

Obviously, the dzi beads that Qin Ming was wearing were real. Back when Zhang Jundong presented them to Qin Ming, Song Ying had made sure to authenticate them. As the world's top billionaire, he was not going to accept counterfeit gifts.

However, Qin Ming did not want to show it off. He kept his hand back to his side and said, "Mr. Yang, this is a counterfeit. It's from the roadside stalls and cost only 30 each."

Mr. Yang frowned, then he smiled. "I understand. Mr. Qin, you're really low-key."

When Qin Ming and Mu Xiaoqiao walked out of the auction hall, Mu Xiaoqiao leaned toward him. "They're, right? I said they were fake earlier because I thought no one would gift you something so expensive. But now that I think about it, I must be wrong. You're so capable; it's impossible that would wear a counterfeit."

Qin Ming laughed, "Why do you think I'm capable?"

Mu Xiaoqiao explained, "The black card is an international banking black card. Only three people in the world have it. Qin Ming, what secrets do you have?"

Qin Ming replied, "I once saved a billionaire. He wanted to repay me, so he asked me what I wanted. I told him I wanted an endless supply of money, so he lent me this card."

Mu Xiaoqiao pouted and mumbled, "Forget it if you don't want to tell me. Why do you have to lie like this? The chances of this happening are lower than me hitting the jackpot."

Qin Ming was speechless. I'm telling you the truth, but no one believes me.

Qin Ming then said, "You didn't tell me why you have to buy this dzi bead. You've wearing it on your neck the moment you got it. Aren't you afraid someone will try to rob you?"

Mu Xiaoqiao huffed, "I told you it's a secret. It won't work if I tell you. Besides, aren't you with me? I'm not afraid of getting robbed. I realize that

whenever I'm with you, my troubles would be resolved. I feel safe by your side.”

Her words sounded like she was flattering him. It felt good.

When the two returned to Mu family's house, it was time for dinner.

Mu Hao had been pulling strings to find a way to contact Nation M's Siplan Biopharmaceutical Technology Research Center for Mu Hairan's medication.

Once Mu Hairan collapsed, the connections the Mu family had in and outside Guang City would be gone. Old Master Mu was indeed crucial to the Mu family's survival.

Qin Ming had heard from Zhang Quanzhen that Mu Hairan had been an influential figure when he was young. He was vastly different from his son, Mu Hao. Mu Hao could keep the family going, but it would be difficult for him to start from scratch.

The maid, Fang, was preparing the dining table with a smile.

“Mister, Miss. You're back at the right time. Food has just been served. Please eat while it's hot.”

Xu Shulan scoffed, “Fang, how many times must I say this? You don't need to be so polite with him. He's just a live-in son-in-law. There have been many troubles recently, and he has done nothing to help. How can he eat here so shamelessly?”

Qin Ming was about to sit when he heard Xu Shulan's words. Too tired to argue with her, he stood back up, planning to eat outside instead.

However, Mu Sichun, who had been watching television, jumped to her feet and stopped Qin Ming. “Qin Ming, where are you going? We're having Australian lobster and salmon tonight. And there's Japanese Wagyu beef and Korean ginseng soup. It's a feast. Mom, how can you treat my brother-in-law like this? He's part of our family.”

Xu Shulan raised one of her brows. “You dumb girl, what's wrong with you?”

Mu Sichun had had the same attitude as herself toward Qin Ming earlier; they both targeted Qin Ming. Yet, she was on Qin Ming's side today. Her actions were a surprise to Xu Shulan.

Mu Sichun continued, “Mom, am I wrong? Qin Ming is part of our family, too.”

Xu Shulan replied, “I'm the lady of the house. If I don't give him permission to eat here, then he can't eat here. If not for your father's insistence, would he have married into the Mu family? Would my daughter's future be ruined? What spell did Qin Ming put on you? Do you have to side with him like this? If he wants to eat, sure. He'll have to stand aside until we finish our food. Only then he can eat here.”

Mu Sichun puffed her cheeks, irate. She crossed her arms and protested, “Mom, you're crossing the line.”

Xu Shulan shouted, “I'm crossing the line? Is it as

bad as him bringing me this pain? My daughter is an excellent woman, but she has him as her burden now. I don't even know how to feel less embarrassed about this. Every time I go out, someone would ask me why my daughter had married a useless brat like him. Tell me. How do I explain to them?"

Now, Qin Ming was displeased. I don't mind if you don't allow me to eat at home, but what do you mean by me having to wait until you finish before I can eat? Do you need to humiliate me like that?

He coldly uttered, "Whatever. A meal is a meal regardless of how cheap or expensive the food is. It's not like I'm begging to eat the food in this house."

Qin Ming then turned to leave.

"Qin Ming!" Mu Sichun panicked then stomped her feet, feeling frustrated.

Mu Xiaoqiao reached out to stop Qin Ming. "It's not clean to eat food outside; outside food is also

unhealthy. Sit down and eat. Fang has great cooking skills.”

Mu Sichun excitedly clapped her hands.

“Xiaoqiao does love her husband!”

“Huh?” Xu Shulan was bewildered. Why are the two sisters siding Qin Ming today?

What kind of spell did this wicked man cast on them?

Mu Xiaoqiao frowned. “Mom, if you continue acting like this, I'll have to tell Dad that you're torturing his son-in-law.”

“Me?” Xu Shulan was exasperated. She grabbed her throbbing head and shook it. “My daughter is siding an outsider now? It's true that daughters are useless once they've grown up. Now that she has a man, she doesn't want her mother. My god. It seems like Zhaoyang's new girlfriend, Li Meng, is right.”

Qin Ming narrowed his eyes. Why does it feel like all this is because of Li Meng again?

However, Qin Ming did not want to waste his breath explaining anything. She was only his legal mother-in-law. Besides, everything would be over soon.

Xu Shulan was quiet as they ate. She shot a death glare at Qin Ming once in a while, but he ignored all of them.

On the other hand, Mu Sichun kept putting food into Qin Ming's bowl. She leaned close to him and kept smiling. Anyone would have thought that they were close if they saw the scene.

Mu Xiaoqiao was having her meal politely. She watched as her sister interacted with Qin Ming, and she was surprised. Why does it seem like Qin Ming is on good terms with Sichun?

Furthermore, Mu Sichun kept calling out for Qin Ming sweetly. In the past, she would only call out for her parents so sweetly when she needed more pocket money.

Mu Sichun was even taking food for Qin Ming with her own chopsticks. Those were technically

indirect kisses.

Mu Xiaoqiao could not help but say, "Sichun, concentrate on your own food. Your brother-in-law knows how to get more food."

Mu Sichun pouted and replied, "Oh, Qin Ming. Look, Xiaoqiao is jealous. She's afraid that I'll snatch you away."

When Mu Xiaoqiao heard her words, she choked on her food. Embarrassed, she muttered, "Mu Sichun, mind your words."

Now, Qin Ming was troubled. After realizing that he was not such a bad person, the change in their attitudes toward him were drastic.

Night arrived, and the place became quiet. After revising his homework, Qin Ming sat in the study room in a daze. He wondered how he should sneakily get the medication from Siplan Biopharmaceutical Technology Research Center without Chang Huan's realization.

Ever since Chang Huan had lost to Qin Ming

because of a blond woman at Century Tower, his power and influence in Nation M had decreased significantly.

However, evil would never die. Chang Hongxi's wife was still waiting for an opportunity to strike again. Furthermore, her lover would not let anyone bully their son.

Guang City seemed peaceful, but according to Song Ying and Bi Yuan's reports, there were many international mercenaries hiding in the city.

Qin Ming did not dare to go to the Yun Shan Villas now, fearing that he would be found out.

However, Mu Hairan needed that medication. That was why Qin Ming was now thinking of ways to secretly get the medicine.

He wanted to avoid repeating his mistake. Back then, those assassins managed to use Nie Haitang to figure out his whereabouts.

When Qin Mind was lost in his thoughts, Mu Xiaoqiao, who was in pajamas, came into the

study room. “What are you thinking about? You look tense. It's late, so I'm going to bed first. Sleep on the bed tonight, too. Together.”

At that, Mu Xiaoqiao left.

It took a while for Qin Ming to collect himself. He whipped his head to the side and mumbled, “Together?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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When Qin Ming returned to the room, he found the mattress gone.

Mu Xiaoqiao was in sexy lingerie as she lay on the bed reading a book. The other side of the bed had been separated from her side with a red ribbon.

She raised her book above her nose. "We're sleeping on the same bed, but you're not allowed to touch me."

"Haha!" Qin Ming could not help but laugh. "Do you know you're committing a crime? Do you think a red ribbon will stop a man? How naive. Aren't you afraid of me crossing the line and f*cking you?"

Mu Xiaoqiao fell silent.

Qin Ming continued, "What are you really thinking? Even if you don't hate me anymore, you can't possibly fall in love with me. But you're superstitious. You think that our birthdates were a match, and that's why your grandfather's life was saved. That's why no matter how badly you

dislike me, you'll be considerate to me. Is that right?"

Qin Ming sighed, "Why are you doing this? The more you act like this, the unhappier I'll become."

Mu Xiaoqiao froze before answering in an upset tone, "I accept my fate. I'm trying to get used to you, but why won't you accept me? Is it because of Nie Haitang? Nie Haitang has cancer, and everyone in Guang City knows about it. She left you because she didn't want to burden you. She wants you to have a new start, doesn't she?"

Qin Ming proudly stated, "I won't accept fate. I'm the one to decide my own life, not God."

Mu Xiaoqiao huffed, "Don't keep talking trash. Why would you have agreed to this marriage back then because of Master Zhang's words? You've just broken up with Nie Haitang, and in the next second, you secretly married me. How great your love is. Aren't you superstitious, too?"

The corner of Qin Ming's mouth twitched. It was

an embarrassing incident for him. Both had taken the same actions, so he could not rub this into her.

He sucked in a breath. “I was foolish and too upset to think straight back then. Now I know that there is no such thing as fortune-telling in the world. They're all scams. My mind is now clear, but why don't you clear yours up as well?”

However, Mu Xiaoqiao shook her head. “In the years my grandpa and my dad believed in it, my family has prospered. Every time any problem surfaced, my family would request help from Master Zhang. There has never been a problem he couldn't solve. It's difficult to ask them not to believe in this.”

Qin Ming questioned, “So are you going to spend the rest of your life with someone you don't like? If I want a child in the future, are you going to conceive through IVF?”

Mu Xiaoqiao's face reddened as her heart raced. “Give me some time. I've never even been in a relationship. How will I know how to be someone's wife immediately? We can start by

dating. I don't hate you.”

Qin Ming's heart skipped a beat. He heard a tinge of tremor and shyness when Mu Xiaoqiao had said her words. Does she accept my existence and our relationship now?

Qin Ming was having mixed feelings about it. It's been difficult to reach this step.

In the beginning, he was looked down on by the Mu sisters. Moreover, he had to sleep in a separate room from his wife. It had been tough for him as a live-in son-in-law.

He had not expected that Mu Xiaoqiao would change after his hard work. Now, she had a good impression of him, and she was willing to accept their theatrical marriage.

Mu Xiaoqiao continued, “The kiss at the auction today. That's my first kiss.”

Qin Ming was grinning in his heart. I actually took the first kisses of three women! Li Meng, Nie Haitang, and Mu Xiaoqiao's.

Qin Ming did not know where to land his eyes on. This was the girl of many men's dreams. He was afraid that he might end up making a mistake.

Mu Xiaoqiao bit on her lower lip as she locked eyes with Qin Ming.

“Even if you don't like me, shouldn't you be cooperative? Have you forgotten that you married into the family because of an agreement? You're only allowed to request a divorce after the troubles in the Mu family are resolved. Before that happens, you have to fulfill your duties as my husband. Stop using superstition as your excuse. You did not agree to it at the start, but you're the one who came and begged us later on. Now that your troubles are resolved, you say that the celebration is a superstition and that we have to believe in science. You're trying to leave without being responsible for anything. Do you think that's right?”

It was true that Qin Ming had done all that, and it was also true that he did what he did because he had been superstitious.

Frowning, Qin Ming grunted, "Are you threatening me?"

Mu Xiaoqiao noticed Qin Ming gradually becoming angry. The look in his eyes was scary, and she shrunk away from him. "Qin Ming, w-what are you doing? Are you angry? I- Ah!"

Mu Xiaoqiao felt shivers run down her spine as Qin Ming stared at her. While she was retreating backward, she tripped on herself.

Mu Xiaoqiao collapsed onto the bed. While her arms were swinging mid-air, she grabbed Qin Ming. Not expecting her sudden action, he fell along with her. The two of them landed onto the bed together, and they kissed.

The beauty fell into his arms, and her cherry lips pressed onto his. She was soft and fragrant.

Qin Ming was on top of Mu Xiaoqiao. When they fell, they ended up kissing.

The two were in a daze. They were young people, and their position lit the fire in them, especially

for Qin Ming. Ever since he had broken up with Li Meng weeks ago, he had not satisfied his sexual urge. The lust in him had accumulated, and the kiss was like a trigger to him.

Unlike the kiss back at the auction, Mu Xiaoqiao's kiss this time was aggressive.

Mu Xiaoqiao hummed as she closed her eyes and grabbed Qin Ming's shoulders.

She had lived for twenty-five years, and this was the first time she had gotten a taste of kissing.

Rationality told her to push Qin Ming away so that he would not be able to take advantage of her, but her body said otherwise.

At the same time, Qin Ming's mind was overwhelmed with lust. Rationality had long fled him.

He was going to make a mistake that all men made. He was going to think with his lower body and witness his actions with his upper body.

He could not resist Mu Xiaoqiao's youthful body.

After tumbling on the bed, Mu Xiaoqiao found herself undressed.

Right then, Qin Ming's phone rang.

A look at the screen told him that it was from Song Ying.

It was already eleven in the night. If there was nothing urgent, Song Ying would not have called Qin Ming at this time of the day.

He picked up the call and heard Song Ying say, “Young Master, we've found her.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Young Master, Nie Haitang has been found.”

When Qin Ming heard Song Ying's words, he froze. It had been a week since they started searching, and they finally found her today. He complained, “You're slow.”

“I'm sorry, Young Master.” Song Ying could only apologize.

Qin Ming reassured, “I'm not blaming you for this. Arrange this for me.”

Song Ying continued, “Of course. I'll prepare a private jet to Germany and make sure no one knows about your travel plan.”

Qin Ming ended the call. It was then he realized that he was still holding onto Mu Xiaoqiao's purple panty. Embarrassed, he gently placed it on the bed.

When Mu Xiaoqiao realized that the man on her was no longer moving, the excitement slowly wore off, and she opened her eyes. She grabbed the blanket to cover herself, revealing only her

fair shoulders and delicate collarbones.

She could sense Qin Ming's changing mood. He had been like a ferocious beast a second ago, and he was determined to have her there and then. Unable to resist him, she could only let him do as he pleased.

However, Qin Ming had become a totally different person after his call.

His impulsive lust was gone, and he no longer had her in his mind. In place of it was tranquility.

Qin Ming looked at Mu Xiaoqiao and apologized, "I'm sorry. I have to leave now."

Mu Xiaoqiao's face turned pale. She knew that only the guilty ones apologized. Qin Ming's apology meant that he still did not see her as his wife. She was only a passerby in his life.

When she saw Qin Ming changing into a new set of clothes, she seethed, "I don't want your apology. You've done everything but the last step. Are you going to leave just like that after

everything? I've been trying my best to be a wife, but you're treating me like this.”

Qin Ming fell silent. He stood by the door and murmured, “I don't want to lie to you. I don't love you. It was impulsive of me to do that earlier. Let's divorce after I'm back. Forget about me.”

Mu Xiaoqiao's heart skipped a beat. She had a foreboding feeling that Qin Ming would be gone from her world after he left today.

At that moment, Mu Xiaoqiao could feel her heart wrenched painfully. She had thoughts of stopping Qin Ming earlier when he was about to make his final move.

In the end, she did not stop him. That was because, at that second, she had allowed Qin Ming to enter her heart. From that moment on, Qin Ming had a place in her heart. Perhaps she did not have a deep love for him, but Mu Xiaoqiao was sure that he had become her man. That was why she permitted him to make the final move.

However, just as he had come into her heart, he was leaving.

She did not need to question him; she knew why he was leaving. It was because of another woman. It was because of Nie Haitang, who was overseas for her treatment.

She could understand Qin Ming's inability to let go of his ex-girlfriend and admired his strong feelings for her. However, she felt that one had to always look toward the future, especially when he was already the live-in son-in-law of the Mu family. Qin Ming should have let go of his past and should treasure his present moment.

Or, at the very least, he should not have abandoned her when they were in the middle of this. It was humiliating for Mu Xiaoqiao.

I've been undressed and kissed everywhere, but you're suddenly going to look for another woman! No woman can take this humiliation.

Mu Xiaoqiao bit on her lower lips. Ignoring her nakedness, she stood up and hugged Qin Ming

from behind. She choked, "Qin Ming, don't leave. I've done everything for you, including this. Why don't you understand my actions? I've fallen in love with you. Do you know that? If I don't love you, I wouldn't have let you do this. I wouldn't have let you take me. You've stolen my heart. Are you going to leave irresponsibly?"

Qin Ming could only sigh in his heart. If only I controlled my lower body.

Mu Xiaoqiao's hug from behind was Qin Ming's favorite position. Her breasts were pressing onto his back, and her gentleness enveloped him. This was the first time an iceberg like her was revealing her vulnerability to him.

Qin Ming pulled her hands away. "Wait for me to come back. I'll explain to you then."

At that, Qin Ming pushed open the door and left Mu Xiaoqiao alone in the room. She stared at his retreating figure as sadness swarmed into her heart. She had been ignoring him in the past, but now, she could not even make him stay.

Mu Xiaoqiao pulled off her nine-eyed dzi bead necklace around her neck, fuming. She raised her hand, preparing to toss it out of the window. “Lies! They're all lies!”

However, just as she was about to throw it, she hesitated. She lowered her hand and stared at it, feeling reluctant. In the end, she could only grieve in her room alone.

Qin Ming felt guilty toward Mu Xiaoqiao, but he did not wish to fool her. He did not want to cheat her love. He was glad that he had not made the final move, or else he would have no way to back out.

He could only compensate Mu Xiaoqiao after bringing Nie Haitang home.

Why does it feel like I'm having lady troubles?

Qin Ming walked to the junction to find Song Ying waiting for him in the car. They sped to the airport where Qin Ming's personal jet was on standby.

On the plane, Song Ying handed the report made by staff from their European branch to Qin Ming.

The report mainly consisted of observations and witness accounts.

There were photos of Nie Haitang working in a restaurant in Chinatown, eating a burger by the side of the road, and the moment her phone was snatched.

Qin Ming was surprised to find Nie Haitang living an ordinary life while she was there.

After all, she came from a wealthy family. She probably has no need to work for others, does she?

Qin Ming then recalled her telling him that she had to be wary of her mother. Her mother had apparently lied to her, and he suspected something was going on behind the scenes.

She seems fine in the photos and doesn't look like she's sick. So why is Haitang in Germany? As a daughter of a rich family, why does she need to

work for others?

Song Ying was dressed in black with her legs crossed as she sat opposite Qin Ming. When she saw Qin Ming's anxious look, she consoled him. "Don't worry, Young Master. The men from the EU branch said Ms. Nie is currently safe in an old castle."

Qin Ming queried, "In a castle? What is she doing there? Whose castle is it?"

Song Ying answered, "The prestigious Qin family from Sea City is hosting a matchmaking event at the castle for their sons."

Qin Ming was baffled. "M- Matchmaking? Are you sure you've not gotten the wrong information?"

Song Ying nodded with determination. "That's right. A matchmaking event that will last half a month is currently taking place there. Many billionaires love matchmaking events like these. They're looking for young women who are highly educated and have good looks and figures. If the

matchmaking works out, the ladies will become their wives or lovers. If not, there could still be one-night-stands. The women will be compensated financially depending on the results. It's akin to emperors choosing their concubines in ancient times.”

Qin Ming felt as if he had heard about a whole new world. He could not believe an event like that could take place in modern times. Indeed, his state of poverty in the past had limited his imagination.

In the past, Qin Ming had seen news articles about cruise ships filled with beauties and other similar mass parties for the rich. Tycoons enjoyed their time surrounded by beauties as they acted on their lust. Those events had sounded like a blissful dream to him.

Those events didn't exactly have high standards. Good looks were the only requirement for the lady participants.

Whereas for this billionaires' matchmaking event, the requirements were rather exaggerated:

a woman had to be well-educated, young, and have a strong family background. Even with these qualities, she might not become the wife of a rich man. To become just the lovers of those men, some women even went for plastic surgery to enhance themselves prior to joining the event. It was shocking.

Qin Ming could not understand the thought process of these rich people. After all, he had only topped the world's rich list for less than a month, and was still humble and not so daring.

Why is Haitang in a place like that?

Ring! Just then, Qin Ming's phone rang. It was a hidden number.

It reminded Qin Ming of the last time Nie Haitang called him. It had been the same type of protected number.

Thinking that it was Nie Haitang, Qin Ming picked it up. However, all he heard were moans from the other end of the line. "Ah... Ah..."

Qin Ming frowned. Who is this?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Ah... Wait- Young Master- Ah!”

When Qin Ming picked up the call, lustful moans of a woman sounded from the speakers. It was obvious that the woman was enjoying it.

Qin Ming's expression darkened. This was the same number Nie Haitang had called him with the last time. Who is this “young master” was on the other end of the line?

And who's that woman moaning on the phone?

When Song Ying heard it, she turned her doubtful eyes at Qin Ming.

“Young Master, this is...”

Qin Ming immediately denied, “It can't be her. She won't betray me.”

Song Ying fell silent. She knew that Qin Ming's first girlfriend, Li Meng, had betrayed him. Qin Ming was upset for a long while because of that. If his second girlfriend also betrayed him, he would probably lose his mind.

Qin Ming was also silent. He sat on the massage chair as he bit his fingernails. His phone was placed beside him as he held himself back while listening to the moans for more than ten minutes.

Although the woman's voice sounded similar to Nie Haitang's, Qin Ming was not sure if that was really her or not. He was worried that it was really her; unfortunately, he was still on the plane and could not rush to the site.

“Your girlfriend is amazing.”

When the woman's moans stopped, a man's voice came from the other end of the line. After that sentence, the call ended.

In an old castle in Germany, the third son of the Qin family, Qin Shou, was in his boxers as he took photos of the woman on the bed.

The woman posed seductively and said, “Young Master Shou, remember what you've promised me. I'll be your lover for a year, and you'll give me 10 million, a sports car, and a house in Sea City. You can't go back on your words.”

Qin Shou reached out to caress the woman's breasts and smiled at her. "Babe, I won't go back on my words. Alright. You can leave first."

After the woman left, a middle-aged butler entered and asked, "Young Master Shou, do you still need it?"

Qin Shou shook his head and took out his phone. "Photoshop her face. The photos don't need to be clear; they can be blurry. The overall features and the shape of her face have to look like Nie Haitang. Send it to the number I called earlier once you're done."

The butler took the phone from him and answered, "Of course, Young Master Shou."

On the plane, Qin Ming's expression was grim as he sat in his seat.

He could not conclude whether that was Nie Haitang's voice. Although it sounded similar, all he heard were moans. He had not heard Nie Haitang moan before, so it was difficult for him to decipher.

Furthermore, the man had hinted to him that it was his girlfriend. It was obvious that the other party knew about Qin Ming's existence.

It was a provocation.

Qin Ming could not help but become suspicious. "Am I fooled? Have I been cuckolded?"

Qin Ming's greatest fear was not losing his wealth; it was getting betrayed again. That was because he had poured his heart into these two relationships.

He was now panicking despite having a grim expression and being silent. He could not stop biting his nails. Nie Haitang was impossible to contact, and that was his biggest problem.

Song Ying remained silent. She knew Qin Ming was sensitive and anxious right now.

His phone rang again. There were several messages attached with photos.

Qin Ming took a look at his phone. It was a series

of photos. In the photo was a naked woman who had just been toyed in bed.

She... looks like Nie Haitang.

Song Ying glanced at it then turned her gaze toward Qin Ming.

“Young Master... Are we... still going to Germany?”

Qin Ming could not take his eyes away from the photos. Abruptly, he sighed and laughed, “Hahaha!”

Song Ying was stunned by his behavior. She did not know what had happened to him. Is he too angry, or he's faking a laugh? What's going on?

Qin Ming was relieved and in a good mood. That was because he realized that the photos were fake.

He had seen Nie Haitang's body. Though accidental, he had seen her several times. Nie Haitang did not have a mole on her chest, while

there was one on the woman's chest in the photos.

Furthermore, the breast size was different. The woman in the photo was only a B cup while Nie Haitang's were much larger.

Moreover, the legs in the photo were slightly fatter than Nie Haitang's. Nie Haitang was a member of the college's badminton club. She loved sports, and her slender legs had no extra fat on them.

Qin Ming was too familiar with Nie Haitang, and that was why he was positive that the woman in the photos was not her.

Qin Ming smugly curled his lips. He clenched his fists and mumbled to himself, "Someone's trying to toy with me."

He asked, "Ying, how powerful is the Qin family in Sea City? Are they as easy to deal with as the gangs I have handled in Guang City?"

Song Ying shook her head and explained, "Young Master, they're a proper wealthy family, and

they're reputable worldwide. They have no criminal records, and even if they did, no one could find them. So we can't blackmail them. Furthermore, the Qin family often hires talented people. Thus, they have a well-built intelligence network and security system. It will not be easy to deal with them.”

Song Ying opened her laptop and showed Qin Ming some information on trading. ”Moreover, they're involved in diverse industries all over the world. They're well-connected with people globally. Even our company trades hundreds of billions with the Qin family. They're among Huan Ning's top five trading partners.”

Qin Ming furrowed his brows. Now, he was finally met with an opponent of equal power, an opponent who was also a business partner of his company.

He continued asking, “What if I really want to destroy them?”

Song Ying answered, “If you want to burn the Qin family of Sea City to the ground... Although

it'll be a major loss, Huan Ning should be able to withstand the hit. However, your main obstacles will come from the four elders and the board of directors.”

Qin Ming nodded. “I don't really actually want to burn them to the ground. I'm not that resentful toward them. I just want to teach this Young Master Shou a lesson. It's obvious he knows about something. Maybe he found out about me when Haitang asked for help from him, and that's why he's doing this. He wants me to lose my trust in Haitang.”

As Song Ying swiped her fingers across the laptop, Qin Shou's information popped up.

Upon reading it, Qin Ming realized that Qin Shou was an excellent young man. He was twenty-five this year, and a top graduate from Cambridge University. He founded an international animal protection fund and had many multinational companies under his name.

He was indeed a fine young man.

He was not born with a golden spoon in his mouth; rather, he was born with a mountain of gold in his mouth.

Qin Ming glanced at his hobbies. Qin Shou enjoyed horse-riding, golf, and traditional clothing. He often invested in period dramas in his home country, and there were many photos of him with international actresses.

Qin Ming exclaimed, "Are there any traces of his disgraceful actions?"

Song Ying shook her head regretfully. "Not only is it difficult to search for a powerful and rich man's information, but you will always hit a wall when you look them up. Basically, you'll only find the information they had released to the public. It won't be easy to dig deep."

Qin Ming laughed, "It's apparent that he's not a good man based on his earlier actions of getting a woman to fool me. Ying, make some arrangements. I can't bear to sit around and do nothing. I have to teach him a lesson."

Meanwhile, in an old castle in Germany.

Nie Haitang shouted in a guest room, “He broke his promise! It's obvious that Qin Shou isn't a good guy. He promised to reprimand you and chase me away, but I'm stuck here again. Mom, you're imprisoning me here.”

Zhang Yao placed her hands on her hips, displeased. “What are you talking about, young lady? What's wrong with staying in a castle every day? Not many people have the opportunity to visit a castle.”

Nie Haitang furiously tore the clothes Qin Shou gave her. She seethed, “For how long will you lock me here? I will never agree to become his lover. When will I be able to leave? Mom, do you want me to threaten you with death?”

With tears in her eyes, Nie Haitang turned the scissors that she had used to cut up the clothes toward her neck. “Mom, let me go. I don't want to marry a man like him.”

When Zhang Yao saw that Nie Haitang's neck

was bleeding, she shrieked, “Darling, don't! P- Put the scissors down now!”

Nie Haitang answered in a trembling voice, “If you won't let me go, I'll die here.”

Just then, the door to the room was pushed open. A young man walked in and asked, “What's going on? Why is it so noisy here? Wow, what a pretty lady. Why are you trying to die? You can talk to me if you feel troubled. I'll help you.”

Nie Haitang and Zhang Yao were caught in surprise. “Who are you?”



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“Who am I? Good question. I heard my brother hid a pretty lady here, so I'm here to take a look.” The young man stared at Nie Haitang's beautiful looks. “He's right. You're pretty. My brother has good taste.”

Zhang Yao collected her senses and stated, “Ah, I remember who he is. He's the fourth son of Mr. Qin, Qin Ziruo.”

Nie Haitang was disgusted by all of them. “What is the meaning of locking me up here?”

Qin Ziruo raised his hands as if he was surrendering. “Miss, you've mistaken me. I just found out about your existence. That's why I'm here to sneak a glance. I don't know what's going on here, but it's true that my brother shouldn't have locked you up forcefully.”

Zhang Yao hurriedly explained, “Young Master Ziruo, this is a misunderstanding. I'm with her, and we're here to participate in the matchmaking event. She's not being locked up here. We're borrowing a room in your castle. Sorry to trouble you.”

Qin Ziruo frowned, "Madam, do you think I look like a fool? The miss has a scissor by her neck. If this goes on, she'll die. Come, Miss, I'll bring you out."

Nie Haitang was overjoyed to hear his words. She swiftly grabbed her suitcase and rushed out of the room.

Zhang Yao hurriedly stopped her in panic. "Darling, you can't do this. We'll miss the opportunity. In this matchmaking event, if you're disqualified, you won't be allowed to come here anymore. This is the only chance you'll have to marry into a wealthy family."

Nie Haitang's disappointment grew when she heard her mother's words. Her mother was betraying her for glory.

Although she told her daughter that it was for her future's sake, it was evident that she wanted Qin Shou to help the Nie family grow in terms of wealth and power. At the end of the day, her marriage should be profitable.

The Nie family in Guang City was a wealthy family, and they had more than tens of billions of assets. They had no fear of losing their luxurious lifestyle anytime soon. Nie Haitang could not understand why her mother was still asking her to become a richer man's lover. Furthermore, as a lover, she would live a life in the shadows.

Nie Haitang shoved her mother away and followed Qin Ziruo out.

As they walked, Qin Ziruo said, "Maybe my brother likes you too much. That's why he locked you up."

Nie Haitang had a sullen look on her face. "He likes me? I remember him saying that the Nie family is unworthy of their family, and I'm not fit to become his wife, only his lover. What a joke. I don't even care about him."

Qin Ziruo replied, "Miss, you're unique. Don't worry. I'll bring you out, and no one will dare to stop us."

Nie Haitang answered gratefully, "Thank you."

The two sneakily left via the drawbridge by the side of the castle.

At the same time in the castle, Zhang Yao sped to Qin Shou's room and reported, "Young Master Shou, Young Master Ziruo has brought my daughter out of the castle. Everything is going according to plan."

Qin Shou grinned. "Aunt, my men are on the road. It's all thanks to your cooperation that this show can finally start. Next will be the hero swooping in to save the damsel in distress. You need to call Qin Ming later. He must be suspicious of Nie Haitang after what I've done earlier."

Zhang Yao nodded vigorously. In a humble tone, she answered, "Of course. Young Master Shou is indeed a smart man. I'm sick of that broke idiot, Qin Ming. He cast a spell on my daughter, and now she tells me she won't marry anyone but him. I shouldn't have spoiled her in the past. What's wrong with being a tycoon's wife? Must she follow that poor fellow home to the farms? How much will he earn each year?"

A look of arrogance was on Qin Shou's face. "That's right. The annual salary of a farmer isn't even comparable to a meal of mine."

Zhang Yao nodded. "I'll leave my daughter in your good hands, Young Master Shou."

Qin Shou stood up. "Don't worry. Nothing will go wrong with my plan. Ms. Nie has lived wealthily her entire life. She doesn't know what despair is, nor does she know the difficulties in life. When she does, she'll understand that money is everything."

Outside the castle, Qin Ziruo said after they crossed the bridge, "Alright, Miss, I've gotten you out. My brother's actually a nice man. Maybe he kept you there because he wants you to reconsider him."

Nie Haitang determinedly replied, "That's impossible. I've given him a clear answer. His words can't be trusted. I don't believe him."

All Qin Ziruo had was a faint smile on his face.

After leaving the castle, Nie Haitang found some change in her pocket. She immediately called a cab to rush to the closest airport.

However, the car seemed to be going in the wrong direction. The route to the airport should be through the busy city, but the cab was going toward an old industrial area.

Nie Haitang asked, “Mister, where are you bringing me to?”

However, the driver did not seem to understand her. He mumbled a few words, but Nie Haitang could not understand him, either.

All she could do was ask him to stop the car.

However, the driver seemed not to understand her at all. Nie Haitang's heart sank, and she started panicking. She knew what situation she was in now—the cab driver was not a good person.

When she was back in her home country, she often saw tragedies happening to students who were studying overseas, especially female

students. They were always the target of evil.

Should I jump? But the car is speeding. I'll die if I jump.

Soon, the cab reached an industrial area in the outskirts of the city. A ferocious-looking woman in a long dress glanced at Nie Haitang without any expression on her face. Nie Haitang noticed that she had a cigarette between her lips and tattoos on her arms.

The moment Nie Haitang was kicked out of the cab, the cab driver sped off.

Nie Haitang grabbed her bag tightly as she glanced at her surroundings. Fear engulfed her when she saw more people coming out of the buildings, all looking shabby and dirty.

The men's gazes were unfriendly.

A few women were well dressed up, but they were hiding by the doors, seemingly afraid of taking a step out of the houses.

Nie Haitang took steps backward as she stuttered, "D- Don't come toward me!"

Right then, the ferocious-looking woman coughed, and the men stopped.

The ferocious blond woman walked over to take a good look at Nie Haitang. "There are only two choices for people who end up here. Either you become a prostitute, or you wash clothes. If you try to run, we'll make you a prostitute."

Upon hearing her words, Nie Haitang panicked even more. She wanted to escape from this place immediately.

However, it seemed like the place was far from the city, and there was a group of people silently surrounding her. She had nowhere to run.

She shouted to them, "I want to leave. This is illegal!"

The blond woman sneered, then waved her hand and instructed, "Grab her. Let her wash today's clothes first."

Two larger middle-aged women stepped forward and pulled Nie Haitang into a laundry room. The clothes in the laundry room were piled up in multiple stacks; the sheer volume of clothes was overwhelming. The room being a dirty, pungent, and narrow space didn't help to make things any better, either.

In front of her were a faucet and a box of laundry powder.

The blond woman walked in with the cigarette still between her lips.

“Do it well. I spent a thousand for you. If you don't want to wash, you can be a prostitute. It'll be five each time. Once you've saved up 100 thousand, you may leave. Hmph!”

Nie Haitang trembled in fury as she looked at the way the ferocious woman was asking for money. At the same time, she was fearful.

The only person she could think of now was Qin Ming.

Nie Haitang bit her lip and sobbed, “Qin Ming, where are you? Please come and save me. I know I'm wrong. I shouldn't have left you. Even if I died from the illness, I should've died in your arms.”

Tut-tut-tut! Huff!

Abruptly, a loud whirring of helicopter blades emerged from the main road. The ferocious woman was stunned, knowing that there was no helipad nearby.

Then, a voice on a megaphone boomed loud and clear, “Attention, everyone. You've been surrounded.”



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