

A Dish Best Served Cold

“Young Master Fan, it’s been ten years already. Whatever grudges you may have, it’s time to forget about them.”

“Please go home.”

“Your father, your grandfather and your brothers are all waiting for you.”

“As for your marriage, it concerns the honor of our family. After you return, we will select the most beautiful and most excellent woman to be your wife and the daughter-in-law of the Chu family.”

“That Qiu Mu-Cheng from the Qiu family is not worthy of you. Or the Chu family.”

Standing by the moat of Yunzhou city, a blotchy-eyed old man in traditional Chinese garment was earnestly trying to persuade Ye Fan. Compared to the others standing before him, Ye Fan’s clothes seemed ordinary and shabby.

“Yes, it’s been ten years. A dog would be considered old by now. But the family you speak of hasn’t changed one bit.” Ye Fan laughed self-deprecatingly, with a hint of bloodshot in his eyes.

“Ten years ago, my parents kneeled down in front of the Chu family’s gates. At that time, the family told my father this. They said my mother was a base commoner, not worthy of the Chu family and unfit to be their daughter-in-law. And I am born of the ‘commoner’ the family spoke of. My mother and I were driven mercilessly out of the family. We had to live in the streets. Until later, when I married into the Qiu family, where I had to endure humiliations.”

“For the past ten years, when did you ever give a damn about my mother and I? Now, with just a few words, you expect me to forget about this grudge and my mother’s humiliation, and return with you to continue the Chu’s family line. Do you think that’s possible?”

“Go back and tell the family, my surname is Ye, not Chu.”

“And tell that useless father of mine. He’s not worthy of my mother and unfit to be my father!”

Ye Fan truly hated that cold-blooded family.

But even more so, he hated that weakling

father of his!

Back then, if his father had a bit more backbone, he wouldn't have to suffer so much humiliation with his mother.

Oftentimes, Ye Fan longed for his father to protect him and his mother. But his father always chose to back down and side with the family.

Even when the Chu family drove away mother and son, his father could only look on in fear. In front of the family, he didn't dare to speak up or retaliate. And could only look on as his wife and son suffered humiliation.

From the bottom of his heart, he despised his father.

"Young Master Fan, please consider carefully."

"You have to understand what you are turning down. That's wealth comparable to a nation's budget and enough power for you to be able to look down on everyone else."

"As long as you return, you will be able to

become the family head within ten years.”
The old man was still trying to persuade
Ye Fan.

But Ye Fan had already turned away. With
a laugh, he asked: “So what?”

“Even if you give me the whole world, I will
still consider it to be inferior to a speck of
cinnabar on her brow!”

His words were firm and reverberated like
the sound of a rock hitting the ground.

Ye Fan left, leaving behind a crowd
speechless with shock.

After a long while, somebody sighed from
beside the lake.

A middle-aged man looked at Ye Fan from
afar, with feelings of indebtedness and
remorse swirling in his heart.

“Fan, you are even more promising than
your father!” The man smiled even as tears
brimmed in his eyes.

His eyes blotchy from crying, Ye Fan
strode along the streets of Yunzhou.

After enduring so many years of humiliation, Ye Fan thought nothing could faze him anymore. But the appearance of the Chu family did disturb him, who was but a young man in his early twenties.

But life must go on. So Ye Fan picked up the pieces and hurried on his way to the Qiu's family house.

The Qiu family was considered a somewhat prominent family in Yunzhou, a third-tier city. But they only truly rose to fame due to a scandal that had happened three years ago. The most beautiful daughter of the Qiu family, Qiu Mu-Cheng, suddenly got hitched with a luckless no-hoper and even let him marry into her family. This incident shocked the whole city and turned the Qiu family into a laughing stock.

Half-a-year into his marriage, Ye Fan finally realized the truth behind the matter.

At that time, Qiu Mu-Cheng's family had committed a serious error and caused great losses for the entire Qiu clan. The head of the Qiu clan, in a fit of rage, imposed punishment on Mu-Cheng's family branch and so she was forced to

marry a trash as a warning to the other family members.

And Ye Fan, one of the leading actors in this incident, lost all respect with both men and women alike. He became a laughing stock, an object of ridicule to be talked about during meal times.

Suddenly, Ye Fan's phone rang. The caller was Qiu Mu-Cheng, his wife in name.

"Where are you? Get back here now. We don't have time to wait around for you." Her tone was cold and authoritarian, as if she was giving an order.

It's been three years already. Ye Fan had already gotten used to this. After ending the call, he hurried towards the Qiu's family house.

Today was the day of Mu-Cheng's cousin engagement party.

The head of the Qiu family had five sons and a daughter. Qiu Mu-Cheng's father was the third eldest son. Today, the fourth eldest son's daughter was getting engaged so, naturally, Mu-Cheng had to attend the function with her family.

“Mu-Cheng, I’m sorry. I had some matter to attend to, and was held up.” Thanks to his efforts, Ye Fan finally made it just in time.

At this time, the multitude of guests were gathered at the entrance and the scene was rather lively. But it was easy enough to single out Qiu Mu-Cheng from the crowd due to her outstanding looks and figure.

“Some matter to attend to? A trash like you had something to attend to?”

“You keep dilly-dallying day in and day out. My Mu-Cheng is being held back because of a no-hoper like you.” Upon seeing Ye Fan, a lady was unable to contain her dislike for him and let loose with a scolding.

And then, she saw what Ye Fan was wearing and got angrier. “Are you an idiot? Do you not know what is the occasion today? Yet you are wearing such shabby clothes. Are you trying to humiliate our Mu-Cheng?”

The lady was in the throes of rage and wished she could give Ye Fan a good kicking. Standing beside her, a middle-aged man stared at Ye Fan with

displeasure. His look of contempt made for a distinctive contrast with the lady's clear display of disgust.

"Okay, mom. Just stop talking." Qiu Mu-Cheng, on the other hand, was calm and responded softly.

As if she's already used to losing face because of Ye Fan.

"Why must I stay silent? Mu-Cheng, this piece of trash did it on purpose. He deliberately dressed shabbily to shame our family! The heavens must have sent him to torment us!" Han Li, Mu-Cheng's mother, yelled in fury, her eyes bloodshot with rage. During all these years, she had been accumulating a lot of grievance because of Ye Fan.

"Enough is enough!" Mu-Cheng cut in with a scream. "Mom, how long are you going to keep this up? It's fine when you keep the scoldings at home, but don't you know you are embarrassing me when you scold him in public? Also, have we ever bought him anything nice after he married into our family? You want him to wear nice clothes, but does he have any to wear?"

Qiu Mu-Cheng tried her best to calm herself down, but Ye Fan could see that her eyes were red.

Nobody knew what kind of grievance and humiliation this family had to suffer through during these past three years.

After her daughter's outburst, Han Li stopped talking and, after dabbing at her eyes, she turned and left for the house.

Ye Fan had nothing to say as well, and followed Qiu Mu-Cheng's family into the house.

Inside the family house, there was a festive atmosphere.

At this moment, Mu-Cheng's uncle was standing by the door, greeting the guests warmly together with his family.

"Haha"

"His sister-in-law is looking prettier and prettier, isn't she?"

"I am already very happy that you can come today, there's no need for gifts."

“Ai, you are standing on ceremony.”

“It’s too much money. No, no. I can’t accept this.”

“Fine, we will take this. Next time, invite us to your son’s wedding.”

“Quick, Ying-Ying, come thank your auntie and uncle.”

Mu-Cheng’s aunt, Wang Qiao-Yu accepted the gift warmly and instructed her daughter, Qiu Mu-Ying, to greet their relatives. After some sweet salutations, Wang Qiao-Yu attentively guided their guests to their seats in the hall.

“Qiao-Yu, congratulations. We didn’t come late, did we?”

Qiu Mu-Cheng’s family had also arrived. Mu-Cheng’s mother, Han Li, stepped forward with a smile and offered her congratulation. Qiu Mu-Cheng and Ye Fan also greeted their aunt affectionately.

“Oh, it doesn’t matter even if come late. Since it’s useless even if you come.” Wang Qiao-Yu’s smile vanished as soon as she saw Mu-Cheng’s family and she responded

coldly to their greetings. And she simply ignored Mu-Cheng's and Ye Fan's display of affection.

"Who asked you to come?"

"And you even brought that piece of trash here. To embarrass us?"

Even though Wang Qiao-Yu had a bad attitude, she didn't do anything outrageous. But Qiu Mu-Ying was young and reckless, so she paid little heed to societal norms. Her dislike for Ye Fan outweighed everything else. And, as she disregarded the presence of guests and elders, she cut loose with a tongue-lashing.

In the Qiu family, Ye Fan was a source of shame. With a useless son-in-law like him, Qiu Mu-Cheng's family was also held in low regard.

"Ying-Ying, be quiet. Pay attention to your surroundings." Wang Qiao-Yu pulled her daughter aside and indifferently accepted the gift money offered by Mu-Cheng's family. And without offering to guide them, let Mu-Cheng's family make their own way into the hall to find their seats.

“Mind the trash. Don’t let him embarrass our Ying-Ying.” Wang Qiao-Yu couldn’t help leaving behind such an insulting barb.

“This family of four, they could only come up with this much money? They’re obviously here to freeload off us. Shameless.” Behind them, the undisguised disgust in Qiu Mu-Ying’s voice could be clearly heard. Qiu Mu-Cheng’s face paled in anger and Han Li could feel her heart constricting in her chest, but they ignored the insult and kept their peace.

After all, out of the five Qiu brothers, their branch of the family was the worst off. Their son-in-law was also the most useless. Without power and wealth to back them up, they could only accept their lot in silence.

Suddenly, a commotion could be heard outside the door.

A Benz drove into the driveway, and a young lady in a long gown stepped out hand-in-hand with a male companion.

When they saw her, both Wang Qiao-Yu and Qiu Mu-Ying smiled brightly. The looks of disgust on their faces had all but

vanished. The mother-and-daughter pair scurried over to the front door to receive their guests.

“Mu-Hong. Brother-in-law. You’ve finally arrived. We have been waiting for you.” Qiu Mu-Ying smiled fawningly.

“Here, this way.”

“Oh my, why did you buy so many gifts? You are standing on ceremony.”

“Here, somebody come give my nephew-in-law a hand.” Wang Qiao-Yu too, was also eager to please

Even though Qiu Mu-Cheng and her family were also blood relations, but the difference in treatment was like heaven and earth. The unfairness twisted in their hearts like a knife.

The new arrival was Qiu Mu-Hong, the daughter of the fifth Qiu brother. Because she had found herself an excellent husband, the entire Qiu clan could not help but suck up to their branch of the family.

Chapter 1 Inferior to a Speck of Cinnabar on Your Brow



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Jiang Yang was the name of Qiu Mu-Hong's husband. To be honest, he's just a talented student at school, without any remarkable achievements to his name.

After all, he's still in his early twenties. What could he possibly achieve at that age? Jiang Yang's father, however, was remarkable and held high office within Yunzhou city. Previously, when the Qiu Corporation ran into difficulties, it was his father who lent them a helping hand a number of times. Therefore, the entire Qiu family was willing to toady up to Jiang Yang.

"Ye Fan, what are you blanking out for? Come help me move these things. Are you blind?" Qiu Mu-Ying turned around to scream at Ye Fan. She had utterly no respect for her brother-in-law.

Ye Fan kept his peace and took on the role of mover in silence. Han Li and her husband looked on grimly. Ye Fan was also a son-in-law of the Qiu family and Mu-Ying's elder. But now, he was being ordered around by his junior. It was a great loss of face for them. They mentally scolded him for being a useless piece of trash and an easy pushover.

Qiu Mu-Cheng, on the other hand, was biting her lip in anger. She knew. She understood that Ye Fan was doing this to protect her last remaining shred of dignity. Now, he's the only one being shamed. But if he resisted, their whole family would be shamed.

"Be careful, don't break it."

"That's a bottle of Maotai. It costs more than a thousand. You can't afford to break it." Both Mu-Hong and her husband also held him in scorn. And Jiang Yang started issuing instructions to his brother-in-law because he's afraid that Ye Fan might break the gifts.

In this society, a penniless and powerless son-in-law gets no respect from anyone.

After the arrival of Qiu Mu-Hong's family, their relatives crowded around fawningly. Later, they were escorted into the hall by Wang Qiao-Yu and Qiu Mu-Ying.

"Hong-Hong, rest on the sofa with Yang-Yang and your parents. Once everyone has arrived, we will set off for the hotel."

"If you need anything, let me know. Don't

stand on ceremony with your aunt. We are one family.” Both Wang Qiao-Yu and Qiu Mu-Hong behaved warmly towards their guests. And Wang Qiao-Yu kept holding Jiang Yang’s hand, as if he’s her son-in-law.

“Eh?”

“There are no seats left?”

When they arrived at the hall, they found that there were no seats available.

“Auntie and Ying-Ying, there’s no need to trouble yourselves. I will just stand around with Hong. We are leaving for the hotel soon anyway.” Jiang Yang said politely.

“No way.”

“You are an honored guest. How could we let you stand?” Wang Qiao-Yu rejected the proposal right away. After looking round the hall, her gaze landed on Qiu Mu-Cheng and her family. At this moment, Ye Fan had already finished moving the gifts and was about to take a seat himself.

“Hey you, Mu-Cheng. Your family has already sat long enough. Why don’t you give up your seats? Hong and Yang-Yang

have just arrived and they need to rest.” Wang Qiao-Yu informed Mu-Cheng promptly.

And her daughter, Mu-Ying, simply pulled Ye Fan out of his seat without a word.

Although they were unwilling, they couldn't do anything since the host had already made her intention clear. Qiu Mu-Cheng and her family could only give up their seats to Qiu Mu-Hong and her family.

And so, in the large hall of the Qiu's family house, only Qiu Mu-Cheng and her family remained on their feet. Everyone else was seated and chatting among themselves.

Since Han Li and company felt embarrassed, they decided to wait outside the hall instead.

“They are looking down on us. Everyone else had a seat. Why were we the only ones forced to give up our seats?”

“They are out to embarrass us!” Out in the courtyard, Han Li could no longer stomach the humiliation and howled in anger.

Mu-Cheng's father sighed quietly.

Ye Fan bowed his head, his face expressionless.

“It’s all your fault, you trash. You’ve shamed all of us.”

“Go look at Jiang Yang and then look at yourself!”

“Why is my life so difficult? My husband is useless and my son-in-law is a piece of trash!” Han Li was once again venting her frustration on Ye Fan.

“Enough!”

“You think we haven’t been embarrassed enough?” Qiu Mu-Cheng had finally snapped.

“Yes, Ye Fan is indeed worthless. He’s a piece of trash. But, mom. Why don’t you ask yourself. Ask my father and ask me. Are we not worthless too? If there’s even one capable person among us, would they have humiliated us today?”

Qiu Mu-Cheng was screaming in a guttural tone and trying her best not to choke on her words. She even clenched her teeth to prevent herself from crying. Ye Fan could

see that. After suffering through three years of humiliation, this proud and independent woman finally broke down and cried.

With tears streaming down her face, Mu-Cheng ran out of the hall and away from the Qiu's family house.

"Look at your daughter. Not only did she marry a piece of trash and shame our family, and now she has the nerve to yell at us?"

"We can't keep on living like this..." Han Li was still complaining. But while the couple was unaware, Ye Fan had already left the scene.

A beautiful woman was crying by the moat, with tears streaming down her face. She looked as if she's trying to let out all the grievance she had been enduring for the past three years.

A man suddenly appeared beside her and stretched out his hand to wipe away her tears.

"Mu-Cheng, I am sorry. You've suffered because of me." Ye Fan paused for a

moment and continued. "Let's get a divorce. I am not worthy of you. You deserve a better man."

Piak!

A clear sound rang out as Qiu Mu-Cheng's slap landed on Ye Fan's face.

She looked at him with her teeth clenched and screamed in a tear-choked voice. "Ye Fan, why? Why can't you be more like a man?"

"A setback comes along and you immediately think of running away. For the past three years, I told you not to touch me and you didn't. My parents abused you and you didn't even retaliate. My relatives humiliated you and you just kept quiet. Why are you so useless? Why can't you be more like a man and teach those bastards who humiliated us a lesson? Why can't you protect me from all these troubles?"

"I don't want to be looked down upon. I don't want others to mock me. I want the people who have humiliated us to regret what they did..."

"wu wu wu~"

Qiu Mu-Cheng continued to cry.

Cold, strong, independent and stubborn – these were the words Ye Fan would use to describe his wife. But look at her now. The formerly strong and independent woman was crying like a child.

“Ye Fan. I really, really don’t want to keep living a sad life like this~~”

Qiu Mu-Cheng’s tears poured forth like rain. At that moment, she looked as weak and helpless as a child.

Ye Fan was stunned.

It’s been so many years since they had known each other and this was the first time Qiu Mu-Cheng talked to him like this.

Ye Fan had always thought that he was just a piece of useless garbage to Qiu Mu-Cheng. But now, he knew that Qiu Mu-Cheng had always considered him to be her husband, a man who could shelter her and take care of her for life.

“Mu-Cheng, I’m sorry for being useless all these years.”

“But I promise. From now onwards, nobody will be able to bully you.”

The cold wind blew, causing ripples to form across the moat and the leaves to rustle in the trees.

Ye Fan clenched his hand tightly as he made an unbreakable vow to Qiu Mu-Cheng!

That night, Ye Fan made a call.

“Han, arrange a meeting. I will go see him.”

On the other end of the line, the old man reeled in surprise for moment. And then, unable to suppress the joy in his heart, he asked excitedly: “Young Master Fan, is that true? Have you agreed?”

“Okay. I will go make the arrangements right away. You stay there and we will send someone to pick you up.”

The old man was in quite a state of excitement. A car was dispatched immediately, for fear of Ye Fan changing his mind and running away.

When the news reached the middle-aged

man, he was so agitated that his eyes grew teary. "It's been ten years. Fan, you are finally willing to see me."

After composing herself, Qiu Mu-Cheng returned to the Qiu's family house for her cousin's engagement ceremony.

If she absented herself, it would just give her relatives something to use against her in the future. And she would become an object of criticism. It's just that, Ye Fan was no longer with her when she returned.

As for Ye Fan, he had already left after making that promise to you. Qiu Mu-Cheng was a little worried that he might do something outrageous because of her.

Although Qiu Mu-Cheng was dissatisfied with Ye Fan, she recognized his silent efforts to support her over the past three years. And she had seen his submission to various humiliations in the Qiu family as well. Therefore, it was only natural that she felt a little something for him. If Ye Fan had gone and done something illegal because of her complaints earlier, she would never forgive herself.

On the way back to the family house, she

tried to call Ye Fan but nobody picked up. Finally, Qiu Mu-Cheng decided to send him a text message.

“Qiu Mu-Cheng, where on earth did you go? Everyone had to wait for your family? Hurry up. We are going to the hotel.” Qiu Mu-Ying’s impatient voice could be heard coming in from the front.

Qiu Mu-Cheng grunted in response and tapped the “Send” button on her phone. Then she went into the hall and followed everyone else to the hotel where Qiu Mu-Ying’s and Chu Wen-Fei’s engagement banquet was being held.

Outside the Qiu’s family house, Chu Wen-Fei had already arranged for a fleet of Audi cars to stand by and ferry the guests to the hotel.

After everyone had gotten on board, the Audis departed in a roar of engine noise. Nobody noticed that Ye Fan was not on board any of the vehicles.

Who would pay attention to a useless live-in son-in-law like him?

Meanwhile, a crowd of envious bystanders

were looking at the departing Audis.
“Mister Qiu’s daughter had found herself a good man.”

At the same time, a fleet of luxury cars were speeding towards the moat. A dozen or so heavily-built men were standing neatly in two rows to greet the young man standing in front of them.

“Young Master, please board the car!”

“Young Master, please board the car!”

Their shouts resonated through the air and frightened away the birds in the vicinity.

A few seconds later.

Boom~

The roars of engine noise and streams of orange-red lights from the cars tore through the horizon. And like a herd of primordial beasts, the vehicles sped into the distance.

“Whoa!”

“Come look. Rolls-Royce!”

“Damn! Six of them!”

“Look at the one in front. Isn’t that an explosion-proof car? That’s fit for a head of state.”

“It costs at least ten million!”

“Next to the Rolls-Royces, the Audis look like a pile of shit!”

“Heavens!”

“What’s going on? Who’s coming?”

“Is there a VVIP in Yunzhou?”

Along the way where the fleet passed, the atmosphere was rather lively.

The vampish and unmarried women could only blush in agitation when they saw the opulent procession.

If you have to get married, that’s the kind of guy you should marry!

The passerbys who saw the procession of black Rolls-Royces could only go crazy with envy and yearning.

What's a rich family? That's a rich family right there!

In comparison with this family who could afford to use Rolls-Royces to escort and clear the way for them, the other tycoons in Yunzhou looked like losers.

While there was a clamor going on outside, Ye Fan remained calm inside the vehicle. His head was bent forward as he looked at the message on his phone.

"Ye Fan. Just now, I behaved in an unbecoming manner. It's not your fault. And I don't need you to do anything. I will deal with my own family matters. When you see this message, please hurry home.
– Qiu Mu-Cheng"

Ye Fan turned off the phone. His face was expressionless as he looked out of the window at the deep night sky.

That deep gaze gave him the air of a glaring dragon and a tiger returning to its domain!

"Cheng, from today onwards, I will have the power to protect you for the rest of your life."

Whoosh!

The car continued speeding towards Haiyuan Pavilion, the most luxurious restaurant in all of Yunzhou city.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Numerous luxury cars could be seen parked outside Haiyuan Pavilion, the most opulent restaurant in the whole of Yunzhou city.

Those who could afford to dine here were either rich businessmen or government officials, the elites of Yunzhou city. If a family could have their wedding banquet at this restaurant, that would be an event worth boasting about.

And so, Chu Wen-Fei arranged for the engagement banquet to be held at this very restaurant. Three private rooms were booked for this occasion.

“Wow, Ying-Ying’s fiancé is such a remarkable man!”

“Not just anyone can throw a banquet at Haiyuan Pavilion.” The Qiu family members were full of praise for this feat.

Qiu Mu-Ying raised her chin proudly as her heart brimmed over with satisfaction. Her mother too was all smiles, but she put on a show of humility and downplayed her son-in-law’s achievements.

Soon, the guests reached the entrance of

Haiyuan Pavilion.

At this moment, a handsome young man in black tuxedo hurried over to the car with Qiu Mu-Ying onboard and opened the door with a smile. “Mom, dad and Ying-Ying. You’ve arrived. I’ve been waiting for you. Are you satisfied with this arrangement?”

“Satisfied. We’re very satisfied. Wen-Fei, you are so considerate.” The more Wang Qiao-Yu looked at her son-in-law, the more she liked him.

Chu Wen-Fei’s family did not produce scholars and government officials like Jiang Yang’s, but they had money.

These days, if you had money you could accomplish a lot of things. And Chu Wen-Fei’s family was involved in real estate. Everyone knew the real estate industry was a money-maker. A decent project could earn you billions. That’s more money than what the Qiu family could make.

“That young man, he looks sharp.”

“They are a good match with each other. This Qiao-Yu found herself a good son-in-law!”

Another round of praise came from the gathered relatives.

Only Qiu Mu-Cheng and her family refrained from participating, as they were dealing with their own negative emotions.

“Uncles and aunties, please don’t just stand around. Let’s move inside.” Chu Wen-Fei has started ushering his guests into the restaurant.

But, at this moment, someone hurried over to Chu Wen-Fei and said: “Young Master Chu, it’s terrible. Something has gone wrong. The receptionist just told me they do not have enough private rooms. They told us to move to another restaurant or come another day.”

“What? They have the guts to tell me to change the date of my engagement banquet?” When Chu Wen-Fei heard this, he flew into a rage.

This turn of events caused misgiving to spread among the guests. Wang Qiao-Yu asked worriedly: “Wen-Fei, is there a problem?”

Chu Wen-Fei waved his hand dismissively.

“Mom, it’s not a big deal. I can handle this. Everyone, please follow me inside.”

But just as expected, the Qiu family was stopped at the front desk. The receptionist informed them that they didn’t have any private room available and asked them to move to another restaurant.

“Screw you!”

“I want my private room and I want it now.”

“Where’s your manager? Let me see your manager. I am Chu Wen-Fei and this is my engagement banquet. Let’s see if he has the guts to embarrass me?” Chu Wen-Fei’s hollered angrily. The receptionist was so frightened by the outburst that he scurried away to find the manager.

A few minutes later.

The receptionist returned and led the guests to a private room.

“Wow, Wen-Fei. You’re good!”

“They had no choice but to agree to your demands.”

“Qiao-Yu, this son-in-law of yours has a bright future ahead!”

“Ying-Ying is going to be a rich madam in future and enjoy the good life.”

The guests let loose another torrent of praise. Wang Qiao-Yu and her family were so happy that they couldn't stop smiling. Driven by the mood, Qiu Mu-Ying hugged her fiancé's arm, a blissful smile plastered on her face, and said shyly, “Darling, you're great.” The crowd laughed joyously at this public display of affection.

Chu Wen-Fei waved his hand dismissively. “Everyone, it's not a big deal. Not worth mentioning. And the restaurant manager used to be my father's driver. He has to respect my father. So the one who's great is my father. Not me. I am just a fresh university graduate.”

This pretension of humility earned him full marks from the crowd.

And yet another round of praise.

“Humble and not proud. He's destined for great things.”

“Ying-Ying, you’ve found yourself a good man!”

“It’s the Qiu family’s good fortune to have a son-in-law like him!”

The last line was said by the head of the Qiu family, who was seated at the seat of honor. This evaluation made Chu Wen-Fei swell with pride. Qiu Mu-Ying and her family also basked in the reflected glory.

Humans are competitive creatures and, naturally, Master Qiu’s favoritism made his youngest son’s family unhappy.

“Dad, come on, our Jiang Yang is not bad as well. When our company ran into difficulties, his family helped us out a number of times. Without Jiang Yang, the Qiu family would not be where we are today.” Ma Ling, the wife of Master Qiu’s youngest son, was quick to point out.

Master Qiu laughed. “That’s right. Ling is correct. Although our family is welcoming in the new today, we must not forget the old. I’ve liked Jiang Yang since I first saw him. After he completes his postgraduate studies, whether he chooses to go into politics or business, his achievements will

not be lesser than his father's. Our Hong-Hong has also found herself the right man. She has not embarrassed our family."

"Anyway, our Qiu family has four young ladies. Except for my second son's daughter who is still in school, the other three have found their life partners. And I am pleased with my sons-in-laws. Except for a certain someone."

As the family head gave his speech at the dinner table, the fourth and fifth Qiu brothers basked in the reflected glory. Qiu Mu-Cheng's family, however, could only bow their heads in silence, while praying that nobody would notice them.

At this moment, outside the private room, the restaurant's general manager was waiting for a call. When his phone rang, he saw the caller's ID and broke into a smile. Then he answered the call in a servile tone. "Master, we've prepared everything. We've been keeping the presidential ready."

"Now, we're just waiting for the arrival of the VIP."

"What? The other guests have to leave as well?"

“That’s no good. The guests here are all VIPs...” Without waiting for the general manager to finish speaking, the party on the other end of the line cut in with a stream of scolding.

“I’m warning you. The person coming today is a very big shot. If anything goes wrong, you will not be losing just your job, but your life as well!”

A guttural snarl came from the other end of the line and then the call ended, leaving behind the dull du-du of the disconnect tone.

The restaurant’s general manager stayed rooted to the spot, his face pale and covered with cold sweat.

“A... very big shot?”

The general manager was trembling.

Immediately afterwards, he gave the order to clear the place out. Everyone, no matter their background or status, had to leave the restaurant. Even if their meal was still in progress.

But all this was unknown to the Qiu family

members, who were still in their private room. At the dinner table, both Qiu Mu-Ying and Qiu Mu-Hong were basking in the reflected glory of their partners.

“Eh?”

“Where’s that live-in son-in-law?”

“He isn’t here?” Somebody asked and it was only now that they noticed Ye Fan’s absence.

“I guess he felt inferior while he’s in Jiang Yang’s and Wen-Fei’s presence. He’s afraid of losing face and felt too ashamed to show his face. So he left and hid outside?”

“Hahaha~”

“Trash will be trash~”

The guests laughed derisively.

Especially Qiu Mu-Ying and Qiu Mu-Hong. They felt great and looked triumphantly at Qiu Mu-Cheng who had kept silent and her head bowed throughout the conversation.

Because she was too beautiful, Qiu Mu-Cheng had always overshadowed both

Mu-Ying and Mu-Hong since their childhood. So both of them considered Qiu Mu-Cheng to be a thorn in their flesh and they had always targeted her because of their jealousies.

And now, the tide had turned in their favor. Now, they only felt pity and scorn towards Qiu Mu-Cheng.

“The wheel of fortune turns.”

“Qiu Mu-Cheng, Qiu Mu-Cheng. So what if you are pretty?”

“You ended up marrying a piece of trash!”

“The wife basks in the reflected glory of her husband. From now onwards, you are destined to be trampled under foot by us. You will never be able to hold your head up high in the Qiu family.”

Both Qiu Mu-Ying and Qiu Mu-Hong had smug expressions on their faces as they smiled inwardly.

“Why mention a lazy and useless trash on an auspicious day like this?” A roar from Master Qiu stopped the discussion about Ye Fan. And then he continued with his

speech.

“I, Qiu Zheng-Lun, am very happy for the two daughters of our family. They’ve found themselves good men. Jiang Yang and Wen-Fei. I am very pleased with this two sons-in-law. They are the pride of the Qiu family.”

“Come, let’s have a toast. The Qiu family offers a toast to the two sons-in-laws!”

Master Qiu took the lead by raising his cup.

But just as the feast was reaching its peak and everyone was standing up to offer their toasts, the door to the private room was pushed open and a waiter hurried inside.

“Sir~”

“Screw you~”

“Who told you to come in? Can’t you see we are having a toast?” Chu Wen-Fei flew into a rage. He was obviously unhappy with the intrusion of the waiter.

The waiter, too, was feeling a bit annoyed.

Since this guest loved to show off, he was not going to treat him with respect anymore. "Mister Chu, sorry. We are expecting a VIP. So we have to clear Haiyuan Pavilion of all guests. Please leave."

What?

All the guests present were shocked.

Although the waiter's words were polite, it was clear that he wanted them to get lost.

Chu Wen-Fei's wine glass hovered in front of his lips. He was stunned.

Clear out?

Screw you!

This engagement banquet had just reached its peak. His in-laws were right in front of him and his wife's family were enjoying their feast. He hadn't finished showing off yet and the restaurant wanted him to leave?

Damn!

Chu Wen-Fei was about to explode with

anger. If this engagement banquet was interrupted halfway through and if his guests were chased out of the restaurant, he would really lose face.

His face turned an unhealthy color. Chu Wen-Fei felt that he was being screwed over and he couldn't help cursing in his mind.

Qiu Mu-Ying also had an ugly complexion. "Wen-Fei, what's going on. We can't eat here anymore?"

Chu Wen-Fei waved his hand. "Nothing. No worries, Ying-Ying. I will take care of this."

"But sir, this order came from above..."

"Screw your order! Tell your manager, I am Chu Wen-Fei, the son of Chu Yang. If you want me out, tell your manager to come himself."

"Let's see if he has the guts!"

Chu Wen-Fei was really pissed.

If he was chased out of his own engagement banquet, he would not be able to face anyone again. And his wife's

family was present too.

“Wen-Fei, is everything alright? Why don’t we move to another restaurant?” Qiu Guang, the eldest Qiu brother, asked worriedly.

“Uncle, don’t worry. Keep eating. The restaurant manager was my family’s driver. He wouldn’t dare chase us out.”

“That’s right. It’s nothing. Everyone, continue eating. Wen-Fei’s family has clout. He can take care of this.” Wang Qiao-Yu smiled to ease the tension. After all, this was her daughter’s engagement banquet. If anything went wrong, she would lose face.

The Qiu family continued with their meal. The waiter was helpless before Chu Wen-Fei’s demands, as he was afraid of offending the son of some VIP. So he hurried to report to the manager.

“Sir, a guest is refusing to leave. He said he’s the son of Chu Yang. He wants to see you.”

“Damn! He wants to see me? Who does he think he is?” The manager flew into a rage

when he heard the news. “He’s just a kid. Does he really think he’s somebody important? Tell him this. Even if his father is here, he has to get lost as well!”

“Damn. I’ve just sent away four directors. He’s just a kid. He thinks I can’t handle him?”

“Pass down my instruction. If they still don’t want to leave, we will get the security guards to beat them up before throwing them out of the restaurant. You got that?”

The manager was in a bad mood. The general manager had just given him a dressing down, and now this college kid wanted to push him around too? How could he not get mad?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Once they had received their instructions, the underlings left to carry out their task.

Soon, the waiter returned to the private room and repeated the manager's instruction. Of course, Chu Wen-Fei was unwilling to listen and insisted on seeing the manager.

And then the Qiu family members could only react in confusion when the troop of security personnel arrived on the scene. Finally, they were all thrown out by the guards. During the process, both Chu Wen-Fei and Qiu Mu-Ying put up a fight and kept demanding to see the manager.

"Screw you!"

The security guard was pissed and responded by slapping the unreasonable duo before throwing them out.

"Ouch!"

"It hurts~"

Both Chu Wen-Fei and Qiu Mu-Ying howled in agony.

"Bastards, how dare you treat me like this."

"I promise you this. You all are done for!"

"How dare you dirty my dress?"

"You low class people. Can you afford to pay for my dress?"

Qiu Mu-Ying was still ranting away.

"Keep shouting and I will slap your bloody mouth!" A security guard glared and roared at Qiu Mu-Ying. She promptly shut up.

"Do you know what's going on here?"

"It's so humiliating."

The hitherto festive banquet guests were now thrown out of the restaurant, and they milled around feeling embarrassed and looking demoralized. Wang Qiao-Yu kept complaining as she had suffered a great loss of face. As for Qiu Zheng-Lun, the head of the Qiu family, his face had already turned an ugly color. In his whole life, he had never been so humiliated before. To think that he was thrown out like a dog during his meal.

At this time, a crowd had gathered outside Haiyuan Pavilion.

To prepare for the VIP's arrival, cordon tapes were put up to clear a path through the crowd. And a brand new red carpet was unrolled from the restaurant's entrance to the main road.

"Whoa!"

"Look, isn't that the president of Wei Corporation? One of the top ten young entrepreneurs of Jiangdong province? He's a National People's Congress representative. He was told to leave as well?"

"And that old man. Isn't he the head of the Qiu family? He was chased out as well?"

"Damn. That's Director Li Wei-Min. He's a senior leader of the municipal party committee. He was told to leave too!"

"What the... What's going on today?"

"Is a VVIP coming?"

"Making such a fuss!"

When they saw the top dogs of Yunzhou city chased out of the restaurant, the onlookers worked themselves into a

frenzy.

With all the pomp that was going on, everyone couldn't help wondering about the identity of Haiyuan Pavilion's mystery guest.

What kind of person could make Haiyuan Pavilion go to such great lengths and offend so many members of high society!

When the Qiu family saw that they were in such illustrious company, they felt a little better. At the same time, they were also curious about the identity of the VIP guest.

Qiu Mu-Cheng, too, lifted up her head to look, her heart filled with curiosity.

Boom~

Finally, amidst all the commotion, roars of engine noise could be heard coming in from the end of the main road. Like the sound of howling demons, they tore through the horizon.

Immediately after, streams of orange-yellow headlights flashed through the canopy of the night sky and sped towards the restaurant.

The momentum of the car fleet was like that of a churning river!

Soon, a black explosion-proof car that was being escorted by other vehicles arrived on the scene.

“Whoa!”

“Rolls-Royces!”

“Six of them?”

“Heavens!”

“What a huge procession.”

The crowd worked themselves into a frenzy again. Everyone was overwhelmed by the pageantry and after witnessing the procession, Chu Wen-Fei felt inferior.

Finally, the car’s door opened.

Numerous stewards lined up on both sides of the red carpet and shouted in unison.

“Welcome, Young Master Fan!”

“Welcome, Young Master Fan!”

Boom~

Their shouts thundered and resounded through the air.

While the stewards were shouting, the general manager himself came out to receive the mystery guest and the female greeters bowed uniformly in welcome.

Under the dim lighting and the adoring gazes of the crowd, the slim figure of a young man walked up the red carpet and disappeared into Haiyuan Pavilion.

Leaving numerous smoldering stares and frenzied shrieks in his wake.

“Wow, so handsome!”

“So young~”

“He must be super rich.”

“Wish I could marry him~~”

Scores of girls screamed and wished they could throw themselves at him.

“Shit, stop pushing~”

“You beasts!”

Because the Qiu family members were standing in a bad position, they were quickly pushed to the back of the crowd. When they made their way to the front, they could only see the back view of the young man.

But even so, the two married woman – Qiu Mu-Ying and Qiu Mu-Hong – stared seductively and longingly after the retreating back of the mysterious youth.

“Ai, it’s a pity. We don’t know him.”

“If I know a rich man like him, I will do anything to become his wife. Even if I have to keep pestering him. I want to sleep with him and have his baby. It’s fine even if I can only be his mistress.”

Their hearts were filled with excitement and yearning. It didn’t matter to them that they were married. As long as this young master was willing, they could always abandon their husbands and follow him.

As for Mu-Ying’s and Mu-Hong’s parents, they were feeling contemplative. They couldn’t help but think about how

wonderful it would be if this rich young man was their son-in-law.

“Ai, Cheng-Cheng, look at him. He had the entire Haiyuan Pavilion cleared out just because he wanted to have a meal. Not only did the general manager welcome him personally, he also received the red carpet treatment. Would we be able to enjoy such treatment in our lifetime?” Qiu Mu-Cheng’s mother, Han Li, was feeling envious. Making comparisons often bring about hurt feelings but, when she looked at the scene before her, Han Li couldn’t help comparing that mysterious young man with that useless son-in-law of hers. And she felt depressed when she thought about how ill-fated her life was.

However, nobody noticed that Qiu Mu-Cheng had become stunned as she was observing the back view of the mysterious young man.

“Mom, dad. Don’t you think that young man looks like Ye Fan?” Qiu Mu-Cheng whispered to her parents.

Her parents laughed bitterly in response. “Cheng-Cheng, stop dreaming. Although we truly wish that person is our son-in-law,

but that's impossible. Right?"

"Let's go~"

"Ai~"

"It's a shame that our family is being dragged down because of that piece of trash."

Han Li sighed. The crowd had already dispersed and so they left the place with the rest of the Qiu family.

But Qiu Mu-Cheng was reluctant to leave. Her face creased in concentration as she thought about the mysterious young man.

Could it be that I was wrong?

But they look so similar~

In the end, Qiu Mu-Cheng could only shake her head and sigh.

Obviously, even she thought that she was overthinking things.

A young master from a rich family and a live-in son-in-law are as different as heaven and earth. So how could the two

be the same person?

Qiu Mu-Cheng laughed self-deprecatingly and left.

“Fan, I am glad that you are willing to see me.”

Haiyuan Pavilion. The Presidential Room.

Ye Fan’s face was expressionless as he sat quietly. But the middle-aged man in front of him was overwhelmed with emotion. At that moment, he looked like he was about to cry.

If anyone from the Chu family was here, they would be shocked to see this weaker side of the usually unyielding and ruthless “Demon King Chu”.

Ye Fan’s expression remained emotionless. “Don’t overthink this. I am not sitting here because of you.”

“If you have anything to say, then say it. After so many years, why did you people spend so much effort to look for the low-born son of a low-born woman?”

As Ye Fan asked his question, there was a

hint of sarcasm on his lips.

The middle-aged man felt a stab of pain in his heart. But he took a deep breath and tried to maintain his composure. "Fan, it's been ten years already. Let bygones be bygones. The family does not care anymore about what happened in the past. Your grandfather is already an old man. And you are the only member of the family's Tian (Heaven) character generation. Now, it's time to go back. Return to your roots and pay your respect to your grandfather."

"Grandfather?" Ye Fan laughed, his words cutting like ice. "I will say this again. I no longer had a grandfather the moment he drove my mother and me out of the family!"

"As for returning to my roots, it's possible. As long as he, and the rest of the people who humiliated my mother and me, apologize to my mother."

"Otherwise, I would rather die in the streets than return to the Chu family!"

Ye Fan's eyes were bloodshot and his body was trembling with rage.

The Chu family was prominent throughout the world but, in Ye Fan's memory, it was a cold and unfeeling place.

When he saw Ye Fan's reaction, the middle-aged man felt a stab of pain in his heart.

"Fan, let bygones be bygones."

"Let bygones be bygones? That's easy for you to say. That's my mom, not yours. You can let bygones be bygones, but I can't!"
Ye Fan growled like a beast who had his sore spot touched.

Soon, the room turned silent.

Nothing could be heard except for the ticking sound of the clock.

After a while, the middle-aged man sighed.
"Fan, I understand where you are coming from. I also understand the suffering you and your mother have gone through. But you know this too. It's extremely difficult to force a prominent family, like the Chu family, to bow its head."

"At least, the you right now lack the strength to do so."

“If you wish to seek justice for your mother, then work hard and prove yourself.”

“When you are good enough, the whole world will bow before you.”

Ye Fan raised his head and fixed his gaze on the man opposite him. And then, he smiled sinisterly. “I will be.”

“I will take back what the Chu family owes me and my mother!”

Ye Fan thought that would anger him but, to his surprise, the middle-aged man laughed with a twinkle of happiness in his eyes, and said: “I believe you.”

Ye Fan did not stay to chat and left promptly.

As he was leaving, the middle-aged man suddenly called out after him. “Fan. Your mother. Is she doing well? I would like to see her.”

With his back facing the man, Ye Fan answered his question. “Do you think you have the right?”

Ye Fan laughed coldly and left the place.

In the room, only the middle-aged man remained. And with his heart full of guilt and regret, he gazed into the distance.

Suddenly, his body convulsed and, after a bout of coughing, he looked at the hand that he had used to cover his mouth. It was stained with blood.

“Master, your health...?” An elderly retainer hurried forward and supported him worriedly.

The man waved his hand and smiled. “It’s nothing. My son has not returned home so how could I fall?”

“Oh, that’s right, Han. Fan’s wife. She’s called Qiu Mu-Cheng? Prepare some gifts and deliver them to her. Let this unqualified father-in-law show some appreciation for his daughter-in-law.”

“And I remember our family used to have a servant called Li Er, right? I heard he’s doing well for himself in Yunzhou. Send him my greeting. Tell him I don’t care who dies in Yunzhou. As long as it’s not my son.”

As he was talking, the man turned to face Han again. His eyes were bright and they swam with unfathomable implications.

“Master, how are you feeling?”

The man smiled. “Nothing, Han. If I remember correctly, you used to take care of Fan when he was still with us?”

Han’s eyes twitched a little.

The middle-aged man continued to speak. “The Chu family is huge but everyone is looking out for their own self interests. There aren’t many people who would die for Fan. Although I am his father, but there are many things I can’t do for him. So, Han. I’d like to ask for your help. Please look out for Fan in private.”

“Speaking as a father, this will give me peace of mind.”

Chapter 4 Am I Seeing Things?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Night had fallen.

The watery moonlight glimmered and a cool breeze sang softly through the air.

A young man stood quietly on the misty bank of the lake. His gaze was deep as he looked at the ripples forming across the lake.

Yunzhou was a water city. Since time immemorial, it was known for having more water than land. And Yunwu Lake was Yunzhou city's largest freshwater lake. Because it was covered with mist all year round, it gained the name of "Yunwu" (Misty Cloud).

"Young Master, I have kept you waiting." From behind him came the voice of an old man. It was Han. If anyone from the Chu family was here, they would be shocked to see the head butler of the Chu family, the most favored retainer of their family head, behaving so servilely towards this young man.

"Has he left?" The young man asked lightly as he continued to stare at the lake.

"Yes, Young Master. The family head has

already left. And he told me to look after you in secret. So it will be more convenient for us to communicate in the future. Even if we are discovered, no one will find out my real identity.”

Ye Fan nodded and spoke slowly: “Han, for my sake, you had to shoulder a heavy burden and endure sufferings at the Chu family. Thank you for your hard work.”

“Young Master, you are too kind. If you had not saved me back then, I would have already died in the wilderness. From that time onwards, I have pledged my loyalty to you. Never mind ten years, I will gladly endure a hundred years of suffering for your sake. As long as I can help you fulfill your long-cherished wish, I will have no complaints.”

Ye Fan smiled lightly and patted Han’s shoulder. “Thanks.”

“Young Master, words of thanks are not necessary. I owe everything I have to you. And all these years, I have followed your orders and secretly supported various powers throughout Great China. After ten years, our efforts have borne fruit. There’s the boss of Yunzhou city, Li Er. And the

Wang family of Beiquan city. And..." The old man excitedly recited the result of his hard work to Ye Fan, as if he was a gardener showing off his prized flowers to his master.

"Young Master, when are you returning to the Chu family? I believe, when you return, all those people who have looked down on and humiliated your mother will regret what they did." Han looked at Ye Fan, a light of hope glimmering in his eyes. He had the air of an undercover soldier who was praying for the triumphant return of his king.

Ye Fan shook his head. "Han, it's not time yet. Operation Spark needs more time. But it's near completion. When I return to the Chu family, this spark will ignite a prairie fire!"

Ye Fan clenched his hand and his eyes shone with an unfathomable light.

Profound respect rose up within Han as he looked at the twenty-something young man standing before him. Most probably, even the Old Master did not think that the "low-born" person despised by the Chu family was a dragon among men.

Ten years ago, Ye Fan was just a teenager, with an air of childlike innocence still about him. But what the Chu family did to Ye Fan and his mother had left him with a temperament beyond that of other men.

During those years at the Chu family, Ye Fan had managed to recruit many servants to his side. Han was just one of them. After they were driven out of the family, Ye Fan came up with Operation Spark. He had given his mother's dowry to Han. Through the old man and the influence of the Chu family, they had invested in various down-on-their-luck people throughout Great China.

"The best investment is in people!"

"At first, they may be only sparks. Weak and unknown. But I believe, given enough time, the sparks will ignite a fire that will burn across the prairie!"

Most likely, nobody would think that the speech was made by a teenager. When he had first heard the speech, Han had been deeply impressed by Ye Fan's far-sightedness and the maturity that was beyond his years.

And now, ten years had passed and Ye Fan's plan had borne fruit. And this deepened Han's respect for Ye Fan. It wasn't just gratitude that Han was feeling, but also deep admiration for the far-sightedness of Ye Fan's plan!

"Yes. When the time comes, I will throw open the gates of the Chu family and welcome you, Young Master. I await the return of the king!"

Whoosh~

The piercing cold wind blew and countless ripples formed across Yunwu Lake.

At this moment, Qiu Mu-Ying and Chu Wen-Fei had already moved to another restaurant for their engagement banquet.

After all, the banquet must go on. And they had yet to officially announce their engagement, so there was no way Qiu Mu-Ying and her family would let the guests leave.

But, even though it wasn't their fault, getting chased out of Haiyuan Pavilion while the banquet was still in progress had caused Qiu Mu-Ying's family to lose face.

And this hit Qiu Mu-Ying especially hard. She had planned to show off in front of her relatives, but the unforeseen event had caused her to lose face instead. And so, she placed the blame on Chu Wen-Fei.

“Ying-Ying, that was not my fault, right?”

“Who would have thought a VIP would suddenly appear in Yunzhou?”

“It wasn’t my fault. Look, even that director and the president of Qianyi Group were thrown out as well. There was nothing I could have done. Your family will understand.” Outside the private room, Chu Wen-Fei was doing his best to console Qiu Mu-Ying.

But Qiu Mu-Ying remained unpacified. “Hmph. Even if I forgive you for what happened at Haiyuan Pavilion, it still remains a fact that you have embarrassed me in front of my family. I don’t care. Later, your family will have to give lots of expensive betrothal gifts to make up for my loss of face. Yes, I want a million and one in cash as well. Or I will divorce you!”

When her cousin, Qiu Mu-Hong, had gotten engaged, her in-laws had given her ten

thousand and one in cash. The meaning behind the gift was “one in a thousand”. Now that it was her turn, she wanted to one-up her cousin with a “one in a million”.

“Relax, Ying-Ying. When the betrothal gifts arrive, they will definitely make you look good in front of your family.” Chu Wen-Fei assured her confidently.

“Alright then.” Only then did Qiu Mu-Ying decide to let Chu Wen-Fei off the hook. She returned to the private room and joined her family.

Chu Wen-Fei then proceeded to a deserted corner to make a phone call. “Dad, have you prepared the betrothal gifts? Make sure they are expensive. The more expensive the better. Add a million and one in cash too. The people from the Qiu family are here. The Chu family can’t afford to lose face in Yunzhou. If people talk about the gifts, you will be the one to lose face.” Chu Wen-Fei laughed cheekily.

“Piss off, you unfilial son. And don’t call me dad!”

“You stole the household register and got married in secret. You really have got

guts.”

“Since you are so capable, go handle your engagement and wedding by yourself.”

A man howled in anger from the other end of the line.

“Dad, I only wanted to give you a grandson, to continue our family line.” Chu Wen-Fei replied timidly.

“Screw you! Everyone in Yunzhou’s high society knows with the exception of Qiu Mu-Cheng, all the daughters of the Qiu family are petty gold-digging bitches! How dare you marry a woman like that? You have brought shame upon our family!”

“And she wants betrothal gifts? A million in cash? Screw you. Tell this to the gold-digging bitch. Even if I die, she will not get a single cent of our money!”

“Betrothal gift? I won’t give a single penny!”

“I don’t want a gold-digging bitch like her to be my daughter-in-law! Not even if they are giving her away for free!”

And with a slam, the call ended.

Chu Wen-Fei was troubled. What could he do? He had just promised Qiu Mu-Ying that he would get her expensive betrothal gifts. If he could not come up with anything, there would be hell to pay.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Chu Wen-Fei had no other choice, but to pray that his own father wouldn't be so heartless as to abandon him. So he put up a brave front and returned to the private room.

"Wen-Fei, when will your parents return from their business trip? They will have to meet their in-laws eventually." In the room, Master Qiu once again enquired after the whereabouts of Chu Wen-Fei's parents.

After all, his parents had not appeared once throughout their engagement. This gave the impression that they did not cherish a daughter of the Qiu family. Chu Wen-Fei's heart jumped for a moment, but he managed to spin out a lie about his parents' imminent return.

"Wen-Fei, are your family's betrothal gifts here yet?"

"Are your parents dissatisfied with me?" Qiu Mu-Ying was getting impatient so she started complaining to Chu Wen-Fei.

"Soon, soon." Chu Wen-Fei laughed, but his words lacked confidence.

Suddenly, the sound of a car's engine

came from outside the restaurant.

Immediately after, a Qiu family member rushed in to report the good news. "They are here. They are here. Mu-Ying's betrothal gifts have arrived."

"Really?" At that moment, the Qiu family members couldn't sit still anymore. Especially Qiu Mu-Ying and her mother, who were both overwhelmed with joy.

Prodded by her curiosity, Qiu Mu-Cheng also went with her relatives to look at the betrothal gifts.

"Hmph, where do you think you are going? Seeing the gifts doesn't make them yours." Qiu Mu-Ying looked smugly at Qiu Mu-Cheng and then left excitedly with her husband to receive the gifts outside.

Qiu Mu-Cheng kept quiet and bowed her head despondently.

When it came to marriage, Qiu Mu-Cheng undoubtedly lacked confidence. She did marry a useless piece of trash and, back then, she did not receive a single betrothal gift.

A wedding was supposed to be a girl's brightest moment. But to Qiu Mu-Cheng, it was a humiliation.

"Uncle, haha, uncle. You are here at last."

"I am my father's only son. I know he wouldn't abandon me."

When he saw the middle-aged man coming down from the Benz, Chu Wen-Fei was overjoyed. He pulled Qiu Mu-Ying along as he stepped forward to greet his uncle.

"Quick, Ying-Ying. Greet my uncle. In our family, apart from my father, he dotes on me most."

"Hmph. There's no need." The man looked unhappy and responded coldly.

The cold reception irked her, and Qiu Mu-Ying's face paled a little.

"Uncle, what are you doing? This is the day of my engagement." Chu Wen-Fei asked bitterly.

Chu Yue ignored his ignorant nephew and ordered his underlings to unload the

betrothal gift.

“Take it. This betrothal gift is from the Chu family of Yunzhou!”

Chu Yue’s face was expressionless as he placed the box before Qiu Mu-Ying. And having done that, he left immediately without waiting for the rest of the Qiu family to arrive.

“Ai~”

“He has left already?”

“Without a word?” Wang Qiao-Yu was confused by his abrupt departure.

Chu Wen-Fei was embarrassed and could only give the excuse that his uncle was busy.

“Okay, let’s not talk about that. Quick, Qiao-Yu, open the box and let us see what’s in there. What kind of betrothal gift did Wen-Fei’s family send us?”

“Wen-Fei’s family is rich and influential. The betrothal gift must be very valuable.”

“Could it be that the whole box is stuffed

full of money?”

“Wow, this is a huge box. How much money do you think is in it?”

“Qiao-Yu, I really envy you. You have found yourself a good son-in-law!”

The assembled family members, filled with envy and curiosity, chatted among themselves.

Both Wang Qiao-Yu and Qiu Mu-Ying had joyful expressions as they enjoyed the praises coming from their relatives, as though they were standing on the summit of life.

And, after a bout of guesses, Qiu Mu-Ying opened the box.

But, contrary to their expectations, there was no money in the box.

“What’s this?”

“It’s all black. And I can smell the fragrance of tea leaves?”

“Must be something valuable that we haven’t seen before? Maybe it’s even more

valuable than gold.” Wang Qiao-Yu laughed as she made a guess.

Jiang Yang walked over, grabbed a handful of the stuff and sniffed. “It’s tea leaves. If I am not mistaken, it’s Longjing tea from Xihu. It’s a type of green tea.”

“Green tea?”

“It can’t be? Yang, are you mistaken? Who would give green tea as a betrothal gift?” Wang Qiao-Yu could not believe her ears. No matter how expensive the tea was, it’s still just tea. She didn’t believe that Chu family would be so stingy as to use tea leaves as a betrothal gift.

“Eh? Qiao-Yu, look. There’s something buried in the leaves.”

Somebody had made a discovery. Wang Qiao-Yu smiled and said: “I knew it. There’s no way my daughter would receive only tea leaves for her betrothal gift. There must be gold buried underneath. No, it’s diamond. Only diamond is a fitting gift for my daughter.”

Wang Qiao-Yu laughed as she dug through the tea leaves with her daughter.

“This... This is?”

“A clock?”

Once the object was dug out, the crowd grew more curious. Because that thing was not gold or diamond. It was a large clock.

“I know. This clock must be made of diamond.”

“I saw this on TV before. There’s a clock made of diamond in Switzerland. It went for ten million at an auction. Ten million American dollars. Ying-Ying’s clock must be a Swiss made diamond clock as well. Even if it’s not worth ten million, it must be worth at least one million.” Wang Qiao-Yu was still smiling and Qiu Mu-Ying was fondling the clock lovingly, trying her best to find the diamonds on the clock.

“Qiao-Yu, let me have a look.”

At that moment, Qiu Mu-Cheng’s mother, Han Li, took the clock and examined it.

“Be careful. You can’t afford to pay for it if you break it.” Qiu Mu-Ying said loathingly.

"It's not a Swiss clock. It's unbranded. I bought an exact same one on Taobao the other day. Twenty dollars with shipping included. Exactly the same model." Han Li said confidently.

"Screw you!"

"Twenty dollars? You are the cheap one. Your whole family is cheap."

"You are jealous. Your daughter married a useless piece of trash so you are jealous of our Ying-Ying for finding a good husband. That's why you are spreading lies here."

"This is a diamond Swiss clock!"

Wang Qiao-Yu flew into a rage and rushed at Han Li like a mad dog.

"Qiu Mu-Cheng, you are jealous of me. So you deliberately caused a disturbance here. Get lost!" Qiu Mu-Ying was also angry at Qiu Mu-Cheng's family for acting like ungrateful wretches. How could Mu-Cheng and her family cause trouble at her engagement banquet after eating and drinking at their expense?

“Ying-Ying and Qiao-Yu, it’s true. It’s really from Taobao. Twenty dollars with shipping included. It says so on the tag here. Look, the price is printed there.” Said somebody from behind them.

“Whoa, it’s true!”

“Look. I found it. This clock looks exactly the same as the one on Taobao.”

“Why did Wen-Fei family send this?”

“The betrothal gift is just a box of green tea and a clock?”

“Green tea, clock?”

“Green tea bitch?”

And all at once, the Qiu family members started talking as they tried to guess the meaning behind the Chu family’s betrothal gift.

“Green tea and clock?”

“Are they saying that Ying-Ying is a green tea bitch?”

“That’s too much~”

Everyone felt that, although Qiu Mu-Ying and her family had lousy personalities, it was uncalled for to say it out loud. Master Qiu, who was just standing nearby, nearly died from a fit of rage.

As for Qiu Mu-Ying and her family, they were so embarrassed that they wished the ground would open up and swallow them.

“Ying-Ying, please listen to my explanation~” Chu Wen-Fei was still trying to salvage their relationship.

Qiu Mu-Ying promptly burst into tears. She didn’t want to listen and gave Chu Wen-Fei a slap. And with teary eyes, she threw the box of green tea at Chu Wen-Fei’s face.

“Get lost. I want a divorce. I don’t want to see you ever again!”

“You are the green tea bitch! Your whole family are green tea bitches!”

“If you are poor, why pretend to be a rich man? We are embarrassed even if you are not.” This time, it was Wang Qiao-Yu doing the scolding. Chu Wen-Fei was so demoralized that he felt like running away.

But at this time, a fleet of luxury cars

pulled up before the restaurant.

And then a dozen or so heavily-built men in suits swarmed through the entrance.

“May I know if the third daughter of the Qiu family is here? The Chu family of Great China is here to deliver their betrothal gift!”

Boom~

All of a sudden, the venue went quiet. Everyone was stunned and Qiu Mu-Cheng was rooted to the spot.

“For... For me?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“The Chu family of Great China is here to present their betrothal gift.”

The elderly herald had an energetic voice that resounded throughout the hall.

Immediately after, he waved his hand and the gift bearers standing by opened their boxes and displayed the betrothal gifts.

“May abundant wealth fill your hall. Here is a platinum necklace.”

“May your love for each other be eternal. Here is a diamond ring~”

“May your love be truer than gold. Here is a pair of gold earrings~”

“You are one in a thousand. Here is ten thousand and one in cash~”

One by one, the boxes were opened and the gifts presented. All at once, the air shimmered with the gleam and sparkle from all the jewellery.

And finally, after all the jewellery had been presented, a brand new sports car was pushed forward by an underling.

“This~”

“This... This is?”

“A car fit for a CEO. It’s a Maserati!”

“Whoa. They are giving away a car just like that. It must be worth millions?”

The Qiu family members had worked themselves into a state of frenzy. Their eyes were filled with shock and amazement as they stared at the precious offerings in front of them.

Only a tycoon could afford all that!

To think that, they would give away a betrothal gift that was worth millions.

“A tycoon. That’s a tycoon right there.”

The assembled guests were full of praise for this overwhelming display of wealth.

As for Qiu Mu-Cheng, she was in a daze.
“All these are for me?”

“Stop dreaming. You’ve been married for three years already. Why would you get any betrothal gift? These are obviously for

our Ying-Ying.”

“Ying-Ying, come quick. Say your thanks to our in-laws.”

Wang Qiao-Yu was overjoyed. She thought that they had lost face today, but who would have thought there would be a plot twist and the Chu family would deliver such valuable gifts in the end.

After making their delivery, the gift bearers left without a word. At the restaurant, only the betrothal gifts and the Qiu family members were left hanging around.

“Wen-Fei, we have misunderstood you.”

“Your family must have gone to great expense, to deliver so many valuable gifts.” Wang Qiao-Yu had once again resumed her friendly demeanor with Chu Wen-Fei.

Qiu Mu-Ying was also smiling now, after her earlier tantrum. She stepped forward to hug Chu Wen-Fei and said cutely: “Darling, you are so mean. Since you have already prepared so many gifts, why didn’t you say so earlier?”

The change in their attitude came so fast

that it was enough to make anyone speechless.

And of course, the other guests had nice things to say as well.

“Wen-Fei’s family is so rich.”

“That’s a tycoon for you. A single betrothal gift costs several million.”

“A life of comfort awaits Ying-Ying~”

The onlookers were full of envy. Although they had heard the herald ask for the third daughter of the Qiu family, they just assumed that the other party had made a mistake. After all, it was the day of the fourth daughter’s engagement. Nobody would think that the betrothal gifts were for a woman who had already been married for three years.

Of course, Qiu Mu-Cheng and her family felt rather unpleasant.

“Ai, look at their son-in-law. His betrothal gift is a car that’s worth millions. And those jewellery must be very valuable too. And look at ours. What did he give us?”

Qiu Mu-Cheng kept quiet and not a trace of emotion could be seen on her face.

As for Chu Wen-Fei, he was pleasantly surprised. He had thought that his father was ready to abandon him. But then, looking at the betrothal gifts, it was obvious that no expense had been spared to prepare them. To think that his own father would try to surprise him by pretending to belittle him at first and then raise him up later.

“Haha~”

“It’s a piece of cake. It’s not a big deal.”

“Ying-Ying, in the future, I won’t be giving you just cars. But also luxury yachts and private planes as well. I will bring you on a trip round the world.” Chu Wen-Fei could not resist showing off again.

As for Qiu Mu-Ying, she was eager to try out her new gift. “I haven’t had the chance to sit in a Maserati before. I want to see what it feels like.”

“Okay, Ying-Ying. Your husband will take you out on a spin.”

Chu Wen-Fei laughed and stretched out his hand to open the car's door.

But, no matter how hard he pulled, the door wouldn't open.

"Shit, it's locked?"

Chu Wen-Fei was stunned for a moment, and then he looked around the car for a key. Could it be that his father had forgotten to give him the key?

His brother-in-law, Jiang Yang, took a look and said: "It must be a custom-made car. It has a fingerprint lock and voice activation system."

Chu Wen-Fei slapped his thigh in realization. "You're right, Jiang Yang. I nearly forgot. I did ask my father to get me a custom-made car with a fingerprint lock and a voice activation system. Now, apart from Ying-Ying and myself, nobody else can drive this car."

Chu Wen-Fei laughed again but, no matter how many times he pressed his finger against the handle, the car's door wouldn't open. Later, Qiu Mu-Ying joined him in his endeavor but, even after using all her

fingers, the door remained shut.

Finally, Chu Wen-Fei could only claim embarrassedly that his father had probably used the wrong prints for the car. He would ask his father again a few days later. In the meantime, the car could stay at the restaurant.

And since the banquet was almost over at this point, the Qiu family members started leaving for their homes.

“Let’s go, Mu-Cheng. Stop looking. It’s not for you.”

“Mom, you go ahead. I want to stay for a little longer.”

“Ai... okay, fine.”

Han Li sighed. She knew her daughter was feeling terrible, so she left without saying anything more.

At the restaurant, only Qiu Mu-Cheng was left behind. She stood in front of the car for a long time and while she was lost in her thoughts, tears started streaming down her face.

Just now, for a moment, she had truly thought that the gifts were for her. But in the end, that hope turned out to be a lie.

The Chu family had probably made a mistake.

“Mu-Cheng, are you envious?” All of a sudden, Ye Fan appeared behind Qiu Mu-Cheng. He looked at her and asked the question lightly.

Qiu Mu-Cheng smiled bitterly and replied: “There is no woman who wouldn’t be envious.”

Humans are susceptible to vanity and Qiu Mu-Cheng was no exception. She had her own desires. She wished to stand at the top one day, and become the object of admiration. She didn’t want to be laughed at or pitied. She wanted the people who looked down on her to regret their treatment of her.

“But so what if I am envious?”

“Maybe, I have no right to want good things. Maybe, I am just not good enough.” Qiu Mu-Cheng smiled self-deprecatingly and shook her head. Finally, she turned to

Ye Fan and said: "Let's go home."

Nobody knew just how much disappointment and anguish were packed into her words. This young lady once had her hopes and dreams for the future, like a flower waiting to bloom, but reality had taught her a bitter lesson. And now she was just a husk of her former self.

Ye Fan remained standing at the same spot. His expression was calm but a faint light glimmered in his eyes.

"Cheng, there's no need for you to be envious."

"After all, this is yours."

Ye Fan smiled lightly and, as she looked on in shock, he grabbed and pressed Qiu Mu-Cheng's hand against the car's door.

With a pop sound, the doors unlocked themselves and lifted upwards like a butterfly spreading its wings to embrace the world. The headlights lit up and parallel streams of orange-red light pierced through the canopy of the night sky like twin swords.

“Activate!”

Boom~

The low beast-like growl of the Maserati’s engine rang out, and the body of the vehicle shuddered violently.

Under the night sky and amidst the roar of engine noise, Ye Fan stood against the dreamlike backdrop lit up by the car’s headlights. He looked at the dazed woman in front of him and held out his arms, as if he was ready to embrace the whole world.

“Silly. You are the best woman in the world. You deserve all the good things in the world.”

“As long as you are willing, I will give you the world.”

Under the stars, Ye Fan stood with his hands folded behind his back and a faint smile on his face. Above him, the heavenly bodies shone brightly and turned the night sky into a vibrant garden. At this moment, the slim figure of Ye Fan looked as dazzling as the bright sun.

Qiu Mu-Cheng, who was already dazed,

stood rooted to the spot. Awe and splendor were reflected in her eyes as she looked blankly at Ye Fan.

A feeling of infinite joy and surprise swept through her heart like a storm. Qiu Mu-Cheng was so overwhelmed that she could hardly believe her own eyes.

All this, felt so illusory that it was like a dream.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Qiu Mu-Cheng had already forgotten how she got home that night. The events today had too much of an impact on her. This state of turmoil would probably continue even after she reached home.

Could it be that Ye Fan had been telling the truth? Were the gifts really from him?

A multi-million sports car and those expensive jewellery. Were they given by Ye Fan?

But Ye Fan was just a poor live-in son-in-law. Where did he get all that money?

Or perhaps, Ye Fan had only been pretending to be poor all these years? He was not really from a poor family, but a rich one? He was truly the son of a rich man?

That thought sent Qiu Mu-Cheng into a state of confusion. There were too many questions that she wanted to ask Ye Fan.

“Cheng-Cheng, you are back. Come have your dinner.”

When Han Li saw Qiu Mu-Cheng standing outside the door, she greeted her daughter

with a smile.

Although Han Li had also suffered humiliation today, she was still Mu-Cheng's mother. She understood that the grievance her daughter had suffered was even greater than her's. So she didn't place any further blame on Mu-Cheng.

"Eh?"

"You piece of trash. Who said you could come home?"

"You were afraid of getting embarrassed so you ran away during the banquet. But you left your wife there. Can you still call yourself a man?"

"It was Mu-Cheng's misfortune to marry a man like you!"

"Get lost~"

When she saw Ye Fan who was standing behind Qiu Mu-Cheng, Han Li lost control of her emotions. The grievance she had endured earlier at the hands of her relatives was all unleashed at that moment.

But Ye Fan had already gotten used to this. After all, he had been living the life of a live-in son-in-law for the past three years. It was normal for his mother-in-law to scold him.

“Mom, stop yelling. No matter how bad he is, he’s still your son-in-law and your daughter’s husband. Can’t you give us a little respect?”

Qiu Mu-Cheng yelled unhappily at her mother. She was already fed up with the constant scoldings. And then, she grabbed hold of Ye Fan and whispered: “You come with me to my bedroom.”

Ye Fan was stunned. For the past three years, Qiu Mu-Cheng had never let him enter her bedroom. But today~

“I told you to come to my bedroom. Didn’t you hear? Don’t you want to come in?” Qiu Mu-Cheng repeated her invitation.

Ye Fan was suddenly struck with joy. “Yes yes.”

“Bring the blanket with you. Don’t sleep in the study anymore.” Qiu Mu-Cheng’s next words caused Ye Fan to be completely

overwhelmed with happiness.

Could it be, I am going to get lucky?

Under the influence of euphoria, Ye Fan returned to his room for the blanket and carried it to Qiu Mu-Cheng's bedroom.

"Cheng-Cheng, what're you doing? Are you crazy? You're going to let this useless piece of trash into your bedroom and sleep with him?"

"Have you gone insane?"

"You don't want to get married anymore?"

Han Li started panicking when she heard Qiu Mu-Cheng's invitation.

For the past three years, Han Li had been pestering Qiu Mu-Cheng to divorce Ye Fan and find a better husband. After all, Qiu Mu-Cheng was extremely beautiful and she was still a virgin despite her marriage to Ye Fan. With qualifications like these, it should be easy enough for her to find herself a rich husband. But if she went and had sexual relations with Ye Fan, it wouldn't be easy to find a fall guy to take care of her.

If that were to happen, her family would never be able to make a comeback.

Therefore, Han Li was opposed to Qiu Mu-Cheng sleeping together with Ye Fan.

“Mom, let me say this again. No matter how bad Ye Fan is, he’s still my husband. It’s normal for a wife to sleep with her husband. And since I am already a married woman, I don’t have to get married again.”

With a pom sound, Qiu Mu-Ying shut the bedroom door in her parents’ faces.

“Mad. She’s mad~”

“Mister Qiu, come look at your daughter~”

“I am pissed. She doesn’t even care about her reputation!”

Outside the bedroom, Han Li’s angry rants could be heard.

Inside the bedroom, Ye Fan’s heart was beating furiously as he looked at his exquisite wife.

Ye Fan had no complaints about his wife.

Her looks and figure were both outstanding.

Back in the day, Qiu Mu-Cheng's beauty was renowned throughout Yunzhou city. And it was said that the threshold of the Qiu family's house was flattened by the large number of suitors who had come to ask for her hand in marriage. If Qiu Mu-Cheng's family had not committed the serious mistake later on and received punishment from the family head, a down-on-his-luck guy like Ye Fan would never have gotten the chance to marry her.

In the room, the faint scent of roses lingered in the air.

Qiu Mu-Cheng had already composed herself and she stared at Ye Fan as she asked: "Tell me about that car. Be honest. Why were your prints recorded in the system?"

"No, it's not just my prints. Yours are in the system too. And I've already told you. The betrothal gifts are for you. It's only natural that both our prints are recorded in the car's system." Ye Fan answered her with a smile. He was going to come clean and tell her that he was, in fact, the son of a

tycoon. But due to some circumstances, he was brought low. And he was only just recently reunited with his father. In order to assuage his guilt, his father had prepared and sent the betrothal gifts.

But before he could even speak, Qiu Mu-Chen smiled and said: "Is that right? Are you going to tell me that you are actually the son of a tycoon? And you were only pretending to be poor before? And then your family found you. And to make up to you, they sent all the betrothal gifts. Not only that, but they are also going to take you home and have you become the heir to the family fortune?"

"Whoa. How did you know, Mu-Cheng? Did my father tell you? Actually, I didn't want to keep you in the dark, but~" Ye Fan felt a little guilty.

"Ye Fan, that's enough! Have you been binging on web novels? Or do you think I am as gullible as a three-year-old?"

"If you really want me to be happy, you should make something of yourself. Show me results. Become a man I can be proud of. Stop daydreaming and making up lies to trick me!"

Qiu Mu-Cheng's eyes had turned slightly red. She really disliked this side of Ye Fan.

She didn't look down on Ye Fan because he was poor or because he was unsuccessful. She was angry with Ye Fan because he was ignorant despite being poor and unmotivated despite being unsuccessful.

Qiu Mu-Cheng did not know how Ye Fan had activated the sports car but, no matter what, she would never believe that the car was actually his. As for Ye Fan's claim of being a rich man's son, she simply found that to be ludicrous. The kind of ridiculous scenarios that could only be found in TV shows would never happen in real life.

Ye Fan stayed quiet for a long while. Then he lifted his head, looked at Mu-Cheng and said: "Mu-Cheng, I will prove myself. I will make you proud of me. You will never have to suffer humiliation again."

He turned around, picked up his blanket and prepared to leave the bedroom.

As she looked at the lonely figure in front of her, Qiu Mu-Cheng felt a stab of pain in her heart. Perhaps, her words had been

too forceful and she had hurt his feelings.

Under the influence of a guilty conscience, Qiu Mu-Cheng called out unconsciously.
“Ye Fan~”

“Tonight, you may sleep here.”

Qiu Mu-Cheng assumed that Ye Fan would reject her with a manly grunt, to defend the inviolability of his manly pride. But, contrary to her expectation, Ye Fan accepted her invitation right away. As if the firmness and solemnity he had displayed earlier were lies. He smiled cheekily, covered himself with the blanket and jumped on Qiu Mu-Cheng’s bed.

“Darling, I knew it. You do want to sleep with me!”

“Go away!” Qiu Mu-Cheng was taken aback. To think that she had let herself be moved by Ye Fan’s words and to think that she had actually felt guilty because she thought that she had hurt his feelings earlier.

But looking at him now, she realized that she had overestimated him.

“You cheap bastard, get away from me~”

“Get lost!”

“You can sleep on the floor~”

Qiu Mu-Cheng’s screams of embarrassment could be heard coming from her bedroom.

Ye Fan’s first night with his wife did not go as he had wanted it to. Nothing sexual happened but Ye Fan was not disappointed. As far as he was concerned, just sleeping together with Qiu Mu-Cheng in the same room could already be considered a breakthrough in their relationship.

“We have already shared the same room. Soon we shall share the same bed as well? Ye Fan consoled himself with this bit of optimism.

The night passed quickly.

The next morning, Qiu Mu-Cheng left for work right after breakfast.

As for Ye Fan, he was sleeping when a phone call woke him up.

“Looks like the phone call I’ve been expecting is finally here.” Ye Fan smiled and tapped the “Answer” icon on his phone.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

"Is this Young Master Fan?" The low voice of a middle-aged man came from the other end of the line.

Ye Fan smiled and replied lightly: "If I am not mistaken, you must be Li Er. The servant who was expelled from the Chu family ten years ago."

"Haha~" The other party laughed. "So you knew already. Back then, when I committed the mistake and offended the Third Young Master, I was nearly beaten to death. Young Master Fan was the one who saved my life. I will never forget this favor."

The Chu family had many scions and, if they were ranked according to their age, Ye Fan was the eldest.

"Since Mister Han has already told me you are in Yunzhou, I will do my best to be a good host. I would like to invite Young Master Fan to a meal. After all, the Chu family did take me under their wing. And not only do I owe my current position in Yunzhou to them, but I also owe my life to you. I should thank you in person. Please grant me the honor of your presence." From the other end of the line came Li Er's servile entreaty.

Ye Fan shook his head and laughed. "You may invite me to a meal. But before that, let me see your sincerity. And I dislike being called 'Young Master'. I am not an accessory of the Chu family."

Li Er stayed silent for a while, and then he replied: "Alright then. From today onwards, I shall address you as 'Mister Chu'. Mister Chu, please do not worry. I will show you my sincerity."

"Okay, I shall look forward to that. I hope you will not disappoint me." Ye Fan smiled lightly and ended the call.

Yunzhou city. A luxurious villa in the city center.

Li Er had also hung up. The look in his eyes was deep and unfathomable. "This young master of the Chu family. He may be young but he's a deep one. It will take some effort to please him."

Li Er's words caused some confusion in his elderly servant, who was standing nearby. "Master Er, this Ye Fan is just some kid who was expelled from the Chu family. Why do you have to try so hard to please him?"

"Just some kid who was expelled?" Li Er laughed. "You are short-sighted. Do you know who is running the Chu family after the Master's retirement?"

"Is it the Young Master's..." The servant's pupils contracted as realization hit him.

"Yes, it's his father. Otherwise, why would I suck up to him? I cleared out Haiyuan Pavillion and offended all those VIPs just so I could give him a proper welcome. Why? Because the man who came to see the Young Master is the head of the Chu family. The Chu family who once struck fear throughout the world." Li Er sipped his tea and stared out of the window, but he was unable to calm the turmoil in his heart.

"As far as I know, the family head only has the one son. And more importantly, this Ye Fan, is the only scion of the Tian (Heaven) character generation of the Chu family. His real name is Chu Tian-Fan!"

The Chu family of Great China. Outsiders did not know the naming convention used by the Chu family, but Li Er knew. After all, he was a servant of the family.

It was a terrifying family. Now, the Chu family was like a coiling dragon hidden in the darkness and few people knew about them. But when the dragon awakes, the world will know its true terror.

Li Er himself was just a formerly expelled servant of the Chu family but, within a few years, he had managed to rise to power with the help of someone from the Chu family. He had always assumed his success was due to the help of the Chu family but, in truth, his real benefactor was Ye Fan.

Yes, Li Er was part of Ye Fan's Operation Spark.

"Eh? The Tian character generation? Are they special?" The more the servant heard, the more confused he got.

Li Er stood by the window with his hands folded behind his back. As he looked at the skyscrapers looming outside, the cars in the streets streamed continuously and a soft humming noise rang in the air. "You don't understand the Chu family. You don't know what that name represents."

"You only have to know this. As long as I

can latch on to that person, power and wealth will keep flowing to the Li family of Yunzhou!”

After Li Er's speech, the old servant stood rooted to the spot with a stunned look in his eyes.

He simply could not imagine, how this Chu family could have so much power. So much power that they could make Li Er, the king of Yunzhou city, say such words.

Outside, the wind blew, the clouds billowed and the leaves rustled in the trees.

Yunzhou city. Liuyuan Residential District.

“Come wait for me at my office. We are going to grandfather's house tonight.”

In his room, Ye Fan's phone vibrated momentarily. It was a text message from Qiu Mu-Cheng.

Ye Fan was overjoyed.

The sun had risen from the west!

To think that this woman would take the initiative to look for him.

Ye Fan left the house right after he had received the message. At the entrance to the residential district, Ye Fan picked up a shared bike and rode towards the direction of Qiu Mu-Cheng's office.

The Qiu family was in the logistics business. Qiu Mu-Cheng had started working in the family business right after graduation and she had remained there to this very day. At this time, she had already punched out and was waiting for Ye Fan outside the office.

In so many years, this was the first time Qiu Mu-Cheng asked Ye Fan to pick her up.

But as she was waiting for Ye Fan, a yellow-haired youth standing beside a sports car had his eyes on her.

"Whoa, what a beauty!"

"Ten times prettier than that gold-digger, Qiu Mu-Ying."

"You have a pretty face and a good figure. If only I could strip you naked and put you on my bed..."

Lust swelled up within the young man and

he stepped forward to accost her.

"Get lost. If you touch me again, I will call the police!" Qiu Mu-Cheng growled threateningly.

But the young man laughed coldly and said: "Go ahead. Call the police. We shall see if the police will arrest me."

"You ungrateful bitch. I asked you nicely to have a drink with me but, not only did you not express your gratitude, you dared to reject me. Let me tell you. Whether you want to or not, you will have a drink with me."

"I am an experienced player, you know. I haven't been rejected by a woman before!"

The yellow-haired youth laughed sinisterly and stretched out a hand to caress her face.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was about to scream for help when, suddenly, a gust of wind swept towards her.

Immediately after, Ye Fan's fist landed on the youth's face with a pong sound. The punch was swiftly followed by a kick and

the yellow-haired young man was sent flying back.

"Screw you!"

"How dare you touch my woman?"

"I am going to beat the crap out of you!"

When he had just arrived at the office, he saw his wife getting harassed so, naturally, he flew into a rage and proceeded to give the molester a beating.

"Shit!"

"How dare you hit me?"

"Do you know who I am?"

"I am Shen~~"

pong~

Before the young man could finish speaking, Ye Fan gave him another kick and the young man rolled about on the ground like a dog.

"Young Master Shen!"

"Shit, Ye Fan. What the hell are you doing?"

"Are you crazy? How dare you hit Young Master Shen?" At this time, Qiu Mu-Ying was just walking out of the office in her high heels and heavy make-up. When she saw the fight unfolding in the street, her heavily made-up face twisted in terror. Ta-ta-ta. Her high heels clip-clopped on the ground as she ran towards the yellow-haired youth to help him up.

"Shit. Ye Fan, you piece of trash. What are you standing around for? Get down on your knees and apologize to Young Master Shen right away."

"You useless piece of trash! You keep causing trouble for our family!" Qiu Mu-Ying screamed in rage. She was truly frightened by what had just happened.

Shen Fei was her friend and she had called him over to the office for a meeting. But he was unexpectedly beaten up by Ye Fan. This made her furious.

But, surprisingly, Ye Fan did not abide by her wish this time. He replied coldly: "Apologize? He should be the one doing the apologizing!"

"He dared to harass my wife in broad daylight. Doesn't he deserve a beating?"

"Shut your trap. He's my friend. You are just a lowly live-in son-in-law. Who gave you the right to criticize him? Moreover, Young Master Shen is a distinguished person. It's an honor to be able to talk to him. But instead of showing gratitude, you hit him instead? Apologize to him right now!" Qiu Mu-Ying commanded.

"Qiu Mu-Ying, it's fine if you criticize me. But Qiu Mu-Cheng is your cousin. How could you say that about her?" Ye Fan clenched his hands in anger.

"You bastard. So you are just a live-in son-in-law of the Qiu family. You are just a piece of trash. How dare you hit me?"

"Wait, I..."

pong~

Shen Fei had just gotten up but, before he could finish speaking, the enraged Ye Fan kicked him again.

"Ah~"

"You bastard. You are finished. I hereby declare. You are finished!"

"Not just you. But that ungrateful bitch of a wife of yours as well. And the Qiu family. You are all finished."

"This is what happens when you offend me. I will make you all suffer a fate worse than death~" Shen Fei howled as he clutched his stomach in pain.

"Young Master Shen, listen to me. It has nothing to do with me. It has nothing to do with the Qiu family. It's all Ye Fan's and his wife's fault~"

"Get lost!" Of course, Shen Fei was unwilling to listen to Qiu Mu-Ying's explanation. He pushed her away, staggered into his car and drove away.

Back at the scene, a pale-faced Qiu Mu-Ying was left behind with the husband-and-wife duo.

"Qiu Mu-Cheng, look at what that useless husband of yours has done!"

"You just wait. When Shen Fei goes after your family, the Qiu family will do nothing

to help." Qiu Mu-Ying said viciously before leaving in her car.

After Qiu Mu-Ying's departure, Ye Fan looked at his wife and asked: "Erm, did I cause trouble for you?"

Qiu Mu-Cheng did not answer his question, but said quietly: "Let's go to my grandfather's place."

"And these are the clothes I've bought for you. Find some place to change into them." As she said this, she handed over the box with the brand new suit to Ye Fan.

Qiushui Logistics was the company founded by Master Qiu, the head of the family. It could be said that the Qiu family owed their current success entirely to him. That was why Master Qiu's had unshakeable authority within the family.

That was also why Qiu Mu-Cheng had married Ye Fan so readily when Master Qiu gave her the order.

Right now, at Master Qiu's villa, several of his children had already gathered.

According to family tradition, after a

wedding celebration, Master Qiu would throw a feast for the new son-in-law. Of course, this tradition only started when Qiu Mu-Hong had gotten married to Jiang Yang. Ye Fan, the useless live-in son-in-law, had been left out of this tradition.

"Okay, everyone is already here. Is everyone seated?"

It was already dinner time so Master Qiu asked everyone to take their seats.

"Dad, Mu-Cheng is not here yet." Qiu Mu-Cheng's father, Qiu Lei, reminded softly.

But Master Qiu pretended not to hear and continued: "Start serving the food."

"Grandfather, sorry we are late. We were held up earlier."

At this moment, hurried footsteps could be heard coming from the entrance. Qiu Mu-Cheng and the now well-dressed Ye Fan had arrived late to the feast.

"Oh, you are wearing a suit now?"

"A dog dressed up in human clothes is still going to act like a dog. And a useless son-

Chapter 9 There's Trouble

in-law in a suit is still a useless son-in-law.”
When the Qiu family members saw Ye Fan
in a suit, they greeted him with jeers.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

The smile vanished from Master Qiu's face as soon as Qiu Mu-Cheng and Ye Fan appeared. He snorted coldly and refused to look at them.

"Mu-Cheng, come have a seat." Qiu Lei welcomed his daughter to the feast. His phone rang just then, so he excused himself with an apologetic smile and left the room to answer the call.

"This trash. How come he has so many phone calls? Who knows what kind of trashy friend is calling him." Qiu Mu-Ying humphed coldly and then she remembered what she was about to say. "That's right, grandfather. I nearly forgot. I have something to report. Just now, the young master of the Shen family came to my office for a business meeting. But he got beaten up by Ye Fan and his wife when he left the building."

What?

When they heard this, the dinner guests swiveled their heads upwards.

"They assaulted the young master of the Shen family?"

“Are they crazy?”

“He’s the only son of the Shen family, and the heir to the Shen Corporation!”

“His father, Shen Jiu-Yi used to be the number one tycoon in Yunzhou. He is very powerful and is on good terms with Master Li Er.”

“That’s Master Li Er, the top boss of Yunzhou!”

“He’s a person with a powerful background. And this piece of trash actually hit him?”

“They are trying to destroy our family!”

All at once, the Qiu family members turned pale with shock. And even Master Qiu had an unhealthy pallor on his face.

The Shen Corporation was one of the top enterprises in Yunzhou, and its assets were worth billions. Compared to them, the Qiu family’s logistics company only had assets worth a few dozen millions. The Shen Corporation was more than just a few rungs above the Qiu family and a behemoth that the Qius should never pick

a fight with.

Meanwhile, Qiu Lei's face had gone as white as a ghost.

"Grandfather, we were only defending ourselves. That rich boy from the Shen family harassed me first." Qiu Mu-Cheng explained.

"Cousin, you should not confound right and wrong. Young Master Shen was just joking with you. But you are a stuck-up and small-minded person so you couldn't take a joke. Not only did you gang up with your useless husband to beat him up but, now, you are also falsely accusing him of harassment."

Qiu Mu-Ying smiled smugly and then, putting on a mask of piteousness, she turned to speak to Master Qiu.

"Grandfather, you have to help me. I spent a lot of effort to secure the order from the Shen Corporation. Today, Young Master Shen was going to sign the contract with me. But after their interference, my months of effort have gone to waste." And of course, Qiu Mu-Ying had to add fuel to fire.

When Wang Qiao-Yu heard that her daughter's business has been affected, she flew into a rage. "Is your family bent on destroying the Qiu family?"

"Back then, we should have expelled them from the Qiu family. All these years, they have been living off us. Yet, they do not know how to be grateful and keep causing trouble. Now, even the order that my Ying-Ying secured for us is gone."

"Beautiful women are trouble indeed!" Wang Qiao-Yu cursed angrily.

"That's right. I've already said we shouldn't keep this woman around. She's trouble!"

"She nearly destroyed our family back then. And now she's causing trouble again?" The other relatives also chipped in to criticize Qiu Mu-Cheng.

Master Qiu turned to look at her with a look of anger on his face. "Qiu Mu-Cheng, are you sorry for what you have done?"

"Grandfather, I don't know what wrong I have done. Are you just going to listen to their side of the story..."

“Shut up! You are still unrepentant? You said you don’t know what wrong you have committed. Let me ask you. Did you and your husband beat up Young Master Shen?”

“I ask you again. Ying’s order. Is it gone now because of what you have done?”

“Finally, is our Qiu family in danger because of what you have done?” Master Qiu sprang to his feet, his eyes wide with anger. He had fallen into the throes of rage after asking the three questions in succession, and he was not going to give Qiu Mu-Cheng the chance to speak for herself.

“Dad, is there a need to ask? Didn’t she admit to assaulting Young Master Sheng just now? Just because of a joke, she flew into a rage and ganged up with her husband to give Young Master Shen a beating.”

“This girl. She has been spoilt by the family. Today, we should make her go down on her knees and apologize to us.” The fourth eldest Qiu brother, Qiu Luo, looked on with a smile on his face.

“That’s right. Kneel and apologize to Ying-Ying!”

“Apologize to the family~”

“Just expel them from the Qiu family~”

Qiu Mu-Ying, Wang Qiao-Yu and the rest of the Qiu family were eager to kick Qiu Mu-Cheng while she was down. As they scolded her, they also called for the expulsion of Qiu Mu-Cheng and her family. That way, they would receive a larger share of the family fortune in the future.

When Qiu Lei heard their calls for expulsion, he was scared out of his wits. So as he begged his father for mercy, he also ordered Qiu Mu-Cheng to apologize.

“Mu-Cheng, get on your knees quick. What are you doing?”

“Do you want to see your father and mother starve to death in the streets?” Qiu Lei howled bitterly.

All of a sudden, Qiu Mu-Cheng became Public Enemy Number One. Everyone was screaming at her. They all wanted her to kneel in apology.

At this moment, Qiu Mu-Cheng felt incredibly aggrieved. She turned her red-rimmed eyes to look at her father, grandfather and relatives. She couldn't understand why. Why did they only listen to Qiu Mu-Ying's side of the story and refuse to give her a chance to tell hers.

She also couldn't understand why her relatives did not show any concern for her, but instead chose to side with an outsider like Shen Fei.

Could it be because Qiu Mu-Ying had a rich and powerful husband while hers was poor and useless?

Could it be because Shen Fei had a powerful background while she and Ye Fan were commoners?

The assembled guests continued to scream and, as she faced the attacks coming from all sides, Qiu Mu-Cheng laughed. She laughed piteously and tears streamed from her eyes.

At that moment, Qiu Mu-Cheng felt that the world had abandoned her.

She had to resign herself to her fate.

Reality is cruel. If you do not have wealth or power, nobody will give damn about your dignity.

At last, Qiu Mu-Cheng bowed her head and started to bend her knees. She was going to kneel down in front of her relatives.

But, at that moment, a firm hand reached out and stopped her from going down on her knees.

“Mu-Cheng, why kneel down in front of these people? They do not deserve your respect!” Ye Fan’s words were firm and resounded like the sound of a rock striking the ground.

At once, Qiu Mu-Cheng froze in surprise. She didn’t know when it started, perhaps since the day of her cousin’s engagement banquet, but she felt that Ye Fan had changed.

He had become bigger and taller!

And the hand holding her had become stronger.

“How dare you!”

“You bastard. How dare you show us such disrespect. Do you still recognize us as your elders?” The fourth Qiu brother, Qiu Luo, flew into a rage and screamed as he gestured at Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng.

“Elders?” Ye Fan laughed as if he had just heard the funniest joke in the world.

“Uncle, let me ask you and everyone else in this room. I recognize you as my elders. But when have you ever treated Mu-Cheng as a niece and me as a son-in-law?”

“Mu-Cheng was nearly violated but, instead of showing concern for her, you are berating us and you even tried to make her kneel in apology? I don’t know who’s really your niece. Mu-Cheng or that rich boy from the Shen family. If he asks you to sever ties with Mu-Cheng, are you really going to do that?”

Ye Fan’s words were sonorous and forceful. As he spoke, he stared fiercely at the Qiu family members.

His speech was cutting and rendered Qiu Luo speechless. His face turned red and, for a while, he couldn’t get any word out of his opened mouth.

“We didn’t say we would sever ties with Mu-Cheng. But Ying-Ying said Young Master Shen was just joking with Mu-Cheng. He didn’t...” Qiu Luo tried to explain but his tone was already weaker than before.

Ye Fan thought he had just heard a joke. “A joke? Uncle, let me ask you. If some passerby on the street starts touching your wife, would you still think it’s funny? If somebody harassed your daughter in public, would you still think it’s a joke?”

“Well...” Qiu Luo was struck dumb and his face turned red. He didn’t know how to respond to Ye Fan’s questions.

Ye Fan laughed coldly and then he turned to interrogate Master Qiu. “That rich kid from the Shen family insulted Mu-Cheng’s modesty and we merely defended ourselves. What wrong did we do? But look at you. You didn’t care for right or wrong. You only listened to Qiu Mu-Ying’s one-sided story and passed judgement on Mu-Cheng.”

“Don’t you all feel guilty?”

Cold anger smoldered in Ye Fan’s eyes and

he showed no fear whatsoever even as he debated the rabble all by his lonesome.

Meanwhile, Qiu Mu-Cheng was completely dazed by the scene unfolding before her.

Was this still the same weak and submissive husband who had never uttered a word of complaint?

Was this still the same useless piece of trash son-in-law?

When did her husband grow a backbone?

At that moment, Qiu Mu-Cheng felt that Ye Fan had become as tall as a giant, and that gave her a sense of security.

Under Ye Fan's questioning, a number of the Qiu family members had turned red-faced in embarrassment. Qiu Luo and his family, especially, were so ashamed that they could not say a word.

Master Qiu was furious. But he could do nothing except fall back on his seniority. "How dare you! You are just a useless live-in son-in-law! How dare you disrespect your elders! Even if we are in the wrong, you still have no right to criticize us. Are

you not going to kneel down? If not, you can leave the Qiu family.”

Ye Fan smiled a self-deprecating smile. “Grandfather, you have already lived past half a century. You must have been through a lot. I have always thought that you were an understanding person. But now, it looks like you are nothing but a stubborn old fool who only knows to take advantage of his seniority.”

“Since it’s like this, there’s no need to stay in the Qiu family.”

“Mu-Cheng, let’s go. I will bring you home.”

Under the stunned looks of the Qiu family, Ye Fan grabbed hold of Qiu Mu-Cheng’s hand and departed without turning back. Back at the villa, an oppressive silence remained in the air.

“You... You people~” The abrupt departure of Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng caused Master Qiu to tremble with rage and he nearly choked to death on his own anger.

“Qiu Lei, look at your daughter and son-in-law!”

“Your family, they are really something, eh? They are so capable that they can even disrespect father.”

“Our family has no daughter like her.”

“From now onwards, Qiu Mu-Cheng is no longer a member of our family!”

“Tomorrow we will kick her out of Qiushui Logistics!”

The eldest Qiu brother, Qiu Guang, roared angrily as he held up his father.

Qiu Lei’s face paled in terror and his skin took on a lifeless pallor. At that moment, he looked as if all strength had left his body.

Outside the villa, Ye Fan supported Qiu Mu-Cheng as they walked back home.

There was a tinge of sadness in Qiu Mu-Cheng’s eyes. She knew. She knew what the actions of the Qiu elders meant to her. It was quite possible that she would not have a place within the Qiu family from today onwards.

She had grown up in the Qiu family and

had lived with them all her life. Now that she was expelled from the family, Qiu Mu-Cheng did not know where to go or how to support her family.

“Mu-Cheng, believe in me. After a while, the Qiu family will beg you to return.” Ye Fan said confidently with a smile.

“Really?”

“Of course.” Ye Fan’s words were grave and resonated with firmness.

At the same moment, in the Li family’s villa within the city center, an elderly man was holding a glass of red wine and standing in front of a French window. Outside, a river of stars spread out across the night sky and the streets below were lit up with bright and colorful lights. It was night but vehicles streamed continuously on the roads.

And then the old man spoke: “Mister Chu, by this time, my gift should have already arrived.”

“I hope you like it.”

Li Er smiled lightly, lifted his wine glass

Chapter 10 Public Enemy

and raised a toast to the scenery outside his window. And then, he tilted his head back and quaffed the drink!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

The Qiu's family house.

After Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng's departure, the remaining guests carried on with their feast. Except for Qiu Lei. The atmosphere at the feast had gotten too uncomfortable for him after his daughter's row with the family. So he made up an excuse and left.

"Lei's family are totally useless."

"His daughter is too wilful and his son-in-law is a useless piece of trash. They have completely shamed us." After Qiu Lei's departure, Qiu Guang, the eldest Qiu brother, continued to sneer at his younger brother's family.

"Brother-in-law, why mention them? Today is supposed to be a happy occasion. Let's not dampen our mood." Wang Qiao-Yu joined in the conversation and tried to change the topic. Then she smiled warmly at her son-in-law, Chu Wen-Fei.

"Wen-Fei, don't you have some more gifts for your grandfather? What did you buy? Tell us about it. Your grandfather will be happy too."

“Yes, Wen-Fei, we are all curious. Tell us about it.” The youngest Qiu brother smiled as he looked at Chu Wen-Fei. The other relatives went with the flow and also prodded him for information.

“Haha, uncle. Just wait and see. The gifts are on their way here. Once they have arrived, you will find out.”

“I promise. Grandfather will receive a huge surprise.” Chu Wen-Fei said confidently and Qiu Mu-Ying hugged his arm coquettishly.

Since they did receive many valuable gifts from the Chu family yesterday and those gifts did add significantly to her prestige, Qiu Mu-Ying was extremely satisfied with her fiancé.

The atmosphere at the Qiu’s family house was slowly getting festive and the sombre mood caused by the argument earlier was swept away.

“It looks like Wen-Fei is feeling confident in his gifts. Well, are you confident enough to beat your brother-in-law? That year, he gave us a valuable painting painted by a famous artist. Your grandfather was all

smiles for several days. Now, the painting is hanging in his study. Your grandfather enjoys looking at it every day.” Qiu Guang said with a smile.

Chu Wen-Fei just shook his head. “Uncle, don’t say that. A gift should not be judged by how valuable it is. It’s just a token of my appreciation for grandfather. As long the thought is there, no matter what I give, I am sure grandfather will be happy with it.”

“Haha, you are right, Wen-Fei. I am too shallow.” Qiu Guang replied with a laugh.

The other family members also praised Wen-Fei for his eloquence and high emotional quotient.

But although they said that, they were still competitive when it came to such things.

This was especially true for a vain woman like Qiu Mu-Ying. She had already told Chu Wen-Fei that he had to give something valuable or she would lose face in front of her relatives.

“Wen-Fei, it’s fine as long as the thought is there. Forget about the gift. Don’t go to expense on my account. You becoming my

grandson-in-law is already the best gift you can give me.” Master Qiu had already composed himself and now he had a smile on his face as he exchanged pleasantries with Chu Wen-Fei.

“How could I do this. I have to give a gift or I wouldn’t be doing my duty as a grandson-in-law.”

“Grandfather, just take a seat. My surprise will arrive soon.”

Chu Wen-Fei was confident.

When the others heard this, they started another round of praises for him.

“Wen-Fei is so thoughtful~”

“He’s from a rich family and so filial. Luo, your family is so lucky to get a son-in-law like him.”

“Ying-Ying has found a good husband!”

“Fei-Fei, look. When it’s time for you to find a husband, you must find someone like Wen-Fei. He’s good-looking, talented and a promising young man.”

“Come, let us give Wen-Fei a toast~”

In the courtyard, the Qiu family members were having a merry and harmonious time.

Things had gotten lively as the guests talked and laughed among themselves.

Chu Wen-Fei was smiling proudly in the face of everyone’s praise, and Qiu Mu-Ying’s vanity had been satisfied so she was contented. At this moment, both Chu Wen-Fei and Qiu Mu-Ying, who had been placed on a pedestal by their relatives, felt infinitely glorious as if they were standing at the pinnacle of life.

When he looked at his outstanding son-in-law, Master Qiu smiled so much that he barely had time to shut his mouth. It was a scene of domestic bliss.

As everyone was enjoying themselves, the butler came in and announced that a car had just arrived.

“Haha~”

“It’s here, grandfather. The gift your grandson-in-law prepared for you is here.”

Chu Wen-Fei stood up with a smile and hurriedly ordered the servants to bring his gift in.

“Whoa, it’s huge!”

“Wen-Fei, what is it?”

“Don’t tell me you’ve got a pretty woman in there. You even covered it up with a red cloth.”

A short while later, several able-bodied men carried the gift into the hall.

When the assembled guests saw this, they were stunned. The gift was around two meters wide and half-a-meter tall. It looked like a rectangular box but, as it was covered with a piece of red cloth, they couldn’t tell what it was.

“Wen-Fei, don’t tell me it’s really a beautiful woman. Your grandfather is already an old man, so he won’t be able to use your gift.” Qiu Guang joked around with Wen-Fei and caused everyone to laugh. Master Qiu also chided his eldest son light-heartedly.

But as the Qiu family members were laughing, Chu Wen-Fei frowned. He

thought there was something strange about the shape of the gift.

“It’s probably just the gift box.”

Chu Wen-Fei guessed to himself and then smiled in response. “Haha, uncle, stop guessing. Just wait. And I will reveal the answer to you.”

And then, under the curious gazes of their relatives, Chu Wen-Fei grabbed Qiu Mu-Ying and led her to the front. They bowed to Master Qiu who was seated at the seat of honor and said: “Thank you, grandfather, for raising Ying-Ying to be such an outstanding woman. Please accept a bow from your grandson-in-law.”

“At the same time, to express my thanks, Ying-Ying and I would like to present grandfather with an evergreen pine tree from Nanshan. May grandfather enjoy immense fortune and live to a ripe old age!”

Chu Wen-Fei and Qiu Mu-Ying bowed together.

Master Qiu’s smile grew so wide that his lips nearly touched his ears. And he

exclaimed:

“Splendid~Splendid~Splendid~”

“Wen-Fei, you are so thoughtful~”

And everyone else followed his example and cut loose with yet another round of praises for the couple.

Qiu Mu-Ying tilted her chin proudly and looked at her fiancé joyfully.

Both Wang Qiao-Yu and Qiu Luo felt distinguished, as they basked in the reflected glory of their son-in-law.

“Remove the cloth!”

Amidst the praises of the guests and the happy laughter of Master Qiu, Chu Wen-Fei waved his hand and gave the order haughtily.

But unexpectedly, when the red cloth was removed, it turned out that there wasn't an evergreen pine tree underneath. Instead, they saw a coffin.

A pitch-black and heavy coffin laid quietly on the floor.

Whoosh~

All of a sudden, the door to the hall opened by itself and the cold wind howled like a devil. As it passed through the hall, the wind lifted up the piece of red cloth and caused it to flap about noisily.

Pitch-black coffin. Bright red cloth.

At this moment, within the hall, everyone was scared witless.

Wang Qiao-Yu's eyes were wide opened with fear. Qiu Mu-Hong and her family screamed in terror, while the children simply burst into tears.

And Chu Wen-Fei was rooted to the spot as he stared unbelievably at the scene before him. It was supposed to be an evergreen pine tree, so how did it change into a coffin?

As for Master Qiu, he was scared witless the moment he saw the coffin when the red cloth was removed. He trembled violently and his face turned pale as a ghost. When he opened his mouth, frightened growls could be heard.

“You... You...”

“You are trying to curse me to death~”

Master Qiu’s body went limp and he started screaming in fear.

Chu Wen-Fei actually sent him a coffin on this day of celebration. Even a youngster like Qiu Mu-Hong found it hard to accept such a twist in the plot, let alone a senior citizen like Master Qiu.

Finally, Master Qiu fell off the chair he was sitting on and landed on the floor, where he laid gasping for breath.

“Grandfather!”

“Father~”

“Quick, call 120!” The Qiu family members were in a state of confusion as they ran towards their patriarch to help him up.

The eldest Qiu brother, Qiu Guang, was so angry that he sent Chu Wen-Fei flying to the ground with a kick. “You bastard. If anything happens to my father, I will kill you.”

“Get lost. Look at what your son-in-law has done.~” After berating Chu Wen-Fei, Qiu Guang turned to Wang Qiao-Yu and pushed her away.

“Grandfather, I... I... really don’t know what’s going on.” Chu Wen-Fei was overwhelmed with confusion. After he was kicked to the ground, he could only lay there quivering as snot and tears streamed down his face.

He truly had no idea what had just happened. He had prepared an evergreen pine tree, so how did it turn into a coffin?

There is this saying. Good fortune never comes in pairs and trouble never travels alone. And so, just as the Qiu family members were milling about in confusion, the butler came in with more bad news.

“Master, there’s trouble. There’s big trouble.”

“Our Qiushui Logistics is under investigation.”

“Our ten warehouses have been sealed!”

“The Qiu family assets have been frozen~”

“The company executives have been taken away by the police for questioning~”

“It’s over. It’s all over for Qiushui Logistics!”

What?

All of a sudden, the thunderstruck family members stood rooted to the ground.

Fear and shock were growing in their wide opened eyes.

What was happening to their family?

Could it be punishment from the gods?

However, as they were still struggling in a state of panic, several police cars had already stopped outside the Qiu’s family house. Several police officers got out of the vehicles and pushed open the gate to the house.

Once inside, the officers produced their identifications.

“Good evening, we are from the Yunzhou City Public Security Bureau.”

“Qiushui Logistics is under suspicion of

committing economic crimes, illegal business conduct and other offences. We would like General Manager Qiu Luo and Chairman Qiu Guang to follow us and assist in our investigation.”

When they heard this, Qiu Guang’s face turned pale and Qiu Luo’s collapsed right on the floor as his legs had already turned to jelly.

“I won’t let you take my husband~”

Wang Qiao-Yu cried and pulled on Qiu Luo and refused to let go.

But her efforts were futile. Finally, both Qiu Guang and Qiu Luo were taken away by the police.

In just one night, nearly all the pillars of the family had fallen.

Master Qiu was admitted into the hospital. The two most capable brothers were taken away by the police. Their warehouses had been sealed and Qiushui Logistics was in a state of paralysis.

The Qiu family had fallen in just one night.

Who would have thought that a celebratory banquet would end with the death knells of the Qiu family.

The previously haughty Qiu Mu-Ying and Wang Qiao-Yu were now like defanged tigers and the splendor of their former selves had completely vanished.

“Who did we offend?”

“Why, why did the heavens treat us this way?” In the Qiu’s family house, there was much wailing and gnashing of teeth. The whole family was in a state of grief.

But all these happenings were unknown to Qiu Mu-Cheng.

After she had been chased out of the family house last night, she went home and slept.

And after the troubles had hit the Qiu family, a text message was sent to Ye Fan’s phone. “Young Master Chu, the Qiu family has fallen. Those who have offended you have been punished.”

“Are you satisfied with my gift?”

Chapter 11 Turbulence

Before the French window, Li Er smiled as he admired the wine glass in his hand.

Outside the window, the sky was dark and the clouds were billowing as the wind blew.

It looked like a storm was coming.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Flash~

A branched lightning bolt tore through the sky as the rain poured down in sheets.

At this moment, in his room at the Yunzhou City People's Hospital, Master Qiu had already woken up. The Qiu family members were gathered at his bedside and they did not look good. Wang Qiao-Yu was crying, Qiu Mu-Ying simply kept quiet with her head down and Chu Wen-Fei was kneeling apologetically in front of Master Qiu's bed.

After all, it was Chu Wen-Fei's gift that had sent Master Qiu into a fit of fright in the first place. The old man was in a severe state after the "surprise" and if he had not been sent to the hospital in time, he would have died.

Luckily, Master Qiu managed to recover from the shock. Otherwise, Chu Wen-Fei would have to bear a very heavy burden.

"Dad, please find a way to help Guang and Luo. We haven't heard anything from them for the whole night. Are they going to prison? Will they face the firing squad?"

“Fei-Fei is still a child. She needs her father~”

The eldest daughter-in-law of the Qiu family was sobbing as she pleaded with her father-in-law. And Wang Qiao-Yu was also wiping tears away from her red-rimmed eyes.

Although the Qiu family had many offsprings, the only ones who could shoulder the burden for the family were just Qiu Guang and Qiu Luo. Once they were gone, the family would simply collapse.

“Stop crying!”

“You only know how to cry~”

“If you are going to keep crying, you can get out of my room!”

Wang Qiao-Yu and her companions in misery were frightened by this violent outburst and promptly shut up.

And then, Master Qiu took one look at the still kneeling Chu Wen-Fei and said gravely, “You can get up.”

“Grandfather, I am sorry. What happened yesterday~”

Chu Wen-Fei was going to continue when Master Qiu waved dismissively and said, “You don’t have to say anything. It’s not your fault. Someone else is targeting our family.”

Master Qiu was an old-timer so he had already noticed the suspicious points in this incident.

“What? Somebody is targeting our family?”

“Who could it be?”

“Qiushui Logistics hasn’t offended anyone powerful recently. And in Yunzhou city, we don’t have any business enemies either.”

“So who’s going after our family!”

Once again, Wang Qiao-Yu and the womenfolk went into a state of panic. Their bodies shook as tears streamed down their faces.

“Shut up!”

“You women are useless here. You are

only good for irritating me.” Master Qiu was already in a lousy mood and listening to the cries of the womenfolk only made him angrier.

“Think carefully. Have you offended anyone?”

“Enemies don’t just pop up out of nowhere. There must be a reason why they are targeting us like this.” Master Qiu declared as he looked at his family.

Qiu Mu-Ying and Qiu Mu-Hong shook their heads. They did not remember offending anyone powerful. They did bully weaklings like Ye Fan, but weak people like him were unlikely to have the power to retaliate against the Qiu family.

“Wait, grandfather. It must be Qiu Mu-Cheng and that useless trash, Ye Fan!”

“It must be them.”

“They attacked the Young Master of the Shen family yesterday and, right after that, these calamities started happening to us. It can’t be a coincidence.”

“The Shen family must have retaliated

against us because of what Qiu Mu-Cheng and Ye Fan did. This is the Shen family's revenge against us."

Qiu Mu-Ying screamed out the facts that she had just thought of.

Chu Wen-Fei followed suit and said, "That's right. The Shen family must have prepared the coffin in order to exact vengeance on us. They are one of the top-tier powers in Yunzhou and they have the backing of Master Li Er. In Yunzhou, there are few powers who are capable of orchestrating the events that happened yesterday. Very few, but the Shen family is definitely one of those groups."

"That bastard Ye Fan and that bitch Qiu Mu-Cheng! It's all because of them. It's their fault that my husband was arrested. Dad, we must not spare troublemakers like them." The red-eyed Wang Qiao-Yu said viciously.

Everyone else followed suit and placed the blame on the couple as well.

Master Qiu had a sombre expression on his face as he coldly gave the order. "Go get that unfilial girl, Qiu Mu-Cheng, and

bring her to me.”

He was so angry that his voice shook as he spoke.

When Qiu Mu-Cheng received the call, Ye Fan was still making breakfast in the kitchen. As a live-in son-in-law, it was his job to take care of all the household chores.

“Mu-Cheng, breakfast is ready.”

A few minutes later, Ye Fan had already finished setting the table so he started calling Qiu Mu-Cheng and her family to breakfast.

“Stop shouting. Mu-Cheng has already left.”

“Eh? Where did she go? It’s still early and it’s raining too.” Ye Fan asked with a frown.

Han Li replied coldly: “What? Must my daughter report to you whenever she goes out?”

Since his mother-in-law was angry, Ye Fan wisely kept his mouth shut. But Qiu Mu-Cheng did not return for the rest of the day,

and that made Ye Fan very worried.

Evening came and still Qiu Mu-Cheng did not return. Ye Fan tried calling her but nobody answered the phone. His worry deepened as he looked at the pouring rain outside. Just as he was about to go look for her at the Qiu's family house, his phone rang.

The caller was Qiu Mu-Ying.

"Ye Fan, go to the Shen family manor and pick up your wife from the entrance. She's not a princess but she's as delicate as one. She only kneeled down for a while but she actually fainted on the spot? I am speechless!"

"If you can't do the time, then don't do the crime. Now you've dragged us down with you. You guys are really jinxes!"

Qiu Mu-Ying smiled coldly as she ridiculed Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng.

What?

"Mu-Cheng went to the Shen family?"

"And she fainted?"

Ye Fan's face turned frosty when he heard the news.

The Qiu family. It was the Qiu family!

They placed all the blame onto Mu-Cheng and him. They thought that the Shen family was responsible for the acts of retaliation and so they forced Qiu Mu-Cheng to go and apologize personally to the Shen family.

But, Qiu Mu-Cheng, that silly girl. Why didn't she tell him? Why did she go by herself?

Was she afraid that he would suffer humiliation? Was she afraid that he would have to face persecution at the hands of the Shen family?

But, Mu-Cheng, I am your husband. I am your man. I am supposed to be the one to brave the rain. Why did you, a woman, go face the troubles alone?

At that moment, Ye Fan's eyes turned bloodshot and he clenched his hands so tightly that his fingers dug deep into the flesh. And flames of rage burned within his chest.

“Qiu Mu-Ying, let me tell you. If anything happens to Mu-Cheng, there will be no place for the Qiu family in Yunzhou city!”

Ye Fan’s words were cold and sinister. They rang like a crack of thunder to her ears and she was instantly stunned. Her face had also turned white as sheet.

Very briefly, Qiu Mu-Ying wondered if she had dialled a wrong number.

Was this still the useless trash of the Qiu family?

Was this still the same submissive Ye Fan?

Why did she suddenly feel such overwhelming pressure? Qiu Mu-Ying shivered unconsciously, an unknown fear fomenting in her heart.

“Ying-Ying, what’s wrong? You look pale.” Wang Qiao-Yu, who was standing beside her daughter, asked curiously.

Qiu Mu-Ying shook her head and replied, “Nothing, mom. It’s just that Ye Fan threatened me. He said that if anything happens to Qiu Mu-Cheng, he will take it out on the Qiu family.”

When the Qiu family members heard this, they burst into laughter.

“He’s just a piece of trash. He can only talk tough. There’s no need to take him seriously, right?”

“He wants to take it out on us. Let’s see if he’s capable of doing so!” Everyone laughed. They didn’t give a damn about Ye Fan and his family.

“But we still have to think of a way to get your uncle and father out. Yang-Yang, have you asked your father? Can he help?” Wang Qiao-Yu looked at Jiang Yang. His father was a part of the city administration and had his own connections.

Jiang Yang shook his head. “Auntie, I did ask my father. But he said the Qiu family had offended a very powerful person. So my father can’t do anything.”

When the Qiu family members heard this, they felt even more hopeless.

“It’s all Ye Fan’s and Qiu Mu-Cheng’s fault. Is it really all over for our family?” They couldn’t help but lament.

“Wen-Fei, please think of something. Your father also has connections in Yunzhou, right? Why not ask your father and see if he can help us.” A red-eyed Qiu Mu-Ying tugged at Chu Wen-Fei’s arm and pleaded.

Chu Wen-Fei looked troubled. “My father knows businessmen, but I’m afraid he doesn’t know any politicians...”

“Wen-Fei, just call him and try asking. Maybe he knows someone?” The Qiu family members turned to look at Chu Wen-Fei and they looked like drowning men desperately grasping for a straw to save their lives.

Chu Wen-Fei smiled bitterly. Since his father did not even want to acknowledge this marriage, he thought that his father probably wouldn’t want to help even if he could.

But the Qiu family members looked at him so yearningly that Chu Wen-Fei found it hard to turn down their plea for help. So even though he knew this endeavor was doomed to failure, he dialled his father’s number.

“Dad, regarding the Qiu family’s problem...”

Before Chu Wen-Fei could complete his sentence, Chu Yang's angry voice came roaring from the other end of the line. "You unfilial son. Don't call me 'dad'. As long as you do not divorce that green tea bitch, I will not allow you to set foot inside our house."

Dududu~

Chu Yang had hung up.

"Wen-Fei, how was it? What did your father say?" The questioning came immediately after the call.

Chu Wen-Fei laughed guiltily and told Wang Qiao-Yu, "Mom, don't worry. My father said he will think of something and take care of the problem."

"That's good, that's good. At this crucial moment, we can only rely on Wen-Fei and Yang-Yang. The people in Lei's family are just useless troublemakers."

The Qiu family members smiled in relief and Master Qiu's mood took a turn for the better.

None of them suspected that Chu Wen-Fei

had been bragging earlier.

Take care of the problem? Yeah, right!

Even if the problem of Chu Wen-Fei's family being only second-tier and lower-ranking than the Shen family was ignored, Chu Yang was simply not interested in helping the Qiu family.

At this moment, as the Qiu family members were digesting Chu Wen-Fei's words of comfort, Ye Fan was on his way to the Shen family manor.

When Ye Fan arrived at his destination, Qiu Mu-Cheng was still on her knees. The lamps on both sides of the street glowed weakly and illuminated her limp figure.

Through the curtain of rain that was as thick as an iron wall, Ye Fan could see the small figure of Qiu Mu-Cheng. She was kneeling there all by herself, so small and forlorn like a single spark lost in the vast night sky, as if the world had abandoned her.

"Mu-Cheng~"

Ye Fan hurried over and swept her into his

hug.

Qiu Mu-Cheng's body was icy cold and her clothes had been thoroughly soaked through by the rain. Her face was as pale as paper but her forehead was raging hot. Because she had been kneeling for a long time, her porcelain legs were marred by bloody marks. As the rain poured down, the blood from her wounds was washed away.

"You stupid woman. Are you an idiot?"

"Why didn't you tell me. Why did you come by yourself!"

"They've already expelled you from the Qiu family, so why bother yourself with them?"

"Why are you so stupid?" Ye Fan howled angrily. The rain continued to beat down on him as he held Qiu Mu-Cheng in his embrace.

Chapter 12 Torrential Storm



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Qiu Mu-Cheng smiled weakly. She didn't know why but, as she felt Ye Fan's embrace and listened to his voice, Qiu Mu-Cheng felt a sense of security. As if she was being hugged by the whole world.

"Ye Fan, I am sorry. For the past three years, you have been humiliated by my relatives."

"I am truly sorry."

"This time, I do not wish to get you involved with the Qiu family and suffer humiliation again."

All these years, everyone was picking on Ye Fan. They humiliated him and even her parents blamed him for being useless. And she was also painted with the same brush.

But Qiu Mu-Cheng knew. She and her family were the ones who had dragged him down.

Back then, it had been her decision to take in Ye Fan as a live-in son-in-law. If it weren't for her, perhaps this twenty-something young man would have had a happier life.

Qiu Mu-Cheng said her apology in a whisper. When Ye Fan heard her faint voice, he could almost feel his heart breaking.

He knew just how strong-minded she was. Qiu Mu-Cheng would only show that soft side of hers at her weakest moment.

As the rain continued to beat down on them, Ye Fan hugged his wife tightly and said, "Mu-Cheng, there's no need for you to apologize. You are the best gift I have received from heaven. The greatest honor of my life is being your husband."

Whoosh~

At this moment, a Benz sped past and its spinning wheels stirred up the rainwater. All of it splashed onto Ye Fan and he was soon covered with black muddy water.

The car stopped and, from within, Shen Fei's haughty laughter could be heard. "Yo, isn't this the useless live-in son-in-law? You are really a piece of trash. You actually let your own wife beg for mercy on your behalf."

"Now you know what fear is. Since you

can't do the time, then you shouldn't have done the crime."

"I've already warned you. I am not the sort of person a useless trash like you can afford to offend."

Shen Fei looked at Ye Fan with mockery and disdain in his eyes.

How on earth did this useless piece of trash manage to marry a superb woman like Qiu Mu-Cheng?

"But, it's not like I can't let you off. If you let your wife service me tonight, I promise, things will return to normal at the Qiu family."

Shen Fei smiled coldly and looked impassionedly at Qiu Mu-Cheng.

Of course, Shen Fei was just lying to Ye Fan. He had nothing to do with the goings-ons happening to the Qiu family. At this time, the power of the Shen family rested in the hands of his father. Therefore, Shen Fei definitely did not have the power to topple a family on his own.

But it was unimportant to Shen Fei

whether he had the power or not. As long as he could bed Qiu Mu-Cheng, he didn't care what happened to the Qiu family.

When he heard this, Ye Fan laughed.

"Eh?"

"You trashy live-in son-in-law, what are you laughing at? Who gave you the right to laugh?" Shen Fei was annoyed by Ye Fan's laughter so he retaliated with a scolding.

Ye Fan shook his head and replied, "Shen Fei, oh Shen Fei. I am laughing at you because although you have eyes, you cannot recognize true greatness when it's right in front of you!"

"You have no idea what kind of existence is standing right before you?"

"And you have no idea exactly what kind of person you have offended today?"

"In my eyes, the Qiu family is insignificant. So is the Shen family. And even Li Er of Yunzhou is just a servant of mine!"

As the rain poured around them, Ye Fan stood tall and proud. His voice was loud,

like a crack of thunder, and resounded through the horizon.

The crown prince of the Shen family, Shen Fei, was rooted to the spot instantly. At that moment, he could hear nothing else but Ye Fan's imperious declaration.

The Ye Fan before him now was like a tiger baring its proud fangs and claws after a long slumber. His aura was so overpowering that Shen Fei started trembling unconsciously. It was as if Ye Fan was no longer the useless live-in son-in-law of the Qiu family, but the heir of the world's most prominent family.

It wasn't just Shen Fei. Beside them, the pale and weak Qiu Mu-Cheng was also stunned by the sudden change in Ye Fan.

Was he still the same Ye Fan?

"Shit!"

"You moron~"

"You are an idiot!"

After a long stunned moment, Shen Fei composed himself and started berating Ye

Fan.

"I have eyes but cannot recognize true greatness?"

"You are an idiot!"

"You think the Qiu family is insignificant? You think my family is insignificant too? And Master Li Er is your servant?"

"Screw you!"

"You are just a useless live-in son-in-law. Who gave you the courage to shoot your mouth off?"

Shen Fei smiled angrily. In his eyes, Ye Fan was just a complete retard.

"Qiu Mu-Cheng, don't blame me for not giving you a chance. If you want to find someone to blame, go blame your useless husband!"

"You're all going to die soon~"

Shen Fei could not be bothered with an idiot like Ye Fan, so he ordered his driver to move into the manor. Only Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng were left at the entrance.

“Ye Fan, you shouldn’t have provoked him. And you definitely shouldn’t have offended Master Li Er.”

“The Shen family is powerful but Master Li Er is the unofficial king of Yunzhou city. Both the underworld and police answer to him. We can’t afford to offend either side.” Qiu Mu-Cheng’s face had turned pale with worry.

She was really afraid that the Shen family would retaliate against them. At that time, the Qiu family would have to suffer more humiliations.

But Ye Fan said lightly, “Mu-Cheng, don’t worry. Trust me. I will make the Shen family pay for the humiliation you have suffered today. Many times over.”

Afterwards, Ye Fan sent Qiu Mu-Cheng to the hospital. She had been kneeling in the rain for a whole day and her body was at its limits. Her fever was also still raging. But Qiu Mu-Cheng was still worried about the troubles plaguing the Qiu family.

Ye Fan looked at her with a firm look in his eyes. “Mu-Cheng, do you trust me?”

“But the Shen family is powerful, I am afraid...” Qiu Mu-Cheng said worriedly.

“Answer me. Do you trust me?” Ye Fan asked again, his voice heavy with authority.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was surprised. It was the first time she had seen Ye Fan treat her so seriously. After a long pause, Qiu Mu-Cheng nodded and replied with an affirmative grunt.

“Ye Fan, I trust you.”

Actually, after they had reached the hospital, Qiu Mu-Cheng regretted her action for a while. She did not know what had possessed her to believe that Ye Fan, a live-in son-in-law, could challenge the Shen family.

But, Ye Fan had already left the hospital. Even if she wanted to stop him, she couldn't.

Ye Fan did not go far. He stopped at the hospital entrance and dialled Li Er's number.

When Li Er saw that the caller was Ye Fan,

he was overjoyed. This was the first time Ye Fan had taken the initiative to call him. It was surely a good sign.

“It looks like Mister Chu is starting to accept me.”

Li Er knew what Ye Fan meant to the Chu family and he knew just how powerful the Chu family was. So he was in a state of excitement, now that he had successfully latched on to Ye Fan. He answered the call right away and was properly solicitous. But because he was so excited, his voice trembled a little.

“Mister Chu, this is the first call I receive from you. I will always remember this moment.”

“Mister Chu, since you are calling me, does this mean you are satisfied with my gift? Are you ready to meet me and have dinner with me?”

Li Er smiled joyfully. He was in a splendid mood.

“Screw you and your dinner!”

Ye Fan’s words, however, hit Li Er like a

slap on the head. And he was sent into a state of confusion right away.

“Mister Chu, you... you are?” Li Er stammered.

“Let me ask you. Does the Shen family in Yunzhou work for you?” Ye Fan’s voice shook with barely suppressed anger.

Li Er was stunned for a moment, as he considered various things in his mind. Finally he nodded and said, “Mister Chu, what happened? Did someone from the Shen family offend you?”

“Stop wasting my time! Li Er, let me tell you. After tonight, I want the Shen family to vanish. Fail to do that and the consequence will be unbearable for you. I can give you power and I can also take it away.”

Ye Fan’s angry voice exploded in the room and Li Er’s face turned as white as a sheet.

He didn’t think Ye Fan was joking with him. The Chu family was perfectly capable of eliminating not just one, but tens and hundreds of Li Ers in a single night.

“Screw that bastard, Shen Jiu-Yi.”

“Shui, call that bastard right away. How dare he offend Mister Chu. He must be tired of living!”

Li Er’s screams of rage could be heard coming from the room.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

The Shen family manor.

The rain was pouring heavily outside, and the sky was overcast.

When Li Er called, Shen Jiu-Yi was watching the financial news in the living room.

And a topless Shen Fei was just leaving the bathroom after his shower. "Dad, did you see that Qiu Mu-Cheng kneeling in front of our house? I heard the third daughter of the Qiu family was a prideful woman but, in front of the Shen family, she could do nothing but kneel in apology."

Shen Fei looked proud of himself. He enjoyed the feeling of having power over others, especially when they grovelled before him.

However, Shen Jiu-Yi turned to glare at Shen Fei and said, "You unfilial son. I am warning you. If you abuse our family's authority to bully others, I will break your legs!"

"Dad, I am innocent. Qiu Mu-Cheng came to kneel on her own accord. I had nothing to do with it," Shen Fei said aggrievedly.

Shen Jiu-Yi snorted coldly. "Hmph, you had better be telling the truth. If I find out you have been committing misdeeds, I will punish you."

Every time Shen Jiu-Yi saw his son, he managed to get himself worked up.

Over the years, Shen Fei had caused a lot of trouble for him. If their family did not have power and influence, Shen Fei would have faced the firing squad several times over.

"Go get dressed. We are going to see Master Er."

Li Er had called and asked for a meeting earlier. Shen Jiu-Yi did not think much about it and decided to bring his son along to meet Master Er as well.

Shen Fei did not dare to act up in front of his father so he complied right away. After changing into his clothes, he drove to Master Li Er's residence with his father.

Shen Fei did not often get involved in business operations, but the name Li Er was well known to him.

“Master Er is the unofficial king of Yunzhou and even the mayor has to treat him with respect. Be on your toes when you see him later. If he likes you, then it will be helpful to our family.” Along the way, Shen Jiu-Yi instructed his son on proper conduct.

“Dad, don’t worry. I am sharp. I won’t embarrass you.”

Shen Fei laughed heartily.

Before long, the Benz reached the Li family villa. Under the guidance of a servant, the father and son pair soon reached the living room.

In the room, Li Er sat quietly, his expression grave. Although he looked calm, he still inspired awe.

When he saw Li Er, Shen Fei hurried forward to pay his respect. But Li Er paid him no attention.

“Master Er, you wanted to see me?” Shen Jiu-Yi’s senses told him that something was wrong. His heart tensed and he suddenly had a very bad feeling.

“Shen Jiu-Yi, let me ask you. Did you offend anyone important recently?”

Shen Jiu-Yi went quiet for a while and then shook his head. “Master Er, I have been busy with my company’s affairs. I haven’t had the time to offend anyone.”

“Is that so?” Li Er snorted coldly and threw a photograph at Shen Jiu-Yi. “Take a good look. Tell me, have you offended the person in the photograph?”

Shen Jiu-Yi bowed his head and took a look. The photograph was that of a young man wearing simple clothes. He was slim and good-looking but, considering his attire, he didn’t look like a rich person.

“Master Er, I have never seen this person before. How could I have offended him?” Shen Jiu-Yi was really confused. He didn’t know why Master Er was asking him about the young man, but he was getting nervous.

Pong!

Li Er slammed the table and jumped to his feet. The movement caused a tea cup to fall to the floor, where it smashed to

pieces. "You are still denying it? Then let me remind you again. His name is Ye Fan, a son-in-law of the Qiu family."

"Eh?" When he heard Ye Fan's name, Shen Fei frowned and, without waiting for his father's response, he hurried forward to look at the photograph. And then he smiled.

"Master Er, I am afraid you have made a mistake. I know the person in this photo. He is a live-in son-in-law of the Qiu family. A useless trash. He is not anyone important. Just now, he was still kneeling in front of our house with his wife."

Shen Fei laughed heartily and he completely missed the frosty look in Li Er's eyes. So he continued, "Ye Fan is a silly man. He is just a live-in son-in-law but not only did he look down on my family, he also insulted you. He actually said Master Er was a nobody. That made me angry. I was willing to let him off for insulting me, but I could not tolerate him insulting you. So I got a few of my men to follow him. They will teach him a lesson."

Shen Fei smiled happily at Li Er and waited expectantly for the praise to come his way.

“What? You sent your men to teach him a lesson?”

Li Er trembled violently, as if he had just been struck with a bolt of lightning.

“Yes, Master Er. They should be reaching his house around this time. Is there something the matter?” Shen Fei had a perplexed look on his face. He didn’t understand why Master Er was overreacting.

“Screw you!”

“If you want to die, don’t drag me down with you!”

Li Er was scared witless. He cut loose with a stream of scolding and sent Shen Fei to the floor with a kick. His face had already turned pale and his back was soaked with cold sweat.

Who was Ye Fan?

He was the heir to the Chu family of Great China!

He was the only descendant of the Chu family who could use the Tian (Heaven)

character in his name!

In order to see him, the head of the Chu family came down personally to Yunzhou.

Li Er was all too willing to suck up to a person like him. He was even willing to call Ye Fan “daddy”.

But his own underlings went and provoked Ye Fan.

Surely, they were trying to get him killed?

Were they tired of living?

In a fit of rage, Li Er threw a kick at Shen Jiu-Yi.

“Shen Jiu-Yi, screw you!”

“You will be the death of me!”

“Do you know who he is?”

“He is Chu Tian-Fan, the only member of the Tian character generation in the Chu family!”

“That’s the Chu family. The family that’s as powerful as a country. Even the

government has to suck up to them. Even heads of state have to show them respect.”

“Do you know? A hundred thousand soldiers are stationed in the suburb of Fenghai city. Why? Because the government is protecting the Chu’s family house!”

Li Er howled angrily. Shen Jiu-Yi and his son were both scared witless and their minds were in a blank state.

“The Chu family of Great China?”

“As powerful as a country?”

“Fenghai suburb. A hundred thousand soldiers. Just to protect the Chu’s family house?”

Heavens!

Who had they provoked?

Shen Fei was in a state of daze. Both his legs were shaking and his body was drenched in cold sweat.

And Shen Jiu-Yi was panicking. His face

had turned as white as sheet and, finally, he collapsed on the floor with a pong sound.

“Mas... Master Er, wha...what should I do? Please, you have to help me?”

Shen Jiu-Yi was a veteran of the business world and had a tougher temperament than most people. Even as he was panicking, he knew to ask Li Er for help.

“Get lost!” Li Er threw another kick at Shen Jiu-Yi.

“Help you?”

“I can’t even save myself now.”

“Young Master Fan has already said so. After tonight, the Shen family shall vanish from Yunzhou city!”

Boom~

The news hit the father-and-son pair like a thunder bolt from the sky. They stayed rooted to the spot, stunned and filled with despair.

Shen Fei laid limply on the floor. He was so

petrified that he couldn't get a word out of his mouth.

As for Shen Jiu-Yi, his heart was filled with despair. Finally, he decided to vent his anxiety and anger by beating his son.

"You bastard, oh, you bastard!"

"You bastard~"

"The Shen family will be destroyed because of you!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Li Er was mad at the Shen family for provoking Ye Fan.

But after he had calmed down, he began to think of a plan to save the Shen family.

After all, Li Er had been operating in Yunzhou for many years and, during that time, the Shen family had made themselves useful to him. Most of his funds came from the Shen family. Therefore, unless it was absolutely necessary, Li Er did not want to abandon the Shen family.

Finally, after facing a barrage of pleas from Shen Jiu-Yi, a composed Li Er sighed and said, "Alright, since you have served me faithfully all these years and because it was really your son's fault, I will see what I can do. Maybe I can beg for forgiveness on your behalf. As for you two, you are not getting any rest tonight. Get your ass over there and grovel in front of Young Master Fan."

"Thank you, Master Er. Thank you, Master Er." The desperation in Shen Jiu-Yi was clear to see. After giving thanks to Li Er, he left the Li family villa with his son.

Yunzhou City People's Hospital.

"Mu-Cheng, are you feeling better?"

In the hospital ward, when Ye Fan saw that Qiu Mu-Cheng had woken up, he offered her an apple he had peeled earlier.

Qiu Mu-Cheng had already regained her frosty demeanour. In the past, she would simply ignore Ye Fan. She did not know since when, but her attitude toward Ye Fan had been slowly changing. So she unconsciously accepted the apple from Ye Fan, and even thanked him for it.

"Could it be that, I have fallen in love with this man?"

But she squashed the thought as soon as it appeared. A proud woman like Qiu Mu-Cheng would never allow herself to fall in love with a mediocre man. That was Qiu Mu-Cheng's pride as a woman.

Ye Fan shook his head and smile. "There is no need for a husband and wife to stand on ceremony with each other."

Qiu Mu-Cheng said nothing. She bowed her head and ate the apple in silence.

However, a blush could be seen on her exquisite face.

“Oh by the way, how’s my grandfather doing? And the Qiu family, how are they doing?” Qiu Mu-Cheng suddenly remembered the problems plaguing her family, so she turned worriedly to Ye Fan for answers.

Ye Fan’s expression turned grave. He looked at Qiu Mu-Cheng and asked, “Mu-Cheng, don’t you hate the Qiu family? You still worry about them after what they have done to you.”

Qiu Mu-Cheng shook her head and smiled bitterly. “Blood is thicker than water. They are still my relatives and my elders, no matter how mean they are. I owe them for raising and educating me. And the Qiu family is where my roots are. Can you sever blood and family ties so easily? Also, it is my fault this time. I am the one who got the Qiu family into trouble.”

Even now, this kind-hearted girl only knew how to blame herself and her words were full of self-reproach.

Ye Fan sighed. “You silly girl.”

“Alright, we shall let them off this time. The Qius are really fortunate to have a niece like you. And Master Qiu should be counting his lucky stars for having you as his granddaughter.”

Ye Fan’s words made Qiu Mu-Cheng confused.

“Let them off? Ye Fan, are you hiding something from me?”

Ye Fan shook his head and smile. “It’s nothing. Oh, that’s right. Your grandfather is staying at this hospital too. I will take you to see him.”

“Okay.”

Qiu Mu-Cheng nodded and left the room with Ye Fan.

“Wen-Fei, have you heard anything from your father yet?”

“Can he help or not?”

Qiu Mu-Ying was pacing around the room and bombarding Chu Wen-Fei with questions.

After all, her father was still being held for questioning and she had not heard anything from him for an entire day. It was only natural for her to be worried.

“Ying-Ying, don’t rush Wen-Fei. Such things cannot be rushed. We can only do our best and leave the rest to fate.” Master Qiu was still resting on his sick bed and his words were frail, like his health. Worrying about the calamity facing his family had caused him to age overnight. And now he looked several decades older than he really was.

Just as the Qius were worrying themselves to death, the door to the ward was pushed open and Ye Fan entered with Qiu Mu-Cheng.

“Shit, how dare you show your face around here?”

“Our family is in such sad straits all thanks to you!”

“My father has been arrested and his whereabouts is still unknown. Grandfather nearly died from shock because of you. Don’t you feel guilty?”

When she saw Ye Fan and her cousin, Qiu

Mu-Ying's eyes turned bloodshot and she started raging at the couple.

Qiu Mu-Hong and her husband, Jiang Yang, were also unhappy. "Please leave. You are not welcomed here."

"What do we have here? One useless husband who's a piece of trash. Someone who can't do anything right."

"And the other one is pretending to be weak and trying to solicit pity for herself. You two are a good match for each other!"

"Just looking at you makes me sick. Get out!" Wang Qiao-Yu was sent into the throes of rage when she saw Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng.

Needless to say, the other relatives also started criticizing Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng.

After all, in the eyes of the Qiu family members, the calamity facing them was entirely the fault of Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng.

When she heard the hurtful words coming from her relatives, Qiu Mu-Cheng's already

pale complexion turned paler. She did not try to defend herself, but said softly: "I am only here to see grandfather. I will just take a look and then leave. I have no intention of disturbing my elders."

"Hmph, look at me? I am just an old bag of bones. I can't shoulder the burden!" With a huff, Master Qiu turned his back on Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng.

"Are you deaf? Grandfather says he doesn't want to see you. So can you get lost?" Qiu Mu-Ying screamed at her cousin.

"Get lost!" Wang Qiao-Yu followed suit.

"Get lost~"

In the hospital ward, almost every member of the Qiu family was screaming and their voices resounded through the room.

Qiu Mu-Cheng stopped talking. She bowed her head, boundless grief swirling about in her heart.

As Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng stood in the midst of everyone's hostilities, it looked as if the world had abandoned them. The light flickered and cast a shadow beneath

them.

Splash~

Qiu Mu-Cheng's eyes had turned red. Tear drops rolled down her face and hit the floor, where they shattered.

Just by holding her hand, Ye Fan could clearly feel her body trembling.

He said in a low voice, "Mu-Cheng, let's go."

But just as they were preparing to leave, a pair of visitors pushed the door open and hastened into the room.

"Are you blind? How can you just barge in like this? Can't you see my father is resting?" Wang Qiao-Yu was still fuming so, when she saw the intruders, she vented her anger on them.

But when Master Qiu saw the newcomers, his expression paled. In a single bound, he leapt out of his bed and slapped Wang Qiao-Yu so hard that she fell onto the floor.

"Dad, why did you do that for?" Wang Qiao-Yu felt so aggrieved that she was about to

cry.

“You bitch. You can’t just go around scolding people. Are you trying to ruin our family!”

Master Qiu berated his daughter-in-law and then he hurried forward to pay his respects to Shen Jiu-Yi and Shen Fei.

“President Shen, we are honored to have you here. I am sorry I am unable to receive you properly. Please forgive me!”

What?

“President Shen?”

“Don’t tell me he is the President of Shen Corporation, Shen Jiu-Yi!”

When they heard Master Qiu’s greeting, the Qiu family members were all surprised.

And one by one, they stepped forward to grovel before the Shens. They bowed and greeted Shen Jiu-Yi so abjectedly that they looked like slaves paying homage to their master.

But Shen Jiu-Yi ignored the Qius. He

pushed Master Qiu aside and then walked directly to where Ye Fan was standing.

And under the astonished gazes of the Qius, Shen Jiu-Yi pulled his son along and knelt in front of Ye Fan with a pong sound. With his forehead and hands touching the floor, Shen Jiu-Yi pleaded piteously: "It was my son's fault for not recognizing and offending you. Please punish us, Mister Chu!"

Behind him, Shen Fei was also on his knees. He added plaintively, "Please punish me, Mister Chu!"

Their voices were so loud that it shook the whole room.



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