

Qin Ming was swift to crack the case and caught the perpetrators. After a round of reprimanding them, he had avenged Mu Sichun.

No one had expected that Qin Ming, a man, would know so much about lipsticks. The preciseness of his analysis made it impossible for the three women to refute him.

In the past, Qin Ming knew nothing about cosmetics. However, when he used to be with Li Meng, the latter adored researching about these. She always showed him pages of her magazine, asking him to buy her more cosmetic products.

When Qin Ming glanced at the page, he was stunned to find that each lipstick cost four to five hundred. Moreover, Li Meng wanted an entire box with specific kinds of lipsticks in it.

Hence, Qin Ming had no choice but to research it. He saved, he worked, and he borrowed, and finally, he managed to purchase it. He gifted it to her on her birthday, and they slept with each other.

Now that Qin Ming thought about it, he felt it had been a loss.

Qin Ming could not possibly let them bully Mu Sichun in this way. After cursing at the three wicked women, Qin Ming grabbed their unfinished coffee and splashed it toward them.

"Ah!" The three women had not expected Qin Ming to have the guts to do it, not to mention doing it in Feng Dagang's house.

Coffee drained from the three from head to toe.

Qin Ming's an-eye-for-an-eye revenge stunned the rest of the people. He's got guts!

Among them, Tao Jingjing was most furious. She and Xiaona were from the same company, and as Xiaona had a pretty face and sexy figure, Xingtai Entertainment had sent her to try out for a role in Feng Dagang's show.

She should have protected Xiaona as her senior, but she failed.

Gritting her teeth, Tao Jingjing shouted, "Troublemakers! Get out of here. You're not welcomed here."

Qin Ming uttered, "I'm sorry. We were invited. If Mr. Feng tells us that my sister failed in her audition, we'll leave immediately. But who are you to Mr. Feng?"

Tao Jingjing laughed, "That's funny. Who am I to Mr. Feng? Mr. Feng is like a benefactor to me. But of course, why would an insignificant manager like you know about my relationship with Mr. Feng? I know what kind of people you are judging from your actions. Do you want me to ask Mr. Feng to send you out instead? Don't you want to leave without getting humiliated?"

Xiaona and her friends had been angry until they heard Tao Jingjing speaking on their behalf. Instantly, they put on pitiful looks on their faces.

"Tao, we really didn't do anything..."

"He's gone overboard. It was just a falling cup. Why did he have to do this to us?"

Tao Jingjing snapped her head to the side and shot a glare at them. God, stop talking! He has already shown us proof. He was so close to looking through your purses. If we weren't from the same company, I wouldn't have said anything.

Mu Sichun worriedly mumbled, "Ming, what do we do? It's true Mr. Feng likes Tao. I heard she's one of the female leads of this show."

Qin Ming reassured, "It'll be fine. If this doesn't work out, we'll look for another. Furthermore, is Mr. Feng an unreasonable man?"

Realizing that Qin Ming was not planning to leave, Tao Jingjing huffed and rushed back into the room to look for Feng Dagang.

The moment she left, the few actors hanging around could not help but reprimand, "What kind of manager are you? How can you do this in public?"

"That's right. That was Tao. She's a popular actress in the industry. She's good-natured, but you've infuriated her."

"You've got quite the temper as a newcomer. You don't even have a company to back you up yet, but you're already so arrogant? You'd better apologize to Tao when she comes back."

"Forget it. Some just like to bite more than they can chew. We can't do anything about that."

"Also, regardless of whatever analysis you come up with, it's a one-sided argument. Everything's moot without evidence."

"When you're chased out, you'll know what regret is. Idiots."

"Leave them be. They haven't seen the cruelty of society yet. They'll learn their lesson."

Mu Sichun felt wrath stirring in her as she listened to their words. She was angry on behalf of Qin Ming. Clearly, she was the victim. Why is this now Qin Ming's fault?

And that woman's sobs are as fake as her breasts!

She scoffed, "What kind of people are these?"

Nothing but beasts in human skin. All you want to do is to butter up to that damn Tao Jingjing. So what if she's popular, and she won the best supporting role award? She doesn't know right from wrong."

Qin Ming muttered, "It's normal. It's more useful to side a prominent figure in the industry than to side a newcomer. It's the same everywhere. It's just weighing the pros and cons. Even if you know you're wrong, you'll continue with it for the benefits you'll get. These are the unspoken rule everyone plays by. You should watch out in the future."

Mu Sichun did not seem like she understood, but she nodded. "Okay. I'll heed your words."

Qin Ming chuckled. It felt as if he was teaching his sister; his sense of responsibility felt good.

Soon, Feng Dagang emerged. He was a balding man in casual clothes. When he jogged over, Qin Ming spotted the stack of scripts in his hands. Once he reached, he looked around.

Tao Jingjing trailed behind him. "Mr. Feng, Xiaona is someone from my company. I know her well. She won't do something like that. She was nice to warn them about it, but they're insisting that she's the culprit. Also, this manager is unreasonable. We should just kick them out of here."

When Xiaona and her friends saw Feng Dagang, they cried even louder, making sure everyone saw them as victims instead.

The actors by the side folded their arms. It was apparent they were waiting for the tragedy to land on Qin Ming and Mu Sichun's.

With a secret smirk, Xiaona mouthed, "You're dead meat."

However, when Feng Dagang saw Qin Ming, he enthusiastically greeted, "Mr. Qin, why are you here? Oh, it's such a pleasure to have you in my humble abode. You're gracing us with your presence!"

The enthusiastic way Feng Dagang shook hands

with Qin Ming and the excited look on the former's face was genuine.

Qin Ming was bewildered. He knows me?

Anyway, I live a double life. Maybe I saw him in the past but forgot about it.

He greeted back, "Hello, Mr. Feng. I'm sorry to trouble you with this."

Feng Dagang quickly waved dismissively. "Your matters are mine. I heard someone's making things difficult for you. Who is it?"

Tao Jingjing, Xiaona, and the others widened their eyes at his words. What's going on?

Why does Mr. Feng act so humbly in front of this young man?

Do they know each other? Wait. Did he just call him Mr. Qin? That's too fake, isn't it?

Mr. Feng is one of the most popular directors in the entertainment industry. Popular actors and

even other directors had to speak respectfully to him. Why does he seem so humbled by this nameless young man? Who is he?

Even Qin Ming did not know what was going on.

However, he wasted no time in pointing to Xiaona and her friends. "It was the three of them trying to make things difficult for us."

Feng Dagang creased his brows. He straightened and declared, "You're from Xingtai Entertainment, aren't you? I've been kind to give you a chance because your company is one of the investors. However, I refuse to take in actresses with horrible personalities. Please return."

"I-" In a blink of an eye, tears stopped falling out from Xiaona's eyes. She stood rooted to the ground. With reluctance, anger, and upset in her eyes, she looked at Tao Jingjing.

Tao Jingjing quickly shifted her gaze away from the three. By now, she was panicking. She had never expected the seemingly average Qin Ming would be treated with the utmost respect by Feng

Dagang.

The gears were turning in her mind now, trying to scrape up a plan to apologize; she could not ruin her future because of several idiots.

In the end, Xiaona and her friends left in embarrassment and rage. What they thought was an opportunity for their careers to take off had ended up being a scene of humiliation.

Meanwhile, Mu Sichun covered her mouth in an attempt to contain her surprise. She then grabbed Qin Ming's hand and babbled, "Ming, how do you know Mr. Feng?"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Did Qin Ming know Feng Dagang?

Qin Ming did not. However, after Feng Dagang invited Qin Ming to the living room, he realized Hou Qing and Qi Yundong were there too.

The two knew Feng Dagang. They were here to discuss the investment for the new show. After all, Huan Ning Century Corporation had some entertainment companies in Guang City.

Although they were not a talent agency, they were capable of marketing and promotional ideas. Therefore, they held a substantial amount of influence in the entertainment industry.

When Qin Ming entered, Hou Qing had spotted him. Hou Qing was a smart man. He knew Qin Ming was currently in a fight with Chang Hongxi. If anyone asked Hou Qing about it, he would say it was like a fight between the son and the father over a woman. He was sure it would be over soon.

Hence, Hou Qing had to treat Qin Ming with respect, yet pretend as though this had nothing to do with him.

"Oh, isn't this Mr. Qin?" Hou Qing greeted, standing up before Qi Yundong did.

Qi Yundong frowned. Although he technically had a higher position than Hou Qing did, Hou Qing was now a favored employee of Qin Ming. In other words, Hou Qing might get a promotion at any time. So, Qi Yundong had to bear with it.

Right after Hou Qing's greeting, Qi Yundong muttered, "Mr. Qin is here too."

With one glance, Qin Ming realized what had happened. They must have told Feng Dagang to do this. Familiar with the two, Qin Ming hummed in response.

The sight stupefied Feng Dagang and Tao Jingjing.

Those who were in the upper-class society in Guang City knew Chairman Hou and Mr. Qi well. Both were the symbols of Guang City's wealthy families. They had a net worth of more than tens of billions each. They could not believe they saw the both of them greeting Qin Ming

politely.

He's only in his twenties. How can they sound so polite toward him?

Yet, that was what they had done. The way they greeted Qin Ming meant that Qin Ming was a man of a simple background.

Instantly, Tao Jingjing thought of the way she shouted at Qin Ming and asked him to leave. Her face heated up.

The actors who had been watching the scene unfold were equally red in their faces. What now? They had crossed both Mu Sichun and Qin Ming. Although Tao Jingjing was a popular actress, she was nothing in the face of the truly powerful people.

Both Hou Qing and Qi Yundong knew Mu Sichun, so they enthusiastically greeted her as well.

After greeting them, Mu Sichun tugged Qi Minghui's hand. "Ming, you came prepared?"

You're mean. Why didn't you tell me about it? I've heard rumors that you know Chairman Hou, but now I know it's true. Do you know Qi Minghui too? I didn't know you were so familiar with Mr. Qi as well."

Qin Ming smiled. "It'll be boring if I told you earlier."

Mu Sichun's lips curled into a bright smile. "Ming, you're amazing. I thought I managed to prank you, but you're better at this. Hehehe. But doesn't this mean I've relied on my family?"

Qin Ming rolled his eyes at her. "I'm not part of the Mu family."

Mu Sichun nodded. "You're the son-in-law of the Mu family. But since you're doting on me, I'll accept your kindness. Ming, I don't want to be the lead. I just want to have a side role. After all, many are watching Mr. Feng's work. I don't want to screw this up and mess up my future in this line of work."

Qin Ming replied, "Do I look like the one to

decide what role you'll get? The director will be the one to decide."

The other actors looked at Mu Sichun, jealous. She has such a nice brother-in-law. She gets to choose any role she likes. I'm so jealous. Why don't I have a brother-in-law like that?

But Mr. Qin's keeping such a low profile.

He's someone that even a powerful man is respectful toward, but he's wearing plain clothes and using a cheap phone. He's not even taking the cigarette from Mr. Feng. What a weirdo.

Now, they were all trying to come up with a plan to salvage the rudeness they had displayed earlier.

Tao Jingjing was the most straightforward of them all. She promptly apologized, "Mr. Qin, I-I was fooled earlier. I was a fool. Now that I think about it, your analysis was brilliant. You even recognize the type of lipsticks they used. What you've done is astounding. Not even we women might be able to recognize the lipsticks. You must know women well."

Qin Ming laughed before answering in a placid tone, "It's fine. I won't hold you accountable for this. You have to listen to your conscience next time."

Knowing that she was beautiful, Tao Jingjing leaned toward Qin Ming and handed him a business card. "Mr. Qin, you must not know much about me. I have many good points too. If you're interested in getting to know me further, I'm free for you anytime."

Qin Ming narrowed his eyes and took the card she shoved into his hands. Before he had a glimpse of it, Mu Sichun snatched it away and tore it in half. With furious eyes, she roared, "What are you doing? Ming is with someone else. Move aside, old hag!"

"O-Old hag?" An angry shade of red covered Tao Jingjing's face, but she dared not to lose her temper here. Overwhelmed by fury and embarrassment, she blurted out an excuse and left the scene.

Qin Ming scolded, "You shouldn't do that. She

did apologize to us."

Mu Sichun huffed, "Of course I have to. The more impressive you become, the more women will flock to you. I'm watching you on behalf of my sister. You're not allowed to have an affair."

Qin Ming snorted. What is going on in her mind all the time?

The storm had calmed down afterward. The actors and actresses invited here were the better ones. After the auditions and script discussion, most received important side character roles.

They had given Mu Sichun the permission to pick any roles she preferred, but she did not dare to take on any important roles. In the end, she took a side character role. Meanwhile, although Tao Jingjing was a popular actress, her original role was also a side character. However, it was the same role Mu Sichun had picked. Now, Tao Jingjing was left with a lousier role.

Depressed, Tao Jingjing felt as though Mu Sichun was targeting her.

On the other hand, Qin Ming was spending his time drinking tea with Hou Qing and Qi Yundong.

Qi Yundong muttered, "Young Master, discussing our investment in Mr. Feng's movie here isn't actually our primary goal."

Hou Qing added, "Looking for you is the primary goal."

Qin Ming was not surprised that the two had managed to find him. He asked, "Is my godfather looking for me?"

The two men shared a look. It seems like he knows what's going on.

Qi Yundong replied, "Yes. Master Chang has invited the regional directors of Southeast Asian businesses, other directors, and business representatives from various countries to meet with you tomorrow. He's heard that you've been working in a library to court a girl recently, and he's angry about it. He says you're wasting your time."

Qin Ming scoffed, "If he doesn't admit his faults, I won't bow to him. It's not that hard to understand."

Hou Qing wiped the sweat from his forehead. Qin Ming was the only one to insist on Chang Hongxi admitting his fault because of a woman.

However, it was their job to convince Qin Ming today.

Pushing his glasses higher, Qi Yundong voiced, "Young Master, this is a rare opportunity. It's not easy to gather so many people at once. The company is spread across many countries. It's better if you meet them now. After all, Master Chang has been managing the company for many years. Many of the old employees worked for him. If he recommends you to them personally, chances are, they'll willingly work for you in the future too."

Hou Qing continued, "That's right. It's normal for the son to take over the father's business, especially after you've defeated Chang Huan. Young Master, you have a high chance of

winning this. You have to take control of the company before your enemies come after you."

Their words were true. Although Huaxia was not the focal point of Huan Ning Century Corporation, Asia was the calmest region among all the regions the company was involved in. It was best for Qin Ming to take over the company while Chang Hongxi was still alive.

After a moment of rumination, Qin Ming answered, "Fine. Ask Ying to pick me up tomorrow."

On that night, in a dark room in one of the tall buildings in Guang City, a beep came from the computer. It was a message in a foreign language. We'll make a move tomorrow.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The next morning, Qin Ming squatted by the roadside outside his university and stuffed himself with fried dough sticks. As he ate with relish, a muted gold Rolls-Royce Ghost Extended rolled up beside him.

Song Ying had been ecstatic upon finding out that Qin Ming was returning to work. It had been a month. Everyday, Qin Ming went to work at his part-time job in the library, where he spent the entire time chatting to a girl. To everyone else, his part-time job seemed to be a poorly concocted excuse for him to pick up girls. Even the people at the office couldn't help but express their disapproval.

However, Song Ying believed that Qin Ming had his own reasons. Finally, even Chang Hongxi couldn't sit back and watch anymore. He sent Hou Qing and Qi Yundong down to fetch Qin Ming back to the office.

Everyone saw Qin Ming's return as evidence of his subservience to Chang Hongxi. In actual fact, however, it was Chang Hongxi who had lost his cool about the situation first. On the surface, it

seemed as though Qin Ming was admitting defeat to Chang Hongxi, but in reality, Qin Ming was quite capable of holding his own fort in front of the older man.

Song Ying sat down next to Qin Ming and said, "Young Master, Master Chang and all the business tycoons of South-East Asia have arrived in Nanshan Manor. Please make your way there too."

"Aside from them, all the towns in the province have sent their mayors to attend this meeting."

"These are the personal information of the South-East Asian business tycoons. All their businesses are managed by Thailand's top executive director, Mr. Samantapasadika."

"Mr. Samantapasadika has worked for Master Chang for many years. Back when Master Chang was attacked in Thailand, Samantapasadika risked his life to save him. He's a very good managing director—the business in South-East Asia has flourished under his leadership."

Qin Ming reached for his tablet. Quickly, he noted down everyone's personal information, past relationships, family background, achievements and wrongdoings, social standing, etc.

Qin Ming thought with satisfaction that the information he had been given was much more detailed than before. "Good job! The reports are so much more detailed now. It's good that you included information on their past—it'll help me assess their personality and weaknesses."

Song Ying smiled happily. "It's my job."

Qin Ming continued flipping through the tycoons' personal information. "How's my godfather doing?" he asked.

Song Ying replied, "Master Chang is getting weaker by the day. He wishes that you succeed him as the company's chairman as soon as possible."

Qin Ming asked, "Has there been any news from M Nation?"

Song Ying shook her head and said, "Zhao Qing kicked up such a big fuss that even the top management is considering whether or not to reject Master Chang's decision. Even Marin Hathaway and Feng Dongxiang voted against it."

Zhao Qing had once cheated on Chang Hongxi during their relationship. Unknowingly, she had also helped Qin Ming acquire fame and wealth overnight. For that reason, however, she was likely to pose the biggest threat to Qin Ming in the future.

Curiously, Qin Ming asked, "Who's in the company's highest board of directors? How big is their influence on my godfather's decision?"

Song Ying looked a little uncomfortable. "Well...Young Master, my knowledge about the top management is quite limited, so I can't explain it clearly to you. Two years ago, Master Chang was still healthy, so nobody could sway his decisions. However, now that he's so sickly, the top management has started to voice out their dissent. Thankfully, the local industry leaders are loyal to Master Chang, so the top management

hasn't been able to execute their plan. However, if something happens to you, the local industry leaders wouldn't have anyone to back, and the highest board of directors will be able to do whatever they want."

Qin Ming frowned. The company had always prided itself on being modern and progressive. It was a world-class business that frequently occupied pent-house offices. Since when was it so backward?

Qin Ming finished looking through the tycoons' personal information. Most of them were from average family backgrounds. Some of them had even struggled along for a few years before hitting the jackpot in the form of particularly good network connections or outstanding subordinates.

The person overseeing all of them, however, was an extremely capable person. He was akin to a charismatic leader leading a group of inexperienced men on the job. This fit Huaxia's corporates' ethos—talented and ambitious people rose quickly through the ranks.

A while later, Qin Ming arrived in the sprawling Nanshan Manor. It was the most luxurious residence in Guang City.

Today, Nanshan Manor had no guests. Seeing Qin Ming's Rolls-Royce pull up, a group of bodyguards ran up to welcome them. The car stopped right in front of a traditional courtyard.

The housekeeper of Nanshan Manor, Ma Shaofu, was already waiting for them with Feng Dongxiang, who was the head of the company's elders.

Feng Dongxiang came forward and opened the car door for Qin Ming. He looked intently at Qin Ming before turning to look at Song Ying, his eyes blazing with hatred. After the incident, he found out that Song Ying had helped Qin Ming search for his wallet, which completely foiled Feng Dongxiang's plans to make him suffer.

Feng Dongxiang bowed. "Master Chang is waiting for you, Sir."

Qin Ming wagged a finger at him. "Mr. Feng, you

made me lose my wallet the last time. I haven't held you accountable for that."

Feng Dongxiang sank into an even lower bow. "Since you've agreed to return, Sir, I'll willingly accept any punishment you give me."

Qin Ming patted Feng Dongxiang on the shoulder. "That's no fun! Anyway, remember this—you owe me."

Qin Ming walked into the courtyard and spotted Chang Hongxi sitting in his wheelchair. As always, he looked ancient—he had lost all his hair, and his eyes had sunk into their sockets. A medical tube had been jammed into his arm. Chang Hongxi was little more than a sickly, dying man.

Seeing his pitiful figure, Qin Ming felt his heart ached. "Godfather..."

Chang Hongxi asked slowly, "Have you stopped blaming me?"

"I still blame you, but I can forgive you now."

Qin Ming shook his head and walked over to him. "As long as Haitang is still on Earth, I'll be able to find her somehow."

Chang Hongxi smiled. "Haha, she's a good girl! Although I've only met her once, I can tell that her departure has brought you some good. It was her choice to leave. Don't let her down."

Qin Ming looked at him in confusion. "Weren't you the one who sent her away?"

Chang Hongxi shook his head and said, "If there were more people in the top management who supported you, I wouldn't have tried to split up you lovebirds. It's true that Haitang agreed to leave in order to garner more support for you. In the future, however, you can bring her back for her own protection. My dear boy, if your love can't withstand this sort of challenge, how could you call it love at all?"

Qin Ming's heart skipped a beat. It wasn't the first time he had heard about Huan Ning Century Corporation's top management. Aside from being extremely capable, it seemed that everyone in the

top management had a stake in his relationship with Nie Haitang.

Qin Ming asked, "Who's on the highest board of directors? Are they the descendants of the company's founders?"

Chang Hongxi looked up and shut his eyes wearily. A long while later, he finally said, "The founders died a long time ago, and the company leadership has changed hands numerous times over the last few generations. A long time ago, this company was controlled by individual families, and there was a huge power struggle between them. In their eyes, I was a thief, even though I had earned my position fair and square. While serving as the head of the company, I managed to reduce these families' influence on the board of directors. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to wipe it out completely."

As Qin Ming listened, he couldn't help but marvel at the company's enthralling history.

He replied, "Song Ying never told me about this."

Chang Hongxi grinned and said, "It'll take me a long time to narrate the story of Huan Ning Century Corporation's beginnings to you. My plan was to wait till I have passed on before telling you about it in the form of videos and books."

Chang Hongxi glanced at the clock on the wall and replied, "There's still time, so let me tell you all about it. I want you to know all about your biggest enemy—the highest board of directors..."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chang Hongxi gazed at Qin Ming and began. "Huan Ning Century Corporation began with a group of pirates during the Ming Dynasty. They relied on a powerful merchant family to perpetuate their reign of terror on the seas, looting the foreign cargo ships and accumulating a large sum of money. After being suppressed by the imperial court, the pirates failed and fled to Luzon, also the Philippines today. During their escapade, they met a member of a wealthy English aristocrat who had lost his ship."

"From then on, Huan Ning Corporation started expanding in the West. They even helped England assemble and train its first naval fleet."

"In order to secure its position within the business world in the West, Huan Ning Corporation started selling stocks in its company. They invited a few members of the aristocracy to form a workers' union. Secretly, Huan Ning Corporation established business connections with countries all over Europe. Then, they began to train war orphans to be loyal cadres, before taking advantage of the industrial revolution to expand their business globally. After the

Industrial Revolution, Huan Ning Corporation had become as rich as a country."

"During the Qing Dynasty, the imperial court cracked down on trade with Western countries. We at Huan Ning Corporation took drastic measures to save ourselves from persecution. While some families sank into oblivion, some of us married foreigners, and others founded their own aristocratic households, which became a source of protection for the rest of us. In any case, Huan Ning Corporation scaled up until Huaxia could no longer threaten its existence. It had extended its reach into almost all Western countries. With its immense wealth, Huan Ning Corporation became a large player in the global economy."

"During the two World Wars, Huan Ning Corporation opened up a new business line for magnesium and shifted its focus to developing it. Following that, a few large investors joined the chamber of commerce behind the scenes to form the highest board of directors and redistribute profits. At that time, they instituted an Industry Leader Program, under which talents were hired

with high salaries, to further develop strategic management for the company. Then, they used their assassination team to incite fear, which helped to solidify their influence over company affairs and place the industry leaders under their control."

"By the 21st century, many leaders in Huan Ning Century Corporation had gone through the Industry Leader Program. They had been exposed to only one way of thinking—thus, they were extremely loyal to the company. Under their influence, even their kids were taught to be loyal to Huan Ning Century Corporation."

"The business empire flourished, and capital accumulated even faster. However, since the highest board of directors was established, the internal conflicts over individual profit shares had never ceased. Who shall organize the accounts? Who was going to get the biggest share of the pie? The directors schemed fiercely to ensure of their own survival...until the electoral college was set up for the Chamber of Commerce."

"In order to expand globally, the investors who

had formed the highest board of directors joined the power classes in countries all over the world. Through corrupted means, Huan Ning Century Corporation managed to penetrate markets in every region. Meanwhile, the number of members in the highest board of directors was also increasing. At its peak, the highest board of directors consisted of members from more than 50 families."

"As for Chang family...my ancestors were officials in the court of the Daoguang Emperor at the end of the Qing Dynasty. Our family was very important back then. However, as the years passed and the history evolved, the Chang family sunk into oblivion. Just when my family was about to be kicked out of the highest board of directors, I met the love of my life."

Hearing this, Qin Ming asked in shock, "Zhao Qing?"

Anger flashed across Chang Hongxi's wrinkled face. Raising his voice in consternation, he snapped, "That wretched woman? No way!"

Chang Hongxi's face assumed a more wistful expression as he continued, "The girl I fell in love with came from a very rich family, while my own family was in dire straits. Many of my relatives had lost their lives, and my future seemed bleak. Once, however, she saved my life during an assassination attempt against me. She didn't care that I had no future—she shared her connections and resources with me to help me rise up in life again."

"Over the years, I achieved many things, garnering the support of numerous people in the process. Eventually, I found a place for myself on the highest board of directors again. Finally, after much scheming, I became the leader of the Chamber of Commerce. At the same time, I kickstarted my journey towards avenging and seizing power."

"I launched a bloody vendetta against my enemies on that board. Then, I made some changes to the Huan Ning Century Corporation's management model, starting with managing the company's accounts by myself. After that, I redistributed the profits, and replaced all my

opponents on the board of directors with people who were loyal to me."

"The company has changed a lot since then. For about ten years, the highest board of directors became my puppet. Everyone knew about me, but many were in the dark about the highest board of directors."

Chang Hongxi's words sent a shiver down Qin Ming's spine. The words he used, such as 'bloody vendetta', elucidated how horrific and violent the whole affair must have been. It must have been a bloody hell of a journey to defend his crown.

At the same time, however, Qin Ming marveled at the sheer scale of Chang Hongxi's achievements. He was indeed a man of great talent and bold vision, just like the emperors of the past. In a span of ten years, Chang Hongxi had made the entire company yield to his leadership and gained absolute control over the highest board of directors.

Out of curiosity, Qin Ming asked, "Well, Godfather, why did you marry Zhao Qing in the

end?"

Chang Hongxi sighed with regret. "Because...the woman I loved would have been in great danger if she had married me. I've encountered thousands of assassination attempts over the course of my life. As long as she remained by my side, her life would be in constant danger. That was my greatest fear. Loving someone doesn't mean that you have to be together with them—and at that time, I just wanted her to lead a peaceful life. Thus, in the end, I gave her up."

Qin Ming couldn't help but complain, "Godfather, you were exactly like one of those jerks who make use of their rich girlfriends' money before abandoning them when their business succeeds!"

To his surprise, Chang Hongxi laughed. "Haha! When we broke up all those years ago, that's what she accused me of, too."

He continued laughing until sadness overwhelmed him again. Blinking his tears away, he sighed, "I couldn't do it. I couldn't let her be in so much danger all the time."

Chang Hongxi paused for a while being continuing, "Zhao Qing hailed from a side branch of the Zhao family. In the past, she helped me secretly, doing whatever she could to lighten my load without complaining. I was quite touched by this. Since she worked in the company, and the Zhao family was keen on a marriage between their daughter and me, I married Zhao Qing. It was too late when I realized that this was part of the Zhao family's evil plans."

"What do you mean?" Qin Ming asked in confusion.

Chang Hongxi raised a hand to stop him. Shaking his head, he said, "It's too early for you to learn about this now. It's better that you learn about certain things yourself instead of me telling you. Maybe your fate will be different from mine, then."

Qin Ming looked a little depressed. "Godfather, you have to finish telling me everything! Don't leave me hanging!"

Chang Hongxi said, "Have you finally

understood how important the highest board of directors is? Every member on it is backed by their influence and their powerful clans. Even after you and I pass on, they'll still be able to maintain their prestigious status in this world. Once you die, my efforts these past ten years would all go to waste when one of them becomes the new leader."

Qin Ming shivered. Startled, he asked, "Godfather, did you initially plan to wipe out all the members of the highest board of directors?"

A brutal, animalistic expression flashed across Chang Hongxi's elderly face. "Of course. I meant to pave the way for Chang Huan in the future...Unfortunately, I fell gravely ill before I could destroy the last eleven families."

A shiver ran down Qin Ming's spine. He had never expected that Chang Hongxi got his wealth and power through such violent and bloody means.

Those families who had joined the highest board of directors had offered up their strength and

influence, only to be kicked out by Chang Hongxi. They had done all they could for the company but had only faced a bitter and tragic downfall in the end.

Chang Hongxi stretched out his hand, and Qin Ming took it immediately.

Chang Hongxi said, "Qin Ming, I'm leaving everything I have to you. This isn't because Zhao Qing has betrayed me, or because Chang Huan and the rest aren't my biological children...Without me around in the future, you must be very careful. As long as you stay alive, everything will continue to be yours. If you die, however, my hard work will only benefit those undeserving eleven families."

Respectfully, Qin Ming replied, "Yes, Godfather. So who's the person who wants to form a marriage alliance with me? Who forced you to send Nie Haitang away so they can show their support for me?"

Chang Hongxi's eyes narrowed into slits. "The people behind this are from a very powerful clan

that has been around since the founding of Huan Ning Corporation. They've never slipped into obscurity, and their influence is simply enormous..."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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His expression suddenly grew solemn; he continued, "The Zhao family is an ancient clan. Their earliest ancestor was an official in the Ministry of Rites before rising to become the emperor's advisor. Even now, there are people in the Zhao family who serve as officials in China's ministries, and even as commanders in the military. Since their rise during the Ming Dynasty, the Zhao family has never once fallen into obscurity, and they have always been the mainstay of the highest board of directors at Huan Ning Century Corporation."

"The Zhao family is special in that their main battleground and interests have always lay in the country. They use the company to support and maintain their own prosperity and important position in the country."

"To the Zhao family, the corporation is nothing more than a money-spewing ATM to them. As long as they can retain their right of speech, they don't particularly care how many shares they have within the company. They don't concern themselves with the Chamber of Commerce leadership elections either."

Qin Ming murmured, "They're very lowkey."

Chang Hongxi shook his head. "No, they just understand the very important concept of not putting all your eggs into one basket. When their family grows powerful enough, they won't be lacking in choice for anything. They're already too powerful in the country as it is—as long as the Zhao family has stakes in the company, it will be almost impossible for me to do anything to them."

Hearing his godfather's lofty appraisal of the Zhao family, Qin Ming couldn't help but feel a little in awe of that family.

There were many families in the country which could trace their roots back from thousands of years ago. However, most of them couldn't be considered remarkable. Although they were descendants of famous people such as Confucius, Lu Ban, and Cao Cao, they wielded too little influence in society for most people to sit up and take notice of them.

However, for families like the Zhaos who

managed to hold on to their power and influence, people were bound to take notice of them no matter how low-key they were.

Chang Hongxi continued, "With the Zhao family's backing, you can rest assured that your power in Huaxia, and even the entire Asia, will be unchallenged and absolute. These days, the Asian economy is the fastest-growing economy in the world. If something happens to the overseas businesses, you can shift the focus back to our domestic businesses without a problem. If you want to rise up in this world, you must have a strong enough backing. With Huaxia as your backing, you can be invincible."

Qin Ming finally understood that Chang Hongxi had sent Nie Haitang away in order to help Qin Ming become undefeatable in the industry.

However, Qin Ming was undeterred. He still wanted to control his own destiny.

He turned to Chang Hongxi and said, "Godfather, I won't lose."

Chang Hongxi nodded sagely. "Although you're more inclined to use benevolent methods to achieve your means, I can see that you have a strong fighting spirit within you. As long as you keep that fighting spirit up, I don't believe you'll lose. The highest board of directors has little power and is nothing more than a castle in the air now. Even if they do have power, they cultivated that power with money. Of course, the businesses they've brought in continue to be under their control."

Qin Ming finally understood Huan Ning Century Corporation's bloody history and extraordinary development, as well as the enigmatic existence of the highest board of directors.

This company that welcomed every generation's most powerful figures into its folds, encouraged infighting, and silenced its dissidents, would continue to grow even more powerful. This was because more people entered with every generation. As time went on, families that got exterminated or fell onto hard times disappeared, but the profits were redistributed among themselves by the highest board of directors.

This made Qin Ming think of a snowball—the person pushing it down the hill changed, but it continued growing larger nonetheless.

The most interesting part was, this infighting happened between members of the highest board of directors but it didn't affect the global economy at all.

What Chang Hongxi wanted was to engage in an exercise of consolidation such that all the wealth and power of the company would be concentrated in his own hands. He was sick and tired of dividing up the company's profits—and for that reason, he wanted to kill everyone else on the highest board of directors!

Why now? Because Huan Ning Century Corporation was finally so big that it could affect the global economy. There was no need for Chang Hongxi to get the economic big players onto his side because the company's power had already eclipsed all of theirs.

Qin Ming suddenly realized how small he was in this huge world. Compared to the splash in

history that this behemoth of a company had made, his own page in history would be nothing but sparse.

Huan Ning Century Corporation was like one of those mysterious companies that existed only in movies. Qin Ming suspected that what he knew about the company was only the tip of the iceberg.

It was quite possible that he would live the rest of his life under the constant threat of assassination.

He felt an invisible source of pressure on his shoulders.

Did he want to give up now? But it was too late. When he signed that succession agreement, he knew there would be no turning back.

However, Qin Ming suddenly realized that he had been lured into a trap. Chang Hongxi had never told him about the company's dark secrets before.

When Qin Ming had signed the succession agreement, he had laughed silently that, no matter

how clever the old man was, Chang Hongxi's company would only have the wealth and power to rival a small nation. However, his company had turned out to be a global powerhouse, and Chang Hongxi had even left him an unfulfilled wish to see through.

The two of them remained chatting in the courtyard for a long time. Feng Dongxiang finally approached them and said courteously, "Master Chang, Young Master, the members of the Southeast Asian Industrial Association have arrived in the assembly hall."

Chang Hongxi said, "Got it. Qin Ming, push me there, will you?"

"Yes, Godfather." Pushing Chang Hongxi in his wheelchair, Qin Ming arrived in Nanshan Manor's assembly hall.

Nanshan Manor was a vacation home. Although the assembly room seemed incongruous with the rest of the house, it was meant for meetings with higher-ups from all over the world. After the meeting concluded, the guests could even stay on

in the manor for a little vacation.

When Qin Ming appeared in the doorway of the assembly hall with Chang Hongxi in his wheelchair, everyone stood up respectfully to welcome them.

Qin Ming gazed around the room at the numerous unfamiliar faces from overseas. All of them wore language-translation earbuds and sat up very solemnly in their seats, their backs ramrod straight. A few note-takers dotted the room—evidently, this meeting was regarded very importantly by its participants.

Qin Ming felt rather unsettled. No matter what, he was only a university student who hadn't seen much of the world. He had just heard about the company's secrets from Chang Hongxi, and he wasn't in the right headspace yet to face these regional industry leaders.

Chang Hongxi was in charge of making the opening remarks. He politely commended his subordinates' abilities, affirming their exploration of new industries and their hard work in ensuring

the company's development. He concluded his speech by announcing that he was dying of cancer and that he hoped everyone would do well under the leadership of Qin Ming in the future.

The industry leaders had already heard of Qin Ming's appointment as Chang Hongxi's successor. Qin Ming had gone on to defeat Chang Huan in the resulting power struggle, helping to solidify his excellent reputation.

Many in the company were already familiar with Qin Ming's existence. However, by the time they found out about his existence, Qin Ming had already started to exert control over Huan Ning Century Corporation. With his solid foundation in Huaxia, Qin Ming was poised to take over the company's businesses in Southeast Asia.

The audience sat up straight as he took the stage. The future of the companies lay solely in his hands.

Part of the audience consisted of those who had gone through Huan Ning Century Corporation's Industry Leader Program. They were very loyal

to the company, and they saw Qin Ming's succession as the ascension of a new emperor to the throne.

Qin Ming walked up to the stage and bowed to everyone. "I'm Qin Ming. Thank you for taking time off from your busy schedules to attend this meeting in Huaxia. As my godfather has said, I will be the new leader of the company. Considering my age and experience, everyone must be wondering if I'll be able to lead such a large company."

"However, please do not worry. Our corporation can be compared to a large ship—it continues sailing ahead with time, and one person will not be enough to stop its advance. Please consider me as a supervisor that ensures the maintenance of every gear and joint of this ship."

"Since we're all on the same ship, our destinies and fate are tied to one another's. All I ask is for everyone to cooperate with me..."

Qin Ming continued rattling on. Actually, none of these were his words—Song Ying had drawn up a

script for him beforehand. Qin Ming had a pretty good memory, and it took him only a few tries before he got the entire script memorized.

His speech sufficiently conveyed the humility Qin Ming ought to have as a young successor, as well as the ambitions he had for his company's growth. At the same time, he reiterated that he would not let down the loyal workers of the company. All in all, it was a very satisfactory speech.

Half an hour later, his speech concluded. As applause filled the room, Qin Ming couldn't help but realize that a cadre of leaders, who were products of the Industry Leaders Program, were clapping extremely loudly.

Before Qin Ming could relax, however, one of them stopped clapping abruptly. Realization dawning over him, Qin Ming quickly recognized the man as the Regional Director of the Southeast Asian Industrial Association. It was Top Executive Director Samantapasadika.

A cold, sinister smile spread over

Samantapasadika's face. Swiftly, he pulled out a specially-designed non-standard pistol from his pocket and pointed it right at Qin Ming.

Samantapasadika was seated in the first row. The distance from his seat to the stage was barely a few meters. His unprecedented move sent the entire room into chaos.

A traitor had appeared among them!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Everyone was clapping their hands uniformly. The conference was filled with thunderous applause.

Someone suddenly stopped clapping and pulled out an unconventional 3D printed gun, pointing at Qin Ming from ten steps away.

Bang!

Right before the applause died down, Samantapasadika, the top executive director responsible for the entire Southeast Asia, shot Qin Ming.

When Qin Ming noticed that he was acting strange, Samantapasadika had already pulled the trigger. He could only watch the bullet being fired at his heart.

Though his reflex prompted him to move his body, he was not as fast as the bullet.

At that critical moment, a fast figure darted out of nowhere and jumped on Qin Ming. It was Long, who discovered Samantapasadika's intention in

advance.

Bang! The bullet hit the curtain on the wall behind him and as a result, Qin Ming was saved by the bell.

"Damn it!" Qin Ming was petrified as that was one of the most dangerous and terrifying assassinations that he had experienced in recent years. He almost died!

The bullet scraped past Long's shoulder and blood gushed out from the wound.

Qin Ming asked, "Long, are you all right?"

Long answered calmly, "They are but some minor scratches. I'm ok. Be careful, Young Master, don't get up yet."

Qin Ming immediately turned and looked for Chang Hongxi while other bodyguards quickly escorted him out of that place.

Then came the worried Song Ying. She heaved a sigh of relief after confirming that Qin Ming was

not hurt, and then advised, "Young Master, I'm afraid there might be other assassins around, it's best you lay low first."

Samantapasadika, who had been caught red-handed, was pinned down on the floor by the people standing around him.

"Samantapasadika, you're one wicked traitor. Who ordered you to do so?"

"Master treated you well, how dare you repay his kindness with evil?"

"Young Master, are you ok?"

"Calm down, everyone, and take a seat."

All the loyal subordinates from each branch were so upset and enraged by Samantapasadika's action.

Song Ying separated the local staff from Huaxia and assembled the persons-in-charge of businesses in Southeast Asia, while letting the assassination squad take control of the situation.

Qin Ming stood up with a blank face. It was so close this time. I almost went to hell and reunite with Wang Youcai and Cao Jingcheng.

"Silent," Qin Ming commanded sternly and assertively. Everyone looked at him and quiet down.

Qin Ming walked towards Samantapasadika, a dark skin, full-bearded, serious-looking middle-aged man, whose future could have been bright.

Qin Ming interrogated, "Who sent you?"

After a while, the translator said, "Young Master Jundong. He asked me to inform you that the brothers will never let you go."

Everyone was in shock because the loyal Samantapasadika turned out to be Young Master Jundong's mole. Alas, his identity was revealed. Had it not for Long's sensitivity and agility, he would have taken Qin Ming down.

Song Ying reprimanded him in Thai, "You? Who do you think you are?"

Samantapasadika who was pressed hard on the floor suddenly burst into laughter. "I'm not alone. Everyone here deserves to die today. Act now, Ruan Ming, for the sake of Young Master Jundong."

When he uttered the name, the multitudes turned their heads to look at a young guy named Ruan Ming, who was completely baffled. He exclaimed righteously, "I've got nothing to do with this."

When everyone was distracted, a loud explosive sound was heard outside of the conference hall.

There was a big explosion at Nanshan Manor and the huge impact shattered all the glasses in the conference hall. Everyone had to find cover for themselves.

In that chaotic moment, six men and women appeared in the midst of the crowd, holding the same unconventional 3D printed guns in their hands, all ready to fire at Qin Ming.

Qin Ming cursed in his heart. These few were acting all innocent just now and finally showed

their true colors upon receiving the order.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Fortunately, his team of A-list bodyguards was fast enough to shoot them down before they could pull the triggers.

There was indeed a significant difference between a highly trained team and any Tom, Dick, and Harry who called themselves assassins.

Instantly, Qin Ming was once again surrounded by people who protect him.

Boom!

Another loud explosion was heard. Alarms sounded everywhere in Nanshan Manor, with fires blazing and thick smoke billowing.

The series of explosions made everyone extremely fearful. How many bombs are there?

Qin Ming questioned his subordinates, "Why are there bombs in my own territory?"

Ma Shaofu, Song Ying, Bi Yuan, and Long, who were responsible for the security of the event, felt so ashamed of themselves and remained silent. Everyone who entered Nanshan Manor has been checked through thoroughly. The security check was very stringent and it's impossible someone could have sneaked in any weapons or explosives.

Now, not only did these people own 3D-printed guns, but they also deployed bombs at different places without a single trace. How impressive!

Samantapasadika laughed, "Haha... these bombs were buried last month when we stayed here for a business meeting in Huaxia. Young Master Jundong started plotting when he found out that someone from Guang City has inherited the corporation."

"He knew you would call for us to gather here one day as it's impossible for you to visit us in our respective countries. The most efficient way was to gather everyone at one place."

"Since it's a meeting with the future boss, then

the most appropriate location would definitely be Nanshan Manor. The rest was history. You didn't expect a group assassination, did you?"

Qin Ming shuddered when he heard Samantapasadika's words. How wicked are these people? They started plotting a month ago, no wonder Song Ying and the rest didn't notice anything fishy.

Samantapasadika continued, "These bombs are remotely controlled by Young Master Jundong. With just one button, the entire Nanshan Manor will turn into a piece of flat land instantly. I reckon the second explosion should have blown up the emergency airport and that means all of you are trapped now."

"It's best you stay still, otherwise there is only one ending for everyone if Young Master Jundong presses the button. We're all prepared to die for him, so we couldn't care less."

Everyone looked at Samantapasadika with strong emotion. This guy is so loyal to Chang Jundong that he's willing to sacrifice his life for him.

"Haha... it's time for you to answer a call from Young Master Jundong."

As soon as he finished speaking, Samantapasadika's phone rang.

Qin Ming answered the call, only to receive a series of mockery directed at him, "Hey, my bastard brother, you're still alive? How did you enjoy the two bombs? Was that fun?"

Qin Ming asked, "What do you want?"

The man answered, "Didn't the old coot tell you? I think you should know very well what I want."

Qin Ming rebutted, "If you want to be the heir, why don't you blow me up right away?"

Chang Jundong said disdainfully, "Haha, this is just a small game and you've fallen into my trap, you're not a worthy opponent, are you? I have a thousand tricks up my sleeves to toy with you. I can spare your pathetic life but on one condition..."

With a grim look on this face, Qin Ming questioned, "What's the condition?"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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While talking to Chang Jundong on the phone, Qin Ming was scanning everyone at the scene from left to right suspiciously.

He realized that Chang Jundong was fully aware of their every move and action. At the start of the phone conversation, he said he didn't expect me to survive the gunshot. That means, he knew very well that Samantapasadika failed to kill me.

Could it be that the original plan was to reveal only Samantapasadika and then create another explosion to help him escape?

However, Samantapasadika's mission failed and then Plan B came along.

After all, the preparation has started one month ago. It's impossible that there wasn't any backup plan.

Even though Samantapasadika was only a pawn, he wasn't any ordinary pawn, would they sacrifice him so easily?

Another giveaway was the seamless transition

when the phone rang as soon as Samantapasadika said Chang Jundong would call. That perfect timing says that Chang Jundong is in control of everything.

These two suspicions helped Qin Ming to confirm that there should be one more mole amongst them, who had been monitoring all the happenings on site.

Qin Ming took a glance at everyone. Some looked worried, some were terrified, some looked really anxious, but none of them was the person he was looking for. He was searching for one who was overwhelmed with guilt.

These people aren't professional killers and neither are they trained fighters. They are just mere businessmen, who might have the courage to do such a thing but probably would not be up to perfection.

Qin Ming asked, "What is your goal? Tell me your condition."

Chang Jundong threatened, "Release my brother,

Chang Huan, in exchange for all of your lives. It's a pretty good deal, right? Send a clipper to that island in the Pacific Ocean, and let no one chase after him."

The disdainful Qin Ming responded, "Once I release Chang Huan, you'll kill all of us. You planned it quite well."

The crowd who was listening to Qin Ming's conversation guessed the condition right, which was to release Chang Huan.

Somebody suggested, "Don't promise him anything, Young Master. There's no guarantee he will keep his word."

Another person said, "No way, this might be a trap. Chang Huan is a tyrant with no talent in managing business. He's made so many failed attempts and the highest board of directors will never allow him to be the rightful heir."

"The most critical thing to do now is to locate all of the bombs. There must be a safe place for us all since Nanshan Manor is huge?"

"What should we do, Young Master?"

"We cannot succumb to the pressure, otherwise Young Master will never be able to hold his head high again!"

"This is just an expedient measure to keep ourselves alive. There's nothing to lose."

All the industry leaders in Southeast Asia were discussing their thoughts in their mother tongues and Qin Ming did not understand a word.

Suddenly, Long walked over with a black box.

Everyone gasped and retreated as it looked just like a bomb. The box had a countdown timer and several wires on it.

Long indicated to him, "This device is very advanced. It has a signal transmitted, which is connected to the Internet. Once it is destructed, it will become a time bomb."

Qin Ming frowned. That means no one should destroy the transmitter, or we will all be dead.

Qin Ming was still holding his phone and scrutinizing the crowd, with the hopes to identify the mole.

He continued, "I haven't taken over the many islands in the Pacific Ocean, how am I supposed to release him?"

Chang Jundong replied, "That old coot is still alive, isn't he? Get him to do it, otherwise face your doomsday. Don't try any hanky-panky as I'm watching you very closely. Hahaha... you're the fish on the chopping board whereas I'm the fishmonger. I can do anything I want but on the contrary, you can't."

Qin Ming was enraged by Chang Jundong's arrogance and merciless insults.

He knitted his brows and noticed something not quite right with a middle-aged man.

When Long walked over with the black box, everyone was petrified except that man, who looked indifferent.

Qin Ming raised his arm and pointed at him.

Everyone looked over at the direction Qin Ming pointed and all eyes were on the team leader from M Nation. The latter was stunned as he thought he hid himself well.

He got scared of the sudden exposure and took a few steps back subconsciously. His action confirmed his position and Qin Ming's thought. He's the mole!

Whoosh! A bodyguard appeared from nowhere and took him down.

"Ahh... Let me go, let me go! What have I done?" That man protested.

Shortly after, Bi Yuan discovered a custom-made camera, which had been hidden in his pocket, and had recorded all the happenings all these while.

Qin Ming took the camera and laughed confidently. "So, this is what you meant by 'watching me closely'? You manipulated so much of manpower just to hide in a room to have a

good look at me?"

"You'll pay for this!" Samantapasadika roared, "All of you will have to die!"

As soon as Qin Ming turned the camera off, Chang Jundong started barking at him, "So what if my people were caught red-handed? You'd better release all of them including my brother, or else I'll count to five and press the button to detonate all the bombs and send everyone to hell!"

"Sure, I'll get Mr. Chang to see to it," said Qin Ming.

Chang Jundong threatened, "You have three minutes. If my men don't see a clipper at the jail on the island in three minutes, all of you are going to hell."

Qin Ming hung up and everyone was staring at him anxiously.

All of them knew that even if Chang Huan were released, there was no guarantee they could

survive this, but there seemed to be no better way than this.

Qin Ming saw the expectation in everyone's eyes. They had faith in him, and only him, to resolve this crisis because he was their leader.

He calmed himself down gradually and then scanned the room for Kelly Olson. He asked, "Kelly, are you able to hack into this remotely controlled network?"

Actually, Kelly was researching about this signal transmitter, so when Qin Ming asked her, she answered assertively, "This is possibly one of the microsattellites eliminated by our company and went into the hands of Young Master Jundong. Through the satellite, he's able to set up a remotely controlled network with all of the bombs set up in Nanshan Manor. As soon as we hack into the network, we can take control and dismiss his signal. Young Master, how long do I have to hack into his system?"

Qin Ming answered confidently, "Two and a half minutes."

Kelly smirked while taking out a satellite computer. "Ok, two minutes then."

The people were surprised to hear Kelly's response. Could she really do it? Are her skills that impressive?

Qin Ming proclaimed strongly and reassured the multitudes, "Kelly is a handpicked talent. Rest assured that the victory of this hard battle is ours. I will never succumb to anyone's threat."

The people looked at each other fearfully, worried that they would be blasted off in an explosion. However, seeing how calm and composed Qin Ming was, they felt a sense of security that they could take comfort in his assertive charisma and reliable personality. Consequently, they felt so much better.

Standing behind Kelly, Qin Ming stayed silent while observing her operating the satellite computer. His heart was pounding fast. Someone was reading the timer on his phone, and each second flew by very quickly.

Beep! Beep! Beep!

At the two-and-a-half-minute mark, a flash appeared on the screen of the black box, followed by a long beep and then a five-minute countdown began.

Kelly frowned and reported with regrets, "Young Master, there's a main signal cut-off protection attached to this bomb, which means that once Young Master Jundong's controller malfunctions, it will automatically enter into a five-minute countdown. The bad news is that we only have five minutes to leave this place. On the other hand, the good news is that I managed to locate Young Master Jundong through the signal."

When the people in the hall heard Kelly's words, they could not help but wailed. Five minutes? How can we escape from Nanshan Manor in five minutes? That's literally impossible.

"Oh Lord, are we destined to die here?"

"I guess five minutes is sufficient for me to write a will."

"Do we really have no other solutions?"

"That's it. We are doomed. Young Master Jundong is insane and he dares to do anything. Have we forgotten how he bombed the Black Sea Fleet?"

Annoyed at the commotion, Qin Ming's face darkened. He lifted his eyes and looked at all the industry leaders of Southeast Asia. His gaze was like daggers that shut everyone up immediately, no one dared to make one more comment.

Compared to the business representatives, Bi Yuan and his assassination squad as well as the bodyguards were stronger in their mindsets and appeared to be unsusceptible to the dreadful situation.

Nonetheless, they all admired Qin Ming's calmness and had no qualms about his leadership.

Qin Ming said, "Fret not, Mr. Chang is still here with us. If we live, you will not die too. I have a way to defuse the bomb."

His straightforward statements gave everyone much assurance. That's true, our boss and the future boss are here with us. What do we fear? If we die, we all die together.

Moreover, does the Young Master look incapable? Do you think he has not thought of a solution? Does he look like someone who's weak and can't cope with stress?

No, he's been dealing with all these and even cut off Chang Jundong's ability to actively control the bombs.

In a life and death situation as such, Qin Ming's disposition and charisma had significantly influenced all of his subordinates. Coupled with his wise and logical thinking patterns demonstrated when he was reading the script, Qin Ming had won the hearts of many and had left a long-lasting impression.

Indeed, Qin Ming is an extraordinary future boss!

"Qin Ming!" Out of the blue, an angry voice yelled from the phone which had been put aside,

"You liar! You ate your words."

Chang Jundong spat, "Good for you, that you have such a skilled hacker, who hacked into the satellite that I had spent so much effort to acquire. Damn it!"

When Chang Jundong found out that the signal was cut off, he blew a fuse but could not do anything to fix it. Qin Ming tricked him and gained some time for Kelly to hack into the system, causing Chang Jundong to lose the upper hand.

From the beginning of the assassination to the negotiation between both parties, and the discovery of the satellite communication device, as well as the final hacking by Kelly, Qin Ming managed to countermeasure each threat beautifully.

Qin Ming looked at Kelly's satellite computer and said calmly, "Is that so? Didn't you say that you were watching me closely? I'm watching you too. Aren't you now in a mansion located in a small town in S City, P nation? Tsk tsk... What a life. I

wonder if the group's assassination squad will arrive first or you could escape first."

The other side of the phone went silent because Qin Ming had correctly revealed the hidden place of Chang Jundong.

Checkmate.

After a long pause, with gritted teeth, Chang Jundong responded, "So what, Qin Ming! You think you've won? I have sufficient time to transfer location but can you leave Nanshan Manor in five minutes? Not forgetting it's a huge place with no access to a helicopter. You will never be able to escape in five minutes."

Qin Ming could sense Chang Jundong's rage through the phone.

With a faint smile, he looked at the computer screen. "Do you know what's the disadvantage of controlling bombs remotely using the satellites? When the system was hacked, the locations of all the fifty-one bombs were revealed at once. You've deployed two and there should be forty-

nine others distributed equally around Nanshan Manor. Mr. Ma, get someone to defuse all of them then place them together."

Ma Shaofu, the person-in-charge of Nanshan Manor, bowed lightly upon receiving the command, then proceeded to look at the map and communicate the instructions to his followers using a walkie-talkie. He knew every nook and cranny of the manor and could remember them all easily.

Within a minute, a lackey reported that all of the bombs had been located, defused, and placed in the middle of the golf course, with no possible harm on the conference hall.

Chang Jundong heard the report over the phone and was left speechless. His master plan and most powerful strategy, all thwarted.

Five minutes was indeed insufficient for everyone to escape Nanshan Manor. However, due to the fact that manpower was not an issue, five minutes was more than enough for the people to gather all of the defused bombs in a

safe place.

Finally, Qin Ming and everyone else in the conference hall were safe and sound.

"We're safe?" a representative from Brunei asked.

"Shh... Believe in the Young Master. Throughout this incident.... whoa, the Young Master is just too cool." Another subordinate gave a thumbs up.

"The Young Master is so courageous and smart, he did not flinch even once when faced with such a challenging situation. In addition, he's only in his twenties, he's too impressive!"

"Our decision was right. Samantapasadika and the rest are too foolish to instigate a mutiny."

"So, the question is who will the Young Master promote to take over Samantapasadika's position? That person is going to be our immediate boss."

All of the team leaders fixed their gaze on the pitiful Samantapasadika. Had this man served the rightful leader well, he could have continued to

enjoy both power and wealth. A seemingly perfect plan went down the drain just like that. Alas, he also became a prisoner to pay for the crime he has committed.

Isn't this our golden chance to get a promotion or an increase in salary?

Qin Ming continued his conversation with Chang Jundong over the phone, "Young Master Jundong, do you have any more tricks up your sleeves? I can hear some background noises, oh no, are you busy packing to run for your life? Didn't you say you will keep watching me closely?"

"..." Silence resounded back through the call. Chang Jundong could only endure the humiliation of Qin Ming as he was left with no rebuttals, and neither could he stage a comeback.

Chang Jundong snickered, "Stop being so full of yourself. As far as I know, no one in your team is an explosive ordnance disposal specialist. These little babies of mine are not ordinary bombs; not only are they difficult to dismantle, but also super

powerful. Even if they don't kill you, you'll still lose an arm or a leg at the least."

"Is that so? Your arrogance and ignorance are your greatest weaknesses. Do you need me to show you how my people deactivated the bombs?" Qin Ming turned on the device and pointed at one held by Long.

Long commented doubtfully, "I've seen the operating format of this bomb before when I was dealing with terrorists in Africa. Having said that, I also found the hidden line. If I'm not mistaken, that's the one we need to remove. I should do that in an open space, for the sake of everyone's safety."

Qin Ming exclaimed, "Great! Bring this communication device along and show our beloved Young Master Jundong what you got."

Beep... Suddenly, the phone call was disconnected and the video on the communication device was also cut off. Obviously, Chang Jundong did not want to entertain Qin Ming and be put to shame further.

The hidden line of the bomb was indeed the key to deactivating the bomb. Since it had been discovered by the expert in Qin Ming's team, Chang Jundong knew that his operation failed miserably.

Right then, in P nation, the infuriated Chang Jundong smashed his phone and cursed, "Damn you, Qin Ming! You bastard better be prepared for my next plan, I'll not go easy on you."

Failing the operation made him flushed with irritation. The assassination squad should be here soon, he must leave soonest possible under the protection of his subordinates.

Swoosh!

Little did he know, before the arrival of the assassins, the infamous Stark industrial missile flew at him from thousands of feet above.

Chang Jundong and his followers were shocked to death when they were greeted by missiles aiming right at them. Fuck! That was their only thought.

Boom!

Shortly after, the missile dropped and a huge impact landed on the entire nation.

Meanwhile, back at Nanshan Manor in Huaxia.

Putting his phone aside, Qin Ming heaved a long sigh of relief, knowing that he had yet survived another unexpected attack.

He looked across the hall at the crowd and announced, "All right, let's move on to the next round..."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Five large hummers were spotted on the trunk highway fleeing at high speed from a small town of S City, located within the borders of P Nation.

Chang Jundong tossed a phone angrily. He used the phone to contact his subordinates, but Qin Ming's men had traced his location through microsatellite anti-reconnaissance.

"Go, go, go,! Get out of here," Chang Jundong ordered frantically.

He was aware that although P Nation was his territory. Yet, Huan Ning Century Corporation is a force to be reckoned with. They have people and resources in all parts of the world. The general from the local military in particular, who is also a member of the highest board of directors, wants him dead. Once he receives the news, no doubt he would sent large troops to capture him.

"Swoosh~!"

A missile flew past, nearly hitting them as the five hummers were on the road.

"Oh, shit," Chang Jundong and his subordinates cursed. They stared at the flying missile headed towards the villa as it was very close to them.

"Boom!"

The missile hit the villa; a massive explosion and shock wave overturned the hummers. A sea of fire and panic took over the town as the hummers fell into the river.

The next day, P nation then released a piece of international news where they captured a group of terrorists who attempted to create chaos within the borders. Consequently, the public praised the government of P nation for their swift action.

At the same time, in Guang City, Long examined all of the bombs and found out that they were all of the same models. The key to stopping the bomb's countdown was the hidden wire built in the bomb. He sighed and wiped the sweat off his brow after he carefully snipped a wire. He then instructed the others to dismantle the bomb.

Within a few minutes, a group of men quickly

followed Long's instruction to cut the hidden wire in the bomb. Thus, all of the bomb timers paused in time; they had successfully eliminated the bomb crisis.

Qin Ming patted Long, who was sweating profusely, and said, "Good job."

Then, he turned his head towards Ma Shaofu with a serious look, "Mr. Ma..."

"Young Master...I will carry the can. My negligence had caused this incident. I have no objections towards any punishment imposed upon me." Ma Shaofu bowed miserably.

Qin Ming had difficulty deciding at the sight of Ma Shaofu. Ma Shaofu was a member of the assassination squad who contributed so much to the corporation. He also managed several businesses on behalf of the corporation in his old days. Besides that, he was close friends with the newly promoted cadre, Zhou Yu. Hence, it was best to make a fair decision.

Nevertheless, the bombing in Nanshan Manor

had caused severe damage. It was an alarming issue when higher-ups fail to manage their subordinates. In addition, it would be challenging to appease the rest if he imposed minor punishment.

Qin Ming contemplated before replying, "Take a break for now. Ying will hire someone to take over your job."

"Yes," Ma Shaofu answered with no objections. Qin Ming's decision was considered benevolent. He merely dismissed him from his lucrative position of managing Nanshan Manor and Nanshan Nursing Home and awaited further instructions.

Qin Ming did not mention any other plans. Everyone was curious, yet no one dared to ask. Instead, they played the guessing game and speculated that it would either be a job dismissal or await further punishment.

Qin Ming made a wise decision. He was planning to wait until Ma Shaofu had lost the limelight and everyone was no longer upset with the incident.

Then, there would be plenty of room for discussion regarding Ma Shaofu's punishment with lesser objections in the crowd.

At this moment, Song Ying spoke over the phone in a foreign language.

She walked to Qin Ming after the phone call and said, "Young Master, he was injured by the bombing but they managed to capture him. General Jordan is asking for the gold mine in exchange for the man."

"General Jordan"? Qin Ming asked, confused.

Song Ying handed him a tablet that showed General Jordan's basic information. Jordan Serkiak, a high-ranking general in P Nation and a member of the highest board of directors in Huan Ning Century Corporation. He inherited his position in the corporation from his father, Marshal Bick.

Song Ying immediately dispatched people from the branch office in P Nation to begin the arrest operation once Qin Ming confirmed Chang

Jundong's location. Unfortunately, the general intercepted the information and caught Chang Jundong first. Hence, they are using him as a negotiation term.

Qin Ming did not think Chang Jundong's life was worth a gold mine. Yet, if he did not comply, Chang Jundong might risk losing his life.

Qin Ming asked, "Where's my godfather?"

Song Ying answered, "He was in a coma when things were in a chaotic state. The doctors are doing their best to save him."

Well, it's up to Qin Ming then.

Song Ying asked, "Young Master, if we didn't get our hands on him, Zhao Qing might."

Qin Ming squinted his eyes and said, "Let's rescue him and put imprisonment on the Pacific island. Notify Mr. Chang; he knows what to do."

Although Qin Ming was very annoyed with Chang Jundong's behavior, he kept Chang

Jundong alive. Chang Hongxi isn't dead yet; he should be considerate of the old man's feelings. Even if Chang Jundong was not his biological son, Chang Hongxi is very affectionate towards him. Chang Jundong was imprisoned, so he could sentence him to death when it is time.

Qin Ming returned to the hall once he was done with his matters. He glanced at Samantapasadika who was pinned down, and the quiet group of subordinates.

Qin Ming announced, "Alright, now onto the next agenda...I hope that all of you won't burden yourself with the incident that you have experienced earlier. I promise as long as I successfully inherit the corporation, there would be no further objections.

Clap! Clap! Clap!

The hall resounded with applause. It was a sign of respect, recognition, and admiration for his excellent response to solved the predicament.

After Qin Ming's speech, team leaders from

various industries reported their list of duties. Huan Ning Century Corporation's business had expanded over time; hence the enterprises were interconnected with each other. Nonetheless, they can run on their own without being controlled by others.

For example, producing a semiconductor material requires dozens of raw materials and production materials which most, if not all, could be found within the group of companies. Hence, Huan Ning Century Corporation has developed an excellent supply chain management system.

Such meetings could also promote diversification in trading.

It was nighttime when the meeting ended and they held a night banquet. All the elites from Huaxia and Southeast Asia had a great time with one another.

Of course, Qin Ming was the star of the event. The purpose of holding the banquet was to socialize and gain connections. As the saying goes, Alcohol is the best social lubricant.

Before Qin Ming inherited the corporation, he avoided alcohol and cigarettes because he was tight on his financial budget.

But now, these were must-haves to Qin Ming in such a social setting. Qin Ming promised the subordinates a bright future as long as they continue to follow him. He also claimed that the pressure of a downward economic trend was not a problem. If everyone worked hard, the power to control the economy would be in their hands. Qin Ming continued to boast about many other things with a cigarette in one hand and a cup of wine in another.

Ultimately, he was the boss. He would only be motivated if his subordinates believed in him.

In reality, there was a cultural difference between Qin Ming and the cadres from Southeast Asia. Besides that, they had to communicate with the help of an interpreter because of the language barrier. The communication process was very troublesome. Yet, he did not give up. The cadres were very impressed by his attitude and felt respected. Qin Ming had indirectly gained the

hearts of the people and a good reputation.

Qin Ming had a terrible headache as he drank all night before returning to his suite.

Song Ying also drank a lot as her cheeks flushed red. She moved Qin Ming to the sofa and wiped him carefully with a hot towel.

Qin Ming saw a beautiful woman undressing him through his blurry vision.

He squinted his eyes to make out who the woman was? He widened in eyes in surprise and thought, Nie Haitang?

"Where have you been?" Qin Ming yelled as he pulled Song Ying into his arms.

"Aah! Young Master...I-, I got you a hot towel," Song Ying was caught off guard as Qin Ming pulled her into his arms. She was slightly drunk thus was unable to withstand his grip.

Qin Ming pinched Song Ying's chin as he stared at her and said, "Don't leave me,"

Song Ying twitched nervously and answered, "I, I would never leave you, Young Master. I am yours...!"

Before Song Ying could finish her sentence, Qin Ming suddenly unbuttoned her shirt. His big hands dived right in to grab her busty figure as he lowered his head to kiss her.

Qin Ming said while kissing Song Ying, "You can't escape once I've made you mine."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"Ahh... Ahh..."

Qin Ming heard a woman's moan as he buried his head in Song Ying's body. He savored every part of her by planting kisses on her soft skin passionately. At that moment, his body had completely taken over his mind.

Although Song Ying had consumed alcohol, she was still sober. She clearly knew what Qin Ming would do to her next.

From the moment she was assigned as Qin Ming's personal secretary, she was prepared to become Qin Ming's woman. But the question was, how far can she go?

Although Qin Ming was drunk, she did not care at all as she followed Qin Ming's steps awkwardly. Yet, Qin Ming's action had gradually excited her. She thought to herself, am I turning into a woman tonight?

She was both excited and afraid. But, she was unsure if the process would hurt. She secretly wished Qin Ming were sober.

As Qin Ming continued to press on, he removed Song Ying's pants in no time.

"Buzz..."

Suddenly, Qin Ming's cellphone rang. He stopped kissing and raised his head in the direction of the table where he placed his cellphone. He felt slightly more sober as he got up instinctively and grabbed his cellphone. "Hello, who is it?" He answered with a drunk hiccup.

A familiar voice of a woman asked, "Err...is this the delivery man?"

Qin Ming was speechless. He rubbed his forehead and said, "Scram, who delivers parcels late at night?"

He ended the call, feeling annoyed. Why has he been receiving calls about delivery services? Did someone leak his personal information?

He was slightly sober after the phone call and drank from the cup of water beside him. He chuckled to himself and said, "If as my alcohol

tolerance improved? I would have completely passed out back then. But now, I could even get up on my own."

Qin Ming chuckled to himself and decided to go back to sleep. When he turned around, he saw Song Ying holding the quilt against her body and her bare shoulders.

Qin Ming was stunned as he recalled what had happened; he did seem to have hugged, kissed, and caressed someone. He even praised her for her body figure.

It turned out to be my own secretary!

Qin Ming's heart quivered nervously; will Song Ying be mad? Would she feel wronged? Will she deem him as a pervert? Is she going to quit?

The problem with drinking! Men ought to control our impulses!

Qin Ming was in deep regret. He should not have committed such a terrible thing to his secretary. Nonetheless, Song Ying was a gorgeous lady who

had a great body figure, and he had a blast during that time. Yet, he realized it was wrong once he was sober.

Qin Ming spotted Song Ying's shirt and the bra that he had thrown aside. He almost could imagine the terrible things he had done to her! He assumed Song Ying had resisted him.

He tainted such a fine woman, whose body was as pure and noble as white jade. Qin Ming was extremely upset with himself. He felt like a terrible man. Yes, you may be a boss, but you do not do this to your subordinates!

To his surprise, Song Ying was very calm. Nonetheless, she covered herself with the quilt out of embarrassment. The sensation of Qin Ming's touch still lingered on her skin. She contemplated if she should hand Qin Ming a condom as she was still so young. She was at the peak of her youth where she can be of great help to Qin Ming's career. She disliked the idea of conceiving a child and becoming a housewife at such young age.

"Young Master, why are you just staring at me? Song Ying asked as she stared at Qin Ming, who stared back at her, dazed. She was secretly delighted and thought to herself, "Was he charmed by my beauty? People claimed that men usually lose control when they're drunk, and I'm about to give him all of me. It's a shame Young Master didn't confess to me...or else it'd be perfect."

Qin Ming froze and stared at her. Song Ying was indeed good-looking with jet black hair scattered on her back, especially when she was naked. The way she composed herself as she hugged the quilt against her body, her bare shoulders, and her collarbone was spectacular.

Yet, Qin Ming was troubled. I am not a good boss. How can I do such a thing to my subordinate when I was drunk? If this goes out, what would the others think of me? People would question my character. I bet Kelly and Long would despise me? Even Feng Dongxiang would tease me for my so-called principles.

Qin Ming quickly cleaned up the scene: Jacket,

top, tube top, bra, belt...oh~ it seemed that his pants were still intact, which means they had not done the last step.

Qin Ming decided to pretend to be asleep. So, he closed his eyes and let out a drunk hiccup before he leaned back straight into sleep.

"Huh?" Song Ying was dumbfounded as she hurriedly threw the sheets away when she saw Qin Ming leaning backward. She rushed to him with her hands outstretched to hold his head to avoid him hurting his own head.

Song Ying carefully placed Qin Ming's head on her chest. Although Qin Ming pretended to be asleep, he was greatly stimulated by the warmth and softness of her busty chest against his face. Yes, this "secretary brand's" facial cleanser is so comfortable.

Qin Ming had stripped her of everything except for her pink underwear. She glanced at Qin Ming who was sleeping as she showed no emotions. She only felt a little regretful as she did not become his woman tonight.

She gently placed Qin Ming on the bed and wipe his body with a hot towel.

Qin Ming was awake the entire time; he merely pretended to be asleep. He noticed Song Ying had not put on any clothes. Hence, Qin Ming got to see it all when she busied herself in the room.

"What a great body and they're big too." Qin Ming thought to himself as he tried to suppress the evil thoughts in his mind while pretending to be asleep.

"But why is Ying taking off my pants?" Qin Ming peeked and found himself naked.

Song Ying had a bucket of hot water which she intended to use to wipe Qin Ming's body. She believed that it was her duties as a personal secretary.

Qin Ming had consumed a lot of alcohol and had sweat buckets today. He would feel uncomfortable if he were not cleaned.

Besides that, she had to wash the clothes to

prepare them for tomorrow.

Song Ying paused momentarily when she removed his pants and noticed the bulge that was standing upright. She blushed and avoided eye contact. It took her a while before she managed to clean Qin Ming's entire body.

Qin Ming was worried that Song Ying could tell that he was pretending to be asleep based on his physiological reaction.

Qin Ming pretended to be asleep for almost ten minutes before actually drifting into sleep because of the alcohol.

When he woke up the next day, he found himself completely naked. The clothes he wore yesterday were clean and placed by his bedside.

Qin Ming yawned as he recalled the incident last night. He smacked his thigh and said, "Now that I thought of it, I should have just slept with Ying. No one would know anyways. Damn, I'm just a layman, what's with the gentleman act? Dang it."

Qin Ming was already dressed when Song Ying entered the room. She wore a full-length formal dress and held a tablet in hand. She greeted him and said, "Good morning Young Master, we have an economic and trade collaboration meeting today. Hou Qing invited many officials from the Ministry of Commerce of Guang City to join the meeting. We may expect many big orders from this meeting."

Qin Ming glanced at Song Ying, who seemed fine even after the incident last night. Yet, he still felt guilty. Is Song Ying mad?

Qin Ming thought to himself and asked, "Ying, let me ask you a personal question, do you...have a crush on anyone?"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"S-Someone I like?" Song Ying was astonished to be asked such a question all of a sudden. She really didn't know how to respond.

I've never even thought about this!

Don't I exist only to serve him?

She was a special agent who had been primed at the training camps in the Pacific and lived by the principle of obeying her superiors' instructions.

In her opinion, she belonged only to Qin Ming and had no intention of liking anyone.

"Do you mean someone I'd sleep with?" Song Ying asked, tilting her head in confusion. "I'm yours, Young Master. No one can sleep with me except for you."

Qin Ming gave her an awkward smile. Why was his own secretary so clueless when it came to certain matters? Did she lack common sense?

Still, Qin Ming was secretly delighted, for Song Ying's words certainly fulfilled the fantasies he

had as a man.

"I... I was drunk last night, so I should apologize to you," Qin Ming said earnestly. "I'm not the kind of guy who'd treat you as a tool. I was way too drunk last night. I'm sorry, Ying."

Song Ying was astonished to see Qin Ming apologize to her so sincerely. Her heart pounded as an inexplicable feeling rose in her chest. The fact that Qin Ming treated her as a human being rather than a tool really touched her.

She had come across many men who had little regard for women; they'd call on women whenever they wanted and leave when they were done.

Yet, the wealthiest man in this world didn't treat her as a toy. This made her feel extremely moved.

Song Ying bowed to him. "You don't have to apologize, Sir. I've been your servant from the start, and always will be."

Qin Ming was overjoyed and relieved to see that

Song Ying wasn't mad at him over what had happened last night. "That's good, then. Let's get on with our meetings."

He organized several meetings over the next few days, holding negotiations with the important leaders of Guang City each day, as well as industry leaders from Southeast Asia to discuss some industry development policies.

After the meetings drew to a close, Qin Ming realized how little knowledge he had despite how wealthy he was. At the end of the day, he was just a college student whose experiences could never match those of the socialites out there.

He was like a child compared to Qi Minghui, a top graduate of Yale University in Z Nation.

However, one advantage Qin Ming had was that he was the boss. All he had to do was to wear an unfathomable expression on his face, and his subordinates would easily provide him their explanations while feeling intimidated. Moreover, the man had Hou Qing to fill him in, making it even easier for him to catch on.

In addition, Chang Hongxi would also teach him about business whenever they had time.

Huan Ning Century Corporation, the only major corporate empire in the world, had a different approach to management as compared to the other top 100 companies in the world since it involved so many different industries and nations.

It was only after gaining Chang Hongxi's advice that Qin Ming slowly learned how to make use of his various subsidiaries in different countries for trading.

Qi Minghui's status meant nothing in comparison. In fact, the man had made a fool of himself several times while communicating over certain projects.

In any case, Qin Ming had gained more experience after this round of meetings. He also finally understood what it meant to do real business. Did projects worth tens of billions count?

No. Projects worth hundreds of billions or trillions—those were what one would be considered as real business.

A hundred-billion construction project for M Nation was a good example. M Nation had recently received Z Nation's aid and was blooming with riches. At that time, one of Huan Ning Corporation's team leaders got in touch with a domestic construction firm through Hou Qing. Not only did this move boost the local government's performance, but it also allowed Huan Ning to rake in a huge sum, while at the same time build a positive relationship with the M Nation's leaders and officials. It was a strategy that benefited Huan Ning in multiple aspects.

All the industry leaders of Southeast Asia headed back to their respective countries after the meetings, with the exception of Samantapasadika, the top executive director of Thailand's subsidiaries.

He was taken care of by Bi Yuan at the sea after colluding with Chang Jundong and betraying Huan Ning Corporation. His six other family

members suffered the same fate for plotting against the Group as well. This was the Group's usual way of getting rid of traitors.

Feng Dongxiang also quickly left the country after he was done with everything here.

It was the summer holidays now, so Qin Ming had plenty of opportunities to learn from Chang Hongxi. After meeting the industry leaders from Southeast Asia, it was time to meet those from Central Asia, followed by East Asia.

Two weeks passed in a blink of an eye. Qin Ming spent all that time meeting various foreigners who were all his subordinates.

Qin Ming became increasingly amazed by Chang Hongxi. Some of their businesses involved firearm and oilfield ownership, along with investments in several dangerous biological experiments. The fact that such businesses could remain secret blew Qin Ming's mind.

Because Chang Hongxi had rendered all the board of directors powerless, there were many

things he knew that others didn't.

Qin Ming gained even more insight and knowledge throughout the two weeks. However, with Chang Hongxi's condition deteriorating every day, it was time for him to return to Z Nation for his chemotherapy.

With that, Qin Ming thoroughly and officially took over all of Huan Ning Century Corporation's businesses in Asia.

The quarterly profits in the Asian region were a staggering ten trillion.

Huan Ning Corporation was so influential that it had to take part in some international disputes as a mediator at times.

In truth, Qin Ming wasn't happy. It was too heavy of a burden to hold so much power over the whole of Asia.

Still, he was thankful that Chang Hongxi used a people-first approach. This business model worked well for the Group and enabled

subordinates to run the show perfectly even when their leader wasn't around.

A large amount of talent was required to keep an empire running. Chang Hongxi's suggestion for Qin Ming was to be a marshal in business who would order his generals to manage the Group's many businesses.

Thus, Qin Ming was now urgently seeking more talented individuals.

He wanted those who were loyal and capable like Long and Qi Minghui, and not people like Feng Dongxiang.

The ones Chang Hongxi had left behind for Qin Ming were old and would occasionally defy him.

Today, Qin Ming finally left Nanshan Manor after all activities had come to a close. Kelly arranged for someone to report to Qin Ming all relevant world events and any information regarding his enemies, whereas Long resumed his duties as Qin Ming's personal bodyguard.

The Mercedes-Benz slowly headed toward campus. The new term was about to begin, and Qin Ming was now a fourth-year student. He had to complete his degree.

College suddenly felt so foreign to Qin Ming. This place was an ivory tower, but he really didn't belong here anymore.

Long stopped the car and announced, "We're here, Young Master."

Qin Ming glanced at him. "How's your arm?"

"It's been half a month. I've recovered long ago," the man said with a laugh.

"Thank goodness for you back then, otherwise..."

Long chuckled. "You're not just my boss. You're my friend too. No one can lay a finger on you as long as I'm around."

Qin Ming smiled and patted Long on the shoulder. "You won't get a raise from buttering me up. Don't forget to return me the money I

gave you for your wedding."

Then, he exited the car and lazily strolled into campus. School was starting soon, so there were many students around.

Just as Qin Ming nearly reached the boys' dormitory, a girl suddenly appeared.

"Do you have time, Qin Ming?"

Qin Ming narrowed his eyes. It was Li Meng, his first love.

"What do you want?" he replied petulantly.  
"There's nothing between us anymore."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Qin Ming found Li Meng standing at the entrance upon returning to the boys' dormitory.

The girl rushed over to hug him. "I've been waiting for you, Qin Ming."

Truth be told, Qin Ming would've still remembered this warm feeling if it were back then. However, they had already broken up two months ago, and he had long buried his feelings for Li Meng.

"What are you still doing here?" he demanded, pushing her away. "It's long over between us. Don't you understand that what's done can no longer be undone? Besides, surely you're aware that I'm now the Mu family's son-in-law."

Qin Ming honestly didn't want to use his identity as the Mu family's son-in-law, but he brought it up with the hope that he could chase Li Meng away and return to his dorm as soon as possible.

Li Meng remained calm despite having been pushed away. "I know you hate me, Qin Ming. It's not surprising, considering how much I've

hurt you," she said. "But you don't have to lie to me. I've heard from the Mu family that you and Mu Xiaoqiao got married out of superstition. You're not a normal couple."

"Tell me I'm right," the girl insisted. "You didn't hold a proper wedding, nor do you both even sleep together. Mu Xiaoqiao went to start a business in Jing City just a few days after marrying you, didn't she? Xu Shulan doesn't even recognize you as a son-in-law. Everything happened simply because of Mu Hao's superstitions. They've sidelined you now that Mu Hairan's gotten better, haven't they? I stayed at the Mu family home for nearly a month and never saw you return home."

Li Meng knew only one side of the story, but Qin Ming couldn't be bothered to explain. "I don't have any money."

Li Meng froze before twirling her hair. "It's not like I'm here to borrow money from you, but didn't you say you once did the Mu family a huge favor? They had so many debt collectors going after them back then and got into trouble. They

lost their shares, but it was you who eventually helped bring Mu Jianxiong and his brother back after they absconded with the money. Is the family disregarding you now that they don't need your help? Didn't they repay you with anything?"

"They did. Mu Shuyun gave me a billion."

Li Meng's eyes lit up as she clenched her fists in excitement. "You're teasing me again!" she cooed while gazing at him lovingly all of a sudden.

"Doesn't that mean you're loaded?"

"I recently took part in the Beautiful Home Fundraising Event and donated one billion to the cause."

Qin Ming wasn't lying. Before this, he had welcomed some of the country's business tycoons to Nanshan Manor while also getting connected with several charity events related to addressing poverty, higher education, medicine, environmental protection, and so on. Qin Ming had indeed contributed one billion to set up the Beautiful Home charity foundation, which aimed at protecting Pearl River. The donation had been

made on the spot.

Li Meng froze for a long while. Then, she let out a chuckle instead of saying he was crazy. "That's so kind of you, Qin Ming. It's been three years, but you haven't changed at all. One billion is such a huge amount, and you gave it all away without a second thought? That's a bit too... Unbelievable. You're trying to trick me again, aren't you?"

Qin Ming smiled while opening his phone browser. "Take a look at this charity website. There's my name and picture on it."

Li Meng snatched the phone over and glanced at the website. It really was Qin Ming.

"A billion is quite a sum, but it's nothing compared to how much the successful people of our country have donated," Qin Ming remarked calmly. "I didn't even make it into the top fifty donors, whereas those guys contributed billions. Just the thought of this makes me respect them so much while also hating myself for not being capable enough."

"Y-Y-You really gave everything away," Li Meng stuttered while gazing at the group photo on the charity website. He wasn't kidding!

The girl could barely even speak properly at this point, nor could she maintain her balance well. Are you an idiot? Whatever amount those tycoons donated was just a drop in the bucket for them, but you gave everything you had!

Qin Ming was unimpressed to see the disappointed look on Li Meng's face. "So can I go now?"

The man had already moved on from her long ago. While they were once a couple who had loved and slept with each other, the past was in the past. Qin Ming was doing so much better now.

He knew that Li Meng was surely approaching him again because of money, but he figured she'd stop bothering him after telling her he had donated everything.

Unexpectedly, the girl grabbed him by the hand.

"Don't go, Qin Ming. I-I didn't come for the money."

"I'm broke now; what else can you even gain from me? I have no intention of being friends with benefits," Qin Ming responded.

"I-I... I just miss you. I'm not after your money or whatever you just said," Li Meng argued, feeling flustered. "Okay, I admit that I still love money. But after spending so much time reflecting at home, I realize I was wrong. There should be a limit to how much one loves money. It's all that fortune teller's fault! I was so obsessed with my fantasies because he said I'd live as a rich woman. That's why I did all those things to you."

Qin Ming's mind was filled with expletives. Why are you blaming Zhang Quanzhen for your fantasies? How reliable can a roadside fortune teller be? You're a college student, for God's sake; don't you have any sense?

"Then what do you want? Are you thinking of getting back together?" Qin Ming asked.

"I-I-I just miss you," Li Meng answered. "Do you hate me, Qin Ming? I may have dated Yang Wei and Mu Zhaoyang for a while, but we never did anything. At most, we only held hands and kissed. I'm all clean."

Qin Ming smiled disdainfully. "I'm not some old-fashioned chauvinist. Why would I care what you've done with other men? I have a girlfriend anyway."

"Is it Nie Haitang? Are you still dreaming that she'd come back? Her family's bankrupt, and she's gone now. Didn't her mother set her up on a blind date with a super-rich local guy? Did she say goodbye to you? Has she ever called you? She could even be lying in another man's arms right now!"

"Shut up!" Qin Ming yelled as he raised a hand to slap Li Meng in the face. "Insult her again and I'll punch you! I'm no gentlemen. I'll hit a woman if I have to!"

Li Meng clutched her cheek and gritted her teeth, her eyes turning red. "You used to hit anyone

who made fun of me, but now you're hitting me because of Nie Haitang. You said you'd love me for life, you liar!"

Qin Ming scoffed. "You're the one who cheated on me."

"That's because you didn't give me what I wanted!" Li Meng refuted. "Do you have any idea how many people called me blind for spending two years with you? All my friends showed off their branded goods, while I could only use knock-offs. Do you know how hard it was for me? But all you did was wash dishes and act as a guard dog all day."

Qin Ming was speechless. "If that's what you think, so be it," he responded, freeing himself of her grasp. "I'll get going, so stop bothering me."

Li Meng began to panic. "9 a.m. tomorrow at the entrance! You'd better show up, or I'll die!"

"9 a.m.?" Qin Ming returned to his dorm with a straight face.

Qin Ming looked at the time the next morning. It was almost 9 a.m., and he wondered if he should see Li Meng.

She waited for me at the boys' dorm last night, after all. What if she has something important to tell me? She even said she'd die if I don't show up. Even if the girl was just throwing a fit, he still had to be sure.

"Whatever, then. It's not like I have anything better to do." Qin Ming figured he may as well kill some time by heading over.

Upon reaching the campus gate, he saw Li Meng being surrounded by several men. The helpless-looking girl clutched her arms while continuously backing away until her back was against the wall.

Qin Ming frowned. These guys are crazy. How dare they harass a girl on school grounds?

Li Meng wasn't as fine of a lady as Nie Haitang was, but she was still well-known as a campus beauty. Her looks and body certainly gave her an edge.

Qin Ming walked over and shoved the men harassing Li Meng aside. "What are you guys doing, bothering a girl so early in the morning?"

"Who are you? Trying to play the hero? Get lost, or you'll get it from us."

"Piss off if you don't want to get hurt. Who do you think you are?"

Four roguish men gazed at Qin Ming in disdain, disregarding him and telling him to go away.

Meanwhile, Li Meng immediately latched onto Qin Ming like he was her savior. "You're here, Qin Ming! Boohoo... I knew you'd never abandon me," she exclaimed happily.

Qin Ming shot her a glance. "I was just about to drop by the new supermarket. I'm not here for you."

Li Meng didn't care. She continued to cling to the man like he was her last hope.

"Oh? So he's the boyfriend you were talking

about?"

"Hey, boyfriend, do you have any idea how much your girl owes us?"

"I was wondering why you were playing the hero. So she's your girl, huh?"

"Are you going to pay up for her?"

Instead of chasing Qin Ming away, the men now surrounded him and extended their hands toward him to ask for money.

It finally dawned on Qin Ming. I've been set up again! He turned to Li Meng and remarked with a laugh, "I thought so. That explains why you were so desperate to see me."

Li Meng lowered her head in shame. "I know I was wrong previously, Qin Ming. I'm sorry. But you have to save me this time, or they'll turn me into a bar hostess. Help me. We used to be together, after all."

"How much does she owe you guys?" asked Qin

Ming.

The leading man with tattoos took out a loan agreement. "Not much; just two hundred grand. This is all black-and-white. We've got signatures and identification cards involved. We're debt collectors who work within the law."

Qin Ming squinted. This dumb woman sure knows how to spend money. "How could you land yourself in so much debt?"

"I-I... I lost a gamble," Li Meng admitted sheepishly. "I wanted to gain the money back, so I took up a loan. But these guys kept cheating! The more I played, the more I lost, so—"

The tattooed man instantly flared up and swung his arm at Li Meng. "Watch your mouth, b\*tch! Do you have any proof?"

Slap! Qin Ming swiftly grabbed the man's arm. "Talk it out. There's no need to use your hands."

As the man struggled to break free, he quickly realized how strong Qin Ming was. "Let go of

me, you punk!" he demanded, frowning. "So you're standing up for her? Sure! Give me my two hundred grand."

"I don't have the money. I'm not paying for her either," Qin Ming responded.

Of course he had the money; he just wasn't going to spend another cent on Li Meng anymore.

"If you're not paying up, why the f\*ck are you still standing up for her?" the man raged. "You look like you're broke too, so why are you still playing the hero for? Broke idiots like you should just go home and jack off! This chick's young and pretty. I bet she'd earn about fifty grand per night if we dress her up and put her out there. Hahaha!"

Li Meng hid behind Qin Ming in fear, crying out loud. "No! I don't want to go. Help me, Qin Ming. Please! I'll do anything if you do. I can't afford to make these guys mad!"

"So you can afford to piss me off, then?" Qin Ming asked.

Li Meng froze for a moment before continuing to bawl. "But no one else who will help me aside from you. Boohoo... I'm begging you, Qin Ming."

Qin Ming sighed as he saw how miserable his ex-girlfriend looked. Look at you now. You're worse off after leaving me.

"How could you gamble? Don't you know how dangerous it is? You only end up digging yourself a bigger hole each time," he lamented.

"I-I was lead into it by others," Li Meng grumbled. "I planned to hit the jackpot at the casino, but instead of winning anything, I ended up owing two hundred thousand."

"Which casino did you go to?" asked Qin Ming.

Li Meng pointed to the east. "It's an underground casino at one of the bars on East District.

Everyone in there is so scary. They'd attack anyone they don't like. I saw a man getting his finger chopped off because he couldn't pay his debts, and the girl got dragged to work as a hooker. Don't leave me, Qin Ming! I don't want to

end up like her."

East District? Qin Ming suddenly thought of Old Six. Two months ago, he had requested the latter to look for Nie Haitang, but the girl was never found.

Then, Qin Ming lost his temper and threatened to get people to beat Old Six up. Eventually, the man cried and begged for forgiveness. He also promised that if he failed to find Nie Haitang within half a year, he would refund Qin Ming's payment and help him hunt other people down for free afterward.

That was the only reason Qin Ming didn't lay a finger on Old Six back then.

The ordeal they were now in attracted many gazes. It so happened to be time for students to return to campus.

"Qin Ming? What are you doing with Li Meng right after Haitang left?" Chen Muling coincidentally showed up with her luggage and stared at Qin Ming in astonishment.

Standing next to her were a few other girls he had met before.

Chen Muling was filled with contempt as she saw how affectionate Li Meng looked holding onto Qin Ming. "Tsk, tsk. So you're back with your old flame after Nie Haitang's family went bankrupt. I even thought you were a nice guy. Who would've known?"

"He can only turn back to his ex now that he doesn't have a rich heiress to cling to," another girl remarked.

"That's why I said Nie Haitang would surely regret it. This guy can't be trusted."

Qin Ming frantically pushed Li Meng aside. "Don't get me wrong, Chen Muling. I'm—"

The tattooed man immediately gave Qin Ming a shove. "Pay up, kid! Your girl owes us two hundred grand. Are you going to help her as your boyfriend or not? Quit wasting our time."

Chen Muling and the others were

dumbfounded. So they're arguing over a debt.

"Aren't you rich, Qin Ming?" Chen Muling couldn't help but ask. "You treated us to some really expensive ice cream the last time, didn't you? Why can't you afford to fork out two hundred thousand now?"

"Uhh... I donated all the money," Qin Ming replied. "I don't mind if you misunderstand me, Muling, but don't get Haitang wrong—"

Chen Muling began to walk away before he could finish. "Well, that's pretty generous of you, but you're pathetic for turning back to your ex. What a letdown."

What the hell? Would you stop misunderstanding me already, woman? You're so full of yourself and didn't even bother listening. Sh\*t! You're even walking away now?

Well, whatever. She can misunderstand me all she wants.

Qin Ming eyed the four debt collectors before

turning to Li Meng. "Do you really promise to do anything if I get you out of this mess, Li Meng?"

Li Meng nodded fervently while tugging onto his hand. "I'll do whatever you ask, Qin Ming. We can even get back together."

A devious smile formed on Qin Ming's lips. "Alright, I'll take care of this. Just promise me one thing as equivalent exchange. If you can't do it, these guys will keep coming after you."

Li Meng was silently overjoyed. What could be worth two hundred thousand? Does he want me to sleep with him? If that were the case, she was more than happy. They had spent many nights together in the past, after all.

"What is it? I'll say yes to anything," she hurriedly replied.

Qin Ming spoke, "I can help you settle your gambling debt but on one condition. You have to partake in voluntary work every day for 5 years. Each year will be equivalent to 40 thousand. But if you stop volunteering at any time, the debt collectors will come for you again."

"You want me to volunteer?" Li Meng sighed. I have to volunteer for 5 years non-stop? It's so tiring! Not to mention I'll have to stay in the sun for the whole day!

Qin Ming passed a name card to Li Meng. That name card was given to him by the chairman of a welfare organization in Guang City the day before. "You'll be volunteering yourself at this place."

Li Meng gingerly took over the name card. Tsk, do you really have to make me volunteer to repay you? Are you sure there's nothing else I can do?

Little did Li Meng knew that Qin Ming purposely wanted her to partake in voluntary work as he hoped it would restore her to her old self that was kinder and more demure. He didn't want her to

worship money.

Moreover, voluntary work was popular nowadays. Not only would Li Meng learn to find happiness in helping others, but she would also meet a lot of kind-hearted people. Qin Ming believed volunteering could reform Li Meng's life values for the better.

"Nope, I am not doing this!" Li Meng hollered in rage all of a sudden. She threw the name card onto the ground and blathered on, "Hey, I am a college student! I am not going to sign up for something that middle-aged boomers treat as their pastimes. Ugh, you want me to spend the next 5 years of my life taking care of the elderly and saving the climate? Oh, please! My college life awaits me! Qin Ming, you can have any other requests except for this. How about we get back together? You have the money to save your girlfriend, don't you? C'mon, don't make a fool out of me! Am I not pretty? I promise I'll listen to everything you say and be at your side all the time. You can do whatever you want to me."

Voluntary work was not well-appreciated in Li

Meng's circle. A young college student like her should be attending galas and business conventions to fluff up her social presence.

The tattooed man sniggered. "Girl, this dude looks like he belongs to the slums! Why don't you come with me instead? I assure you that you will pay off your debt in no time, and I guarantee that you will even earn quite some money too if you come to work for me."

Li Meng wrung her hands in disgust. I am not going to become a bar girl! What a sleazy job that is! A bar girl was basically just an euphemism for a legal prostitute selling alcohol.

Qin Ming was Li Meng's only hope now. Having dated Qin Ming before, Li Meng had a hunch that even if he didn't have money, he would still be able to solve her problems. While they were dating, Li Meng never had to worry about anything.

However, once Li Meng left Qin Ming, her life started to go downhill. She was broke and her days were devoid of any joy. Li Meng wanted to

get back with Qin Ming as she needed support for her college life.

Qin Ming uttered indifferently, "Li Meng, I used to do voluntary work through college. It was very meaningful to me. If you don't want to volunteer, you can pay your debt yourself. I've only made the offer because we're classmates, but if you don't appreciate it, it's your loss."

Li Meng clenched her teeth at Qin Meng's words. She questioned him, "You rather watch me get my body dirty to pay my debt? Why do you not want me anymore? Am I not attractive?"

As she spoke, Li Meng shamelessly took Qin Ming's hand and shoved it on her boobs. The familiar plumpness of Li Meng's boobs suddenly brought up memories of Qin Ming's first-ever relationship with Li Meng.

Nevertheless, Qin Ming did not let it show on his face and he retracted his hand. "You sure are attractive, but your appearance won't work on me."

Li Meng was stupefied. The tattooed man at one side saw what happened and licked his lips. Li Meng was indeed young and beautiful, which made him drool for her. Yet, he was frustrated by the saucy moment that the former lovers were having in front of him. He roared in rage, "Quit with all that blabbering! Do you have money? If not, you've got to follow me back to meet my boss."

Li Meng was now on edge after being pestered by the debt collector for so long. She finally gave in to Qin Ming. "Alright! I promise you that I will take part in voluntary work!"

Hearing Li Meng's promise, Qin Ming responded, "You better keep your promise. The men might be off your back now, but if you stop volunteering, they will be back. Alright, you can leave now."

Li Meng felt her heart lighten when she heard Qin Ming asking her to leave. Now with the two-hundred-thousand gambling debt off her shoulders, she fled the place as fast as she could.

The tattooed men were still in a circle surrounding Qin Ming. They chuckled mockingly, "Are you a retard? Why would you pay someone two hundred thousand to do voluntary work?"

"Pfft, you're just trying to be the shining knight in armor to the wretched girl, right? I'm sure you can't actually fight us since your fear stops you from doing so. Tsk, how typical of youngsters these days!"

"Okay, since you've agreed to help her, then hand us the cash."

"Yeah! Where's the money?"

Qin Ming remained calm and collected. "Call Steele over. If he asks why, tell him Mr. Qin wants to meet him."

The face of the tattooed man stiffened. As of late, a certain 'Mr. Qin' became popular in his circle, as Steele had lost to that 'Mr. Qin' in a knife game. After that, perhaps out of admiration, the boss met Mr. Qin formally and demanded

everyone to hold Mr. Qin with the highest regard.

Is it possible that this guy is Mr. Qin?

It can't be, right?

For someone to be able to command Steele's and Mr. Nian's respect, isn't this guy way too young?

Despite his doubts, the tattooed man decided to fetch Steele over as he'd rather be safe than sorry.

At this moment, there was a crowd gathering at the main entrance of the campus that seemed to grow with time. Most of them stopped by to behold the unusual scene ahead that was made up of Qin Ming surrounded by three men.

"Hey, isn't that Nie Haitang's boyfriend, Qin Ming? What is that poor dude doing here? "

"He's not Nie Haitang's boyfriend anymore. She dumped him earlier because the Nie family went bankrupt."

"Hurry up and look at this. Someone posted

something on the school's gossip page.

Apparently, Qin Ming right here is settling the debt of his ex to get her back."

"Wow, what a classy man! But I do know his ex. Isn't it that wretched girl Li Meng?"

"Yeah, I heard people from the economics class saying that Li Meng was recently dumped by the rich man she was dating. It's probably because the rich man has grown tired of her. Anyway, is she trying to get Qin Ming to settle her debts? What a cunning fox she is! She probably knows her chances are high since Qin Ming is such a kind person."

"Qin Ming is so stupid to fall for her again! Ooh, I am so excited about what's going to happen! Will he get beaten up by those tattooed men? "

Vroom! As the onlookers were still busy sticking their nose into other people's business, a car drove into the driveway and drifted before it pulled up next to Qin Ming. A man with an imposing aura got off the car. It was Steele.

Steele saw Qin Ming and had the shock of his life. He hurriedly bent down and approached the latter with a broad grin on his face. "Mr. Qin, good morning."

Everyone at the scene fell silent as they witnessed Steele bowing to Qin Ming.

Each of them had a surprised look on their faces as they realized that Steele was driving a Range Rover, which was a symbol of his social status. Why is such an important person being so respectful to Qin Ming?

Isn't Qin Ming just a broke student?

The tattooed men let out a breath in relief. They were glad that they informed Steele about Qin Ming before they did anything out of line. Immediately after Steele bowed, they also doubled down and spoke in a servile tone. "Good day to you, Mr. Qin. We apologize for treating you so harshly just now as we failed to recognize you as the one and only Mr. Qin."

"Mr. Qin, have a cigarette." Steele opened a box

of cigarettes and beckoned Qin Ming to take one.

Qin Ming patted Steele on his shoulder and laughed light-heartedly. "That person owing you debt is my classmate. Tell me, does she really owe you that much money, or are you guys trying to rip her off?"

Steele rubbed the nape of his neck and replied as he grinned sheepishly, "Mr. Qin, I don't think I can reveal to you the secrets of our casino. However, I can exempt her from the two hundred thousand debt in your name."

Qin Ming smiled back. It turned out that Li Meng was just one of the victims of their debt trap.

Even still, Qin Ming did not want to pry the truth out of Steele, as he still wanted to be on good terms with him since Old Six was still helping him with his matters.

Qin Ming said, "I don't want you to completely exempt her from her debts. She needs to learn her lesson. How about you send your people to spy on her? If she stops volunteering, you guys go

and ask her for money. Simple?"

Steele nodded and hit his chest with his fist as he made a guarantee to Qin Ming. "Consider that done, Mr. Qin! We'll keep tabs on her from now on."

Qin Ming replied, "I'll count on you for that. Alright, you guys can leave."

"Sure thing." Steele and his men heaved a long sigh. They were relieved for not offending Qin Ming. Steele turned around to look at the campus' welcome sign. "Mr. Qin, are you actually a student at the Hua Sheng University of Technology? That sure is impressive! If only I am as capable as you."

Once Steele and his people left, Qin Ming planned to return to his dormitory, but his phone suddenly rang. It was a call from Zhao Liniu.

Upon picking up the call, Qin Ming could hear a voice of despair coming from the other end of the call. "Hello? Is it Ming? Hurry up and send help! I-I can't take it anymore..."

"Hey Ming, come and save me now!" Zhao Liniu wailed miserably over the phone.

Qin Ming was dumbfounded. What has happened? Is Zhao Liniu being beaten up by someone?

Qin Ming answered anxiously, "Niu, where are you? I'll come and get you now!"

All of a sudden, Zhao Liniu's voice became bawdy. "I'm at the reception counter for freshmen. Believe me when I say I am drowning in beautiful girls! They are wearing so little on them! I swear summer is the best time for sightseeing. There are so many juicy babes around me! I am beyond thrilled! Hehehe!"

Qin Ming's body loosened up when he heard Zhao Liniu's mischievous laughter at the end of his sentence. You horny little brat! Just trying to fool around with me!

Because of the recent events, Qin Ming always kept his guard up in case something bad did happen to the people he cared about. Thus, it was

Qin Ming's instinct to get tensed at his friend's prank.

Qin Ming chastised his friend playfully. "Oh God, I thought something bad happened to you. Anyway, keep your hands off the freshmen, you monster! Why are you so excited? Did a hottie just give you her number?"

Zhao Liniu instantly replied, "By the way, are you free to help Shaoyong out now?"

Qin Ming heard that his friend needed help and immediately rushed over to the reception counter for newcomers. Indeed, there were a lot of pretty juniors around. But in Qin Ming's eyes, they were nothing out of the ordinary. He had bumped into many of such girls who were well-known for their natural beauty on campus, such as Mu Xiaoqiao, Nie Haitang, and Song Ying, all of whom greatly surpassed the makeup-laden freshmen in looks.

Qin Ming looked for Zhao Liniu who was supposedly helping the freshmen with their admission processes at the moment.

He was slightly agitated by the noisy crowd as he made his way through the crowd. Soon, he found his friend at the reception counter. "What's up, Niu? Where's Shaoyong and what do you need my help for?"

Zhao Liniu hurried on to answer his friend, "Oh, you're here! It's not Shaoyong but his sister who needs help! She's joining our faculty, by the way. I'm here to bluff her. Come and help me with it!"

Qin Ming was puzzled. "Huh? Why are we bluffing her?"

Slap! Sun Zhipeng approached the two of them and smacked Qin Ming's back with a freshman's guide and explained, "Shaoyong lied to her sister that he's popular on campus and that he has a lot of followers. It's one of the reasons his sister applied to this school, actually. Now that she's actually here on campus, Shaoyong is worried that his lies will be exposed one by one. He wanted us to pretend to be members of the student council and offer his sister express admission services. Right now, Niu is in charge of her admission procedures while I'm in charge

of flattering her brother. Ming, how about you be in charge of carrying her stuff?"

Qin Ming guffawed. He did not think that Liang Shaoyong would lie to impress his sister. Since they were friends, Qin Ming did not mind helping out even though it was to cover up his friend's lie. He made an 'OK' gesture with his fingers and said, "Alrighty!"

A few moments later, Liang Shaoyong brought his sister over. Qin Ming immediately went ahead and blabbered on, "Yong, just leave that to me. Oh, is it your sister? She's so pretty! Alright, pass me all of your luggage. I'll take care of everything for you, bro! You just go up ahead."

Liang Shaoyong stared at Qin Ming dashingly and responded, "Okay. Everyone, give your luggage to Ming. He'll help us to carry everything."

There were three young maidens standing next to Liang Shaoyong. One of them was more affectionate towards Liang Shaoyong and gazed at him in admiration.

A slightly plump girl on his right side exclaimed, "Wow, Han! Your brother sure is amazing! He's so popular on campus that he has lackeys?"

The thin girl behind added in amazement, "Yeah, I have heard many unbelievable stories of the undergraduates in the Hua Sheng University of Technology. I can't believe your brother is one of them who live such a glamorous life!"

In the meantime, Qin Ming busied himself with bringing all of the luggage. He had two bags strapped onto his back while he guided a trolley full of suitcases into the corridor.

Seeing Qin Ming putting so much effort into the grand scheme of things, Liang Shaoyong actually felt bad. He leaned in furtively and muttered, "Thanks so much, bro."

Qin Ming only smiled. "That's what bros are for."

Liang Shaoyong and the three girls followed Qin Ming to the reception counter. Zhao Liniu glanced at the three of them and spoke, "The queue is very long. You guys can get a number

and hang out somewhere. I reckon it will take more than an hour."

Liang Xiaohan furrowed her brows. "More than one hour? That's too long! Can we jump the queue? We still have to go for lunch later."

Zhao Liniu's face was stone cold. "Sorry, that is not allowed. Everyone here is also waiting for their turns to submit the necessary documents. Everyone is on the same freshman-level as you, so why should I let you go first? Also, I still have a lot of documents to sort out, so please just take a number and wait for your turn."

Right after Zhao Liniu's lengthy speech, Qin Ming went up to the counter. "Niu, this is Yong's sister. You sure you can't make an exception?"

"What? Why didn't you say earlier that she's Yong's sister?" Zhao Liniu immediately got up on his feet and flipped through the folders containing the freshmen's particulars. "Okay! Since you're Yong's sister, I guess I can settle your documents first. Please wait for a moment. I'll pass you the receipt and the letter of

acknowledgement later. You guys can head to the dormitory first."

Liang Xiaohan had a glorious shine on her face. She was proud of her brother's popularity on campus. Even her friends envied her.

"Han, your brother is so handsome! Does he have a girlfriend? He's like those dreamy guys in fanfictions!"

"Yeah, I totally agree! Since we're friends for so long, you have got to let your brother take care of us too!"

Liang Xiaohan replied in excitement. "Of course I will! You guys are my besties! By the way, Qin Ming, do you know where's our dorm?"

Qin Ming responded, "Yep. Follow me."

Qin Ming and Sun Zhipeng led the three girls to their dormitory with their luggage on hand.

On their way to the dormitory, the lot of them bumped into Chen Muling and a few other girls.

They were bringing a few international students on a tour around the campus and were conversing fluently with the foreigners in English.

Gao Ping, a girl next to Chen Muling whom Qin Ming had seen for a few times before, called out to Qin Ming and Chen Zhipeng, "Hey, you two. Why are you helping those freshmen with their luggage? Go and help the international students! There are quite a number of them, and they have a lot of luggage with them too."

Qin Ming ignored Gao Ping's words and continued ahead. Gao Ping was angered by Qin Ming's indifference. She berated them, "I'm talking to the two of you with a golden badge on your sleeves! Which division in the student council are you guys from? Do y'all not know who I am?"

Song Qiuyan added, "Be careful, guys! You don't want to get demerits unnecessarily! It will make you lose your bursaries. Come on over and help them international students with their luggage. These freshmen look capable enough to carry their own stuff to the dorm."

Qin Ming was disgruntled. "Those international students also look like they are capable to bring their own luggage but why aren't they doing it?"

As the argument was beginning to heat up, Sun Zhipeng tugged on Qin Ming's arm hastily to remind him of their situation. "Ming, just chill out! These people are actually from the student council unlike us. We will definitely lose in this fight if this is escalated to the university."

Chen Muling, who was already steps ahead, heard the quarrel behind her and turned over. She knitted her brows when she saw Qin Ming assiduously carrying the luggage of the three freshmen.

Chen Muling asked, "Qin Ming, aren't you getting back with Li Meng? Why are you hitting on newcomers? Be more modest and stop harassing the freshmen. Leave them alone and help us."

Liang Xiaohan was upset by Chen Muling's words. Why is it wrong for Qin Ming to help us with our luggage? Since when is he hitting on us?

Liang Xiaohan was annoyed. She blurted out, "Hey, cut your crap! You don't even know why Qin Ming is helping us out! He's my brother's bro and there's nothing wrong with him helping us out! What gives you the right to stop him from helping us?"

Liang Xiaohan's friend also chimed in, "Yeah, don't be such a bully! Why can't the international students take their own luggage then? They are also able-bodied like us!"

Gao Ping was enraged by the freshmen lashing out at her. She chanted in rage, "These people come from overseas and they have already had a long day! As citizens of Huaxia, I do believe that we should treat them well and let them have a few perks over the other local students. Also, our school is striving to have a greater diversity of students on campus, which is why we are going to make the stay of international students here a pleasant one so that we can attract more prospective students from abroad. You people can go home anytime you want to, so why do you need special treatment? The two of you dudes, come on over and help us instead."

Having made her speech, Gao Ping stepped forward and flipped the trolley on which the three freshmen's luggage was placed. All of the suitcases and bags in the trolley were scattered across the ground.

"You guys are too much!" Liang Xiaohan and her friends were pissed off.

One of her Liang Xiaohan's friends rebuked Gao Ping, "What's wrong with you? Do you guys not know who Han's brother is? He's the one and only Liang Shaoyong! No one dares to get on his bad side, except for the bunch of you idiots!"

Gao Ping was stupefied by her words. She broke into cold laughter. "What? Liang Shaoyong? So you're that trashy guy's sister? How is he in any way a threat to us? He's nothing in our school but a dipstick whose girlfriend has abandoned him for another man."

Qin Ming blew a fuse after listening to Gao Ping's remark about his friend. "Gao Ping, watch your mouth! What gives you the right to insult my friend?"

Gao Ping scoffed and replied, "How is it an insult when I am speaking the truth? He's always acting cool to puff up his ego. Does he really think it's also cool to lie to his sister? He's really a piece of trash! I can verify this since we've gone out with him before. His ex, Zhao Menghua also shares my opinion! If not, why would she leave him right after graduation?"

Out of the blue, Liang Shaoyong appeared in front of Gao Ping and grabbed her hands. He questioned in disbelief, "Is everything you said true?"



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