery on it. But he didn't expect to end up landing himself in trouble!

“Uncle Oscar, you are really courageous. It’s no wonder you’re a Smith! It’s really rare for anyone to be so generous as to spend three hundred and fifty million dollars on a plot of land in a place like Orange County!

“If word of this gets back to DC, I’m afraid many people will envy the Smiths’ financial power.

“But frankly speaking, I wouldn’t dare to do such a thing because I’d be afraid of people thinking that I’m out of my mind for spending so much money on a plot of land in this county. I’m not as thick-skinned as you are, Uncle Oscar!

“But I just don’t know what the helmsman and the other members of the Smiths will think after hearing about this. Haha, what do you think, Uncle Oscar?”

Despite smiling, Pamela was kicking Oscar when he was down and rubbing salt into his wound.

Oscar’s face turned darker with every word she said. Her words were like knives stabbing his heart.

Infuriated, Oscar suddenly stood up and yelled at Pamela, “Shut up! Shut up! “It’s all your fault for creating trouble, you little bitch. Yet you’re still being sarcastic to me. If you dare to utter another word, I will immediately get someone to strip you naked and show you to the public!”

He was now extremely annoyed and furious at Pamela. The moment he spoke, he issued a vicious threat.

“You... you...” Pamela was exasperated. No matter what, she was only a young woman of 25 years old. She turned beet red in embarrassment after being humiliated and threatened in public.

At this moment, the auctioneer walked over and asked cautiously, “Mr. Smith, since you’ve won the auction for this land, may I ask... how you would like to pay for it?”

Although he now knew that Oscar was a member of the Smiths in DC, after hearing his conversation with the stunning beauty, the auctioneer felt rather worried. If Oscar won the auction but wasn’t willing to pay, things would get tricky.

Oscar was in a terrible mood right now. After the auctioneer asked him this question, he immediately snapped in annoyance, “This auction isn’t valid!”

He pointed at Pamela and cursed angrily, “It’s all this little bitch’s fault. If she hadn’t deliberately bid up the price, I wouldn’t have placed this bid! This auction doesn’t count at all!”

Oscar's brazen words immediately caused everyone around him to be in disbelief.

He's going back on his words? Is he joking?

They began to wonder if this person in front of them was really the future successor of the Smiths, one of the eight great families of DC.

"Haha, this is really funny!" Pamela sneered. "It's an embarrassment to the Smiths to have a successor like you!

"Auctions are all fair bidding. If you think I deliberately bid up the price, you could have chosen not to bid after me!

"The person who bid three hundred and fifty million is you. No one held you at gunpoint and forced you to place that bid."

Oscar said angrily, "You just admitted yourself that you don't have the money on hand, nor do you have the right to use the Howards' assets. Yet you still bid three hundred million. Weren't you deliberately raising the price?"

Refusing to give in, Pamela retorted, "I did bid three hundred million. But if you thought that what I did wasn't right and you couldn't afford it, you shouldn't have bid more than me! At that time, it would have been my problem whether or not I could afford it. It would have had nothing to do with you.

"But you insisted on competing with me, or rather, you insisted on trumping the Howards, so you bid three hundred and fifty million. Is it my fault?"

"According to your logic, in the future, no one should bid against you in any auctions that you're participating in. You should be the only one bidding. Otherwise, everyone else will be raising prices on purpose!

"Also, whenever the Smiths bid high prices to pressure others but can't afford to pay, they can also invalidate the auction by accusing others of raising prices on purpose, huh? "I must tell my father and grandfather, as well as other families in DC, about this so that they can judge if the Smiths have the right to change the rules of auctions at will!

Pamela was sharp-tongued, and her words struck a sour note in Oscar. It was almost as if she was scolding him for blaming others for his act of stupidity.

Oscar was so enraged that he was about to lose his mind. "Bitch, you're courting death! Don't think I don't dare to deal with you!"

Pamela wasn't afraid. "What do you want? If you dare to touch me, my grandfather will definitely not let you off!"

“Hmph, as long as I don’t kill you, what can your grandfather do to me? Are the Smiths afraid of the Howards?” Oscar said sinisterly while staring at Pamela’s pretty face and svelte figure. All of a sudden, there was malice all over his face. “I’m going to strip you naked here and show everyone the most beautiful side of a woman from the Howard family! Hehe, would your grandfather dare to make a fuss and bring this matter up again?”

“Invincible Phantom Hands, go strip this woman naked. Fully naked!” With Oscar’s order, Invincible Phantom Hands, who was standing behind him, immediately rushed toward Pamela!

Chapter 814 The Only Turning Point

Pamela was astonished, and her bodyguard immediately charged out in a bid to stop Invincible Phantom Hands. But the bodyguard that she brought was only an ordinary expert, and he was no match for Invincible Phantom Hands. He was flung out after an exchange.

Whoosh!

Pamela looked extremely uneasy and immediately grabbed Lucas’s arm.

In her opinion, Lucas was her Prince Charming, her savior, and he could definitely save her!

Lucas looked down at the person grabbing his arm tightly and said indifferently, “Hello.”

Pamela raised his head with a nervous and pleading look on her face. “Help... help me, Lucas!”

“... If you promise me one thing, I can help you solve the trouble you’re facing,” Lucas said.

“Okay, I promise!” Pamela immediately agreed without thinking or asking what Lucas wanted of her. “As long as you help me solve the trouble, I’ll agree to... anything!” Pamela thought of something and began blushing shyly.

Seeing Lucas step forward and stand in front of Pamela, everyone revealed a trace of puzzlement on their faces. Is Mr. Gray... going to confront the Smiths, one of the eight most powerful families in DC, for the sake of this beautiful woman?

With a threatening look, Oscar snapped, “Kid, are you trying to save the damsel in distress? This is a fight between the Smiths and the Howards. Are you sure you want to intervene?”

Lucas said indifferently, "Aren't I the person you wanted to deal with the most in the first place? I'll give you a chance. If you leave Orange County with your people right now, I can spare your life. Otherwise, you'll never leave Orange County again!"

It was a threat!

A blatant threat!

Everyone in the auction venue was shocked. After a brief moment of dead silence, they got into an uproar.

"Impressive! As expected of Mr. Gray, the Master of California. He's so domineering! He doesn't even take the eight top families of DC seriously!"

"Mr. Gray has never taken the Smiths seriously. Have you guys forgotten how he had the guts to force Vince Smith to kneel and apologize in public before he even became the Master of California? He even chased him out of California. Now that Mr. Gray is the overlord of our two states, he's only going to be even more dauntless!"

"However... the Smiths are still one of the eight great giants of DC after all. They're a true hegemon. Will Mr. Gray cause a disaster by offending them?"

Most of the people attending the auction were from the powerful families in California, and the majority of them appreciated Lucas's domineering spirit. But there was also a small number of people who felt worried. After all, Lucas was dealing with the Smiths of DC!

Oscar was utterly infuriated by what Lucas said.

His face turned red, and his entire body felt like it was burning with a raging fire. He clenched his fists and said through gritted teeth, "Brat, it seems that you won't know what death is if I don't teach you a lesson!"

"Invincible Phantom Hands, since this punk is so disrespectful to the Smiths, then grant him his death wish!" Oscar said to Invincible Phantom Hands, who was in front of him.

But Invincible Phantom Hands didn't follow his order and immediately attack Lucas. Instead, he stood in front of Lucas and looked at him cautiously.

Invincible Phantom Hands wasn't a fool like Oscar, who wasn't proficient in martial arts. Although Lucas was just standing there indifferently, he felt the aura unique to top-level powerhouses from Lucas's body.

Although the young man in front of him was only in his twenties, he had impressive battle records. He had first forced the Smiths' expert protecting Vince into retreating and

then defeated Julian York, an expert from the Peerless Martial Association's headquarters. He then went on to become the overlord of two states.

If he really had to face Lucas, he wasn't sure if he could kill him.

It was even hard to say who would win and who would lose.

"Punk, the Smiths aren't people you can mess with, so you'd better not poke your nose too far! Otherwise, you'll bring a huge disaster upon yourself," Invincible Phantom Hands said with a grim expression.

If he could, he wanted to try to convince Lucas without fighting him.

"Invincible Phantom Hands, don't waste your breath on saying so much nonsense with him! I told you to take him down immediately. Didn't you hear me?"

"If you don't, I will call the helmsman immediately!" Oscar hollered furiously.

He was about to burn with rage. First, Lucas and Pamela had provoked him one after another, and he had just done something foolish and embarrassing. No matter what, he had to defeat Lucas immediately to get his pride back, instead of talking to him! Hearing this, Invincible Phantom Hands merely sighed before charging at Lucas.

Although it was true that he only needed to be responsible for protecting Oscar's safety, the image of the Smiths was now greatly affected, so he had to obey Oscar's order.

With a drastic change of expression, Pamela blurted, "Lucas, watch out!"

Although she had long known that Lucas was powerful—he was her beloved man after all — she knew Invincible Phantom Hands' reputation well. He was indeed a tough opponent for Lucas, and she didn't know if Lucas could defeat him.

The other people in the auction hall hurriedly retreated toward the corners of the venue when they realized that a fight was about to break out, leaving a large open space in the middle, lest they were affected in the process.

Lucas was indeed powerful, but the powerhouse of the Smiths was just as impressive. Once they fought, ordinary people wouldn't be able to withstand it.

"Hahahaha, Invincible Phantom Hands, kill him! Once this bastard dies, California and Oregon will belong to the Smiths!" Oscar guffawed menacingly. It was his only shot at regaining his lost pride!

As long as Lucas died, he could use Invincible Phantom Hands to deter the top families of California. At that time, the disgraceful matter he had just done impulsively—bidding

for a plot of land at a staggering price but being unable to pay for it-wouldn't be spread around, let alone be discovered by his family in DC.

Otherwise, once they found out, he would probably suffer the same fate as Vince.

Thus, the matter would be solved once Lucas died!

Seeing that Invincible Phantom Hands had already rushed to Lucas's front and was about to swing his fist at Lucas, who was still standing still without reacting, Oscar couldn't help laughing

"Haha, what bullshit overlord of two states? Your reputation is just people blowing—"

Before Oscar could finish, his pupils constricted, and astonishment appeared on his face.

A second before Invincible Phantom Hands was about to strike, Lucas suddenly raised his foot and violently kicked the latter in the chest!

Bang!

Chapter 815 I Want To Shame Him

Invincible Phantom Hands was kicked far away by the massive force and knocked over several tables and chairs before finally rolling across the floor in a wretched state.

Even Julian, the top expert from the Peerless Martial Association who had killed two experts on the arena, was no match for Lucas, so it was no surprise that the Smiths' expert was no match for Lucas.

The only person at the scene who was extremely shocked was naturally Oscar.

He never thought that Invincible Phantom Hands, his grandfather's personal bodyguard and one of the top three experts of the Smiths, would be kicked far away and defeated by Lucas in one move!

Are Lucas Gray's martial arts skills already so terrifying?

"You just said that you wanted someone to kill me, right?" Lucas retracted his leg and walked toward Oscar one step at a time.

It was as if he was stepping directly on Oscar's heart one foot after another.

Oscar was no longer as arrogant as before. He was sweating profusely as he hurriedly retreated backward. He warned sternly, "You... Don't come over! I-I'm... the future successor of the Smiths. If you dare to do anything to me, the Smiths won't spare you!"

“You... Stop! Don’t move any farther!” he shouted frantically while backing away in a panic.

Unfortunately, there were many tables and chairs set up in the venue. In a panic, Oscar tripped over the leg of a chair and fell to the floor in a disheveled state. The shock and fear on his face were even more obvious.

But why would Lucas listen to him?

As Lucas approached him step by step, Oscar was on the verge of a breakdown.

“I-Invincible Phantom Hands, hurry up and

will be the first one that family won’t let go!” Oscar screamed at the top of his lungs, his voice almost cracking.

Invincible Phantom Hands, who had already been kicked to the corner of the auction venue, clutched his chest and endured the excruciating pain coming from within as he struggled to get up from the floor and shield Oscar behind him.

Invincible Phantom Hands stared at Lucas and said with great difficulty, “Lucas Gray, you... you’d better think about this carefully. If you really harm him, the Smiths will fight

Lucas looked at them expressionlessly. “You wanted to kill me first. You should have long expected what would happen when you’re inferior to others.”

Invincible Phantom Hands was speechless.

Although he had heard from Vince and the Smiths’ bodyguard just how impressive Lucas was, he hadn’t cared.

In fact, after hearing that Lucas had defeated and killed Julian York, Invincible Phantom Hands felt that Lucas must have used some despicable means.

But now that he truly fought Lucas, he finally realized that the power gap between experts could be worlds apart!

Lucas’s kick earlier had been extremely fast. He had only caught a glimpse of it from the corner of his eye before he could react in time and was kicked far, far away.

If not for the fact that he had trained his bones to be flexible and strong for decades, allowing him to be much more resistant to beatings than ordinary people, Lucas’s kick would have made him terribly injured and unable to get up.

Although Lucas was young, he was indeed a top powerhouse who was rare to come by!

“Even then, I must stop you!” Invincible Phantom Hands gritted his teeth and charged toward Lucas with all his might.

Bang!

Lucas kicked Invincible Phantom Hands in his gut.

Although Invincible Phantom Hands was already mentally prepared this time, he still didn't manage to block Lucas's kick and was sent flying far away! Oscar watched everything with a dumbfounded expression, unable to believe the facts before his eyes.

Invincible Phantom Hands was one of the Smiths' most powerful experts, but he was sent flying twice by Lucas's kicks, unable to retaliate at all!

Lucas was probably even stronger than the Smiths' most powerful expert.

Oscar's teeth started chattering, and he was full of remorse.

If he had known that Lucas was so strong, he would have used a different method right from the beginning instead of opting for such a rough and crude approach just because he had the support of the family's expert.

I should have used a gentler and smarter way to deal with Lucas...

“Watch out!!” While Oscar was letting his imagination run wild, Invincible Phantom Hands, on the floor at the side, suddenly shouted to warn him.

Oscar snapped back to his senses and raised his hand, only to see Lucas's terrifying figure appearing in front of him like a demon.

The next second, Lucas lifted Oscar up by his collar.

Before he even had the time to panic and ask Lucas what he was going to do to him...

Smack!

A loud slap landed on Oscar's face mercilessly!

Oscar's head cocked to the side, and a bright red slap appeared on his face.

Everyone in the auction venue watched the scene in shock, completely dumbfounded.

They never thought that Lucas would actually slap Oscar's face so hard!

Oscar was so furious that he was about to lose his mind. He had lived for decades, but he had never been shamed in public like this before!

It was a huge insult to him!

“You... How dare you... Ah!!”

But before he could finish, Lucas slapped him again!

Smack!

Smack!

Smack!

Lucas kept a straight face and slapped Oscar like he was a slapping machine.

After more than ten slaps, Oscar’s face became swollen. Blood was flowing from his mouth, and he had lost several teeth.

Of course, Lucas had controlled his strength. Otherwise, if he slapped Oscar with all his might, the latter’s head would long have been crushed.

“Don’t the Smiths care about their reputation the most? I’m going to slap your face right now to insult them!” Lucas said coldly as he threw Oscar onto the floor.

Chapter 816 Gift

Everyone present heard Lucas’s words clearly.

They finally understood why Lucas slapped Oscar on the face in front of everyone.

The Smiths of DC cared a lot about their reputation because their previous successor had been forced by Lucas to kneel down and apologize for his mistakes, which caused him to lose his position in the family and be replaced by Oscar.

But now that Oscar had offended Lucas and had been slapped more than twenty times, these slaps hit not only Oscar but also the Smiths!

Standing in front of Oscar and looking at him from above, Lucas stepped on his chest and said coldly, “You clearly said that the Smiths wouldn’t let me off if I dared to hit you. Now, I’d like to hear how you’re not going to let me

off.”

At this moment, Oscar looked extremely disheveled. Not only had his fair and chubby face become red and swollen like a pig’s, but he had lost several teeth, and blood was flowing out of his mouth. He looked utterly miserable.

He was no longer the arrogant and unreasonable successor of the Smiths.

Invincible Phantom Hands had a look of despair. He had just watched Lucas slap Oscar, making him anxious. Unfortunately, he had struggled to get up and stop him several times, but he couldn't move due to his injuries from Lucas's kicks.

He knew that he had completely failed in protecting Oscar this time!

This time, the Smiths had really suffered. Next, they would probably have to fight to the death with Lucas.

Lucas's strength was so terrifying that even if the Smiths' top expert came personally, he probably wouldn't be able to deal with Lucas.

On the floor, Oscar spat out his teeth and blood with great difficulty while panting heavily with horror all over his face.

He was struggling to get up, but Lucas was stepping on his chest, making it impossible for him to break free.

"Mm... You... I..." Oscar said with difficulty. But due to the swelling of his face and most of his teeth having been knocked out, he couldn't speak coherently, and no one could understand what he was trying to say.

But according to speculation, Oscar should be begging Lucas to let him off.

"What are you trying to say? I can't hear you clearly." Lucas bent forward slightly, seemingly ready to listen to him.

"I... Mmph..."

"You want me to let you off, and the price you're willing to pay is to give me the land by the Sierra River?"

"I... I..."

"You're saying that the Smiths will also pay for everything in full?"

"Mmph! I... Mmph..."

"Fine. On the account of your sincerity, I'll spare your life for now."

With that, Lucas smiled and removed his foot from Oscar's body.

The crowd could only hear Oscar grunting and whimpering incoherently, but Lucas actually managed to 'hear' what he said.

Regardless of whether Oscar really said this or not, everyone was clear that the plot of land that Oscar had bought at a staggering price of 350 million dollars would be given to Lucas for free now.

Even if Oscar couldn't afford to pay for it, the Smiths definitely had enough money.

But they had no qualifications to pay attention to whether or not the Smiths would fork out the money obediently or settle scores with Lucas.

Besides, Oscar had already disgraced himself in front of Lucas today. The Smiths would probably want to replace him as successor.

While everyone was watching with complicated gazes, Lucas turned around to leave.

Only after Lucas vanished did Invincible Phantom Hands finally get up and walk toward Oscar, whose body was limp on the floor. He picked Oscar up with great difficulty before leaving the auction hall.

He had a solemn expression on his face, and he was determined to report what had happened to the helmsman of the Smiths as soon as possible so that he could decide what to do next.

Oscar would probably be the next person to be abandoned by the Smith family.

"Lucas... Mr. Gray, wait for me!"

As soon as Lucas stepped out of Emerald International, the sound of panting suddenly came from behind him.

Pamela caught up to him from behind in her stilettos.

Lucas stopped and looked at Pamela with bewilderment.

Since the matter had already been settled, why did she chase after him?

Pamela took two breaths gently before asking, "Mr. Gray, didn't you mention that you would help me solve the trouble if I agreed to one of your requests? I'd like to ask you... wh-what your request is?"

"I-I've already told you before that I'd agree to all your requests..."

Perhaps because she had been running too fast or because of some other reason, Pamela had a red glow on her face.

She was a beautiful person to begin with, and now that she was panting shyly, she was absolutely gorgeous.

Moreover, her words really left a lot to the imagination.

Lucas was stunned for a moment before finally recalling that he had indeed made this casual remark earlier.

But the woman in front of him had probably misunderstood.

“I have only one request. I don’t want to see any of the Howards appearing in California and Oregon again from now on. Go back and tell this to your grandfather,” Lucas said his request in an indifferent voice.

Pamela suddenly raised her head and looked at Lucas in disbelief. The redness of her face faded immediately and turned pale.

She thought that... Lucas would be interested in her, so he said that he would save her. Besides, she had the mentality of a young girl and even wondered what kind of request Lucas would make.

But she never expected that Lucas didn’t seem to have that intention for her. He even wanted the Howards to stop appearing in California and Oregon in the future.

Crack!

Pamela seemed to hear the sound of her heart shattering. She had been thinking of the man in front of her for more than a year. But now that she finally got to meet him, their interaction had actually ended up like this.

“I’ve said my piece. Goodbye!” Lucas left without looking back.

Pamela stood frozen in place, watching Lucas’s figure walking farther and farther away. Her nose crinkled up as tears flowed from her eyes.

But no one knew that she was crying.

Meanwhile, after taking Oscar back to their accommodations, Invincible Phantom Hands immediately called the helmsman of the Smiths, reported everything that had just happened in Orange County, and waited for further instructions.

Chapter 817 The Smiths’ Plan

The Smiths in DC...

In a luxurious villa in the middle of a large estate, an old man in his late seventies was sitting on a large couch.

He was wearing a body-hugging silk suit consisting of a white top and a black bottom. His hair was white and spotted but neatly combed back. He looked extremely smart and sharp. There were wrinkles on his face and a pair of oval-shaped gold-rimmed glasses resting on his nose bridge. His eyes were flickering beneath the lenses.

There was another old man in his sixties in a gray butler's uniform standing respectfully beside this old man.

"Master, is it news from California?" the butler asked.

The bespectacled old man on the couch was Tyson Smith, the helmsman of the Smiths.

After hanging up, Tyson Smith looked extremely gloomy. He said through gritted teeth, "It's indeed news from California, but it's not good news. Oscar lost to Lucas Gray and was shamed in public. He's been beaten up so badly that he can't say a complete sentence!"

"What?!" The butler was astonished for a moment. He hurriedly asked, "It's Lucas Gray again? He actually hit Mr. Oscar? He... he's way too arrogant!" Tyson nodded and slammed his fist on his desk. "That's right! This kid is way too arrogant. He's just an abandoned outcast of the Huttons. He's actually shamed the Smiths again and again! Last time, he forced Vince to kneel in public, and this time, he slapped Oscar!"

"His behavior is a blatant insult to the Smiths!"

"How dare he provoke the Smiths and our dignity?! If we continue to let him be, outsiders will think that the Smiths are pushovers! I must make him pay the price!"

The butler hesitated for a moment before continuing, "But... this time, Invincible Phantom Hands, a top expert, was by Mr. Oscar's side. How could he have been hit by Lucas?"

In order to prevent Oscar from facing the same humiliation as Vince did, Tyson had sent his personal bodyguard, Invincible Phantom Hands, to protect Oscar. But how...

Tyson said furiously, "It was Invincible Phantom Hands who called. He told me that Lucas's martial arts skills are extremely good and that he's no match for the kid. Instead, he was even injured by him!"

"What? Even Invincible Phantom Hands is no match for Lucas Gray?!" The butler was in disbelief. "But... according to the information we received, Lucas is only a young man in his late twenties. Even if he started practicing martial arts since he was born, he could have trained for only around twenty years. How can he compare to Invincible Phantom Hands, who has trained for nearly fifty years?"

Tyson roared impatiently, "How would I know? This punk Lucas Gray is too bizarre! We can't take this lying down!"

"Master, are you... planning to dispatch that person to kill Lucas?" the butler asked carefully while staring at Tyson's sullen face.

"Of course!" Tyson said firmly. "If we can't kill this punk, there will be no way for the family to wash ourselves of the shame. The Smiths will become a laughing stock! No matter what, this punk must die!" / please keep reading on Myb0xn0vel(d0t)c0m.

After thinking about it, the butler shook his head and persuaded, "Master, I think this solution is a little inappropriate."

Before Tyson lost his temper, the butler hurriedly continued, "Think about it. We know very well how strong Invincible Phantom Hands is, and his martial arts skills are in the top three among the Smiths. But even he's no match for Lucas Gray. Even if we sent that man, he might not be able to defeat Lucas.

"Once he fails, the Smiths won't have a stronger expert. At that time, we'll probably never regain our dignity.

"So, I think we should think of another solution that will absolutely allow us to defeat Lucas Gray! If nothing works, we can consider inviting that man. What do you think?"

Having been by Tyson's side for most of his life, the butler had already gained his trust.

If not for the butler advising Tyson and helping him do many things back then, Tyson probably wouldn't be the helmsman now.

Thus, Tyson had always valued his opinion greatly

Besides, what the butler said made sense.

The first two times they had sent the family's experts to follow their family members to California, they had all been defeated by Lucas. So it was indeed time to consider trying a different approach.

"What do you think we should do now? What is the solution you mentioned?" Tyson immediately asked eagerly.

The butler's eyes gleamed as he said slowly, "First of all, I think we can't provoke Lucas Gray. Instead, we should take the initiative to show him some goodwill and try our best to get closer to him—".

"No!" Tyson immediately interrupted.

Tyson frowned angrily. "Lucas Gray bullied two of my sons and even shamed the Smiths. You want us to show goodwill to him? Are we supposed to accept the previous insults? This is absolutely impossible!"

"Master, calm down. Hear me out." The butler hurriedly pacified Tyson. "Those who dare to provoke the Smiths and shame us must not be spared. We won't let him off, but there's no need to rush now."

"What I just said about getting on good terms with him for the time being is only the first step of the plan. The second step is the most crucial..."

He inched closer and whispered his plan into Tyson's ear.

Tyson was furious at first, but after hearing the butler's plan, the anger on his face turned into joy as he repeatedly exclaimed in approval, "Good! Great! You're indeed intelligent. What a wonderful plan. We'll definitely kill this punk!"

The butler smiled. "Since you approve of my idea, let me go to California personally to meet Lucas Gray and see what kind of a person he is!"

Tyson nodded. "Okay, you're my confidante, and I value you the most. In that case, I'll hand this matter to you."

"No matter what, make sure to make this punk sense our goodwill!"

A sly look appeared on Tyson's face.

"Yes! I will definitely live up to your expectations, Master!" A scheming and sinister smile appeared on the butler's face as well.

Chapter 818 Events of That Year

While the Smiths were preparing to deal with Lucas, Lucas had just left the auction venue of Emerald International and returned to the Stardust Corporation.

But when his car arrived at the entrance, he found a familiar-looking black Mercedes-Benz parked nearby.

Seeing his Jaguar approaching, Florence immediately opened the rear door of the black Mercedes-Benz and stepped out, seemingly having waited for Lucas for a long time.

Lucas frowned. What is this woman doing here again?

When Lucas got out of his car, Florence walked over and said, "Lucas, I need a word with you. Shall we find a place to chat?"

This time, Florence finally stopped behaving arrogantly and ordering him around.

But Lucas still felt that he had nothing to say to her.

“If you have anything to say, you can say so here. I still have something to do, and I don’t have much time to listen to your nonsense,” Lucas said calmly.

Anger instantly surged in Florence’s heart.

She had already lowered her pride and spoken to him politely, yet he was still being so hostile and disrespectful to her, his mother-in-law!

But once she thought of her purpose for looking for Lucas, she could only suppress her anger.

Lucas noticed all the subtle changes in her expression.

Florence took a step back and said politely, “Okay, what I want to tell you is very important, and I can’t let others know about it. If possible, could you please come inside my car to talk?”

Lucas glanced at her and thought that she might have something to say about Cheyenne, so he nodded and got inside Florence’s black Mercedes-Benz.

Florence was furious to have been left behind.

She took two deep breaths before walking back to her car and opening the door to get in.

Andy, her personal bodyguard, consciously got out of the car and stood a short distance away from the door, giving the two of them enough space to talk.

“Lucas, first of all, I’d like to apologize for my previous impulsiveness and arrogance! Please forgive me!” The first thing Florence did was apologize to Lucas.

This was beyond Lucas’s expectations.

But because Lucas didn’t have a good impression of Florence, he found her apology a bit pretentious and didn’t believe that she was sincere.

“You didn’t ask me to come here just to say this nonsense, did you?” Lucas said indifferently.

Florence immediately tightened her grip, wishing she could strangle him to death.

She had painstakingly swallowed her pride to apologize to this kid. But he didn't reciprocate at all and even said that she was speaking nonsense!

She closed her eyes and took a deep breath. When she opened her eyes again, there were tears in them. "Lucas, I am Cheyenne's biological mother, and I truly hope to be able to reunite with her so that I can also make it up to her properly. Please help me persuade her!"

Lucas snorted coldly. "When you met her yesterday, Cheyenne asked you several times why you abandoned her, but you kept avoiding her question. There was no sincerity from you at all. You even tried to take her back to the Howards by force. Why should I help someone like you?"

Florence lowered her head sadly. "It's not that I don't want to tell her, but... the truth is too cruel. I don't want Cheyenne to be sad. That's why I can't tell her!"

Lucas raised his eyebrows and looked at Florence, waiting for her to continue.

Florence slowly said, "I didn't intend to talk about these things again. But now, I have a request for you, so I can only tell you the truth so that you know that I'm not hiding it from Cheyenne without reason.

"As the daughter of the helmsman of the Howards, I enjoyed a life of luxury and was respected by everyone, but all this changed after I met that man.

"When I was young, I thought love was the most beautiful thing in this world, so when I fell in love with him, I was willing to give up my wealth, status, and family in order to be with him!

"I left everything behind and followed this man to a faraway place completely unfamiliar to me.

"But this man deceived me. When I was overjoyed to be pregnant with our child, he suddenly left without saying goodbye, and I never heard from him again!

"Do you know how hopeless and miserable I felt when I was pregnant and all alone in a small rental room, waiting for a person who would never return?!"

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Two streams of tears rolled down Florence's face.

Florence gritted her teeth and cried bitterly.

Lucas didn't know whether what Florence said was true or not, so he only remained silent.

"Later on, I relied on the meager amount of money I had left to painstakingly give birth to the baby, but little did I know that her birth was the beginning of a nightmare!

"You know what? After I gave birth to Cheyenne, I struggled to feed her and take care of her alone. At the time, I was a spoiled heiress who had never done a single chore in my life. I had no idea how to take care of a newborn.

"Moreover, I was all alone in a small room, enduring the severe pain after giving birth. I didn't have a single person to take care of me. Instead, I had to take care of a baby who kept crying every day while constantly thinking about a man who treacherously abandoned me. I was living a nightmare of regret and pain every day!

"So I developed postpartum depression and wanted to die! And the worst part was that I hated my baby! At the time, I felt that it was her father's fault that I was in that hellhole, so I hated him and his child!

"There were even times when I almost killed my child!

"I was on the verge of losing my mind and breaking down!"

Florence's face was full of agony. She couldn't take it any longer. She covered her face and bawled loudly while shivering with lingering fear.

Lucas's heartstrings were tugged by Florence's current behavior.

He couldn't help thinking of his wife, Cheyenne.

When he left, Cheyenne had been pregnant with Amelia, and she had to give birth to her and raise her alone. Cheyenne must have experienced the same thing back then.

"Later, I couldn't stand this pain anymore, and I was afraid that I would end up killing my own daughter, so I could only carry her out and put her on the road in front of a hospital, hoping that some kind soul would take her home.

"I hid in the corner until I saw a couple carrying her away before leaving in a daze.

"Can you imagine the dilemma and agony of wanting to kill your own daughter and having no choice but to ruthlessly hand her over to someone else?

"But these things are only a small part of the matter. What happened next is the true despair that made me want to die immediately!"

Florence wiped the tears from her face with the back of her hand and choked with sobs as she continued speaking.

Chapter 819 Cruel Past

What Florence said made Lucas feel some sympathy for her, and he quietly listened to her continue.

“After giving Cheyenne away to someone else to raise, I had no choice but to return to the Howards in DC.

“But my father was furious at me for leaving my family for that man, so I knelt in front of his door for two days and two nights, begging him to forgive me. Only when my knees were bleeding did he finally agree to see me.

“However, he told me that if I wanted the family to accept me again, I had to contribute to the family by marrying a man from the Lambert family, a top family in DC.

“At the time, I had been betrayed by the man I loved, and my heart was practically dead. I no longer had any hope for all men in the world, so it didn’t make any difference to me who I married.

“So I agreed to the marriage alliance and married into the Lamberts without hesitation.

“But after doing so, I found out that things weren’t as simple as I thought. The man I married had violent tendencies. He was a domestic abuser and an alcoholic, and he would hit me and insult me at every turn. My life was a living hell!

“I tried my best to endure it, and I did everything I could to help that man take control of the Lambert family. But the night he did, I killed him! And then I took over everything!”

Florence sniffled. While she recalled the past, her face seemed to be full of misery.

Lucas’s eyebrows twitched. Florence had actually killed her husband with her own hands. She was indeed ruthless.

“Back then, I seemed to have reached the peak of my life. I had all the power and wealth of the Lamberts. No one would hit me, verbally abuse me, and bully me again. I thought my life would remain this way forever. But when the truth came out, everything was so cruel and bloody!

“You probably can’t believe that my life was completely controlled by my father!

“Everything from my marriage to controlling the Lambert family was within my father’s plan.

“And you know what? My father was the reason my husband treated me so terribly and abused me every other day. My father told my husband everything about my relationship with the man I loved and even showed him some intimate photos! That’s why he couldn’t tolerate me!

“And all the people I trusted around me were sent to my side by my father. Their purpose was to confuse me and persuade me to gain control of everything of the Lamberts before turning their wealth and assets into the Howards’ property!

“E-everything I did was within my father’s plan. I was just his pawn!

“That’s how my father treated me and made use of me, his biological daughter. Scary, isn’t

it?’

The expression on Florence’s face twisted into a grimace of contempt and extreme pain.

She was mocking those years of her life.

“And the sad thing is that this isn’t the end and the entire truth.

“Later, because of my control over the Lamberts, my father symbolically gave me some power to make it up to me.

“But I never imagined that I would inadvertently discover something extremely terrifying!

“It turned out that the man I loved, Drew Cruise, didn’t actually abandon me when I was pregnant!

“After learning that I was pregnant, he didn’t want me to continue living in the small and messy rental room and give birth to our child there. Moreover, we eloped without taking our ID, so we couldn’t get a marriage certificate, and our child would be born out of wedlock.

“So he quietly went to the Howards alone, hoping to convince my father to let us be together openly, but my father killed him!

“No wonder Drew left without returning. I waited for him in the rental room for a long time, thinking that he had abandoned me and the baby in my womb. I hated him for so long! But I was wrong!

“He didn’t abandon me and our baby. He went to beg my father for our sake, but my father killed him!”

“When I learned about this, the sky collapsed on me! I’ve never felt so hopeless and regretful!”

Seemingly unable to bear that pain any longer, Florence broke down and burst into tears.

Lucas was stunned and unable to speak.

He could sense that Florence wasn’t faking her breakdown and that she wasn’t lying about what she just said.

The truth was actually so cruel that even though Lucas was just an outsider, he could sense her suffocating despair and agony.

The Howards, one of the eight most powerful families in DC, actually had such a filthy and dark past.

But at the same time, Lucas couldn’t help thinking about himself and his mother.

Back then, when he and his mother were driven out of the Huttons and left to fend for themselves on the streets, didn’t he also experience this filth and darkness? His mother had been seriously ill, but when he went to the Huttons for help, they had mercilessly rejected him.

After crying for a long while, Florence finally calmed down and stared at Lucas with her red and swollen eyes full of tears.

“Lucas, the reason I’m telling you this is that I want you to sympathize with me and pity me. To be honest with you, I need your help now. Only with your help can I take control of the Howard family and completely free myself from my father’s control!” Florence looked at Lucas expectantly.

Lucas saw her determination, hatred, and ambition in her eyes.

The fact that her life had always been in her father’s hands and that her father had killed her lover was why she pursued greater power. She wanted to overthrow the person controlling her fate.

It was indeed an undeniable goal.

Lucas could indeed give her a lot of help in attaining this goal.

But he didn’t want to help her.

“I can see your hatred for your father in your eyes, but I don’t see any guilt and love for Cheyenne,” Lucas said with disappointment. “What happened to you is indeed tragic,

but Cheyenne didn't do anything wrong. I thought you'd feel a little guilty and sorry toward your daughter, whom you had wrongfully hated for years, almost killed, and even gave up for adoption after learning the truth.

"But I can't see anything from your eyes."

"Maybe Cheyenne is just a pawn to you too. You want to use her as a tool to rope in people so that they can take revenge for you. You must have tried to make Cheyenne marry the Master of California because of this!"

"But Cheyenne somehow married me, and I happened to be the one you were looking for.

"You actually don't love Cheyenne at all. And you still hate her, don't you?"

Lucas kept his sharp eyes fixed on Florence. What he said made her heart skip a beat.

Chapter 820 You Must Help Me

Hearing what Lucas said, Florence shook her head profusely in denial. "No! Don't spout nonsense! "I gave birth to Cheyenne after a full pregnancy, and she's the child I had with my lover. How could I possibly hate her? Don't talk nonsense. You're not me. How can you know what I think?"

But the way she was behaving now was different from when she was telling her story.

Lucas could still tell whether she was telling the truth or not.

"The reason is simple. In your heart, you still think that if you weren't pregnant with Cheyenne, the man you loved wouldn't have gone to look for your father because he was worried about your future. If he hadn't gone to the Howards, he wouldn't have been killed, and you wouldn't have been so miserable.

"So you've always felt that Cheyenne is the culprit, and your feelings for her are very complicated. Maybe you used to love her a little, but you hate her even more!

"If there's someone in front of you who can help you take revenge on the condition that you give up your daughter and sacrifice her lifelong happiness, you definitely wouldn't hesitate to agree. In your eyes, revenge is the most important thing, while Cheyenne is just a child you wish was dead long ago."

With a look of contempt, Lucas slowly revealed Florence's true feelings.

"Since you've never loved Cheyenne and actually hate her so much, why should I help you take revenge?"

"I can pretend I never heard what you said today, and I won't say a word about it to the Howards. It's up to you if you want to take revenge or whatever.

"But I hope you won't show up in front of me and Cheyenne again," Lucas said firmly.

Although he sympathized with Florence's life experience, he would never allow her to make use of Cheyenne.

He would rather Cheyenne never reconcile with Florence in her life than allow her to be harmed by Florence.

"No! What makes you... think so?"

"Who are you to forbid me from appearing in front of Cheyenne again? I'm her biological mother! Even you don't have the right to stop me from seeing her!"

"Also, who are you to speculate on what I think? What do you know about me? Can you understand my feelings?!"

Florence shouted frantically, no longer looking like the noblewoman from before. Instead, she was just like a shrew now.

Lucas remained unmoved and said calmly, "I don't want to meddle with your affairs. But if you want to use Cheyenne and hurt her, I will never allow it!"

"If you insist on pulling Cheyenne into your vortex of revenge, I will pay you back in your own coin and reveal all your plans to your father, the helmsman of the Howards whom you hate and fear.

"If he learns that you hate him so much and that you're seeking revenge against him and want to take away the Howards from him, I'm sure he won't let you get what you want!"

Lucas's voice was extremely calm. But his threat was like a basin of ice water pouring down on Florence's head, causing her to calm down instantly.

Indeed, if Lucas told her father what she just said, given his desire to be in control, he would never let her off!

In this person's eyes, she was not his biological daughter but just a pawn that he could discard at any time. She was certain that he wouldn't show her any mercy!

The thought of it made Florence's heart overwhelmed by fear.

She raised her tear-stained eyes, which resembled Cheyenne's, and gazed at Lucas pitifully. "Lucas, no matter what, you're my son-in-law, and I gave birth to your wife. Do you really have no regard for all this and want to watch me die?"

"Do you know that if I fail to complete the task the family gave me this time, I will be severely punished, and even the little power I hold will be taken away!"

"If that happens, my goal of taking over the Howards and getting rid of that man will be even more impossible to achieve!"

"Do you want me to remain as a pawn in someone else's hands for the rest of my life? If Cheyenne knew what happened to me, she definitely wouldn't stand by and watch her mother suffer, would she?"

"Lucas, can't you help me on Cheyenne's account? This is clearly a cooperation that will benefit the both of us!"

Florence persuaded earnestly, playing the sympathy and kinship cards. She even mentioned Cheyenne.

Lucas remained unmoved. "I already said that I won't let Cheyenne get involved. You can solve the grudge between you and your father yourself. You haven't cared about Cheyenne for so many years, and now, you can continue to pretend that she doesn't exist. You don't have to think about her again.. You're on your own now."

With that, Lucas moved his hand to the handle of the car door, wanting to leave.

"No! No, you can't! I won't allow it!" Florence suddenly screamed hysterically. "You can't ignore me! You have to help me!"

"I can kill or do anything for the sake of revenge! You know it!"

"If you refuse to help me, I will go to Cheyenne and talk to her personally! She is a kind girl, and she definitely won't leave me alone after knowing that her biological father died so tragically and her biological mother suffered so much!"

This was Florence's threat to Lucas.

Lucas's face immediately darkened, and a cold light flashed in his eyes. "If you dare to do that, I won't spare you!"

Florence laughed. "You want me to shut up and disappear? What can you do? Lock me up or kill me?"

"No, these things are impossible now! Cheyenne already knows about my existence, so you can't make me disappear anymore!"

“Moreover, even if you want to shut me up, I have long made arrangements. Even if I disappear, someone will find Cheyenne and relay my message to her! You can’t stop me unless you can stay by Cheyenne’s side for the rest of your life and never leave her for a minute. But is that possible?”

Florence laughed hysterically.

Regardless of whether Lucas was willing to help her or not, she had to get him to agree. He was the best help she could find right now!

“You’d better give me a clear answer before nighttime today. Otherwise, I will reveal everything to Cheyenne. Think it through carefully!”

Chapter 821 Conflicted

Florence’s threat made Lucas extremely uncomfortable.

She knew that Cheyenne was extremely important to Lucas, so she used her to threaten him.

But Lucas really had no solution to this.

Just as Florence said, it was impossible for Lucas to make her shut up. No matter what, she was Cheyenne’s biological mother, so there was no way he could go overboard with her.

But if she told Cheyenne about these things, with her gentle personality, she would most likely choose to help Florence. If that happened, Lucas would have no choice but to stand on their side and help Florence take revenge.

Florence was indeed extremely smart but extremely heartless as well.

Even after Florence’s car drove far away, Lucas was still standing in front of the Stardust Corporation’s office building with a conflicted look. What should I do?

Florence didn’t actually love Cheyenne at all, and now, she just wanted to use Cheyenne and her relationship with Lucas to get him involved so that he would help her take revenge.

So from this perspective, Lucas didn’t want to help her at all.

If other people dared to make use of Cheyenne to threaten him, he would have long killed them.

But because she was Cheyenne’s biological mother, Lucas didn’t want to cross the line and cause Cheyenne any sadness.

Moreover, although Cheyenne had indeed had an unhappy conflict with Florence, Lucas knew Cheyenne's character well and was aware that she couldn't completely ignore her biological mother. He knew that she would reunite with her sooner or later.

Lucas actually fell into a dilemma, which was rare for him.

At five in the afternoon, Lucas drove to the Brilliance Corporation's office building as usual and picked Cheyenne up.

After getting inside the car, Cheyenne suddenly said, "Honey, that woman contacted me again today."

Without needing to think further, Lucas immediately knew that the woman Cheyenne was talking about was Florence.

"What does she want this time?" Lucas frowned while driving.

Florence had clearly told him to give her an answer before night fell. He wondered if she had already come and informed Cheyenne about the matter in advance.

His heart tensed up.

"She... she said that she still loves me and wants to reunite with me. But she still isn't willing to tell me why she abandoned me, so I rejected her," Cheyenne said with disappointment, pain, and dejection on her beautiful face.

"She abandoned me so many years ago, and now, she suddenly came looking for me and said that she loves me. But I... I don't know how I should treat her. She isn't even willing to tell me the truth about what happened back then. How can I trust her?"

Lucas finally heaved a sigh of relief after hearing Cheyenne say this.

It seemed that Florence hadn't gone mad to the extent of spouting nonsense to Cheyenne. Otherwise, Lucas would never let her off.

"Hubby, you... Why... is she hiding it from me? Why won't she tell me the truth regardless of how much I ask?"

"I've actually thought about it. Even if she abandoned me for the sake of gaining power, I might forgive her, but... she refuses to tell me anything."

Cheyenne's eyes reddened, and tears welled up in them.

In fact, she eagerly yearned to reconcile with her birth mother and find out about her roots, but Florence's behavior made Cheyenne extremely disappointed.

She was completely different from the mother she had imagined!

When Lucas saw Cheyenne forcing herself not to cry, his heart tensed up, and he felt really sorry for her.

Cheyenne was a kindhearted and sensitive person. If she learned about the truth of the past, she definitely wouldn't be able to take it.

Furthermore, because Florence was pregnant with Cheyenne, her father had taken the risk to go and plead with the Howards' helmsman for mercy, only to end up losing his life.

Because of this, Florence hated and resented Cheyenne. She felt that Cheyenne's appearance was the reason her lover had died tragically and her life had turned into a mess.

If Cheyenne knew about all of this, she would probably also feel that she was at fault and that her appearance had caused her father's death and her mother's misery.

Cheyenne would probably be overwhelmed with agony and guilt and never be able to recover from it.

This was the last thing Lucas wanted to see.

Thus, he couldn't let Cheyenne know about what happened back then!

"Honey, I don't know what I should do anymore. Should I reconcile with her? Or should I never see her again and take it that she never appeared in my life again? I... I'm in so much pain!"

Cheyenne finally couldn't endure it anymore and burst into tears.

Lucas felt as though his heart was being stabbed. He sighed, pulled over by the side of the road, turned around to look at Cheyenne, and reached out to gently wipe away the tears on her face.

"You're conflicted now because she refuses to tell you about why she abandoned you.

"But what if... what if she refuses to tell you because the truth is really extremely cruel, and she doesn't want you to be in misery because of it?"

"In that case, would you forgive her and reunite with her?" Lucas asked seriously while holding Cheyenne's shoulders.

After some thought, Cheyenne suddenly asked, "Honey, do you already know something?"

She had always been a very smart woman, so she immediately sensed something from what Lucas said.

But Lucas didn't plan to tell Cheyenne about those cruel matters.

He shook his head. "I don't. It's just my guess. But it's up to you to decide if you want to reconcile with her or remain as strangers in the future. I will support your choice."

In fact, Lucas hoped that Cheyenne would steer clear of Florence, but kinship and blood ties were predestined. Lucas respected Cheyenne's wishes and didn't want to meddle too much.

Cheyenne's eyes showed intense conflict.

Because she couldn't decide for herself, she hoped Lucas could make a decision for her. Unfortunately, he left the choice in her hands.

Lucas could only sigh helplessly, start the car, and drive to Amelia's kindergarten.

After picking up Amelia, Cheyenne forced a smile and said a few words to her. For the rest of the journey, she remained silent with a heavy heart.

After returning to their home at Pearl Lakeside Villa, Cheyenne even locked herself in the room in low spirits.

After hesitating for a long time, Lucas finally decided to step into the room and sit down beside Cheyenne.

He had some things to say to her.

Chapter 822: Asking About Her Biological Father

In their room, Cheyenne was sitting alone on the edge of the bed and weeping silently.

Heartbroken, Lucas went forward, put an arm around her shoulder, and pulled her into his arms.

"Don't cry. There's no need to feel so sad over that woman. She... she doesn't treat you as her daughter at all." Lucas sighed.

Cheyenne's body stiffened. She immediately raised her head to look at Lucas with her teary eyes. "Honey, you do know something, don't you?"

Lucas was silent for a while before saying, "I can't explain the past clearly, but she has a motive for reuniting with you, and her goal isn't innocent."

“Why... why do you say so?” Cheyenne’s fingers grabbed Lucas’s clothes tightly, her face much paler than before.

Lucas said, “Actually, she already came to see me on the first day she arrived in Orange County. At the time, she didn’t know that I was the Master of California and merely thought that I was just an abandoned son of the Huttons who sponges off of you. So her first request was for me to leave you and divorce you.

“At the same time, she wanted to make you marry the Master of California so that she could use your marriage to gain a powerful helper to increase her status in the Howard family.

“But after the competition ended and she learned my identity, she tried to use you to persuade me. She even wanted me to submit to the Howards and be at their disposal.

“The main reason she wants to reunite with you is because you’re of great use to her.”

Although these words were cruel, Lucas nevertheless told Cheyenne truthfully.

After hearing these words, Cheyenne felt as if she had been struck by lightning. Her face paled, and even her body shook uncontrollably.

“She came to reunite with me only because I’m useful to her now. Is that so?”

“That makes sense. She already abandoned me for so long and has never shown me any concern all these years. She’s never spent a day with me, so why would I think that she cares about me as her daughter?”

Grief appeared on Cheyenne’s face.

Lucas hugged her gently in his arms. “Don’t be sad. At least you have Amelia and me. William has always treated you as his own daughter, and Charlotte sees you as her biological sister. You still have us by your side.”

Cheyenne threw herself into Lucas’s arms and burst into tears.

In fact, Lucas was right. Even if she wasn’t destined to have a good relationship with Florence, she still had her other family members.

But it was truly saddening that the mother she had longed for for so long turned out to be someone like that.

After a long time, Cheyenne finally adjusted her mood, wiped away the tears on her face, and raised her head from Lucas’s arms.

“I have one last question now. Do you... you know about my biological father?”

When Florence revealed their relationship, Cheyenne only knew that she was her biological mother. But Florence never mentioned a thing about her father.

Cheyenne also wanted to know who her father was and what kind of person he was.

As soon as Lucas heard her question, an unnatural expression appeared on his face.

Matters about her father were the last thing he wanted her to know.

Cheyenne immediately noticed the fleeting change in Lucas's expression. She grabbed his arm tightly and asked anxiously, "You know about his situation, right C-can you tell me?"

"Who... is my father? Is he... still alive now?"

The look in Lucas's eyes immediately became extremely complicated.

He didn't want to tell Cheyenne about her father at all, but she asked about him.

He wasn't good at lying, so he didn't know how to tell her about it.

Cheyenne's heart sank. She reckoned that Lucas seemed so conflicted because the answer wasn't good.

"Please tell me. Is he still alive?" Cheyenne held Lucas's arm tightly with a pleading expression.

"He's gone." Lucas could only say this.

Cheyenne instantly stiffened.

After a long time, she suddenly smiled bitterly. "That makes sense. Actually, I've never met him before, and we're basically strangers. I don't even know his name or what he's like. Even if he's dead, it has nothing to do with me."

She didn't continue asking Lucas about her biological father, making Lucas feel relieved, but an inexplicable sense of guilt surged in his heart at the same time.

According to what Florence had told him, Cheyenne's father should have loved Cheyenne a lot. Otherwise, he wouldn't have gone to the Howards' helmsman to beg for mercy because he wanted his child to have a better life.

If Drew was still alive, he would dote on Cheyenne very much.

Unfortunately, he had passed away years ago.

In order not to hurt Cheyenne, Lucas could only hide everything about Drew from her.

“Okay, please go out and accompany Amelia. I’d like to be alone for a while,” Cheyenne said with reddened eyes.

“Sure.” Lucas nodded, walked out of the room, and considerately closed the door.

But the moment the room door was about to close, Lucas heard Cheyenne letting out a heartbreaking cry.

Although she just said that Drew was just a stranger who had nothing to do with her, he was her biological father after all. But he was gone before she even had the chance to see him.

How could she not be sad?

“...” Lucas leaned against the door in silence instead of going inside to comfort Cheyenne.

He knew that what Cheyenne needed the most now was to vent all the pain and sadness within her.

Cheyenne’s father had long passed away, and she would never get the chance to meet him, while her mother, who had been missing from her life, now wanted to reconcile with her only because she was useful to her.

What a tragic fate.

After staying silent for a long time, Lucas walked toward the balcony outside and made a call.

Soon, Florence’s voice came from the other end. “Have you thought it through?”

Lucas replied indifferently, “I can agree to build friendly ties with the Howards, but you have to promise me two things!”

Chapter 823: Cooperation Invitation

Hearing Lucas agreeing to her request, Florence was instantly overjoyed. She said in excitement, “Sure. Tell me the conditions!”

Lucas said, “First, I’m only going to befriend the Howards, but I’ll still be in control of California and Oregon. The Howards are not to interfere in any way!”

Now, he had already become the overlord of California and Oregon. Although he didn't care about fame and power, the Hales and the Sawyers from Orange County, the Parkers from LA, and the Coles from San Francisco all had strong ties with Lucas.

Lucas could only ensure the interests of these families if he continued to control both states.

If he handed the control of California and Oregon to the Howards, he couldn't be certain what they would do for the sake of profit.

Thus, Lucas wouldn't give them away.

Florence thought for a while and said, "I can promise you this. The Howards have never thought about controlling California and Oregon. My purpose is to get you and my family to have a friendly relationship. This is enough for me to go back and complete the mission.

"So, what is your second request?"

Lucas said firmly, "My second request is for you to never mention a single word about Cheyenne's father to her!"

This was the most important condition to Lucas. If Florence disagreed, he would rather fall out with her.

Florence sneered. "I can promise you this. In fact, I don't want to mention anything about those unhappy things either. If it wasn't to express my sincerity to you, I wouldn't have told you about them at all!"

"You'd better keep to your word!" With that, Lucas hung up.

In order to prevent Cheyenne from being embroiled in the matter, Lucas could only temporarily agree to Florence's request.

But Lucas didn't believe that the Howards would really be willing to give up control of California and Oregon.

The current situation was very different from before. Not only had the Smiths, the Howards, and the Peerless Martial Association shown interest in California, but there were probably some other major families secretly plotting to take control of California and Oregon.

Lucas believed that since the Howards' helmsman was so shrewd and ruthless, he definitely wouldn't sit back and let others take control of California and Oregon.

But it was too early to consider these matters. He would take everything in stride and deal with the situations as they came.

...

When Cheyenne woke up the next morning, her eyes were as swollen as walnuts.

Lucas was heartbroken. "Why don't you take a day off and stay at home today? Just leave it to your subordinates to handle matters at the office."

Cheyenne was also shocked when she saw her swollen eyes in the mirror, but she was in a much better mood today. She even made an ugly face at herself in the mirror.

"It's okay. I'll just ice my eyes with a cold towel. Thanks to you, the company has had a lot of business lately. I won't feel at ease if I don't go."

Seeing Cheyenne seeming to be in a good mood despite her red and swollen eyes, Lucas finally felt relieved.

After sending his wife and daughter to the office and kindergarten as usual, Lucas drove to the Stardust Corporation.

But just after he got out of the car, an old man in his sixties wearing a gray tuxedo suddenly stopped in front of Lucas.

"Mr. Gray, it's a pleasure to meet you. There's something that I'd like to discuss with you. Is it convenient for us to have a word now?"

His white hair was meticulously combed back, and he bowed slightly as he spoke. Based on his mannerisms and temperament, he was probably from a major family.

"You are?" Lucas asked with raised brows.

"Oh dear, I almost forgot to introduce myself. I am Charlie, the chief butler of the Smiths in DC. I'm here in California to have a chat with you under the orders of the helmsman," the old man in the tuxedo said politely.

Charlie was very courteous and spoke amiably as well.

After Lucas heard that he was the Smiths' butler, a trace of surprise appeared on his face.

He didn't expect the Smiths to send their chief butler over to have a discussion with him after he had humiliated two successors of the family. Not only did they not make a fuss, but they were even extremely humble and friendly toward him.

"If you're planning to criticize me or make me submit to the Smiths, you can forget about it," Lucas said indifferently.

"No, Mr. Gray, you're mistaken. I'm here to ask you for your cooperation," Charlie said with a smile.

"Cooperating with the Smiths? Sorry, I'm not interested!" Lucas refused outright and turned around to leave.

Considering what he had done to the successors of the Smiths, he knew for sure that there was something wrong with the Smiths wanting to cooperate with him.

Lucas wasn't a fool. How could he possibly believe Charlie's words?

"Mr. Gray, please wait! The cooperation I'm talking about is related to the Huttons. Don't you want to hear about it first?" Charlie raised his voice a little from behind Lucas.

The mention of the Huttons indeed made Lucas stop.

"Mr. Gray, although the Smiths indeed have had some unhappy matters with you in the past, I believe that there are no permanent enemies. Don't you agree?"

"I might as well be honest with you. Although the Smiths and the Huttons both belong to the eight top families in DC, we've been at odds in many fields. So it can be said that both families are hostile to each other.

"The Smiths have long been displeased with the Huttons, but unfortunately, the Huttons are also a prominent family with strong roots. It's not easy to defeat them.

"Mr. Gray, as far as I know, the relationship between you and the Huttons isn't cordial either. In fact, many Huttons are still targeting you. So from this perspective, the Huttons are our common enemy.

"Mr. Gray, you're undoubtedly very powerful, but it's a pity that you don't have the support of a top family that's powerful enough. Although the Smiths are one of the top families in DC, we lack a powerful expert like you, Mr. Gray.

"So if we join forces, won't we be able to exert an enormous power combined?"

"Mr. Tyson Smith, the family helmsman, has already made it clear to me that as long as you're willing to join hands with us to deal with the Huttons, we will give you the support to become the next helmsman after the matter is done! Mr. Gray, what do you think?"

Charlie spoke his mind. He had indeed investigated many matters and was aware of the feud between Lucas and the Huttons.

In his opinion, Lucas would definitely accept the cooperation offer, be it for the sake of taking revenge against the Huttons or taking control over them.

“Hah, idiot!”

After saying this coldly, Lucas turned around to leave while Charlie was dumbstruck.

He was actually rejected by Lucas!

Chapter 824: Solving The Trouble

Lucas naturally wouldn't agree to such a stupid cooperation request from the Smiths.

He indeed bore a hatred for the Hutton and resented them for their ruthless act of driving him and his mother out of the family back then, which eventually led to his mother's fatal illness.

But this was a feud between Lucas and the Huttons, and no other forces could interfere.

Moreover, on the first day he returned to Orange County from Calico half a year ago, Chad Kennedy, the Huttons' butler, had gone to the airport to receive Lucas and even asked him to return to DC to take charge of the Huttons.

If Lucas wanted to become the helmsman of the Huttons, he could do so anytime. There was no need for him to collude with the Smiths.

Therefore, this seemingly reasonable and incredibly tempting offer was extremely idiotic in Lucas's opinion. He wouldn't bother with the Smiths at all.

Charlie widened his eyes. It was only after he saw Lucas's figure disappear into the Stardust Corporation's building that he was convinced that Lucas really wasn't attracted by his offer and had turned him down without hesitation!

Lucas Gray is indeed very arrogant! Does he really think that he can deal with the Huttons on his own? Charlie thought indignantly.

After he proposed this plan to Tyson yesterday and received Tyson's strong support, he had bought a plane ticket and flew to Orange County overnight. The first thing he did after arriving this morning was to come here and wait for Lucas.

He had thought that as long as he made it seem like the Smiths had decided to bury the hatchet and not pursue the matter of Lucas insulting those two successors of the Smiths before offering to cooperate with him against the Huttons and promising to make him the helmsman of the family, Lucas would definitely be overjoyed and agree without hesitation!

Since they would be cooperating, Lucas should pay a certain price too. The Smiths would then effortlessly take over the control of California and Oregon from Lucas.

As for whether or not Lucas would become the head of the Huttons, it would be a matter for the future.

Besides, Lucas was just a pawn they would be using.

Unfortunately, Lucas, the young man whom he couldn't grasp at all, actually turned him down without the slightest gestation.

This foiled Charlie's initial plan.

Charlie immediately took out his phone and called Tyson Smith. "Mr. Smith, I'm sorry. The plan failed. That punk Lucas Gray refused!"

Tyson was surprised. "He actually refused to cooperate? Hah, seems like he wants to do this the hard way! Since he doesn't know any better, we don't have to be polite to him! Execute Plan B immediately!"

"Yes, Mr. Smith!" Charlie immediately responded loudly.

During their discussion yesterday, they had come up with more than one plan.

If Lucas was ignorant and refused to cooperate, they would execute another plan.

But the second plan was much more complicated than the first one.

...

Lucas was in the general manager's office of the Stardust Corporation, dealing with official business. With a surge in contracts, even just signing and sealing them was taxing.

The various departments of the Stardust Corporation were already running in full swing, and everyone was as busy as a bee.

Of course, Lucas wouldn't treat his employees poorly. He had Charlotte inform the staff long ago that everyone's salary would double for the month. As soon as the news spread, everyone was full of motivation.

When it was almost noon, Lucas's stack of documents finally became a little shorter.

At this moment, Charlotte knocked on the office door and walked in with a grave expression.

“Is something wrong?” Lucas immediately asked with concern.

“Lucas, I just received news that construction on the plot of land by the Sierra River has begun today! The Smiths have released news that they’re going to turn this plot of land into the largest cemetery in Orange County, and there are owners of units in Haven Manor expressing their repulsion.” Charlotte looked extremely sullen.

Haven Manor was adjacent to the Sierra River, and the idea of living close to a cemetery didn’t sit well with many people. If the Smiths really constructed a cemetery there, the owners of units in Haven Manor would definitely protest, and the land prices there would plummet, resulting in serious consequences.

“Hmph, they sure act fast,” Lucas said coldly as he put down a contract in his hand.

Ever since he rejected Charlie’s cooperation offer this morning, Lucas knew that the Smiths would definitely not give up just like that because their agenda was to take control of California and Oregon.

He wasn’t willing to cooperate with the Smith, which foiled their plans, so they would definitely find other ways to deal with him.

The declaration to build the largest cemetery in Orange County opposite Haven Manor, which Lucas owned, was a threat to Lucas to force him to make compromises with the Smiths.

Unfortunately, the Smiths had miscalculated. Lucas wasn’t the type who would allow himself to be threatened by some little tricks.

“Luas, how should we deal with this?” Cheyenne asked worriedly.

1

Lucas said calmly, “Leave this matter to me. Don’t worry. The Smiths will definitely change their mind today!”

“Okay, there will definitely be no problem if you’re handling it! But you have to be careful!” Charlotte said with concern.

“Don’t worry.” Lucas smiled.

In the afternoon, Lucas left the Stardust Corporation and drove toward a construction company named Peak Constructions.

Peak Constructions was a construction company recently acquired by the Smiths, and it would be in charge of the upcoming construction of the cemetery on the west bank of the Sierra River.

In fact, the plot of land that Oscar had spent 350 million dollars to purchase at the auction was a massive loss for the Smiths. It was an incredibly high price that was difficult to recoup regardless of whether they built an upscale villa district or a commercial cluster on the land, let alone a cemetery.

Its greatest function was to provoke Lucas and force him to compromise to the Smiths.

After getting out of his car, Lucas headed straight to the office of Peak Constructions.

“Lucas Gray, you’re finally here. I’ve been waiting for you for a long time!”

As soon as Lucas entered the meeting hall, someone spoke to him with malice and resentment.

This person was Oscar, the successor chosen by the Smiths.

Furthermore, the meeting hall of Peak Constructions was currently full of people. It was as if they were long prepared and were just waiting for Lucas to show up.

Chapter 825: You Said You Would Give Me It

In the middle of the meeting hall was a long, oval conference table, and Oscar was sitting in the master seat. Invincible Phantom Hands was standing behind him with a stern expression.

Compared to his previous state, Invincible Phantom Hands seemed a little pale and depressed. Clearly, he hadn’t recovered from the two kicks Lucas had given him yesterday.

The moment Invincible Phantom Hands saw Lucas, the muscles on his face subconsciously tensed up while a deep sense of fear appeared on his face.

Just yesterday, he had followed Oscar’s order to deal with Lucas, but he didn’t even manage to touch the corner of Lucas’s clothes. Instead, he had been kicked twice by Lucas so hard that his organs almost fell out.

If not for the fact that Invincible Phantom Hands had trained his muscles and bones for decades, he might have already died due to Lucas’s kicks.

Thus, as soon as he saw Lucas, he couldn’t help feeling nervous and horrified.

Sitting beside Oscar was an old man in a gray tuxedo. He was none other than Charlie, the butler of the Smiths who had spoken with Lucas this morning.

The other people standing around the conference table were all unfamiliar faces, but Lucas guessed that they should also be from the Smith family and Peak Constructions.

“Mr. Gray, have you already changed your mind and are planning to cooperate with the Smiths?” Charlie asked with a smile on his face.

The reason he got Peak Constructions to begin construction on that plot of land was to force Lucas to come over.

With a triumphant smile on his face, he thought that he would be able to see some regret and indignation on Lucas’s face. Unfortunately, Lucas kept a straight face without any emotion on it at all. He was much better at keeping his composure than some sly old foxes decades older than him.

“Lucas Gray, are you here to submit to the Smiths? Why are you showing a poker face?” Oscar said harshly while staring at Lucas with gritted teeth.

Yesterday, Lucas had picked him up and slapped him more than twenty times until his face became as swollen as a pig’s. Even now, the swelling hadn’t gone down yet. His face was still swollen, bruised, and extremely unsightly. Lucas had knocked out half of his teeth. When he spoke, air kept leaking through, and his speech became bizarre.

Lucas looked at Oscar like he was a fool. “It seems that I went too easy on you yesterday.”

As soon as he said this, Oscar’s body shuddered, and the numbing pain immediately returned to his face.

“You!” He was about to say a few more ruthless words. But when he saw the contempt in Lucas’s eyes, a sense of fear surged in Oscar’s heart, rendering him unable to utter a single word.

“Mr. Gray, I initially thought that you came to us now because you already figured things out. But from what you just said, it seems that you’ve made the wrong choice, and you’ve decided to go against the Smiths to the end?” Charlie said nonchalantly while looking at Lucas.

“I’m speaking to your master. Who are you to interfere?” Lucas glanced at Charlie indifferently, not taking him seriously at all.

“Punk! How dare you disrespect Mr. Charlie, the head butler of the Smiths!”

A Smith executive sitting beside Charlie immediately stood up, glowered at Lucas, and shouted angrily, “Today, I’m going to teach you how to respect your elders!”

Then he rushed directly at Lucas and waved his hand to slap Lucas.

The Smith executive had been brought here from DC by Charlie, so he had no idea of how powerful Lucas was.

He was just following his usual custom of doing his best to suck up to Charlie. He would slap everyone who was disrespectful to Charlie a few times. Seeing how rude Lucas was to Charlie, he immediately felt like it was time for him to perform.

“Stop!” Charlie’s expression changed, and he immediately shouted to stop the executive from courting death.

But it was too late!

Just as the executive’s hand was about to reach Lucas’s face, Lucas grabbed his wrist and twisted it, breaking it.

Snap!

“Ah! Ah!”

With the sound of bones cracking, the executive immediately shrieked in misery, resembling a pig being slaughtered.

Lucas snorted in annoyance. Irked by the shrill screams, he kicked the man’s chest.

Bang!

The executive immediately flew far away, slammed against the wall, and slid to the floor.

At this moment, he was like a dead pig, and blood was pouring out of his mouth, though he had already passed out.

Lucas stood still calmly, as if everything that just happened was trivial.

This scene immediately made all the people in the meeting hall turn pale.

With a casual twist of his hand, he had broken the executive’s wrist like it was a cucumber. And with a casual kick, he had caused the latter to vomit blood and fall into a coma with severe injuries.

If Lucas wanted to, he could kill them at any time!

Lucas stood in front of the crowd and said indifferently, “I’m here today to collect a debt, not to kill anyone. I hope you don’t have a death wish.”

Oscar’s face was streaming with sweat, but he still feigned ignorance despite knowing the truth. “What debt are you collecting? The Smiths don’t owe you a thing!”

“Are you suffering from amnesia or Alzheimer’s? You personally promised to give me the plot of land on the west bank of the Sierra River for free at the auction in Emerald International yesterday.”

Lucas pulled up a chair and sat down calmly.

Oscar’s face was brimming with fury. “What nonsense are you spouting?”

“Everyone heard it at the auction yesterday when you were lying on the floor and begging me to let you off. Have you forgotten so soon?” Lucas said deliberately.

Everyone else except Oscar and Invincible Phantom Hands looked at Oscar in disbelief.

The successor of the Smiths had actually lied on the floor and begged Lucas to let him off! Moreover, in order to survive, he even promised to give Lucas the land he bought at a high price of 350 million dollars for free.

He was the future helmsman of the Smiths?

Lucas’s words made the Smiths’ impression of Oscar sink to rock bottom.

Oscar remembered how he had been beaten up to the point of having his mouth full of blood, more than half of his teeth missing, and his face as swollen as a pig’s, so much so that he was unable to speak.

At the time, Lucas had also stepped on his chest, and while he was unable to speak, Lucas said that he would give Lucas the plot of land that he had bought at the auction.

Oscar originally thought that Lucas was just humiliating him, but he didn’t expect Lucas to use this reason to ask for the land from him!

It was simply shameless!

It was blatant snatching!

Oscar was about to explode with fury. “You said it yourself! I never said that I would give you the land for free! Stop daydreaming!”

The land had been auctioned for 350 million dollars. Why should he give it to Lucas just like that? He wouldn’t agree to it, nor would the Smiths!

“Seems like you’re planning to default on your debt.” Lucas raised his eyebrows and sneered. “In that case, I’ll ask you again personally. Did you promise to give me that plot of land or not?!”

Then Lucas stood up and walked toward Oscar.

Chapter 826: Who Is More Despicable?

“Wh-what do you want to do?” Oscar immediately became anxious, and his hair stood on end as he watched Lucas approach him one step at a time.

Lucas wouldn't pay attention to him. He was getting closer and closer to Oscar.

“Stop! Stop right there. Don't come any closer!” Oscar yelled frantically.

He screamed, “Invincible Phantom Hands, quickly stop him!”

Invincible Phantom Hands was utterly unwilling to confront Lucas, but protecting Oscar was his duty. Now that Charlie, the Smiths' butler, was present too, he could only bite the bullet and move forward to try and stop Lucas.

“If you dare to make a move, I won't spare your life again.” Lucas glanced at Invincible Phantom Hands coldly.

Invincible Phantom Hands immediately stopped.

After yesterday's encounter with Lucas, he already knew how powerful Lucas was. He would have no problem killing him.

Between completing his mission and staying alive, his life was naturally more important.

Invincible Phantom Hands stood still without moving and helplessly watched as Lucas walked toward Oscar.

“Good-for-nothing!” Oscar scolded angrily. But no matter how he cursed at Invincible Phantom Hands, it was pointless because the most important thing now was to save himself from Lucas!

1

“Charlie! Charlie, quickly think of a solution! Save me!” Oscar yelled at Charlie anxiously.

Charlie was a very important and special existence in the Smith family. Thanks to Charlie's intelligence and wit, Tyson had become the helmsman of the Smiths. Thus, Tyson regarded Charlie highly, and Oscar and the younger generation also relied on him.

Now, Invincible Phantom Hands was frightened by Lucas's words and was of no use to Oscar at all. The only life-saving straw Oscar could clutch at was Charlie.

With a gloomy expression on his face, Charlie stood up and threatened, "Lucas Gray, stop! If you dare to touch him, the Smiths will definitely..."

But before he finished speaking, the threatening look on his face was replaced by fear.

Lucas had already walked straight up to Oscar and squeezed his neck with one hand.

Lucas's long, slender, and powerful fingers were wrapped tightly around Oscar's neck. Given how he could easily break the wrist of that Smith executive, he could easily twist Oscar's neck and break it!

Everyone in the meeting hall was dumbfounded as they watched the scene in front of them in utter horror!

Is... is he going to kill Oscar Smith in public?

Does he really not care about the Smiths' threat at all?

"Lucas Gray, quickly let go of him! Otherwise, I won't be polite!" Charlie screamed hysterically with cold sweat all over his face.

As he yelled, the door of the meeting room opened, and several armed bodyguards immediately dashed in and aimed their pistols at Lucas.

1

According to Charlie's arrangements, they had already been hiding in the small room next to the meeting hall early in the morning, waiting for Lucas to come over.

Once they fell out and broke into a conflict, the bodyguards would appear and force Lucas to obey them with their guns. Otherwise, they would kill him on the spot.

But there would always be unexpected changes in life. Everyone, including Charlie, didn't expect Lucas to behave so unreasonably as to walk straight to Oscar and grab his neck.

This put them in a passive position. The gunmen squad lurking next door could only immediately appear to deter Lucas.

"Lucas Gray, I advise you to let go of Mr. Oscar immediately! Otherwise, these bodyguards will definitely fill you with holes!" Charlie shouted with immense murderous intent in his eyes.

Originally, he had wanted to rope Lucas in for his own use so that he could not only take control of California and Oregon from Lucas's hands but also give the Smiths another powerhouse.

But Charlie now knew that Lucas was an untamable falcon. Since he couldn't get Lucas to help the Smiths, he could only destroy him, lest he became the Smiths' enemy!

1

Facing the seven pistol muzzles in front of him, Lucas kept a straight face.

He was still holding Oscar's neck tightly in his hand as he drawled, "If you don't want him to live, go ahead and shoot."

Charlie's expression changed instantly.

He didn't expect that Lucas could remain calm under the threat of so many pistols.

But his life was still in Lucas's hands, so he didn't dare to disobey him at all.

Oscar was Tyson's only biological son. If he died here, Charlie wouldn't be able to absolve himself of the blame!

"You... You're actually holding him hostage. How despicable!" Charlie didn't dare to order the gunmen to shoot, so he could only shout and curse at Lucas.

"Hah, the Smiths hid so many gunmen just to deal with me. Isn't that despicable?" Lucas sneered and tightened his grip on Oscar's neck, causing his eyes to roll backward.

"You... What do you want? As long as you let go of Mr. Oscar, you can name any condition. I will agree as long as it's within my means!" Charlie gave in to Lucas with nervousness written all over his face.

He was really afraid that Lucas would strangle Oscar to death.

Oscar was scared to death. He was ashen, and cold sweat was pouring out from all over his body. It was as if he had been fished out of water.

The sweat slid down Oscar's swollen face and touched Lucas's hand.

"Tsk!" With a look of disgust, Lucas suddenly let go and pushed Oscar away.

A look of immense joy appeared on Charlie's face. He thought that what he said had tempted Lucas, so he had let go of Oscar's neck.

Charlie had a wicked and smug joy in his eyes. *Lucas Gray is an idiot. If he still held Oscar hostage, I would be scrupulous and not dare to shoot. But now that he's let go of Oscar, it means that it's time for him to die!*

“Do it now! Shoot him!” Charlie suddenly hollered.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

...

With his command, the surrounding gunmen immediately shot Lucas without hesitation. Sparks emerged from the muzzle of the gun.

It was almost impossible to escape from such intense gunfire!

But to everyone’s surprise, the moment the gunshots sounded, Lucas instantly vanished from where he was standing!

Chapter 827: Boundless Fear

Lucas, who should have been struck by the bullets, vanished into thin air in front of everyone!

“Where... where is he?” Charlie asked in disbelief, his eyes almost falling out of their sockets.

It was not just him. Everyone in the meeting hall was shocked as they stared at the spot where Lucas vanished, full of astonishment!

How could a living person disappear in an instant?

It was like magic!

“Ah!”

“Waahhh!”

“Argh!”

While everyone was looking around for Lucas frantically, a few gunmen shrieked in unison.

The crowd looked at the sound in horror, just in time to see several bloody hands falling off of the wrists of the gunmen.

These severed hands were each still holding a black and heavy pistol!

Thud!

Bang!

Bang!

...

A series of thumps sounded. The seven severed hands and the pistols they were holding all fell to the floor as a massive amount of blood gushed out.

Shrieks and wails burst out in the hall.

Everyone looked at this with deathly pale faces.

No one knew how Lucas had suddenly disappeared from the main seat of the conference table, perfectly avoiding all the bullets, and appeared several meters away beside the gunmen. They didn't know how he managed to sever the hands of the gunmen so quickly and precisely either!

He was just like a phantom, and his actions were beyond the abilities of ordinary humans!

2

"How... how is this possible?" Charlie's pale face was full of shock and horror.

Lucas was simply... beyond human!

For the first time in his life, Charlie felt incredibly out of his element. He had no idea how terrifying an enemy the Smiths had gotten embroiled with!

Invincible Phantom Hands stood still with maniacal excitement and shock on his face. "He... he's so fast and skilled. He's definitely at the level of a grandmaster!"

Grandmaster was the title for the extremely rare supreme powerhouses of the world!

Invincible Phantom Hands' master had been a top expert as well. A long time ago, he had once told Invincible Phantom Hands that there was a class of powerhouses that ordinary people couldn't reach. Like superheroes, their strength was far beyond the imagination of ordinary people.

His master had always had the goal of becoming a grandmaster, but unfortunately, he never reached this realm even until he died.

Invincible Phantom Hands used to think that his master was just telling him legends and that it was impossible for anyone to reach this realm. Yet he witnessed a miracle with his own eyes today.

Moreover, this legendary grandmaster-level powerhouse was actually a young man less than 30 years old!

Looking at the extremely calm Lucas, Invincible Phantom Hands' eyes suddenly had a look of frantic worship.

Only a person like him could be considered a top powerhouse!

Along with the wailing of the gunmen and the odor of blood filling the room, Lucas once again walked toward Oscar.

"No... No... Don't come over! Please... I'm begging you..." Oscar looked at Lucas as if he was looking at a murderous god coming out of hell. He frantically tried to hide.

Unfortunately, he was so frightened that his legs went weak, and he couldn't move at all. All he could do was lean against the wall and watch Lucas approach him.

"Oscar Smith, now tell me. Did you agree to give me the land by the river for free?" Lucas walked up to Oscar and looked down at him.

An extremely menacing and mighty aura emanated from Lucas's body, causing Oscar to be able to bear it any longer and collapse to the floor.

"Yes... yes! I promised you that I would... that I would give you that land!" Oscar was frightened out of his wits. He hurriedly agreed with Lucas, fearing that Lucas would kill him if he was unhappy.

"That's what you said. What if you go back on your word again?" Lucas smirked like a cat teasing a rat.

"No! Absolutely not! I... can write a letter of transfer. I won't go back on my word!" Oscar hurriedly said. He immediately instructed a secretary of Peak Constructions to prepare the transfer contract.

Lucas finally smiled. "In that case, thank you, Mr. Smith!"

Soon, the frightened secretary returned with the transfer contract and handed it to Oscar to have him sign and seal it. Then he handed it to Lucas with trembling hands.

Lucas casually glanced at it to ensure that there was no mistake, nodded, and put the transfer contract into his pocket.

“Uh... M-Mr. Gray, I've given you this land, and I will... never come to California again! I'll get lost to the airport right now and never show up in front of you ever again in my life!” Oscar said with fear and trepidation, his body completely drenched.

Lucas nodded casually and didn't stop him.

Oscar had almost died. He was so terrified that he wouldn't dare to provoke Lucas again.

After Oscar stumbled out of the meeting hall, Charlie wiped the cold sweat from his face and hurriedly bid farewell to Lucas. “I'm sorry, Mr. Gray! I hope you won't mind my mistakes! I'll leave California immediately and never show up in front of you again!”

With that, he ran toward the door of the reception hall.

“Stop! Did I say you could leave?”

An extremely cold voice resembling the voice of a demon from hell rang in Charlie's ears.

Charlie stiffened immediately.

Even though he was desperate to leave this place, his legs were no longer under his control. After hearing what Lucas said, he was frozen in place, not daring to move an inch.

Fear surged in Charlie's heart, and he shuddered violently.

He never thought that Lucas wouldn't be willing to let him go!

He wondered how Lucas would deal with him.

Chapter 828: Phone Call

In the meeting hall, everyone couldn't help looking at Charlie.

Lucas obviously wasn't going to let off the butler of the Smiths so easily.

Cold sweat broke out on Charlie's back as he mustered his courage to force a smile and say fawningly, “Mr. Gray, I was wrong for what happened previously. Please don't stoop to my level. I'm willing to make amends, and you may make any requests to Mr. Tyson. We will certainly give you a satisfactory answer!”

He had long lost his composure, and now, he just wanted to placate Lucas's anger toward him and quickly leave.

He was well aware that he had already offended Lucas terribly by ordering his men to shoot Lucas.

Charlie could only hope that Lucas would be appeased and spare his life.

Lucas's strength had far exceeded Charlie's imagination. Even the Smiths' top powerhouse was no match for Lucas. He had to inform Tyson about this!

While Charlie was terrified, Lucas suddenly said, "Call Tyson Smith right now."

"Huh?" Charlie stood rooted to the floor in shock, unable to react for a long time.

Lucas looked at him coldly. "Do you want me to repeat myself?"

"No, I wouldn't dare!" Charlie hurriedly said. At the same time, he finally confirmed that Lucas indeed wanted him to call Tyson.

Although he vaguely felt that something was amiss, he had no room to reject him now.

Charlie gritted his teeth, took out his phone, and called Tyson.

"Put it on speakerphone," Lucas instructed.

Charlie didn't dare to delay. He quickly followed Lucas's instructions and put it on speakerphone.

Soon, the call connected, and an old voice sounded from the other end.

"Charlie, how are things going? Has that punk agreed to cooperate?" Tyson asked.

Charlie wanted to quickly tell Tyson about what was happening here, but with Lucas staring at him menacingly from the side, he simply didn't dare to say another word.

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"No... Mr. Smith, he turned us down!" Charlie stammered.

"What? It seems that punk is really arrogant and stubborn!"

"Does he think that his martial arts skills and meager power are enough for him to go against the Huttons? He doesn't know any better!"

“Since he’s so ignorant, let’s go ahead with our previous plan and execute Plan B. Compel him, tempt him, or whatever the method, we must snatch the power of California and Oregon from him! If this doesn’t work, just get rid of him!”

“I remember you brought a group of gunmen there. Let them do it. Even if that punk’s good at martial arts, he can only die!”

Tyson’s tone was very domineering, as if it was a piece of cake for him to kill Lucas.

Charlie was on the verge of tears.

He had already sent the gunmen, but they had been of no use at all. Lucas had even severed the hands of these gunmen, and they were still lying on the floor, bleeding profusely!

Furthermore, Lucas was listening from the side, but Tyson was completely clueless. He even revealed all of their previously discussed plans, causing Charlie to break out in cold sweat. He wished he could Tyson’s side and cover his mouth to get him to stop talking.

“Uh... Mr. Smith, it’s like this. After I... I interacted with Mr. Gray, I realized that he’s indeed a talent who’s rare to come by. No matter what, we shouldn’t offend him. Instead, we have to treat him with respect!”

“Furthermore, given Mr. Gray’s martial arts skills and abilities, there are very few people in this world who can deal with him. So... we’d better not become enemies with him.

“In my opinion, since... since Mr. Gray isn’t willing to agree to the cooperation, it should be because we’re not being sincere enough, and we should give Mr. Gray more benefits.

“When the time comes, we will cooperate with Mr. Gray. Even if we can’t take down the entire Hutton family, we’ll definitely be able to deal them a severe blow!”

Charlie wished he could tell Tyson directly that Lucas was an extremely powerful monster who wasn’t to be provoked at all. But he couldn’t say so directly and could only try his best to tell Tyson in a roundabout manner in hopes that he would understand the meaning behind his words.

Unfortunately, Tyson was thousands of miles away and didn’t receive Charlie’s meaning.

He asked doubtfully, “Charlie, what are you saying? Weren’t you the one who came up with the plans to deal with Lucas Gray?”

“Besides, when did we say we would really deal with the Huttons? This is just an excuse to get Lucas Gray on our side. What we want is to gain control of California and Oregon and make him our pawn so that he will fight to the death with Huttons while we reap the benefits from their feud.

“Moreover, even if that punk fails to cause any damage to the Huttons, it will have absolutely nothing to do with the Smiths. Regardless of what happens, he’s the one doing everything, and the Huttons won’t be able to do anything to us. This is the perfect plan to kill two birds with one stone you brought up!”

Hearing Tyson reveal the plans they had discussed, Charlie simply wanted to die.

In particular, after Charlie heard Tyson say that these were all his plans, his heart skipped a beat as he felt Lucas’s gaze becoming colder.

Ahhh!

Tyson Smith, you idiot. Are you trying to kill me? If I die, you won’t live long either!

Damn it, this is infuriating!

Charlie wished he could fly back to the Smith residence in DC to choke Tyson and ask him if he was an idiot because he failed to understand the meaning of what he said earlier!

“No, Mr. Smith, you must have misunderstood what I meant! I... I actually don’t mean that at all. Anyway, Mr. Gray is a young and impressive powerhouse with infinite potential. The Smiths must not offend him. Do you understand what I mean?” Charlie said through gritted teeth.

Tyson finally sensed that something was amiss.

What Charlie was saying now was completely different from what they had discussed yesterday at the Smith residence.

Moreover, he seemed to sense that Charlie’s voice was faintly trembling!

This gave Tyson an ominous hunch.

Charlie didn’t seem to be in the right state of mind!

After staying silent for a moment, Tyson suddenly said, “Is that punk next to you? Get him to answer the phone!”

He was the helmsman of one of the eight top families of DC after all. He wasn’t a complete idiot, and he could easily guess the truth.

Charlie heaved a sigh of relief. *Tyson finally guessed it.*

Since Tyson guessed it himself, Lucas Gray probably won't blame me for it...

While thinking about it anxiously, Charlie looked at Lucas. "Uh... Mr. Gray, Mr. Smith wants to talk to you."

Chapter 829: I Want To Pledge Allegiance

Lucas said indifferently, "I heard."

The sound of teeth grinding immediately came from the other end.

At the thought that Lucas had heard what they said, Tyson was so furious that his teeth were chattering.

Lucas smiled lightly. "Mr. Smith, I didn't expect that you not only want to snatch Oregon and California away from me, but you even want me to work for you. What a good plan!"

On the other end, Tyson sneered. "Kid, since you've heard it all, it doesn't matter! As long as you are willing to serve the Smiths and work for us, I can help you deal with the Huttons and take revenge for you and your mother!"

A cold light flashed in Lucas's eyes. "The matter has already been exposed, so stop trying to fool me with the same reason. Your behavior makes it seem like you're treating everyone else like a fool. Of course, the real fool might be you, Mr. Smith."

"Bastard! How dare you?!" Tyson flew into a rage. "I'm the helmsman of the Smiths! Punk, are you that impatient to die?"

Lucas mocked, "Those two successors of the Smiths said the same thing in front of me several times, but I'm still alive and well."

"Don't be so smug in front of me! The Smiths have yet to deal with you officially! Just you wait. I'll make you die miserably! I'll make you regret what you said today!" Tyson roared in exasperation.

"Okay, I'll wait." Lucas showed a dangerous smile. "Let me tell you something then. From now on, I'll kill every Smith I see in California and Oregon!"

"I hope you won't regret it in the future."

With that, Lucas crushed the phone!

Tyson's lungs were about to explode when he heard Lucas's threat. The helmsman of one of the eight top families in DC was actually threatened by a kid!

The more annoying thing was that this kid actually hung up without saying a single word!

Enraged, Tyson called back, but this time, the phone was no longer reachable.

He angrily swept a pile of documents on his desk onto the floor.

After a while, Tyson finally began to think about what just happened.

Logically speaking, Charlie should be with Oscar and Invincible Phantom Hands. But now, he was clearly under Lucas's control, and even this call was under Lucas's supervision. In that case, where was Invincible Phantom Hands?

Given Tyson's understanding of Invincible Phantom Hands, he knew that Invincible Phantom Hands was very loyal. Thus, the only reason he couldn't protect Charlie was that he had gotten into a mishap too. The greatest possibility was that Invincible Phantom Hands had been defeated by Lucas!

In that case, things were truly awry!

...

In the office building of Peak Constructions in Orange County...

In the meeting hall, after crushing the phone, Lucas turned to look at Charlie and said coldly, "Since your master won't cooperate, I'll have no choice but to kill you here."

With horror written all over his face, Charlie suddenly got on his knees in front of Lucas.

Thud!

His knees smashed against the floor with a dull sound, and excruciating pain instantly assaulted him.

But Charlie could no longer care about the pain, as he was already under the shadow of death. With fear all over his face, he said, "Mr. Gray... please! Please let me go! I-I'm just a butler, and I'm merely following orders. I never intended to offend you!"

"I... I'm already sixty-four years old. Please let me off and spare my life!"

The wrinkly-faced Charlie was kneeling on the floor with a pleading gaze in his eyes, looking extremely pitiful and miserable.

The other people in the meeting hall didn't dare to breathe as they watched everything with horror all over their faces.

Oscar, the successor of the Smiths, had already fled far. Charlie, the Smiths' butler, was now kneeling on the floor and begging Lucas to spare his life.

In that case, what would happen to them, the ordinary employees of the Smiths?

They could only pray that Lucas wouldn't take them, a bunch of small fries, seriously and not hold them accountable.

Lucas lowered his head and looked at Charlie indifferently. "Don't worry. I won't let you die just yet. I still need you for something.

"Stand up and come with me."

Hearing that Lucas would spare his life for the time being, Charlie immediately burst into excitement and hurriedly thanked Lucas. "Thank you, Mr. Gray! Thank you, Mr. Gray!"

As for what Lucas wanted him to do, Charlie could no longer worry about it.

Lucas turned around and was about to leave when a figure suddenly rushed over and knelt down in front of Lucas with a thud.

"Mr. Gray, I am willing to pledge allegiance to you. I beg you to give me this chance!"

1

The person kneeling in front of Lucas was Invincible Phantom Hands, one of the Smiths' top powerhouses!

His action immediately caused everyone to have a look of disbelief.

One of the top three experts of the Smiths was actually kneeling in front of Lucas and begging him for a chance to pledge allegiance to him. It was... simply incomprehensible!

The Smiths were one of the eight great families of DC. Be it for status or power, it was better to follow them than Lucas, right?

Charlie was shocked.

As the chief butler who had worked for the Smiths for years, Charlie was very clear about what kind of person Invincible Phantom Hands was.

His strength ranked among the top three in the Smiths, and he had gained the trust of the Smiths.

Besides, Invincible Phantom Hands was an extremely arrogant person. In order to recruit him, the Smiths had spent a large amount of money. His current annual salary was a high seven figures.

1

But Invincible Phantom Hands actually took the initiative to beg to pledge allegiance to Lucas.

It was really hard to understand!

However, Charlie was only guessing the inner thoughts of Invincible Phantom Hands with the mind of a normal person, so it was naturally impossible for him to guess what kind of a person he was.

Invincible Phantom Hands was a martial arts practitioner and a top expert in the eyes of the general public. What he had seen and was in pursuit of was naturally different from that of Charlie and the others.

Invincible Phantom Hands was very certain that Lucas's strength had now definitely reached the legendary grandmaster level.

Even his master hadn't reached this level and ended up dying with regrets.

Now, he had an extremely rare opportunity!

As long as he could follow Lucas and receive some pointers from him, he might one day be able to step into that threshold himself and become a transcendent grandmaster, accomplishing what his master hadn't been able to back then!

But Lucas merely lowered his head and glanced at Invincible Phantom Hands indifferently. "I don't need a traitor to pledge allegiance to me."

Chapter 830: The Smiths In Chaos

Invincible Phantom Hands' face immediately sank. He had indeed been a little too hasty and reckless, but he didn't want to give up this rare opportunity. He said to Lucas, "I'm just an employee of the Smiths. It doesn't mean I'm one of them, so this isn't a betrayal!

"Mr. Gray, you're the first person I want to pledge allegiance to, so please give me this chance!"

His attitude was extremely determined and sincere. He even kowtowed and didn't get up for a long time.

Just when everyone thought that Lucas would agree to accept Invincible Phantom Hands, Lucas shook his head. "I've already said my piece."

With that, Lucas bypassed Invincible Phantom Hands and walked out the door of the meeting hall.

Watching Lucas leave, the people in the meeting hall were all surprised.

"Mr. Gray actually rejected Invincible Phantom Hands' allegiance!"

"I really can't figure it out. Invincible Phantom Hands is a top powerhouse ranked among the top three in even the Smith family. He's a famous expert in DC. I heard that the Smiths paid a high price to hire Invincible Phantom Hands! But now that he's voluntarily pledging allegiance to Mr. Gray, he was rejected?"

"Invincible Phantom Hands is indeed very strong, but Mr. Gray is even stronger than him! That's why Mr. Gray doesn't need his allegiance at all!"

"You're right. Mr. Gray is much stronger than him. He really doesn't need the allegiance of someone weaker than him..."

...

Invincible Phantom Hands was still kneeling on the floor. Hearing the discussions around him, he gritted his teeth.

But he was only a little dejected but not too shocked.

After all, Lucas was a rare grandmaster-level powerhouse, so how could he let just anyone become his follower.

But Invincible Phantom Hands would never give up!

As Invincible Phantom Hands said himself, he was only an employee of the Smiths, and his contract was about to expire. Even if he had to compensate for the breach of contract, he was determined to sever all ties with the Smiths. It was impossible for him to comply with the Smiths and go against Lucas.

Reason being, he had a greater goal!

...

Meanwhile, Lucas had already left Peak Constructions with Charlie.

Sitting in Lucas's car, Charlie clenched his fist, feeling extremely uneasy.

He didn't know where Lucas was taking him nor what Lucas would do to him next.

The feeling of being completely under the control of someone made Charlie extremely uncomfortable.

But now that he was already at Lucas's mercy, he didn't have a choice.

The only fortunate thing was that Lucas said that he wouldn't let him die for now.

As long as he could stay alive, it was the greatest fortune!

More than twenty minutes later, Lucas drove his Jaguar into a beautiful manor.

Connor, the current helmsman of the Hales, immediately walked out of the manor and greeted Lucas respectfully. "Mr. Gray, do you have any orders for me today?"

Lucas pointed at Charlie next to him and instructed Connor, "This is Charlie. He works for the Smiths in DC. He'll be staying with the Hales during this period of time, and you will be responsible for watching over him. Nothing can go wrong. Do you understand?"

Shock immediately appeared on Connor's face. He didn't expect this ordinary-looking old man in front of him to be the butler of the Smiths, one of the eight top families in DC!

Lucas intended to keep him under strict supervision at the Hale residence!

Connor naturally didn't have the guts to ask Lucas what had happened. He merely felt that Lucas trusted the Hales since he handed this task over to them!

Connor agreed respectfully, "Yes! I promise to keep a close eye on him and make sure that he doesn't leave the Hale residence!"

Lucas continued, "He's just a prisoner. If he behaves strangely, kill him right away!"

This sentence immediately made Charlie shudder in fear!

He originally thought that since he worked for one of the eight top families of DC, if he compelled him with power and status, he would definitely be able to make the young Connor release him.

But Lucas's words made Charlie instantly dispel these thoughts.

Although the young helmsman of the Hale family might not really dare to kill him, Charlie didn't dare to take the risk.

After settling Charlie's affairs, Lucas didn't stay at the Hales' and drove away.

Soon after, a sensational piece of news suddenly began spreading in DC. "Charlie, the butler of the Smiths, one of the eight great families in DC, has died!"

This news shocked many powerful DC families.

Who was Charlie?

He was the Smiths' chief butler, whose status was almost on par with that of Tyson!

Moreover, it could be said that Tyson was now the helmsman all thanks to Charlie's schemes and plans. The Smiths' current development was also related to Charlie!

Such an important person actually suddenly died elsewhere!

"With Charlie's death, the Smiths will be in chaos!"

"That's for sure! Tyson managed to secure his position as the helmsman because he relied on Charlie's help and advice. With Charlie's death, Tyson and his brothers definitely won't sit back and do nothing. I reckon the Smiths are going to be caught in internal strife again!"

"Of those who competed with Tyson for the position of helmsman, there are still two who are alive and well! Both of them are far more talented than Tyson, but because Charlie had helped Tyson, Tyson eventually became the helmsman of the family. Now that Charlie is dead, the Smiths are going to be in trouble!"

...

Although Charlie was only a butler, he wasn't an ordinary one. He was actually extremely important to the Smiths. As soon as the news of his death spread, it immediately sparked an uproar in DC.

Not only did the Smiths' internal turmoil begin, but many other families who had feuds with the Smiths also began taking action. They were waiting for the Smiths to start their internal strife so that they could take the opportunity to kick them when they were down and crush them in one fell swoop.

All of DC was in turmoil because of this piece of news.

In the Smiths' manor in DC...

In the most luxurious villa, Tyson, the head of the Smith family, was sitting in the master seat with several people around him.

"Tyson, what exactly is going on here? This is spreading like wildfire out there. Shouldn't you give us a reasonable explanation?" An old man sitting next to Tyson, who

looked a bit similar to him but was balding with barely any hair left on his head, questioned aggressively.

“Thomas, I just said that Charlie isn’t dead! It’s just fake news that some people are spreading to cause unrest within our family. What else do you want me to explain?” Tyson retorted angrily.

Thomas was Tyson’s second brother, and he had competed with him for the position of the helmsman of the family for most of their lives. As soon as he heard the news of Charlie’s death, he immediately came over to question him. How abominable!

Had he known that this would have happened, he would have tried every way to kill his two brothers!

Chapter 831: Turned into a Lunatic

“Tyson, you claim that he’s still alive, but you can’t produce any evidence. How can you convince us? Okay, since you say that Charlie isn’t dead, summon him immediately!

“As long as Charlie appears in front of everyone, the rumors will naturally collapse on their own. Wouldn’t that be more useful than trying so hard to explain it here?” Thomas said unrelentingly.

He didn’t believe what Tyson said at all, and he had to make Charlie appear.

Tyson raised his brows and said furiously, “I’ve already said it several times. I’ve sent Charlie to carry out a confidential mission, and he’s not in DC now!”

“Enough!” Thomas slapped the table in annoyance. “You keep saying the same things. Tyson, don’t think that we’re all fools who will be deceived by you!

“You’re saying he went out to carry a secret mission, huh? In that case, tell me what mission it is that even we, the core members of the family, can’t know?

“Also, even if Charlie went on a mission, he must have brought his phone with him. But now, we can’t even reach him. No one’s picking up! Surely you’re not going to say that he went to some mountain where there’s no reception to carry out his mission, are you?

“Only you’d believe your bullshit excuses!

“There are all kinds of rumors spreading out there. If you can’t give us a reasonable explanation, I won’t give up!”

Anger surged in Thomas’s chest.

“Thomas is right. You must give us a reasonable explanation about Charlie!”

“Yes, you can’t act arbitrarily here. If you can’t give us a clear explanation, step down from your position as helmsman and hand it over to someone competent!”

“The position of the helmsman is meant for those who are capable. If you can’t resolve the crisis at hand, you might as well step down and give way to someone else!”

...

The people present all had high seniority in the family. They spoke up at once without cutting Tyson any slack at all. They simply demanded that he step down as helmsman.

Reason being, they all knew that Tyson was just an incompetent wastrel who wouldn’t have become the helmsman without Charlie!

Tyson was extremely furious.

There were unverified rumors about Charlie, and these elders all turned against him and even demanded that he step down as the helmsman. It was outrageous!

But Tyson couldn’t lose his temper and deal with these old men because they had high seniority in the family. If they stood together, they would definitely be able to overthrow him and strip him of his position as helmsman.

How could he let this happen?

Tyson gritted his teeth and said to the people around him, “In that case, I can promise you that I will definitely give you an explanation and tell you all about my plan at this time tomorrow. But I can’t do so now!”

“Tomorrow? Are you trying to delay? What difference does an extra day make?” Thomas mocked.

Smack!

Tyson slammed the table. “I said that I would give you all an explanation at this time tomorrow! If you try to force me now, I won’t be polite to you!

“Don’t forget. I’m the helmsman of the Smiths now. If you turn against me, I don’t mind fighting to the death with you! Let’s see who wins in the end!”

Seeing him lose his temper, the elders fell silent.

In fact, Tyson was right. The elders could indeed stand together to remove him from his position. But given that he had been the helmsman for years, he certainly had some trump cards in his hands.

If they really fought, neither side would be at an advantage, and they would only end up benefiting the enemies who were waiting for an opportunity.

At that time, the entire family would be in danger of being annihilated.

“Okay, we’ll give you another day! If you still can’t give us a reasonable explanation and solution to solve our troubles by this time tomorrow, you should resign from the position of helmsman yourself, lest things turn too ugly!” Thomas glowered at Tyson with hatred. Then he turned around and slammed the door as he left.

With his departure, the other senior members left one after another.

Tyson was soon the only one left in the large living room.

He sat on his chair for a long time before slamming the porcelain cup in his hand on the floor and roaring, “Lucas Gray, it’s you again, you bastard!”

Tyson knew that Lucas could be the only person who spread the news in DC!

It was because Charlie was in Lucas’s hands!

But even Tyson didn’t know now if Charlie was still alive or not.

Having lost his right-hand man, Tyson felt like he had lost his greatest reliance, and he was full of anxiety and anger.

He guessed correctly. Lucas had indeed released the rumors to sow discord within the Smiths and cause them to fall into internal strife.

While Tyson was still venting his anger, a subordinate came in shakily and reported, “Mr. Smith, Mr. Oscar is back!”

Tyson immediately yelled, “Quickly tell him to come in here to see me! I have to ask him what happened in California!”

“This...” The subordinate looked conflicted and terrified, seemingly not daring to continue.

“What are you waiting for? I told you to get him to come!” Tyson hollered and kicked the subordinate’s leg.

The subordinate was on the verge of tears, but he had no choice but to grit his teeth and say, “Mr. Oscar... has gone mad!”

“What did you say?!” Tyson was flabbergasted!

“Mr. Oscar... As soon as he returned, he began... speaking incoherently. He seems to have suffered a huge blow!”

“Get lost!” Tyson froze for a moment before roaring again.

He immediately kicked his subordinate aside and then rushed out of the villa.

Oscar was Tyson’s only biological son, and his villa was right next to Tyson’s.

There was a figure huddling under the large tree at the entrance of the villa, looking panic-stricken.

“I beg you, please don’t kill me!

“I... I know my mistakes. I won’t ever come to California or show up in front of you again!

“And... and I’ll give you that plot of land for free! Please don’t come here. Stay away!”

The figure was Oscar!

He was no longer as high-spirited as before. Instead, his eyes were blank, and he was shuddering from head to toe, with fear written all over his face, completely terrified of being touched.

Oscar had really become a lunatic!

Chapter 832: Maddy’s Getting Married

There were many Smiths around Oscar, all looking at him with astonishment. A few of them wanted to help him. But Oscar seemed to see something terrifying as he screamed and tried to smack the man away with all his might before huddling up behind the tree trunk behind him.

“Ah! No, d-don’t come here! I’ll give you everything! Please don’t kill me! Don’t kill me!” Oscar shouted with horror all over his face.

“Oscar!”

Seeing his son’s plight, Tyson’s eyes were wide with anger as he violently pushed aside the surrounding crowd and rushed toward Oscar.

“Ahhhh! Don’t... don’t come over!”

“I-I’m begging you! Don’t kill me! Please don’t kill me!”

Oscar could no longer recognize Tyson. Seeing Tyson coming over, he immediately yelled and began kowtowing frantically.

“Oscar, I’m your father! Open your eyes and take a good look at me. I’m your father!” Tyson yelled with reddened eyes as he grabbed Oscar’s shoulders and stopped him from continuing to move.

“Please, I... I’ll kowtow to you! Please spare me! I won’t go against you in the future! I won’t go to California again!

“Mr. Gray, please! Spare me!” Oscar screamed hysterically while struggling with all his might.

Looking at what his only son had become, Tyson felt like a knife was cutting his heart!

In particular, when he heard his son say the words ‘Mr. Gray’ in fear, his anger surged right up to his head!

“Lucas Gray! I want you to die. I’ll make sure you die a horrible death!” Tyson roared at the sky, so angry that he was about to lose his mind.

Oscar and Wendy were his only children.

Vince was the son of his brother Thomas.

Previously in Orange County, Wendy had set up Vince’s son, Roy, for the sake of killing Lucas. Later, Vince had killed her mercilessly in Orange County.

Tyson initially wanted to take revenge for his daughter, but he faced the unanimous opposition of the Smiths, who felt that Wendy had brought it upon herself for killing Vince’s son.

Thus, Tyson could only bear with the anger and pin all his hopes on his only son, Oscar.

However, his only son was now so terrified by Lucas that he had lost his sanity. How could he possibly accept this?!

“Damn you, Lucas Gray! If not for you, my daughter wouldn’t have died! My son wouldn’t have gone mad either!

“You’ve ruined my children! I will never live in peace with you in this lifetime!”

“I must kill you! You must die a miserable death! I will make you watch your wife and child die in front of you so that you understand my pain!”

Tyson's eyes were burning with fury as he clenched his fists tightly. If Lucas was in front of him now, he would want to devour him!

Looking at his son still screaming in agony, Tyson smacked Oscar on the nape of his neck, knocking him out.

"Send my son to the hospital immediately!" Tyson ordered with clenched jaws.

The stunned Smiths immediately responded and sent Oscar to the hospital.

Meanwhile, Tyson gloomily returned to his own villa and immediately made a call. "Get the servants to prepare expensive gifts for the Stones!"

...

The people far away in Orange County weren't aware of the things happening in DC.

In the chairman's office of Stardust Corporation...

When Charlotte saw Lucas taking out the transfer contract for the land by the Sierra River, she was utterly astonished. "Lucas... t-this land auctioned for three thunder and fifty million dollars!

"The Smiths gave it to you just like that? How... how did you do it?"

Lucas smiled lightly, "Probably because of my charm."

Of course, he wouldn't tell Charlotte what means he had used to force Oscar to give the land for free.

"Lucas, you're really charming. Is it possible that Oscar Smith has been really charmed by you? Isn't this too eccentric for an old man in his forties," Charlotte said with a deliberate smile.

Lucas patted Charlotte's head in annoyance. "Girl, what are you thinking?"

"Okay, I'll be leaving Orange County for some time in the near future. I'll need you to tend to the company at that time."

Charlotte was stunned.

Lucas's decision was beyond her expectations.

She hurriedly asked, "Lucas, where are you going? Will you be in any danger?"

Charlotte had always known that Lucas was not an ordinary person, so he wouldn't stay in Orange County forever.

But since Lucas suddenly had to leave for some time, she was certain that something must have happened.

Looking at Charlotte's worried expression, Lucas smiled slightly. "Don't worry. I'm very powerful. Who could put me in danger?"

Looking at the confidence on Lucas's face, Charlotte thought that he was indeed too powerful for ordinary people to hurt and felt slightly relieved.

But she was aware that as Lucas's status continued to rise, the enemies he offended would become stronger and stronger.

The Peerless Martial Association and the Smiths of the eight top families of DC were hegemony not to be trifled with.

"Lucas, I know you have your own matters to do, and there are many things that I can't help you with at all, but I hope that you can protect yourself well. Otherwise, Cheyenne, Amelia, and I will all be extremely worried about you!" Charlotte frowned worriedly.

"Okay, I understand." Lucas was very touched and made a promise with the simplest words.

In fact, Lucas hadn't planned to leave for DC so early.

His original plan was to settle the scores with the Huttons, seek justice for his mother, and get everything he deserved.

But things had changed, and Lucas had to change his plan and head for DC in advance.

Reason being, just an hour ago, Jordan suddenly called and anxiously reported a piece of news to Lucas. "Lucas, Maddy is getting married soon!"

Maddy was the international medical expert who became friends with Lucas and Jordan when they were in the Falcon Regiment in Calico back then.

This news immediately surprised Lucas.

Jordan had been secretly carrying a torch for Maddy for years, so when Maddy came to Orange County to help treat William, Lucas had created opportunities for the both of them to get closer to each other. The reason Lucas had sent Jordan to DC was to let him spend more time with Maddy, as well as protect Flynn.

Lucas naturally hoped that both Jordan and Maddy would be able to obtain their own happiness.

Over time, Maddy's attitude toward Jordan had also changed a lot, and their romance was already budding.

But Maddy was suddenly going to marry someone else!

"Do you know who Maddy is marrying?" Lucas asked in a deep voice.

Jordan immediately said, "I've asked around. The person she's marrying is from the Dempsey family, whom the Smiths are supporting. And their power in DC is on par with the Stones."

After learning that Maddy was going to get married, he immediately went to find out about these things.

"The Smiths!"

As soon as Lucas heard mention of the Smiths, he immediately understood why Maddy was suddenly getting married!

Chapter 833: Returning To DC

"Lucas, are you saying that the Smiths are the reason that Maddy is getting married?" Jordan asked in surprise.

Lucas didn't hide it from Jordan and told him everything about the feud between him and the Smiths.

During the previous martial arts competition, although Lucas had called Jordan back to Orange County, he was only responsible for protecting Cheyenne and Amelia from the Peerless Martial Association.

After everything was over, Jordan immediately returned to DC, so it was his first time learning that so many things had happened between Lucas and the Smiths.

"Seems like the Smiths are courting death!" Jordan gritted his teeth in anger.

After thinking about it for a long time, Lucas suddenly said, "The Smiths are suddenly giving such a great gift. We can't ignore it. We have to go take a good look at Maddy's wedding!"

Jordan was shocked. "Lucas, you want to come to DC now?"

As Lucas's good friend, Jordan naturally knew about Lucas's matters and his plans.

According to the original plan, Lucas shouldn't be going to DC at this time.

Lucas naturally didn't forget the plans he had made before.

When the Huttons kicked Lucas and his mother out of their home 20 years ago, they had even threatened them not to enter DC again.

Thus, Lucas had once said that once he returned to DC, he would destroy the Huttons!

Although the power he held now might not be enough to completely wipe out the Huttons, it still wasn't an issue for him to teach them a lesson.

Besides, there was now a change in situation, and Lucas couldn't just stand by and watch Maddy forced to marry someone she didn't love, ruining hers and Jordan's happiness.

"I'm going to DC this time, not to fight the Huttons to the death but for Maddy," Lucas said with determination.

The reason the Smiths were forcing Maddy to marry someone from the Dempseys was definitely that they had found out about Maddy's relationship with him through some channel. Thus, they wanted to use this method to force Lucas to go to DC.

Strictly speaking, Lucas had actually implicated Maddy.

Besides, Maddy was Lucas's friend and the person Jordan liked. No matter how he looked at it, there was no way Lucas could watch Maddy fall into a fiery pit.

Although he could also ask Jordan to take Maddy away immediately, the Stones were Maddy's family after all, and doing so would result in a negative impact. Once Maddy left, the Stones would definitely incur the wrath of the Smiths and the Dempseys, and Maddy definitely didn't want this.

Thus, even though he knew that this was the Smiths' plot to force him to go to DC, he still had to go. He wanted to solve these things personally!

"Okay, thank you, Lucas!" Jordan was incredibly grateful, but his words of gratitude turned into this simple sentence. Everything was encapsulated by silence!

...

At ten o'clock the next morning, a large commercial plane from California slowly landed at the DC International Airport.

A tall figure slowly walked out of the airport.

When Lucas stepped onto this land that he hadn't been on for a long time and smelled the air of DC, his heart was full of mixed emotions.

Back then, at a young age, he basically didn't have much time to spend away from the Hutton residence. So he actually didn't have much of an impression of DC.

When the Huttons drove his mother and him out, Lucas finally took a quick look at this massive city.

But the images in his memory were all gray and sad.

Twenty years had passed, and DC had long since become very different from what he remembered.

Standing here, Lucas couldn't help thinking about his mother and the harm the Huttons had inflicted on them.

Lucas let out a long sigh. Just as he was about to leave, an exclamation of shock suddenly sounded behind him, and a figure rushed toward Lucas.

Given Lucas's martial arts skills, how could he let anyone touch him?

With a slight movement of his feet, he was already half a meter away from his original position. In his former position was a fashionably dressed young man falling to the ground with his teeth bared.

"Damn it! Why did you hide? If you hadn't suddenly dodged, I wouldn't have fallen!"

The young man who fell to the ground was decked out in luxury goods. He probably listened to punk music, and there were lots of jewelry pieces dangling from his clothes. There were also many long chains hanging from his hip-hop-style pants. He suddenly fell probably because he had tripped over the various chains he was wearing.

But instead of feeling that it was his own problem, he cursed at Lucas, blaming him for not standing there to give him a cushion, which caused him to fall to the ground.

Lucas could not help feeling amused as he mocked, "You came from behind and almost hit me. Not only did you not apologize, but you even blamed me for not standing still to cushion you?"

The young man immediately flew into a rage. "Damn it! Do you know who I am? Do you know how valuable I am? I am a Dempsey, and my grandfather is Phil Dempsey!

"What's wrong with me almost hitting you? What's wrong with getting you to shield me? It's your fortune to be able to do it!

"I scolded you, but you actually dared to talk back to me. Do you believe that I'll make you die in DC right now?" Shane said, eagerly revealing his identity with arrogance all over his face.

He was treating Lucas this way because of how he was dressed. If Lucas was wearing luxurious clothes, Shane definitely wouldn't be so arrogant. After all, the eight major families still existed in DC.

Although the Dempsey family was very powerful, there was still a significant gap between them and the eight major families. If he acted presumptuous in front of these big shots, he would be dead meat!

But Lucas was a fresh face and wearing ordinary clothes. People from powerful and wealthy families wouldn't wear such cheap clothes. Thus, he assumed that Lucas was a bumpkin who just arrived in DC, and he naturally wouldn't let go of the chance to bully him.

Shane was speaking very loudly, as if he was afraid that the surrounding people wouldn't hear him.

Indeed, since he announced his family name, many people were surprised. After all, the Dempeys were indeed powerful, though inferior to the eight major families in DC.

After Lucas heard Shane reveal his status, a strange look appeared on his face.

The family that Maddy would soon marry also had the last name Dempsey and was a powerful family in DC. Lucas wondered if this young man was a member of the Dempsey family.

What a coincidence!

Chapter 834: Junior of the Dempseys

Their conflict immediately attracted the attention of many people around them.

"Hey, young man, you must have just arrived in DC from elsewhere, right? You probably don't know the Dempseys' status yet. I advise you not to argue with him and quickly apologize!"

"Yes, young man, if you offend the Dempseys, you'll be in trouble! Besides, you're from another place, and you might even know how you'll die later! You'd better hurry up and apologize to Mr. Dempsey!"

"These days, dignity is not as important as your own life. You're a young man who probably doesn't know what's important. Anyway, we're all doing this for your own good."

So you'd better quickly apologize to the Dempseys. Otherwise, you'll be in deep trouble!"

Some of the elderly people here were aware of the status and power of the Dempseys, and they were kind enough to advise Lucas to quickly apologize to Shane and let the matter blow over.

Listening to how much the people around him feared or sucked up to the Dempseys, Shane became even more smug.

He stood in front of Lucas with a smirk and his head held high, pointing his nostrils at Lucas. "Kid, did you hear that? The Dempseys aren't people just any hillbilly can provoke!"

"On account that you're from elsewhere and don't know who I am, I can give you a chance.

"As long as you immediately kneel down, apologize to me, and call me your grandpa, I will consider letting you off the hook. Otherwise, you can just wait to die! Hahaha!" Shane laughed arrogantly.

It was clearly Shane's fault, and Lucas had only dodged when he was about to be hit. Yet he was being forced to kneel and call Shane his grandfather. It was too much!

Many people around looked at Lucas with sympathy in their eyes.

But he was facing a scion of the Dempsey family. Even if they felt unjust for Lucas, no one dared to go forward and speak up for him.

They would be in dire straits if Shane vented his anger on them!

Lucas's face darkened.

He came to DC this time to solve the issue of Maddy marrying the Dempseys. Although the Smiths were the main culprit behind this matter, the Dempseys were also involved. Lucas would definitely confront the Dempseys.

Now, he had yet to look for trouble with the Dempseys, but a young scion of the Dempseys actually provoked him and even dared to make him kneel down, beg for forgiveness, and call him his grandfather.

Hmph, this is hilarious! Lucas smirked with a trace of faint sarcasm.

"Young man, take my advice. Don't be impetuous! Kneeling down and apologizing isn't going to cost you a piece of your flesh. It's better than losing your life!"

“Yes, young man, you’re still so young, and you’ve just arrived in DC. You don’t know how things are around here, so you’d better quickly apologize! Consider it a lesson learned! DC is full of wealthy scions. You have to pay more attention in the future!”

“You’d better apologize and leave. Otherwise, the consequences will be even more serious! This is the advice from someone who has been in the same situation as you. Young man, you must take our advice!”

Although the people around didn’t dare to plead and speak up for Lucas, they still had good intentions and didn’t want to see a young man die here because of this matter. They all persuaded Lucas.

Although Lucas thanked them for their good intentions, he would never kneel down, apologize to Shane, and call him his grandfather!

Seeing Lucas standing still with a calm look and showing no intention of kneeling down and apologizing to him, Shane felt that he was being belittled and flew into a rage.

“Punk, I told you to kneel down and apologize to me. Are you f*cking deaf? I can still spare your life while I’m still in a good mood. But if you make me angry, it won’t be just a simple matter of kneeling down and apologizing! Do you hear me?!” Shane yelled maniacally.

Who was he? He was a direct descendant of the Dempseys and the most beloved grandson of the Dempseys’ helmsman. He usually got things his way, and he had the power to command people to do whatever he wanted. Any defiance was an open provocation to his pride!

Facing the obnoxious and arrogant junior of the Dempseys, Lucas revealed a cold smile.

“It’s obviously your own problem, but you’re taking it out on someone unrelated and forcing me to kneel down, apologize to you, and call you my grandfather. How mighty!

“The Dempseys in DC seem to be no better than that! Are all the children and grandchildren raised by your family a bunch of uncultured and mannerless imbeciles?” Lucas questioned sarcastically.

He didn’t give the Dempseys any respect, and what he said immediately made the surrounding people shocked.

This young man from out of town actually had the audacity to reprimand the Dempseys and say that they lacked proper upbringing!

He was incredibly audacious!

“Damn it! What did you say? Say it again!” Shane was furious, and he held his head high like an enraged rooster.

In his more than 20 years of life, except for the people of the eight great families in DC, who would dare to say that about his family?

Is this son of a bitch sick of living?!

Lucas smirked. “Didn’t you hear me clearly? Do you want me to say it again? I asked if your family raised a bunch of uneducated and mannerless imbeciles like you.”

Lucas really did repeat himself and said that the Dempseys lacked proper upbringing.

“Ahhhhh! Scoundrel! Bastard! I’ll kill you!”

Shane was so furious that he drew out a dagger at his waist and charged at Lucas.

The shiny silver dagger cut a blinding arc of light under the sun.

“Ah! Watch out!”

“It’s actually a dagger!”

“Quick, get out of the way! Watch out!”

Several screams filled the air. None of the onlookers expected Shane would suddenly take out a dagger and try to commit murder in public.

But before Shane’s dagger could stab Lucas, a leg suddenly flew over from the side and fiercely kicked Shane out of the way!

“Ah!”

Clang!

Shane screamed miserably as he flew away, and the dagger in his hand naturally landed on the ground.

Bang!

Shane was directly kicked a full ten meters away, and he spat out a mouthful of blood when he crashed on the ground.

“Lucas, I’m here to pick you up.” Jordan stood in front of Lucas respectfully with a calm expression, as if he wasn’t the one who kicked Shane at all.

Chapter 835: Trap

In fact, Jordan's kick just now was already merciful. Otherwise, with his powerful kick that could break stone, if it had landed on Shane, he would have died terribly.

Shane spat out a mouthful of blood and got up from the ground with difficulty. Most of the chains and accessories on his body had fallen off, and there was a large conspicuous footprint on his shirt at the chest area.

"Bastard... h-how dare you kick me?"

His eyes were wide in disbelief as he looked at Jordan and Lucas with resentment.

"So what if I kicked you? What do you think you are?! I'm already being merciful by not killing you on the spot for daring to make a move against Lucas!" Jordan said coldly, his eyes full of killing intent.

Ever since he found out yesterday that Maddy was suddenly going to get married, Jordan was incredibly infuriated. If Lucas hadn't said that he would come to handle this matter, Jordan would have killed the Stones and the Dempseys and taken Maddy away.

He was furious to begin with, and after rushing to the airport to pick up Lucas, he happened to hear the arrogant Shane openly insulting Lucas. He even wanted to harm Lucas.

If Lucas hadn't told him not to kill anyone easily, Shane would have long become a corpse!

"Do you... you know who I am? I... I'm from the Dempsey family in DC!" Shane was so furious and revealed his identity to Jordan.

He thought that Jordan dared to lay a hand on him only because he didn't know his identity. He reckoned that once he knew Shane was a Dempsey, he would definitely be scared out of his wits!

"Hah, the fool of the Dempseys!" But to his surprise, Jordan not only remained unmoved but even insulted him.

"You!" Shane wished he could slap Jordan on the face, but his chest was still hurting from Jordan's kick, so he knew that he was no match for Jordan.

People like him had always bullied the weak and feared the strong. Once he found out that his target had a better family background or was far stronger than him, he wouldn't be able to let out a single sound.

None of his bodyguards were by his side, so he didn't even dare to lay a hand on Jordan or threaten him.

"Forget it. There's no need to bother with a piece of trash. Let's go!" Lucas turned around and left without even glancing at Shane.

To Lucas, a nobody like Shane was no different from a stinking bug on the roadside.

Jordan, who always followed Lucas's lead, followed closely behind Lucas and left the airport.

The surrounding passersby looked at the scene in front of them with dumbfounded expressions.

The person in front of them was a direct descendant of the Dempseys!

But these two people left just like that after hitting a direct descendant of the Dempseys.

Shane was so infuriated that his face was beet red. He felt as though he was burst into flames.

He was a direct descendant of the Dempseys, yet he was beaten up by two bumpkins in DC. If this matter spread, how could he face anyone in the future?

What a disgrace!

An absolute disgrace!

"Bastards, if I find you again, I will make your life worse than death!" Shane roared impotently while looking in the direction the two left.

"Mr. Shane! We're sorry we're late!" At this moment, two bodyguards hurried over to Shane's side and exclaimed the moment they saw Shane's miserable state. "Ah! Mr. Shane, what... what happened to you? Who did it?"

"Damn it! You good-for-nothings, have you been eating shit at home? I've been beaten up like this, but it took so long for you losers to show up!"

Shane raised his hand and slapped the two bodyguards in the face hard.

The two bodyguards took the slaps without even daring to make a single sound. They frantically bent over and apologized, "We're sorry, Mr. Shane! It was negligence on our part! Please punish us!"

"Of course I'll punish you! But now, I want you to get the surveillance footage and find out who and where those bastards are!"

“When I find them, I’ll play them to death. I’ll make them know what they’ll get for offending me!”

Shane’s face was full of resentment and menace. He was so furious that his face, which was already eccentric-looking, became even more twisted, looking just like a devil’s.

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“Yes! Mr. Shane, we’ll go investigate and find out the whereabouts of those two people immediately. We won’t let them off!” the bodyguards hurriedly agreed with trembling hearts.

...

Meanwhile, Lucas had already gotten into Jordan’s car and was heading toward a certain place in DC.

“How’s the situation now?” Lucas was naturally asking about Maddy.

Jordan frowned. “Things aren’t going well. The Dempseys suddenly went to Maddy’s family yesterday to ask for her hand in marriage. Both families agreed on the spot, and they’re hastily holding the wedding today.

“It’s like what you said, Lucas. The Smiths deliberately did this to lure you to DC.

“The wedding venue is at the DC Maestro International Hotel, and we’re heading there now.”

The DC Maestro International Hotel was a five-star hotel located in the center of DC. It was extremely posh and luxurious, and it was a popular spot for weddings among many of DC’s wealthy and powerful families.

The Dempseys and the Stones were powerful families in DC. Thus, even though the wedding was being held hastily, it was still grand and luxurious.

At the entrance of the DC Maestro International Hotel, there were decorations of flower bouquets and balloons and numerous luxury cars parked at the entrance. The atmosphere was very lively.

After all, the Dempseys and the Stones were both powerful families, so of course they had to throw a lavish wedding.

When Lucas and Jordan arrived at the hotel, they saw guests arriving one after another. There was a huge crowd and countless cars.

At the entrance was a photo of the newlyweds. In the photo, the couple was wearing expensive wedding clothes, but the woman in the photo seemed reluctant and not in the least bit happy.

Upon seeing Maddy in the photo, Jordan couldn't help stopping in his tracks. He felt his heart wrenching up.

She was the woman he loved. But now, she was being forced to marry another man and was so unhappy. How could he tolerate it?

Lucas patted Jordan's shoulder, signaling for him to calm down. The two entered the hotel lobby and then the ballroom.

The ballroom was decorated in a gorgeous and dreamy manner, with luxurious and romantic vibes everywhere.

The ballroom was spacious enough to accommodate nearly a hundred tables, and distinguished guests were streaming in one after another. The venue was extremely lively.

Lucas casually found an empty table and sat down while Jordan stood right beside him and looked around.

"Lucas, they're indeed prepared."

With just one sweeping glance, he had already found several spots where people were hiding with a vague murderous aura.

It was a treacherous plot, an ambush set up to deal with Lucas!

Chapter 836: How Do You Want To Die?

The wedding banquet today was actually targeted at Lucas.

But Lucas and Jordan didn't take these small fries seriously.

Not long after, several guests came to Lucas's table, but they didn't know each other and found it unnecessary to greet each other.

At this moment, a young man in his twenties clad in a silvery gray suit walked over. His waxed black hair was combed neatly on his head, the middle of his nose was slightly bulging, and his lips were thin, making him look mean-spirited.

He had a glass of champagne in his hand and behaved extremely gentlemanly.

The guest sitting next to Lucas immediately looked surprised when he saw the young man approaching. He hurriedly stood up and greeted him respectfully, "Mr. Jessey! H-hello!"

This young man was Jessey, the eldest grandson of the Dempseys' helmsman, Phil Dempsey. Because he was the first grandson, Phil doted on him greatly and had even handed over many of the family's businesses to him.

The guest beside Lucas was just a distant relative of the Dempseys. At this moment, he was so excited to see Jessey in person that he was at a loss for what to do.

"Move aside." Jessey pointed at the chair he was sitting on with his toes.

The man froze for a moment before hurriedly reacting and saying, "Yes! Please take a seat, Mr. Jessey!"

He sensibly gave up his seat.

After sitting down, Jessey placed the champagne glass in his hand on the table and looked at Lucas with a smile. "This gentleman over here, you look familiar. Which family are you from?"

Lucas smirked a little and ignored him.

From the moment this man walked over, Lucas had already noticed him because he had been keeping his eyes fixed on Lucas. He had obviously noticed Lucas a long time ago.

But he still pretended not to know Lucas and exchanged pleasantries with Lucas, who found it ridiculous and amusing.

Lucas picked up an empty glass on the table, and Jordan picked up a bottle of wine and filled Lucas's glass.

Lucas picked up the glass, swirled it twice, and took a sip without any intention of paying attention to Jessey.

The smile on Jessey's face stiffened.

As the eldest grandson of the Dempseys, he had always been showered with compliments and flattered. But now that he took the initiative to speak to Lucas, he actually got ignored.

In particular, he felt even more embarrassed due to the guests sitting at several tables nearby looking at him.

Lucas was deliberately trying to embarrass him!

Anger surged in Jessey's heart, but he nevertheless tried to restrain himself as he said coldly, "Aren't you too arrogant? It's my younger brother's wedding today, and as the host, I came over to speak to you personally, yet you ignored me. Aren't you going overboard?"

He knew that this man in front of him was the person the family wanted to deal with.

The wedding between the Dempseys and the Stones was indeed very rushed.

They had just confirmed the marriage yesterday afternoon, but they were already holding the wedding today. There were many conjectures among the guests.

But as a core member of the Dempseys, Jessey naturally knew the reason.

Although the Dempseys were powerful, they were supported by the Smiths, one of the eight giants of DC, and they had to obey the Smiths in many aspects.

Moreover, the Smiths explained that Maddy's wedding was all for the sake of dealing with a young man from California.

On his family's orders, Jessey had come over to speak to Lucas to find out more about him.

But this man in front of him was even more arrogant than him, the eldest grandson of the Dempsey family. He didn't even look him in the eye once!

It was outrageous!

Lucas continued to ignore him, but Jordan suddenly said, "My buddy doesn't like hearing strangers rambling on about nonsense. If you have something to say, do so quickly and then get lost!"

Jordan didn't keep his volume down, so all the guests around them heard him clearly. They immediately exclaimed in surprise.

It was the wedding day of a Dempseys' heir, yet Jessey, a part of the host family, was yelled at by a young man and told to stop spouting nonsense and get lost!

Who are those young men? Everyone looked at Lucas and Jordan.

The Dempseys were not a small family but a top-tier one, second only to the eight top families of DC. Moreover, they had the support of the Smiths, so people generally didn't dare to offend them.

Offending the Dempseys meant offending the Smiths to a certain extent. Generally, no one would court death like this.

After a moment of surprise, the ballroom was immediately bustling with activity.

“My God, who is that young man? How dare he rebuke the eldest grandson of Dempseys? How daring!”

“Those two young men seem to be fresh faces. Don’t they know how powerful the Dempseys are? But then again, if they don’t know the Dempseys, why did they come to the wedding? Could they be related to the Stones?”

“Even if they’re relatives of the Stones, it doesn’t make sense. All of us here know that the Stones and the Dempseys are about to join in marriage. Even the most ignorant relatives wouldn’t choose to offend the Dempseys at this time.”

“The two of them seem to be looking for trouble. I’m afraid they’ve come with hostile intentions!”

“There’s going to be something interesting to watch... Hehe!”

...

Everyone in the ballroom was discussing incessantly.

But most people thought that Lucas and Jordan’s behavior was simply courting death.

It was a joyous day for the Dempseys, so they definitely won’t allow these two young men to embarrass their family and ruin the wedding today.

Jessey’s face was incredibly sullen.

He spoke to Lucas, but Lucas simply ignored him, and Jordan, Lucas’s follower, even spoke to him rudely!

“This dog by your side seems to be a bit unruly. I was talking to you, but he suddenly interjected. If you don’t know how to train your dog, I don’t mind helping you teach him some rules!”

With a gloomy face, Jessy raised his hand and made a gesture. Two burly bodyguards immediately came over from not far away and walked directly toward Jordan. They were clearly planning to drag Jordan out of the wedding venue.

Only then did Lucas finally put down the glass in his hand and glance at Jessey.

But his eyes contained a blade-like murderous intent that almost scared Jesse soulless!

Jesse shuddered violently. His heart was pounding rapidly, and his hands were covered in cold sweat.

A mere glance made Jesse feel horror from the depths of his soul!

“Since you’ve insulted my buddy, how do you want to die?” Lucas said coldly and indifferently.

Chapter 837: I’ll Handle It

“How dare you talk to me like that? This is the Dempseys’ turf!”

Jesse was terribly frightened, but at the thought that this was the Dempseys’ turf and that they had made many preparations with the support of the Smiths’ powerhouses, he felt a sense of security and hollered at Lucas.

Lucas glanced at him and said coldly, “Kill him!”

As soon as he finished speaking, Jordan suddenly moved!

The two bodyguards who had just walked toward Jordan were instantly sent flying by Jordan’s kicks.

The next moment, Jordan had already appeared in front of Jesse and squeezed his throat with one hand.

Jesse’s face was full of fear, but before he could even say anything, he felt an immense force on his neck.

Snap!

Jordan crushed his throat!

Only when Jesse’s head drooped down and his body stopped moving did Jordan let go. His body crumpled to the floor. The people around them were shocked that Jesse died just like that!

All of them stared at the scene in front of them, dumbstruck. This surreal feeling made them feel like they were in an absurd dream.

Who could believe that Jesse, a direct descendant of the Dempseys, would actually be killed at the wedding held by the Dempseys?!

How could these... two young people have the guts to do this?!

They obviously knew that they would end up forming a feud with the Dempseys and that both the Dempseys and the Smiths definitely wouldn't let them off.

Do these two have a death wish?

Everyone looked at the scene in front of them in disbelief, feeling shocked and puzzled.

Jordan, who had just crushed Jessey's throat, calmly grabbed a wet tissue from the table, carefully wiped his hands, and then returned to Lucas's side. He picked up the bottle of wine and refilled his glass.

Seeing Jordan's movements, everyone looked at Lucas in horror.

Indeed, Jordan's act of snapping Jessey's neck in an instant was shocking. But Lucas, who was drinking wine, was even more terrifying!

Based on their movements and behavior, Jordan was obviously deferential to Lucas. Like just now, if he hadn't ordered Jordan to kill Jessey, Jordan wouldn't have done so at the Dempseys' wedding.

What is this young man's identity?

Not everyone had seen the scions from the eight giants of DC, but they had basically seen photos of them and knew what they looked like, lest they offended a big shot.

But the young man in front of them was a fresh face whom they completely couldn't recognize. They didn't know which family he was from at all.

Many people were making speculations in their heads that Lucas was probably the heir of a secretly powerful family or an unknown illegitimate son of one of the eight great families in DC.

"Son! What happened to my son?!"

Suddenly, a furious roar filled the air in the banquet hall as a middle-aged man of about fifty in a black suit hurried over from the other end of the hall.

There was a bright red corsage pinned to his chest, and his hair, which was initially neatly combed back, fell in front of his forehead messily because of his running.

The middle-aged man was Sylvester, Jessey's father!

"Ah!!! Son!"

When he arrived, Jessej, who was slumped on the ground and had already stopped breathing, shouted in anger and grief before leaping toward Jessej's cold body.

The guests next to him had extremely complicated expressions.

The groom of the wedding was Sylvester's other son.

It was originally a joyous occasion, yet his son died at the wedding venue of his other son. It was really a saddening example of how unpredictable life could be.

Holding Jessej's corpse, Sylvester suddenly raised his head and stared at Lucas and Jordan. "You two... actually killed my son! I won't let you off!

"I won't let you leave this place today. The two of you must die together with my son!" he roared with resentment and murderous intent in his eyes.

But Lucas acted as if Sylvester didn't exist at all and simply disregarded his words. He remained seated calmly and continued drinking wine.

He came here today for Jordan and Maddy's sake. As long as Jordan could handle the situation, he wasn't going to make a move.

Besides, the person he was waiting for should be coming soon.

"Young man, which family are you guys from? What kind of grudges do you have against the Stones and the Dempseys?"

"It was supposed to be a great day for the Stones and the Dempseys to become in-laws, yet you killed one of us. How arrogant of you!"

"If you can't give us a reasonable explanation, I'm afraid you two will have to stay here forever!"

A middle-aged man with large eyes and thick eyebrows walked over.

There was also a red corsage on his chest.

Since he claimed to be from the Stone family and also had a corsage pinned to his chest like the groom's father, Sylvester, it meant that he was the father of the bride, Carlos Stone!

A trace of interest flashed in Lucas's eyes the moment he appeared.

The person he was waiting for finally arrived.

It was Lucas's first time meeting Maddy's father. Jordan had already found out his appearance when he was spending time with Maddy in the past.

After hearing Carlos's accusations, Jordan not only did not lose his temper, but he even lowered his head a little, seemingly finding it hard to face Carlos.

Carlos was stunned for a moment.

After just seeing Jordan strangle Jessey with his bare hands, Carlos was scrupulous toward him.

But he had no choice but to step forward and say what he did because the Stones and the Dempseys were about to become in-laws. If he still didn't step forward to say something at this moment, it would definitely result in severe consequences.

However, Carlos never thought that Jordan, who had just killed someone like they were a chicken, would have such an expression.

He... seems to be somewhat afraid of me?

Wh-what exactly is going on?

However, before Carlos could wonder for long, Lucas, who had been sitting in his seat without moving, slowly stood up and looked at Carlos.

"Hello, Mr. Stone. I'm here today to ask for your daughter's hand in marriage on behalf of my buddy Jordan!

"I hope that you will let your daughter, Maddy, marry Jordan!"

Chapter 838: Where's Your Sincerity?

As soon as Lucas said that, it sparked an uproar in the venue!

No one expected this young man to be here to ask for Maddy's hand in marriage!

Even Carlos was dumbfounded, unable to react for a long time.

At this moment, the crowd fell into a commotion because of what Lucas said.

"Did you hear that? That young man just said that he's asking for a Stone's hand in marriage for his buddy!"

"Carlos only has one daughter—Maddy, the bride of today's wedding! This is the wedding of a Stone and a Dempsey! What's going on?"

“I seem to suddenly understand something! No wonder they were so aggressive to the Dempseys today. It turns out that they’re trying to snatch the bride!”

“Wow! That explains it! But what exactly is the relationship between these people? Is that young man named Jordan and Maddy already...”

...

Everyone had all sorts of speculations.

After hearing what Lucas said, the Dempseys in the banquet hall looked extremely sullen.

Another man was suddenly going to propose to the bride of today’s wedding. Everyone couldn’t help wondering what was going on.

Likewise, the Stones were all displeased.

If it was before the marriage between Maddy and the Dempseys was confirmed, the Stones might agree that a daughter with numerous suitors was something to be proud of.

But now that Maddy was about to marry a son of the Dempseys, and something like this suddenly cropped up, it was a severe slap in the Dempseys’ face. At the same time, it made the Stones embarrassed.

Besides, if they couldn’t handle this matter appropriately, there would definitely be a strain on the relationship between the Stones and the Dempseys.

In particular, now that a descendant of the Dempseys had died, the Dempseys definitely wouldn’t leave it at that. They might even take their anger out on the Stones!

Carlos glowered at Lucas. “What nonsense are you spouting? My daughter is already engaged to the Dempseys, and it’s their wedding today. What nonsense are you babbling here?!”

Hearing Carlos’s words, Jordan finally raised his head. Since this matter concerned his and Maddy’s happiness, he couldn’t avoid it or escape!

“Mr. Stone, I’m here to propose a marriage to you with utmost sincerity. I hope that you can agree to the marriage between me and Maddy!” Jordan said extremely seriously.

He had had a crush on Maddy for several years, and during this period of time, he had already slowly confirmed that Maddy actually liked him. There was only one step missing between them.

He definitely couldn't watch Maddy marry someone else, especially a man she didn't like.

Even if it wasn't the right time to ask for her hand in marriage today, Jordan had to express his attitude to the Stones.

Even if the Stones were upset, he'd definitely accept it!

"Haha, what a joke!

"I don't even know you, your identity, and anything else about you. But you've suddenly come here to ask for my daughter's hand in marriage. You want to marry my daughter? How is that possible? You two are clearly here to cause trouble with the intention to disrupt the wedding.

"Tell me. What is your motive? What grudges do you two have against the Stones and the Dempseys?

"Did someone instigate you to do this? You'd better tell me everything clearly now, or else the Smiths won't let you off!"

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Carlos questioned with a stern look. Of course, he meant to show that the Stones didn't actually know Jordan and that they wouldn't accept his proposal.

In case the Dempseys misunderstood something, things would go awry.

Thus, Carlos would also help the Dempseys deal with these two young people who suddenly appeared.

A trace of sadness appeared in Jordan's eyes after he heard what Carlos said.

But he didn't want to give up. He said very sincerely, "Mr. Stone, I'm very sincere about this! Maddy and I are already in love with each other, so please give us your blessing!"

Carlos immediately flew into a rage. "Punk, how dare you spout nonsense and tarnish my daughter's reputation?!"

"My daughter has always been abroad, and she's only returned recently. How could she possibly know you? How could she be in love with you? You're spouting nonsense. You're a liar!

"Guards! Come here immediately, tie up this kid in front of me, and drag him out!"

With Carlos's command, several tough bodyguards in black immediately rushed over from the corners of the hall and surrounded Jordan.

Lucas frowned and said to Carlos, "Mr. Stone, you haven't even figured out the truth of the matter, but you've already concluded that my buddy is spouting nonsense and lying to you?"

"Hah, do I need to figure it out? All I know is that you two are strangers who have come to my daughter's wedding, spouted nonsense, and even murdered someone!

"Come clean about your agenda, or don't blame me for being hostile!"

Lucas narrowed his eyes, and his aura surged immediately. "I want to see how you're going to be hostile to me!"

Lucas had never wanted to use force against the Stones, but if they were stubborn and insisted on making Maddy marry the Dempseys, Lucas wouldn't be polite either.

Lucas's strength was so terrifying that even though he was only exuding a slightly domineering aura, it had already made everyone frightened.

Carlos looked at Lucas in horror. He could sense that the young man in front of him seemed to have changed in an instant and became extremely terrifying.

In fact, the Dempseys naturally knew the ultimate purpose of the wedding today. It was a task the Smiths had given them.

But the Stones didn't know the inside story.

They only knew that the Smiths had suddenly gone to visit the Stones together with the Dempseys yesterday to ask for Maddy's hand in marriage. They had even asked for the wedding to be held the next day.

Although the Stones felt that it was too rushed, they didn't dare to offend the Smiths and had no choice but to agree to it.

But since the wedding was already underway, and the marriage between the Stones and the Dempseys was already set in stone, he wouldn't allow for any changes to the wedding.

Lucas's aura sent a chill into Carlos's heart.

He sneered and snapped, "You claim to be sincere in asking for my daughter's hand in marriage, yet you're threatening me with your aura. Is this your so-called sincerity?"

Lucas smiled, "No, you'll see our sincerity soon."

As soon as he finished, six burly fancily-dressed men entered the Maestro International Hotel with several large boxes.