

The security guards scoffed, "Forget it! You probably earn less than us as a waiter. Now get back to work, or else!"

Qin Ming fished out four thousand and instructed, "Beat him up and I'll give you one thousand each."

Guan Ning was stunned and burst into laughter, "I didn't expect you to use the money to hire people to beat me up! Who are you trying to buy over with this pittance? Here, I'm offering a total of six grand for the four of you. Teach him a lesson!"

Qin Ming pulled out another wad of cash, "Three thousand each."

Guan Ning was fuming, "You won't be able to outbid me! Six thousand each! Here's twenty-four grand!"

The four guards were tempted by this amount of money as well. After all, their monthly salary was but four thousand each.

Qin Ming raised him, "Ten thousand for a single punch."

Ten thousand per punch? We'll be able to make a killing! Is he mad? Guan Ning could not afford to raise his offer, but he was certain that Qin Ming was bluffing.

He scoffed, "Surely you guys don't believe him? He's just a street rat trying to court someone way out of his league. He's broke! He's just bluffing."

Qin Ming whipped out his phone and showed his bank account balance. After saving Kelly's sister, he still had eight hundred million in his bank.

The security guards stared at the screen in shock and gasped, "You're worth hundreds of millions! Why are you working as a waiter in our hotel?"

"Oh my gosh, you're loaded!"

Qin Ming shrugged, "I just came for the experience and to make some friends."

These words struck a chord with the security

guards. People in their line of work were often despised by others and even their own families.

However, Qin Ming, a rich man, said that he was working here for the experience and to make friends. In other words, he was here to make friends with them! They appreciated how he did not put on airs.

Qin Ming did not view them with contempt, but as equals. In contrast, Guan Ning had acted like he was their boss even though that was clearly not the case.

The four bodyguards favored Qin Ming over Guan Ning and beat Guan Ning up immediately.

"Argh! You lowlifes, do you know who I am? I'm a friend of the vice director! My back... I'll complain about you! You dogs, how could you hit customers like that! Not my face, not my face! You street rats! You're colluding with one another! My face!"

Guan Ning was beaten black and blue by the guards, especially after he started hurling insults

at them. We work for our pay as well! We're not inferior to you in any way!

Qin Ming picked up the money Guan Ning dropped and instructed, "This man isn't a diner, so he isn't a customer. He's nothing but a troublemaker, so just dump him in a nearby dumpster. I'll tell your manager to turn a blind eye to this. Here, take this as compensation."

Just as Qin Ming was about to pay them, the security guards shook their heads, "It's alright pal, we won't be needing so much. We'll just take one thousand each."

Qin Ming did not insist and kept the rest of the money. Qin Ming had no qualms pocketing the money since it was a bribe from Mr. Luo to Guan Ning either way.

Guan Ning roared, "Qin Ming, this is robbery! I'll call the police on you! I'll throw all of you into jail!"

Qin Ming rolled his eyes. There were no surveillance cameras here, so he would not be

able to find enough evidence to set the police on them.

Qin Ming found it strange that Li had not brought Liao Qingxuan out after such a long period of time. He rushed back into the private room, only to find that Li had been knocked out on the chair and bleeding.

On the other hand, Mr. Luo and Liao Qingxuan were missing.

Liao Qingxuan's phone was on the floor as well.

Liao Qingxuan has been knocked out and abducted!

Qin Ming rushed to room 701 and forced the door open, but there was no one there.

At this point in time, Liao Qingxuan's phone rang. It was from Mr. Luo.

When Qin Ming picked up, he heard a low growl, "Stop searching. Come to the rooftop alone."

Qin Ming panicked. What on earth is going on?

Qin Ming bolted to the rooftop. It was narrow, with many loose items, signages, and other items deposited there.

Mr. Luo stood in front of Qin Ming. Liao Qingxuan was right beside him, tied to a chair. She tried to break free from her restraints but to no avail.

Liao Qingxuan had a worried expression when she saw Qin Ming, as though to tell him to get out of here.

Mr. Luo held the one end of the rope used to tie Liao Qingxuan to the chair.

He demanded, "Lock the door, brat."

Qin Ming hesitated. If I lock the door, then Kelly won't be able to help me!

Sensing his hesitation, Mr. Luo lifted the chair and dangled Liao Qingxuan from the top of the building.

Sob...sob...! Liao Qingxuan struggled in fear, but she was unable to break free of the ropes.

Qin Ming's face fell. This Mr. Luo plays dirty!

He had no choice but to lock the door and cut off any potential backup.

Mr. Luo stepped on the rope to keep Liao Qingxuan from falling off.

He lit a cigarette and took a puff, "Tsk, looks like I underestimated you, brat. It seems like you have a trick or two up your sleeve after all. My wife just called to divorce me because she found out about my affair and my friends have contacted me telling me that my crimes have been exposed. I've had an affair for ten years and that hag at home has been none the wiser. I've been careful with my illegal activity as well and disposed of the evidence properly. No one should know about it. You're the only one I've clashed with recently. In other words, you're behind this, aren't you?"

Qin Ming remained silent and stared at the rope Mr. Luo was stepping on.

Mr. Luo scowled, "I'll take that as a confession, then."

He took another puff on his cigarette and taunted, "Did you enjoy those videos? Every one of them was a beauty in their own right. You must've thoroughly enjoyed watching the expressions and hearing the moans of those reporters, models, and live streamers, right?"

I wish I could, but Kelly was right beside me!

Qin Ming declared, "That's right, I was behind it! You're a finished man! If you get on your knees and beg for forgiveness now, I might consider lightening your sentence."

"Hahaha!" Mr. Luo cackled. "A street rat like you can keep dreaming if you want to go to bed with a beauty like them! I've probably slept with more women than you've watched porn videos! Well, none of them were as good as Liao Qingxuan, and you had to ruin my plans!"

Qin Ming frowned. This Mr. Luo is a bastard after all.

Qin Ming bellowed, "Stop struggling now! The police will be here at any moment and I will definitely land you in jail."

Mr. Luo demanded, "How did you get your hands on all that data? I made sure not to connect that computer to the internet and locked it with a high-security password. How did you find evidence of my illegal activity and my affair!"

This was an easy task for any assassin and Qin Ming knew that it must have been Kelly's handiwork.

He simply smirked, "I have my ways of finding out. Mr. Luo, unhand Ms. Liao now! Do you wish to commit murder and add to your sentence?"

Mr. Luo was frustrated that Qin Ming did not answer his question and let go of the rope. He snapped, "That's right, I'll kill you, you street rat!"

The moment he let go of the rope, Liao Qingxuan, who was dangling from the rooftop,

rapidly plunged towards the ground. This was a twenty-story building, so falling off would spell certain death!

Qin Ming bolted over to the edge and grabbed the end of the rope just in time.

However, because the rope was too long, he could not pull Liao Qingxuan up either. As a result, he could not move.

"Hahaha!" Mr. Luo laughed maniacally and grabbed a nearby pipe. He adjusted his glasses and glared at Qin Ming viciously, "Now, you can't move! I'll make sure to beat you to death!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Mr. Luo held the pipe and smirked maliciously. "Hehehe, let's see how you get yourself out this time. You can't move a muscle now. Even if you could, one wrong move and Liao Qingxuan will fall. Once I'm done with you, I'm headed straight out of the country. I already have a woman and money prepared. Did you really think I would give myself up that easily? Don't be naive. I'm an experienced player. How can a penniless fool like you ever hope to win against me?"

As the final word fell from his lips, he slammed the pipe down towards Qin Ming's hand.

Keeping one leg lodged against the wall, Qin Ming invested all of his body weight into pulling on the string. His left hand extended and sailed through the air to meet the pipe.

With a dull thud, the metal pipe came into contact with the arm.

Qin Ming furrowed his brow and clenched his jaw. But he pushed through.

"Didn't you eat today? Or do you only put in

effort when you're feeling up a woman? It felt more like a playful tap." Qin Ming snidely retorted.

"What?" Mr. Luo was taken aback by Qin Ming's brashness. However, Qin Ming's resolute gaze only stoked the fires of Mr. Luo's resentment.

"Go to hell." Mr. Luo raised the metal pipe again and brought it down upon Qin Ming's head.

The dull thud resonated as Qin Ming once again parried the attack.

With a quick twist of his wrist, Mr. Luo struck Qin Ming's knee.

If Qin Ming's knee could talk, it would scream in pain. He doubled over in agony but still managed to remain standing.

But Mr. Luo was not done. Fueled by rage, and bitter hatred, the attacks continued to rain down on Qin Ming. "Even the bones of a penniless idiot sucks. How much longer can you hold on? Hahaha."

Mr. Luo did not pull his punches in the slightest. On one hand, Qin Ming had to continuously pull on the rope to prevent Liao Qingxuan from falling, and on the other hand, he needed to defend himself against the pipe. His palm was alarmingly swollen and red.

Bang, bang, bang!

Suddenly, pounding noises came from the locked metal door of the balcony. Someone was trying to kick the door open. The metal was already warping and deformed, testifying to the sheer might of the kicks.

Panic started to rise within Mr. Luo. He tossed the pipe aside and pulled out a small dagger. With a ferociously twisted expression, he bellowed, "You ruined my life! Die!"

Mr. Luo's arm cut through the air, aimed straight for Qin Ming's chest. Fortunately for Qin Ming, his reflexes were quick enough that he was able to maneuver his body to dodge the blade. Due to his clumsy movements, Mr. Luo's dagger collided with the wall before falling to the ground.

He was about to retreat in order to distance himself from Qin Ming, but it was too late.

With one swift kick, Qin Ming's leg smacked into Mr. Luo's abdomen.

Excruciating pain shot through Mr. Luo. He let out a weak whimper before collapsing to his knees in front of Qin Ming. The next moment he was vomiting out the contents of his stomach.

Qin Ming swung his leg again, this time making contact with Mr. Luo's head. He kicked him aside, smashing his spectacles. Mr. Luo fell to a heap on the ground.

"I can't believe you vomited. How pathetic." Qin Ming spat at Mr. Luo. "So what if you live luxuriously? The body is our most valuable asset." He sneered.

Bang!

The metal door was kicked down with a thunderous crash. Kelly dashed in. When she laid eyes on Mr. Luo, he was already unconscious.

Kelly helped Qin Ming to bear the weight of the rope. "Boss, should we pull her up now?"

Qin Ming massaged his quivering left hand, which was oozing ribbons of crimson blood. He shook his head and said, "Wait."

Mr. Luo struggled to climb to his feet. He touched the blood leaking from his nose and cried out angrily, "Qin Ming you destitute moron, do you really think everything will be fine after I'm gone? The mayor is related to me. I'll still have control over my finances in jail and be able to order my people to act out my will. You'll regret it, and so will Liao Qingxuan! Hahaha, someone like you could never understand the world of the rich."

Qin Ming did not reply. He grasped the pipe which inflicted his injuries in his right hand. His cold gaze locked onto Mr. Luo and he proceeded to bash the man's leg.

The metal pipe clanged loudly upon impact with the leg. The bone had clearly been broken.

Mr. Luo let out a strangled scream of anguish. "You piece of shit! You're dead, dead! How dare you lay your hand on me? I'll make sure that you end up in jail! Try the stunt again, if you dare!"

Qin Ming heaved a heavy sigh and planted one foot on Mr. Luo's palm, sending him into another wave of agony. "Bastard! Pauper! Bumpkin! I'll make you pay sooner or later! Ahhh!"

Qin Ming pointed the pipe at Mr. Luo's face and growled, "Do you know? The young adults of today possess neither money nor power. The most valuable thing they own is their courage."

Bang!

Qin Ming landed another blow on Mr. Luo. He was significantly stronger than Mr. Luo and one strike by him was enough to shatter Mr. Luo's leg.

"Ahhh!" Mr. Luo let out another ear-splitting screech of pain. He had never experienced such incredible pain before as both his legs went numb. Soon after he lost control of his body waist

down, resulting in incontinence. An overwhelming stench blanketed the area.

Mr. Luo was unable to speak as his body went on to convulse uncontrollably.

Qin Ming abandoned the repulsive mess of a man. He wiped the fingerprints off the pipe before gesturing to Kelly to pull up the rope.

Kelly made quick work of pulling up the distressed Liao Qingxuan.

After returning to solid ground, Liao Qingxuan caught sight of Qin Ming's mangled hand. Guilt and heartache rose within her. "Qin Ming! I'm sorry! It's all my fault for causing you trouble."

Qin Ming offered her a warm smile. "Don't be sorry. We're friends. Friends help each other out. I saved you of my own will. It's not your fault."

But he failed to assuage her guilt. "Let me take you to the hospital. Your hand... Quickly, let's go now." Liao Qingxuan anxiously urged him.

Qin Ming shot a look at Kelly who nodded in understanding. Qin Ming left with Liao Qingxuan.

Once Qin Ming and Liao Qingxuan left, Kelly grabbed the incapacitated Mr. Luo and waved the dagger in front of his face menacingly.

Mr. Luo gazed at the blonde goddess before him. He noted the primal cravings rising within him but knew better than to act on them. He gulped and stammered, "Pretty... Pretty lady, please let me go. I can pay you for it."

Kelly fished out a payment terminal and flashed an angelic smile at him. "Okay. Let's calculate how much your life is worth."

Mr. Luo fought through the pain and urgently brought out his credit card wallet. He extracted every card inside and pleaded, "I'm extremely wealthy. If you let me go, you can have it all."

Half an hour later, the police arrived to arrest Mr. Luo who had not only embezzled money but also ordered his subordinates to conduct illegal

activities.

When the police laid eyes on Mr. Luo, he was already in a crippled state. His hand was incapable of writing and his lips unable to produce words. He was curled up into a trembling ball on the ground. The moment he noticed the arrival of the police, he burst into tears, and hope sparked in his eyes.

Under the night sky, Kelly blew into the whistle. She strolled away with a smug expression on her face, hips swaying seductively. She toyed with the credit card in one of her hands. Tonight went rather well. We managed to snag a substantial amount.

Along the way, she was stopped by an unusually long gold Rolls-Royce. Kelly had been too wrapped up in glee that she only just noticed the shift in the behavior of the people around her. They all transformed into emotionless thugs who had her surrounded in a second.

Kelly stared forward with a grim expression. The door of the car slowly opened and a pair of long

legs emerged, dressed in black silk stockings. Her waist tapered to a point, shadowed by a voluptuous chest. Her features seemed to have been hand-shaped by God to perfection.

Song Ying's cold and hard countenance did not leak even an ounce of emotion.

She walked right up to Kelly. The two women were comparable in height. Song Ying's obsidian gaze connected with Kelly's azure ones in an intangible clash.

They were very well acquainted with each other.

"Kelly Olson. Look at the mess you've made your first day being stationed by Young Master's side. You let him get hurt." Song Ying snarled.

Kelly stepped forwards, refusing to back down. The two women were now standing chest to chest, mere inches apart. "Young Master doesn't even blame me. What right does a secretary like you have to do so?" Kelly shot back.

Song Ying could still remember immigrating to Z Nation from Huaxia with her parents. She was five years old at the time and had woken up in the middle of the night to find her parents dead. They had been used as human shields by a group of bandits against the guns of the Democratic party.

She had become an orphan overnight and was sold off by the bandits to gangsters.

She had met Kelly Olson for the first time in that dark and damp basement. Kelly was also five at the time.

The girls who filled the space were mostly seven or eight years old, although there was one girl who was eleven. She acted as their leader.

The girls fought tooth and nail daily in order to obtain a portion of the scarce supply of food. Only winners were afforded sustenance.

Her first few days there, Song Ying struggled to acclimate. She was bullied mercilessly. Kelly Olson was the only one who showed her kindness by sharing some of her winnings with her. She

was the only reason Song Ying survived.

The two five-year-old girls decided to ally themselves and defeated the strong ten-year-old girls. From then on, they gained control of food rationing in the basement.

They remained there for an unknown period of time. By the time they were saved, the gangsters were no more. A group of aloof and heartless people brought them to a small island in the pacific ocean.

Since the age of five, the two girls started training in a variety of disciplines.

They knew their loyalties lay with a businessman named Chang Hongxi. All their resources came from Huan Ning Century Corporation, an extremely prosperous international conglomerate that had the power to influence the global economy. They held more authority than some poor and small countries. Many developing countries still lived in fear of them.

While the girls trained, they slowly rose through

the ranks to become the top of their class. Not only were they fluent in multiple languages, but they were also adept at numerous assassination techniques and explosive mechanisms. They were the epitome of killing machines and many men submitted to their irrefutable abilities.

Over the course of a decade, they constantly honed their ever-expanding bank of skills.

It was a matter of survival for them. They knew that as long as they maintained their impressive abilities, they would eventually be chosen to leave the hellish training camp.

But the cruel training instructors did not take well to the girls' amicable relationship and sought to destroy it. They were frequently forced to compete against each other in brutal sparring in order to determine who was truly the best.

The loser would not receive any punishment. Instead, it was her loved ones who would suffer.

Kelly Olson loved her sister more than anyone in the world. Because of her might, she was able to

carry her feeble sister through the training camp.

Song Ying had grown close with another girl who hailed from Huaxia. They spoke the same native language and quickly became inseparable.

Whenever Song Ying and Kelly fought against each other, if Kelly lost, the evil instructor would torture her sister. This bred Kelly into a perfectionist.

Similarly, when Song Ying lost, her friend would be abused.

Due to his discrimination against people from Huaxia, the instructor would subject Song Ying's friend to significantly more serious punishment than Kelly's sister.

Song Ying won the majority of the matches. Hence, Kelly's sister spent most of her time starving and locked up in a dark hut.

Kelly implored Song Ying many times to give way as she could not bear to watch her sister suffer.

However, Song Ying needed to do her best for the sake of her friend. Whenever she lost, her friend would be dangled above the sea for an entire day.

Song Ying's refusal enraged Kelly. As time went on, the distance between them increased.

There was one time when Song Ying's friend fell ill and was unable to withstand her punishment.

Song Ying begged Kelly to lose. In return, she promised to lose to Kelly twice in the future. Kelly mercilessly turned her down and went on to take the win.

Song Ying failed to protect her friend, who was strapped to a log and set adrift on the sea. Due to overexposure to heat working in conjunction with her illness, Song Ying's friend died of heatstroke.

Song Ying would never forget that day, where she cradled her dead friend and shed a never-ending waterfall of tears.

Kelly was also extremely remorseful. She knew

her sister would only have to go through confinement in the dark hut and be refused food for a day.

But what was done was done. Song Ying slaughtered the instructor as well as the rest of the instructors that night.

She intended to escape from the island. Unfortunately, Huan Ning Century Corporation held imaginable power and she was quickly thrown back into her nightmare. She spent the next two years going through more training until Chang Hongxi arrived to take her away. He wanted to impart business knowledge to her by installing her as Qin Ming's secretary.

As for Kelly Olson, she ended up chosen by Chang Huan to join the intelligence department. She soon became the top dog of the cadre.

The two women never forgot their grievances towards each other.

The streetlight illuminated the scene brightly. The air was muggy and clung to them, pouring even

more fuel into the fires of their fury.

Song Ying and Kelly dove right into an intense battle. Under any other circumstances, a fight between such beautiful women would be a feast for the eyes. But in this case, the atmosphere was suffocatingly austere. The women fought neck in neck.

Arms collided and legs clashed as they displayed the true extent of their strength. Even the air around them seemed to quake in reaction.

The pair battled each other like two opposing states of matter. Both kept their gazes locked on the other as neither was willing to let up.

"You don't deserve to be by Young Master's side. He'll eventually come back. A person like you has no place at Huaxia." Song Ying muttered.

Kelly chuckled and replied, "I happen to think Young Master is quite fond of me. He even gave me a nickname. After all, unlike you, I'm actually capable of emoting. Young Master is probably sick of you."

"Please, you know nothing about Young Master. You are just a traitor. How long could Young Master keep a person like you around?"

Song Ying struck Kelly's weak point. It was true that she had betrayed Chang Huan for her sister's sake. What she did was unforgivable in the eyes of their superiors. Even if she managed to survive due to her exceptional skills, she would never be acknowledged again.

At this moment, Kelly's phone rang.

It came from Qin Ming. "Kelly, how are things going over on your side?"

"Young Master, everything is fine. The police have taken the cripple into custody. No one suspects us." Kelly dutifully reported.

"Okay. Go take care of the teacher I beat up in front of my hotel. You cannot allow him to burden the security guards." Qin Ming sounded satisfied.

"Yes, sir." Kelly replied.

She hung up the phone and waved her phone around smugly. "I need to attend to Young Master's business. Get out of my way."

Song Ying was boiling with rage. "If Young Master is injured again because of your incompetence, I'll bring hell to you." She warned.

Kelly scoffed, "You know nothing. Scars are proof of a man's masculinity. Young Master is not some weakling."

"Just know that I don't make frivolous remarks. The next time it won't be a rubber bullet." Song Ying bit back.

Kelly shivered as she reached up to touch the mark on her forehead. She turned to greet Song Ying with a flattened expression. Electricity seemed to crackle between the two women.

While the two women bickered over Qin Ming, he had just left the hospital.

After getting a number, he had a cast put on him and collected his medicine. Liao Qingxuan

brought him back to the house at Green Island.

Qin Ming's left arm was in a sling, rendering it useless. For the next two weeks, he was going to experience great difficulty when trying to accomplish daily tasks. Despite all this, Qin Ming remained jovial. He did just save a person after all.

"Ms. Liao, Mr. Luo has been caught. You can seek out the director directly. Do you have confidence? If not I might be able to pull some strings..." Qin Ming said.

Liao Qingxuan handed Qin Ming a cup of water. "Forget about it for now. Take care of your injury first. Please rest well."

"I bumped into Mdm. Liao today. She told me to look after you." Qin Ming replied, slightly bashful.

Liao Qingxuan shook her head in disbelief. "Did she ask you to keep me out of trouble? My mother wouldn't say such things. You can't lie to me. However, it's true that he doesn't get you. I

didn't too, at the beginning. I thought you were ordinary and even a little boorish. Thinking back, I feel like a fool. Who would have known that under your facade of ordinariness lies such power?"

Mr. Qin beamed, basking in her compliments.

"You speak too highly of me. I really am ordinary. There's nothing special about me." Qin Ming responded.

Liao Qingxuan shot him a playful glare. "Just take the compliment. I don't usually flatter people, especially boys. You're just a cheeky kid with potential. Stay here tonight. I'll help you take a shower later."



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"Uh, you see... that... Uh..."

Qin Ming got nervous. He went to the hot spring once with Nie Haitang, but he had never done anything that exciting or bold before.

Having a teacher who was five or six years older than him helping him shower... She might not be teaching at his school, but he still worried about losing control and making a mistake.

Qin Ming jumped up quickly and replied, "It's fine, Ms. Liao. I can handle it on my own. My other hand is fine, and men can shower with just one hand. It's fine."

Liao Qingxuan stopped him and pointed out, "It's already past eleven o'clock at night, and it'd be even later when you get home. I am the reason you're injured, so let me help you."

Qin Ming reminded, "But you've already paid for my medical fee, Ms. Liao."

Liao Qingxuan rolled her eyes and said, "That doesn't really count as helping you. Also, stop

calling me Ms. Liao, just refer to me by my first name."

"Uhm, Ms. Qingxuan?" suggested Qin Ming curiously.

Liao Qingxuan complained in an upset tone, "Oh gosh, that is horrible. It makes me sound so old. I'm only twenty-two, you know? Just call me Qingxuan."

"Got it, Ms. Liao," replied Qin Ming.

Liao Qingxuan insisted on helping, and Qin Ming couldn't reject her offer because she seemed genuine. Moreover, it would be difficult for him to shower with just one hand. If he asked the kid from the villa or Mu Sichun to help him out, they would be even more embarrassed than he was, because they were younger than him. Mu Sichun might go as far as taking his photo to keep as a souvenir, though.

He could ask for Qin Chaoyang's help since the latter was next door, but it'd probably disrupt Qin Chaoyang's date with Li.

Qin Ming thought about going to a club, but just thinking about it got him to tremble. He would be in a heap of trouble if the police caught him there.

"Sigh... If only Haitang is here," murmured Qin Ming bitterly. At that point, he would gladly admit that he missed her. He missed her smile, her scent, and her sweet style. He especially missed how it felt when he held her in his arms.

Ring! Ring! Qin Ming's phone suddenly rang, and he checked the screen to see that it wasn't a local number. The codes suggested that the call was from Jing City.

Qin Ming didn't recall ever applying for any courses online or buying anything from the city, so he didn't know why someone from the city was calling him.

"Hello?" asked Qin Ming after he accepted the call.

The line was definitely established, but all Qin Ming got was silence from the other end.

Qin Ming called out in an annoyed tone, "Hello? Who's there? This isn't a scam or something, is it?"

It took a while before a sweet, feminine voice rang up from the other end of the line. The lady said, "Hi, uh, I-I ordered some take-outs, but it hasn't been delivered yet. I'm going to leave a negative review"

"Huh? No, c'mon, don't do that. It's not easy being a delivery man," replied Qin Ming instinctively before he became momentarily stunned and added, "Wait, hold on, I stopped working as a delivery man over a month ago. Still, please don't leave a negative review for no reason, miss. Trust me, we delivery men always try our best to deliver your meals as quickly as possible. It's possible that the guy saw an elderly man fainting by the roadside, or is being chased by a dog, or was dumped or cheated on by his girlfriend, or something like that. We're all just struggling to make ends meet, and this is a tough job, so please have mercy."

The lady said, "Really? You guys have it that

tough? You're not lying, are you?"

Qin Ming tilted his head and took a deep breath. Why does this voice sound so familiar? But it doesn't sound like her either...

Liao Qingxuan soon walked over with a unisex outfit that she used to wear. She asked, "Qin Ming, have you taken your clothes off?"

"Not yet," replied Qin Ming.

Liao Qingxuan snickered mischievously before she teased, "Awh, do you want me to help you take them off? You little rascal, by the way, who are you talking to on the phone? Did your girlfriend call to do a spot check?"

Qin Ming was about to tell the lady on the other line that she got the wrong number when she suddenly hung up.

Qin Ming thought it was strange, but he put his phone aside and decided to take a shower before trying to figure anything out.

It wasn't actually romantic or ambiguous when Liao Qingxuan helped Qin Ming shower. She washed his hair, then simply cleaned his body. Qin Ming kept his underwear on and used a towel to further keep his 'pal' concealed. He didn't want Liao Qingxuan to see anything or make things awkward.

Still, Liao Qingxuan's hand inevitably touched Qin Ming's body. The way her soft palm caressed his body and the way she frowned while she was busying away made her especially stunning. No wonder they call her a first-class exotic beauty.

Qin Ming's line of sight happened to tilt downwards, and he accidentally saw that Liao Qingxuan missed one button on her shirt. Her silky soft skin was presented right before his eyes, and he turned away quickly and shyly. Peeping is not an honorable thing to do.

Unfortunately, when Qin Ming shifted his gaze downwards, he saw that his 'pal' was standing proudly like a soldier reporting for duty. Darn it, even the towel can't hide that pervert!

Liao Qingxuan caught the obvious change in Qin Ming's body as well, and for some reason, that got her to blush. Still, she helped him like she was supposed to, and wiped his sweat off of his body. She didn't know why, but her eyes kept sneaking a peek at Qin Ming's pal. Maybe I'm feeling a little hot because I have been working too much.

After ten minutes or so, Liao Qingxuan got out of the washroom. She felt her legs weakening, and her entire body was burning up, so she adjusted the air-conditioner and stood under it for a while before she finally cooled off.

Qin Ming cleaned that last part by himself before he got out of the washroom as well. He was wearing the clothes that Liao Qingxuan used to wear and that indirect contact with her made him feel like his skin was stuck on hers. That got him to blush red.

Liao Qingxuan later informed, "I got the guest room set up. You should stay here for a couple of days, so I can take care of you while you heal."

Qin Ming didn't think that was necessary, and he was about to speak up when Liao Qingxuan put her finger on his lips to stop him. She looked like she wasn't going to take no for an answer when she said, "Don't feel bad about this. Just leave minor issues like that to me."

After that, Liao Qingxuan calculated the numbers and added, "You usually take part-time jobs during the holidays, right? I will pay you five thousand to stay here for a month. All you have to do is heal up, read some books, and go for walks. Oh, and go get lunch on your own. I'll be back to make you dinner after I clock off, though."

"Wouldn't that make me a kept man?" joked Qin Ming.

Liao Qingxuan replied, "What's so bad about that? How I wish I'm a kept woman. A rich man will pay for all of my expenses and give me a luxurious life, while I doll up and relax every day. Not needing to work is so nice."

Qin Ming was speechless. That is not something

a teacher should tell a teen...

However, he could tell that Liao Qingxuan wasn't the kind of woman who'd want to be a kept woman. She was just joking. He knew that Liao Qingxuan's passion was dance, and she was working hard to build a career in that field.

When Qin Ming woke up the next morning, he saw that Liao Qingxuan had left ten thousand in cash by the table. She also prepared some breakfast for him before she left the house.

That reminded Qin Ming that Liao Qingxuan's issue wasn't solved yet.

The vice director, Mr. Luo, had been exposed and chased away, but they still had no idea who the director was.

Qin Ming called Kelly to have her investigate the director who was behind it all. He did that to get ahead and be prepared, just in case. However, Kelly hadn't even finished investigating the matter when Liao Qingxuan called Qin Ming and said, "Good news, Qin Ming."

Liao Qingxuan sounded excited when she shared, "The network decided to sign another contract with me. They want to dissuade me from suing them with regards to the incident involving Mr. Luo. I don't actually know what the issue is, but they are paying me twice as much to sign the new contract. Moreover, I can ask for a new male lead! Hahaha, and guess what? The manager of the pop star, Yang Baixiu, just called me and begged me to let Yang Baixiu participate in the show. I finally got my revenge. Hell yeah!"

Qin Ming knew all too well about what was happening. The network did all that because he sent a video showing the vice director, Mr. Luo, and the manager, Ms. He, discussing how they were going to gang up against Liao Qingxuan.

Liao Qingxuan was pretty popular in the industry, and the network didn't want to offend her, so they immediately offered her a new contract with better pay.

The most important bit, however, was that if the network changed its male lead at that moment, then Yang Baixiu would've never performed on

stage. That would be a direct breach of his contract, and he would have to pay hundreds of millions in legal damage.

Liao Qingxuan had regained all her authority and power, so her mood was as good as it could get.

Qin Ming later asked, "Guan Ning and your assistant seem to be involved in the matter as well, Ms. Liao, so..."

Liao Qingxuan replied proudly, "I fired them both and blacklisted them. I am so freaking furious with them. They tried to frame me, even though I am their employer and have been paying their salary! I am so thankful to you, Qin Ming. If it hadn't been for you, I would never be able to clear my good name."

Qin Ming grinned politely and said, "It's only natural that I helped."

"Alright, I have to go rehearse now. I'll make you something great for dinner tonight," promised Liao Qingxuan.

Qin Ming was in a good mood after he hung the phone up. He grabbed the ten thousand in cash from the counter. He was planning on hanging out with a kid when he heard a commotion from the neighbor. It sounded like things were spiraling out of control.

Qin Ming's heart skipped a beat. His brother owned the house next door, and Qin Ming had no idea what had happened. What's wrong?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Qin Ming heard the loud bang from the house next door, and that frightened him.

He Menggu's son and daughter-in-law didn't move back in and refuse to leave again, did they?

Qin Ming quickly opened the door to walk over, but he saw He Menggu sitting on the floor and crying before he even reached the place. Her door was open, and she was screaming, "What have I ever done? Why is fate so cruel?"

Inside the house, the dining table has been toppled and Bai Dayou was holding a tin box in his hand. He fished all the cash out of the box, but there wasn't much in there, only about two thousand. However, He Menggu worked hard collecting recyclables and selling sweet potatoes by the roadside to make that ridiculously little money.

Mrs. Bai was fierce as she reprimanded, "What kind of mother are you, huh? Your son is on the verge of dying with the creditors calling us every day and demanding payment. Are you trying to kill your own son?"

He Menggu was crying as she screamed pitifully, "Chun made most of that money from her part-time job, and she gave it to me. How can you face Chun if you steal her money?"

Bai Dayou grabbed the cash anyway and scoffed, "Doesn't she have rich heirs courting her all the time? Just tell her to marry the guy, and she will have more money than she can spend. She won't need to work that hard after that. She's too dumb to realize that, so why don't you talk to her and advise her to do so? She's just a woman, and she's going to be f*cked anyway. Might as well choose a rich guy to f*ck with."

He Menggu was so angry that she couldn't even lift her hand anymore. She could barely breathe as she scolded, "You... You..."

Qin Ming glared at those two married couples in distaste. Those people only cared about money and would betray anyone for cash.

He Menggu's savings, which was going to pay for her surgery to survive, were stolen by those two and gambled away as well. They ended up owing

Mr. Nian five hundred thousand and had returned to steal their family's money again. They had arms and legs, but they were so useless and pathetic that they might as well be crippled.

Qin Ming hurried over to stroke He Menggu's back. He later poured her a glass of water to help her settle down.

Mrs. Bai frowned when she saw that. She frowned and dissed, "Qin Ming? You broke sap. You used your employer's house as if it is your own. Hmph, your employer will find out about that eventually, and you will be out of a job soon, so don't act so proud."

Qin Ming growled in a grim tone, "It doesn't matter whose house this is. You two are not welcomed or allowed in here either way, so freaking leave now!"

Mrs. Bai scoffed, "Pfft, you think I want to stay? Why are you so proud of a house like that? Chun is about to get into a relationship with a rich guy, and he lives in a huge mansion. He actually owns the place, unlike you. You're only here to help

your employer keep his mistress a secret. Did you forget who you are? You are nothing but a servant!"

The two of them fled after stealing He Menggu's money.

Qin Ming sighed and picked up the box. There were only a few coins left in there.

He Menggu's wrinkled hand trembled as she kept the coins safe. Her eyes were wet with tears, and she seemed helpless.

The old wives' tale said that having a son would make one's elderly years a blissful period. Unfortunately, He Menggu ended up having a horrible son, and her elderly years were filled with disruption and restlessness.

"Thank you, Qin Ming. I'm fine now. I would have no regrets if my son were even half as wonderful as you are," commented He Menggu before she sighed.

Qin Ming comforted He Menggu by saying,

"Don't worry, Aunt He. Chun is even more capable than I am, and she will earn so much money in the future that she would give you a great life. Women are just as powerful in this current society, and your son is not the only one you can depend on."

He Menggu grinned bitterly.

Qin Ming said a few more words to calm her down before he left. He didn't chase He Menggu away because chasing her away at that moment would be equivalent to killing the helpless mother-daughter duo.

Qin Ming didn't mind either way. He had plenty of other places to live in.

He fished out his phone to text Bai Yuchun. That was when he realized that the last time he texted her was three weeks ago, and they hadn't had any contact since.

"What are you doing now? Your bother stole your mother's money."

Qin Ming got a reply soon after. Bai Yuchun: "I am at the market looking for part-time jobs. The restaurant near the school doesn't have many customers during the holidays, so they fired me."

Qin Ming asked curiously: "Did you get the scholarship?"

Bai Yuchun replied quickly: "I was three points short. Got the eleventh position."

Qin Ming grinned exasperatedly. Things just keep getting worse and worse, huh?

Qin Ming walked out of the residential and was about to get a cab to go to the market when Kelly showed up in a brand new Mercedes-Benz. She informed, "Boss, are you heading out to court the ladies? I'll give you a ride."

Qin Ming asked, "Where did you get that car?"

Kelly replied proudly, "Your secretary said that you must use a car when you travel. She also said that a Rolls-Royce attracts too much attention, so I got this Mercedes-Benz S600 series for you

instead."

Qin Ming complained, "Return the car immediately. I no longer want to be a part of the Huan Ning Century Corporation. I've made things clear. I will not inherit anything from my godfather unless he admits and apologizes for his mistake, then tell me where Nie Haitang is!"

A man standing by the road suddenly voiced up, "Boss, there is no point in acting up and being childish like that. You became the only heir to the corporation when you signed that contract."

Qin Ming turned around and realized that the man who spoke was Feng Dongxiang, one of the four most powerful individuals within the corporation. Feng Dongxiang looked like a kung fu master who ran a dojo. He was wearing a traditional costume, Tangzhuang, as he stood straight while his face exuded a powerful aura.

"You. Why are you still here? Where is my godfather?" asked Qin Ming.

Feng Dongxiang replied, "He went to meet up

with the representatives of Southeast Asia. He initially planned on taking you with him on this trip. Boss, please stop acting so childish. Master Chang is gravely ill, and he is fighting with every breath he has left to lay the foundation for your future as the heir."

Qin Ming sneered, "Am I really being childish, though? It's like they say. My destiny is mine to draft, and I am the master of my own future. I will make my choices, and no one, not even my godfather, can decide for me. So answer me, does godfather have anything to do with the Nie family's bankruptcy?"

Feng Dongxiang shook his head to signal 'no'.

After that, he said, "East Asia's representatives will have a meeting soon as well, boss, and you need to pass their tests to prove your economic skills. You are about to take over the branch in Asia, and you need to show some results and earn others' trusts."

Qin Ming didn't even look back. He walked away and said, "Have godfather talk to me in person. I

have made my decision. I want both the money and my freedom, and if I can't have both, I will abandon my money for my freedom."

Qin Ming spoke that last sentence like he was reciting a poem, and that stunned Feng Dongxiang a little.

Feng Dongxiang shared, "Master Chang doesn't know where Ms. Nie is either, boss, so there is no point in asking him."

Qin Ming replied, "Then have him apologize to me, and ask him to stop making me go on blind dates to meet super-rich women. If I need a woman to be the head of Huan Ning Century Corporation, then there is no point in having that position in the first place. I will just end up as a puppet."

Feng Dongxiang trembled and frowned like he had suddenly recalled something.

He didn't chase after Qin Ming. Instead, Feng Dongxian turned to Kelly and asked, "Where did the boss get all his money? I thought he never

accessed the corporation's funds?"

Kelly shrugged and replied, "How would I know? I do know that boss has a card with a couple hundred million in it, though. Your plan to get him to suffer and miss a wealthy life is just dumb."

Feng Dongxiang grinned mischievously and said, "Is that so? I guess I'll have to be the bad guy this time."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Qin Ming was walking away when he suddenly felt wind zipping past him. Feng Dongxian had dashed over to Qin Ming's side, turned around, and picked Qin Ming's pocket.

It only took Feng Dongxian three seconds to accomplish everything. Qin Ming saw that, and his mind was fast enough to register what happened, but his limbs were too slow. His pocket was already empty when he reached for it.

Qin Ming growled furiously, "G-give me my wallet. I made that money on my own!"

Feng Dongxian had Qin Ming's wallet between his fingers. The former said, "I know that, and I know stealing your things is disrespectful, but Master Chang ordered me to take you back. I must at least try to accomplish that. I will accept any punishment you deem fit as long as you return."

Qin Ming was speechless. That man would do something so low just to force me to return?

"Kelly, attack!" instructed Qin Ming.

Kelly was standing some distance away, but her long legs ran over quickly and kicked Qin Ming's wallet out of Feng Dongxian's hand.

Feng Dongxian frowned and reprimanded, "Kelly Olson, what do you think you're doing?"

Kelly put her fists in the air and readied herself as she stood beside Qin Ming to protect him. She replied, "I am protecting my employer. He is my boss, and you are a nobody to me. Fair warning. I will not show any mercy if you try to steal my boss' things again."

Feng Dongxian rolled up his sleeves and claimed confidently, "Okay, fine. It's been years, and it's time I see if you've improved."

Feng Dongxian swept the floor with one of his legs and ended up drawing an invisible semi-circle when he readied himself. After that, he jumped into the sky and reached out to take the wallet back.

Kelly was fast when she kicked over, but Feng Dongxian's seemingly ordinary hands blocked it.

His stance was firm, and he never budged.

Kelly raised her brows and changed her tactic. She threw a punch instead. She was thin and sexy, but her punch was heavy and aggressive. Every punch she threw at Feng Dongxian was faster than the last, and that forced Feng Dongxian to back away.

Qin Ming stared from the side. He felt like he was watching an action movie where two experts are having an all-out fight. Every move was precise, and every punch was cruel. Kelly might be a woman, and she weighed less than Feng Dongxian, but she was fast and fierce. Her blonde hair danced as she battled like a heroine.

Feng Dongxian might be old, but he was as strong as a young man. Qin Ming examined Feng Dongxian's fighting style. It felt like Feng Dongxian had merged Muay Thai, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and Chinese Kung Fu. He had mastered techniques from several cultures, and Kelly might be fierce, but Feng Dongxian's techniques kept up with her.

Qin Ming's wallet kept going back and forth between the two of them, and the battle remained unsettled even though they had been at it for five minutes.

A street sprinkler drove past the neighborhood at that moment, and the water spewed over. Neither Feng Dongxian nor Kelly wanted to get wet, so they both backed away. Unfortunately, neither was holding Qin Ming's wallet at the time, and it fell right down to the sewer below.

The wallet slipped past the gap between the metal bars and was gone.

"F*ck!" shouted Qin Ming as he hurried over to the sewer. It was dark, but it was clear that water was running underneath, so the wallet was washed away.

Qin Ming looked sorrowful when he groaned, "My identity card, credit card, student pass, scholarship, ah, and the money Ms. Liao gave me..."

Things did not play out the way Feng Dongxian

expected, but his objective was achieved nonetheless. He politely bowed to Qin Ming and said, "Boss, if you come back to us, you will have even more money to spend. I will also accept any punishment you deem fit."

Qin Ming replied furiously, "F*ck off. Do you honestly think that I can't survive without money? I have always been a poor lad, and I am used to being broke. I don't care about wealth or glory, and I can earn money on my own!"

Feng Dongxian sighed and pointed out, "It's like what Master Chang said. It's easy to leave poverty and get used to a rich life, but it is daunting to leave a rich life and return to poverty. Boss, I pray that you will understand that this world is cruel, sooner rather than later."

How could Qin Ming not know that the world was cruel?

He understood that better than anyone else. No one lived their whole life in comfort and having experienced hardship was what trained Qin Ming to be resilient and confident.

Qin Ming had Kelly return the car and persisted in not using any of the corporation's resources so that he could distance himself from the corporation. After that, he went to re-apply and collect all of his documentations. It took him some time to settle everything, but it wasn't anything he couldn't handle.

Chang Hongxi had Qin Ming under surveillance, and Qin Ming knew that, but he didn't care. He had his own principles and bottom lines, and he refused to compromise. Qin Ming refused to be Chang Hongxi's puppet, even though Chang Hongxi was offering immense wealth.

Qin Ming walked to the market on his own.

Walking the entire way got Qin Ming to sweat when he reached his destination. The recruitment agency was packed, and many students from poor families were there searching for part-time jobs. They wanted to train themselves instead of going home for the holidays.

Qin Ming used to be one of them as well.

Qin Ming looked around before he saw Bai Yuchun, who was pushed to a corner. She was wearing a pair of jeans that had been washed so many times that it was turning white, and her shirt had patches on it. She had her hair tied to a ponytail, and she looked energetic and determined.

Unfortunately, she couldn't compete against the boys, so she was tip-toeing at the side to look at the notice board.

Qin Ming walked over. He blocked the man who was about to cut past Bai Yuchun, then made way for Bai Yuchun to move forward.

Bai Yuchun soon realized that someone was helping her, so she quickly said, "Thank you... Huh? Qin Ming?"

Bai Yuchun grinned in surprise when she saw Qin Ming there. She hadn't seen him in a while, and she didn't think that Qin Ming would be there after they had just texted.

Qin Ming asked, "Still looking for a job?"

Bai Yuchun nodded shyly and replied, "Yeah, I haven't found anything ideal."

Qin Ming grinned and asked, "What kind of job are you looking for? I'll help you."

Bai Yuchun stared at Qin Ming and noticed that he was sweating a lot. She assumed that he had walked the entire way, so she fished a handkerchief out of her second-hand bag and said, "Gosh, you're sweating so much."

Qin Ming held Bai Yuchun's handkerchief and realized that it smelled like her.

He returned it and pointed out, "I better not use it. I'm sweating so much, and it'd just dirty your handkerchief."

Bai Yuchun replied, "This handkerchief is supposed to wipe sweat away. Besides, it's just sweat, so how is it dirty?"

As Bai Yuchun spoke, she tiptoed to help Qin Ming wipe his sweat off.

Qin Ming grinned and said, "Thank you."

Bai Yuchun quickly helped Qin Ming wipe his sweat off before she tilted her head down shyly. She looked a little nervous and didn't seem to know what to say.

Qin Ming asked again, "So, uh, what kind of job are you looking for?"

Qin Ming tilted her head up and pursed her lips before answering, "Something indoor. This Summer is too hot, and I might get dehydrated if I have to work outdoors. I can't fall ill or I won't be able to make any money."

Qin Ming pointed at an advertisement for jobs and asked, "How about being a salesperson inside a mall? The pay is pretty good, and you can make about seventy a day."

Bai Yuchun bit her lip. She looked at the advertisement then at Qin Ming before asking, "Qin Ming, are you looking for a job too?"

Qin Ming narrowed his eyes. He was broke at

that moment, and it didn't feel right to ask Ms. Liao for more money, so he nodded and said, "Yeah, I'm broke too, so I gotta make some pocket money."

A hand suddenly tapped on Qin Ming's shoulder, and a guy said, "You know you're broke, so why don't you move aside?"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Qin Ming turned around and saw that the man was a handsome dude in a Burberry outfit. He had a cool hairstyle and a branded watch. He also wore a pair of sunglasses, and he was chewing gum while his other hand was in his pocket. The guy looked like a proud, spoiled brat.

It seemed that it was true how a person's outfit could determine how they were treated.

The handsome dude had just shown up in the mall, and his expensive outfit already made him stand out in a crowd of broke students.

Qin Ming thought the guy was looking for a job, so Qin Ming held Bai Yuchun's hand to lead her to the side. As they walked, he suggested, "Aside from being a salesperson at the mall, a stock exchange firm is also looking for part-time workers to be a telemarketer. The job is rather easy, and the firm is always looking to hire. You can also learn about the financial market while you're there."

The handsome dude immediately stepped up and criticized, "Oy, watch your hand. What do you

think you're doing? Are you trying to take advantage of her?"

Qin Ming had zero intention of taking advantage of anybody. He and Bai Yuchun knew each other well, and they acted naturally. It was obvious that a senior was just looking out for a junior, and the two friends were simply holding hands for a short while. What is wrong with that?

Qin Ming turned to Bai Yuchun and asked, "You know the guy?"

Bai Yuchun replied exasperatedly, "This is Jingcheng. He used to study in the university with us, and he recently graduated."

Qin Ming murmured a reply. Ah, so he's one of the boys courting Bai Yuchun. This is probably the rich heir that Bai Dayou was talking about. Qin Ming later spoke aloud, "Jingcheng, I thought you are here to look at the notice board. What brings you here?"

Cao Jingcheng took his sunglasses off and scanned Qin Ming from head to toe. Cao

Jingcheng had his people investigated Qin Ming because Qin Ming was the only male friend that Bai Yuchun was close to. There were rumors about the two of them being in a relationship, and it was said that Qin Ming had dated several women simultaneously.

However, Cao Jingcheng later learned that Qin Ming was in a relationship with Nie Haitang of the Nie family. It seemed that Qin Ming had become rich after he started dating her, but the Nie family opposed that relationship.

Nie Haitang's mom even went as far as making up an excuse and conning Nie Haitang to go on a blind date overseas. Nie Haitang later returned, and the two of them got back together.

However, the Nie family was no longer a prominent family in Guang City, and the family had left. Nie Haitang disappeared as well. This guy must've been dumped and is a single dude who is poor as f*ck!

Cao Jingcheng thought, You stupid kept man. You can't get into a rich family and are back to

badger Bai Yuchun again, huh? You think you can just get whatever you want? Beautiful women like Bai Yuchun are rare. She stands out even without putting any make-up on or wearing anything fashionable. No wonder poor saps like you are into her. Haha, I must have her and get all of you jealous!

Cao Jingcheng then spoke up, "I'm not here for you. I am here to talk to Bai Yuchun."

Bai Yuchun looked troubled. If she was being honest, the past three weeks had been horrible for her. Cao Jingcheng would follow her everywhere and would keep asking her out. He even got in the way of her job and kept giving her gifts.

Bai Yuchun rejected him repeatedly and refused to accept anything from him, but he remained persistent.

Bai Yuchun was just a girl from a poor family, so she didn't dare to offend a member of the powerful Cao family. She tried to be polite however she could, and when she couldn't, she fled and hid away.

The only thing good about Cao Jingcheng was that at least he wasn't as aggressive as Wang Chenghu. If he were, Bai Yuchun would have to ask for Qin Ming's help again.

Bai Yuchun replied, "Sorry, Jingcheng, but we're busy now and will have to get ready for our interview later."

Cao Jingcheng spoke sweetly as he offered, "Yuchun, I've told you that you can come work in my father's company. You can pick any position you want, and if there's anything you don't understand or can't work on, I will have the more experienced employees teach you. You can work for half days when school reopens, and the company will pay you as a full-time employee, anyway. You will also be promoted to a managerial position as soon as you graduate."

The hell? Those benefits are too d*mn good. What is she? His biological daughter?

Qin Ming was rather envious of that because he was broke at that moment and had nothing.

Qin Ming still had his phone with him, but the money in his e-wallet was pitifully little, and the sewer had taken away the card that held the real money.

Bai Yuchun was obviously not buying any of that. She understood that a job with that many benefits came with strings attached, and she would have to be Cao Jingcheng's girlfriend to get it. A relationship built on the foundation of physical attraction was the most unreliable and powerless relationship of all.

Bai Yuchun had seen it with her own eyes before. She used to have a beautiful classmate who got together with a rich heir. At first, everyone was jealous of how happy she was, but she later went through two abortions and was dumped. The guy made up some excuse about how things had changed, and he no longer loved her.

Bai Yuchun didn't know the specifics of what happened, but the girl brawled and became depressed. Her teacher and parents had to console her for a long time before she finally got back on her feet.

After that incident, Bai Yuchun started being repulsed by the rich brats who tried to court her.

They're only interested in my face and my body.

That was not the first time Bai Yuchun truly hated her beauty. Her stunning face was the reason she was bullied when she was a kid, and that same face was the reason she was troubled at her university. Most people got close to her because of that face.

Bai Yuchun preferred someone who knew her heart and her soul, and that someone was Qin Ming.

Qin Ming was already in a relationship with Nie Haitang when he met Bai Yuchun, so Qin Ming only helped her as a friend. He never had any strange requests, nor had he ever lusted after her.

Qin Ming also helped take care of her mother. Additionally, he didn't ask them to pay rent or make any unreasonable demands, and that was something Bai Yuchun truly appreciated. The fact that Qin Ming had saved her multiple times only

made her like him even more.

Bai Yuchun rejected immediately and reminded, "I've said this a thousand times, Jingcheng. I am not interested in working for your family's company. Please leave. Qin Ming, let's go."

Cao Jingcheng felt terrible about being rejected yet again. He didn't understand how a poor sap was better than him.

Why is Qin Ming, that poor sap, so popular?

Cao Jingcheng fished a stack of cash out of his pocket and said, "Qin Ming, please leave right away. I will give you a thousand in exchange for that."

Pfft, throwing money to chase others away? Yep, definitely a rich brat with no brains.

Qin Ming shook his head and replied, "No thanks. We're too busy to play this game with you."

Cao Jingcheng upped his offer and said, "Five

thousand. You can't make that much even if you work for an entire month."

Qin Ming was annoyed, and he turned around, "Make it ten thousand. I won't leave for anything less."

Cao Jingcheng was furious. Raising the price just like that? The poor truly are scheming. Cao Jingcheng thought before he yelled, "Oy, don't push it, punk."

"And now it's twenty thousand," sneered Qin Ming.

"You!" growled Cao Jingcheng, who was downright furious. He immediately walked to his luxurious car and got twenty thousand in cash before he returned and said, "Here's twenty thousand. Take it and f*ck off. Bai Yuchun, do see what kind of man he is now? He would abandon you just like that. He is nothing but a j*rk who only cares about money."

Qin Ming grabbed the money and turned to the crowd that was looking at the notice board. After

that, he waved the wad of cash around and shouted, "Hey, this rich dude took pity on us poor folks and is giving out money. Come get it!"

Qin Ming tossed the cash immediately after and twenty thousand danced in the air.

The people looking at the board turned wild when they saw all that money raining down. They hurried over to grab the cash.

They didn't even remember what Qin Ming said. All they really heard were the words, "Come get it."

"Oy, you!" blurted Cao Jingcheng, who didn't expect Qin Ming to toss the money like that. A huge crowd came dashed over, and Qin Ming grabbed Bai Yuchun's hand before dragging her and running in the opposite direction. Before Qin Ming ran, he kicked Cao Jingcheng's knee and got the rich brat to fall. That made Cao Jingcheng trapped in between the crowd that was there to snatch the cash.

Qin Ming and Bai Yuchun ran for some distance,

and they watched as Cao Jingcheng was shoved around by the others. Qin Ming and Bai Yuchun turned to one another before they smiled simultaneously.

Bai Yuchun said, "You are so evil, Qin Ming. Aren't you afraid that he'd remember this and get back at you?"

Qin Ming smiled and replied, "What's there to be afraid of? It's not like he's gonna bite me or anything. C'mon, I'll take you somewhere."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Qin Ming took Bai Yuchun to a library in Guang City and introduced, "This place hires a lot of part-time workers during the holidays, and the job is to re-shelf the books. The pay isn't that good, but it's indoors, and you'd get a lot of free time to study, so it's ideal for people like us. I know the supervisor as well, and he's a nice guy."

Bai Yuchun thought that the pay was a little too low because it was slightly less than half of what other part-time jobs pay. To make matters worse, the job didn't offer to cover for lunch.

Bai Yuchun asked, "Will you be working here as well, Qin Ming?"

Qin Ming thought about it for a while before replying, "I'll probably stick around for a month. My arm is injured, so working here to pass time is a pretty good deal for me."

When Bai Yuchun heard that Qin Ming was going to stay, she nodded and replied, "Then I'll stay for a month too."

The two of them later filled in the application

forms and started working immediately.

Qin Ming was only there to pass his time. All he had to do was wait for Kelly to help him get all the paperwork ready. His arm would probably have recovered by then, and he could use the money he had with him to start a business on his own.

The only reason he brought Bai Yuchun along was so that he'd have a friend to chat with.

After putting the books away that afternoon, the two of them had some free time, so they read a book inside the office.

Qin Ming was enjoying his book, but Bai Yuchun was a little distracted. She would turn to Qin Ming from time to time, and she seemed curious about something, yet didn't know how to ask.

"What is it?" asked Qin Ming, when he realized that Bai Yuchun was acting off.

Bai Yuchun quickly hid her blushing face with the book before she answered, "I-it's nothing. H-

how did you injure your arm?"

Qin Ming grinned and replied, "I got into a fight with someone. I won, though."

Bai Yuchun's heart ached when she stared at Qin Ming's arm. It had been some time since she last saw Qin Ming, but it was likely that his life hadn't been great. It even got to the point where he had to fight.

Bai Yuchun bit her lip and hesitated for a moment before asking, "I-is the fight about Ms. Nie? I heard that you two broke up, and her family had some issues, so she's not around anymore."

Qin Ming sighed and replied, "Yeah, we're separated due to some issues."

Bai Yuchun's heart thumped fast. She just heard some incredibly exciting news from Qin Ming.

She felt bad about the two of them breaking up, but that might be her only chance.

Bai Yuchun then asked, "D-do you still miss

her?"

Qin Ming spoke honestly without hiding anything, "Yeah, I miss her a lot, but I don't know where she is. I asked someone to help me look for her, and I might get some news in the future. Unfortunately, there is nothing to go on at the moment."

Bai Yuchun replied, "... Time goes on, and you can't let yourself go just because you lost her. You must persist. Uh... Life gets better, and the future is beautiful."

Qin Ming laughed and pointed out, "You're barely getting by, yet you're saying comforting words to me?"

Bai Yuchun felt awkward, and she had her book cover half of her blushing face when she said, "I'm just worried about you giving up. There are a lot of people who got into a lot of trouble just because they got dumped. Qin Ming, you're an incredible guy, and many women like you."

Bai Yuchun felt even shyer after she said those

words. She had her book lifted so high that her big, watery eyes were the only things revealed.

Qin Ming shook his head. He was the only one who understood how bitter and sad he felt.

Bai Yuchun's heart was beating fast, and she thought, Qin Ming is single, but I don't think he has moved on from Ms. Nie yet. Am I taking advantage of the situation? Does this count as being mean? Ah! No, no, it doesn't, because he was dumped, and Nie Haitang is at fault!

Bai Yuchun's eyes shone with wild emotions, and she was confused. She checked her pocket and saw that she had very little money with her. She strategized, I definitely can't afford a meal at a fancy restaurant, or even a regular one at that. Would it be weird if I take Qin Ming to the street stall? Maybe I should cook something for him. Still, isn't it a little too bold to go to his dorm on my own?

Qin Ming was reading his book happily, but Bai Yuchun was in a mess. She had always had feelings for Qin Ming, but he was already in a

relationship when they met, so she could only stare from afar and pray for his happiness.

Qin Ming had since become single, and Bai Yuchun felt like someone else would go after Qin Ming if she waited.

She wanted to find an excuse to have a meal with Qin Ming, but she was too shy to ask him out.

That morning, Qin Ming told her that her brother and his wife had stolen her mother's money.

Bai Yuchun used to be furious about that, but he was her brother, and she was influenced by her mother, so she always compromised.

However, things began to involve Qin Ming, and the more she thought about it, the more terrible she felt. She worked hard to make that money, so what gives them the right to steal it and spend it on themselves?

Bai Yuchun even started to hate Bai Dayou, and she had always wondered why she was cursed with a brother like that.

Most elder brothers would spoil their younger sisters, but her brother was the a*shole who kept trying to con his sister. The last incident with the loan sharks almost got her killed. Bai Yuchun gripped the money in her pocket, and she was becoming more and more furious. She was tempted to slap Bai Dayou to his death at that moment.

Qin Ming suddenly suggested, "Oh, right, you should come have some soup in the house in Green Island. My parents brought me two chickens when they last visited, and my sister is making soup tonight. There's no way I can finish everything, so you should come too. You're way too skinny, anyway. "

"Huh, oh, okay," replied Bai Yuchun as she nodded happily.

Bai Yuchun was envious of Qin Ming's family.

She only had her mother growing up because her dad fled when she was just a kid. She heard that her dad gambled and owed many people money, so they came after him to kill him, and he left

without saying a word.

Bai Yuchun was poor, so she was discriminated against. Moreover, she was beautiful, and her classmates were jealous of her, so she was bullied as well. She lacked love and protection from her own family, so she never felt safe. All that turned Bai Yuchun into a woman who seemed weak on the outside but was strong on the inside. She would not change her mind once she made a decision, and she would hold on until the end.

Her past was also the reason why she craved having a proper and happy family.

Qin Ming's family was a great example of that. His parents were both around, and he was close with his siblings. Everything was peaceful, and the family supported one another. That was the perfect family she had been dreaming about for decades.

Bai Yuchun sighed and leaned on the table. She had the book hiding her entire face as she murmured, "I was going to invite him to have a meal together and pay for it, but things turned the

other way around again. How should I talk to him?"

Bai Yuchun secretly fished her phone out of her pocket and played a video.

That was a recording of how Bai Dayou and his wife tried to force Bai Yuchun to marry into a rich family. They insisted that the house in Green Island was hers and wanted to move in, and that got her so furious that she jumped into the lake to protest with her death. In the end, Qin Ming rescued her.

Many had made a recording of what happened that day, and the videos were shared online. That caused a huge commotion, and when Bai Yuchun learned about it, she secretly saved a copy of that video on her phone.

She especially liked the part where Qin Ming performed the mouth-to-mouth resuscitation for her. He put pressure on her chest and breathed into her lips. The video clearly showed her wet body being repeatedly touched and kissed by Qin Ming.

Bai Yuchun would blush every time she saw that video, and she couldn't help placing her hands on her chest. Her legs would instinctively cross as well, and her mind would keep thinking about Qin Ming.

Qin Ming suddenly lifted the book and asked, "What are you doing, Chun? You look troubled."

"Ah!" shrieked Bai Yuchun before she leaned over the table and hid her phone. She answered, "I-I'm fine. I'm good."

Bzz! Bzz! Bai Yuchun's phone suddenly vibrated, and that surprised her. She quickly checked the screen and saw that her brother, Bai Dayou, had called her. She hesitated for a moment, but ultimately picked it up.

"Hello. What? Mom fainted? I'll head over right away," blurted Bai Yuchun.

Qin Ming felt that something bad was about to happen, so he asked, "What's wrong?"

Bai Yuchun replied nervously, "Qin Ming, my

brother said that my mom's heart acted up again, and she fainted. I have to go back right away."

Qin Ming frowned. Didn't He Menggu get the surgery? The doctor said that the surgery was a success, and there shouldn't be any complications...

Unfortunately, Qin Ming didn't have the time to analyze the situation, so he offered, "Alright, I'll go talk to the supervisor. It's probably fine for us to clock off an hour earlier. I'll walk you back."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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At first, Qin Ming thought that they would be heading to the hospital. After all, it was normal procedure to send an unconscious person over immediately.

However, they ended up going to the house. Qin Ming was tempted to yell at Bai Dayou and his wife. They just left He Menggu lying in the living room without calling the ambulance. Don't they know that every second matters?

"Mom? Mom," shouted Bai Yuchun as she rushed to He Menggu. That was when Bai Yuchun saw that He Menggu was pale.

Bai Yuchun asked, "What happened? Mom was fine after the surgery, so how did she pass out all of a sudden?"

Bai Dayou scoffed, "The doctors in the hospital must've been heartless and used improper tools or something. They just wanted to take the money."

Those words infuriated Qin Ming. He was the one who secretly set the surgery up for He Menggu, so Bai Dayou was practically insulting

Qin Ming as well. Qin Ming yelled, "Watch your language. You're the a*shole who gambled your mother's medical fee away, so who's the heartless one here?"

Bai Dayou was surprisingly frustrated, and Qin Ming's evil expression upset him. The former growled, "Oy, you are nothing but a servant, so what do you know? Your employer's house must have terrible Feng Shui, and that must've caused my mom to fall ill again!"

Qin Ming scoffed, "Feng Shui? Bai Dayou, are you still stuck in the previous century or something?"

Mrs. Bai growled, "Formaldehyde. The house's formaldehyde level must be off the charts. My mom stayed here for too long, and that's what got her sick. Qin Ming, this is all your fault!"

Qin Ming refuted calmly, "The house was inspected after its renovation, and the formaldehyde level was zero. The tests were performed by experts in the field, and you can get someone else to test it again if you don't believe

me. Moreover, my brother lives here, too, and if there are toxic chemicals around, why isn't he affected as well?"

Mrs. Bai couldn't refute that, so she instead insisted, "T-the Feng Shui here is bad, and it disrupted my mom's aura and emotion."

They were still arguing when Bai Yuchun fished out the phone and called the hospital. "Hello, is this the Public Hospital? Someone fainted..."

Bai Dayou snatched the phone over and turned it off before saying, "Hey, why are you calling the ambulance? Mom would be gone by the time they rush over. Go to the ground floor. My friend's car is already here."

Bai Yuchun was too worried to think, so she said, "T-then hurry."

Qin Ming, however, thought it was strange. If Bai Dayou truly was worried about his mother, why didn't he call the ambulance from the very beginning? Why did he call his friend instead?

Wouldn't an ambulance be faster? Moreover, the doctors would tag along and can treat her on the spot.

Qin Ming carried He Menggu on his back and walked down the stairs. When he reached the ground floor, he saw a luxurious car parked by the side. Isn't that Cao Jingcheng's car?

The guy's face was bruised and swollen, and that was the result of the incident at the mall that morning.

Cao Jingcheng didn't act up when he saw everyone walking over. Instead, he said, "What's wrong, Dayou?"

Bai Dayou replied, "My mom is sick. Please take her to the hospital."

Cao Jingcheng acted like an old pal and replied, "Awh, we're friends, so I should help out. Hurry and take her into the car. I'll drive her over to the hospital right away."

Qin Ming wasn't too surprised to see Cao

Jingcheng there. It was likely that the latter got in touch with Bai Dayou, so that it was easier for him to court Bai Yuchun.

It made sense because people like Bai Dayou and his wife were just too easy to deal with. All anyone had to do was to pay them to get them to do anything.

Qin Ming was exasperated. They were just like Nie Haitang's mother. The only difference was that they only wanted petty cash, while Nie Haitang's mother wanted immense wealth.

Qin Ming wanted to get into the car after everyone else had gotten in.

However, Bai Dayou pushed him aside and growled, "What do you think you're doing? How shameless are you, Qin Ming?"

Mrs. Bai finally got her chance to retaliate, so she scolded, "Who the hell do you think you are, Qin Ming? This is our family's business, so why are you butting in? You are nothing but a poor sap, and you think you can court Chun? Look at

yourself in the mirror. Mr. Cao actually owns the car, and your poor, dirty clothes will just mess it up. Why don't you drive your boss' car and pretend to be cool again?"

Cao Jingcheng also chimed in, "Sorry, Qin Ming, but my car is full with five adults. Please take the bus. The Public Hospital isn't far."

Qin Ming frowned. My gosh, these people truly are a*sholes.

Bai Yuchun felt bad when she saw them attacking Qin Ming like that, but she had no choice.

Qin Ming could tell that Bai Yuchun was troubled, so he tapped her shoulder and promised, "It's fine. It's an urgent matter, so you go ahead. I'll grab a bus over."

Bai Dayou interrupted, "You don't need to go. What's the point of you coming? To bring us more bad luck? We have Mr. Cao with us, and he is wealthier, more handsome, and more capable than you are. Just keep your f*cking distance."

Qin Ming didn't want to waste any more time, so he just walked away.

Bai Yuchun wanted to sit in the back seat, so she said to her brother, "I'll take the back seat. You sit at the front."

However, Bai Dayou insisted, "No, you take the front seat. Go now. Hurry."

Bai Yuchun had no choice but to sit at the front.

Cao Jingcheng grinned sweetly when he sat down on the driver's side of the car. He pointed at a bouquet before claiming, "I wanted to give this to you this morning, but I didn't get a chance to. You don't mind accepting it now, do you?"

Bai Yuchun genuinely didn't want to accept any gift, but her mom was unconscious at the moment. Can you f*cking hurry over to the hospital already? Why the f*ck are you still talking about flowers?

Unfortunately, Cao Jingcheng looked like he would not drive until she accepted them, so Bai

Yuchun had no choice but to smile politely and awkwardly. She accepted the flower and said, "Thank you. Please hurry and take her to the hospital."

Cao Jingcheng laughed aloud and claimed, "Don't worry. We'll be there soon."

Qin Ming was left on that street all alone. There was a time when Long would be driving over in another car, and he could go anywhere he wanted.

Unfortunately, he had since cut all ties with the corporation, so he was broke, and his car was gone.

Qin Ming murmured sadly, "I guess this is what the ancient saying meant when it says that it is difficult to progress within poverty. Feng Dongxiang, you old fart, I will get back at you for this."

Qin Ming had no choice but to run to the bus stop.

When he finally reached the hospital, he received a text from Bai Yuchun saying that they never went to Public Hospital. They were in General Hospital, and she didn't know about it until she was already there.

Qin Ming wasn't annoyed or upset to receive that text. He simply got suspicious.

This hospital is nearer, has better facilities, and He Menggu got her surgery here the last time. Why did Bai Dayou want them to go to General Hospital?

Half an hour later, Qin Ming got on the bus once more and headed to the General Hospital.

When Qin Ming finally reached the place, He Menggu had already been taken in to the operating theatre. Her family, Xie Guangkun and He Menglian, were there as well.

Xie Tao was nowhere to be seen, though. I wonder if Zhao Fugui has dumped her yet?

Qin Ming was about to ask Bai Yuchun how

things were when He Menglian walked over and pulled Qin Ming aside. She asked, "Qin Ming, where is Zhao Fugui from your class? Did he get a new girlfriend? Why hasn't he called Tao?"

Qin Ming immediately understood that the two of them had broken up within two weeks.

He replied, "We may be in the same class, but we're not close, so I have no idea where he is either."

Xie Guangkun complained angrily, "That scum is a playboy. My beautiful girl was conned and has lost so much."

Qin Ming shook his head. Isn't this kind of your fault too? You are blinded by Zhao Fugui's money and ignored his bad behavior, which ultimately got you to talk endlessly on his behalf.

Bai Yuchun walked over at that moment. She looked unsettled as she claimed, "Qin Ming, do you think my mom can get through this? My mom suffered her entire life and had never been happy before. If she... I don't even want to think

about how bad things would be."

Qin Ming tapped on Bai Yuchun's hand to comfort her before saying, "Don't worry. It's going to be fine."

Mrs. Bai walked over all of a sudden and pried the two apart before growling, "Oy, Qin Ming, you shameless idiot, why are you always around? And let go of Chun's hand. Our family's issue has nothing to do with you. You're not welcomed here, so leave already!"

Bai Yuchun refuted angrily, "I'm the one who asked him over, and he's just being nice."

Bai Dayou complained, "Seriously, sis, I don't get you. Qin Ming is nothing but a penniless sap, so what's the point of getting him here? Just to have him lie and put on an act? Mr. Cao can help us pay for the surgery, and we're in the ICU now. It's going to be ridiculously expensive, and our family is too poor to pay for it. Let me ask you something, Qin Ming, can you get us the money right away?"

Qin Ming frowned and kept quiet. If the timing weren't that terrible, he would've been able to get the money together right away, but he couldn't do so at that moment.

"Pfft," scoffed Bai Dayou in distaste as he insulted, "You penniless sap, do you see how there's no point in you coming over at all? Mr. Cao is the one that can help."

"Enough!" shouted Bai Yuchun loudly all of a sudden to interrupt Bai Dayou.

Everyone was surprised by that. Bai Yuchun had always been sweet and spoke softly, so why was she suddenly going off like that.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Bai Yuchun was incredibly furious at the time. She could endure it if they were hurting her, but she refused to stand idly by as they bullied Qin Ming like that.

If Qin Ming hadn't helped them earlier, their family would be living in hell at that moment. Heck, their mother might've already passed by now. The mysterious donor who paid for her mother's surgery was also Qin Ming's boss, and Bai Yuchun assumed that he only helped because Qin Ming asked for it. As such, the family still owed Qin Ming a huge favor.

Bai Yuchun clenched her fist, and her emotions ran wild as she growled, "The two of you stole the two hundred thousand meant to pay for mom's surgery. Of those two hundred thousand, Qin Ming gathered one hundred thousand while I borrowed the other hundred thousand. The creditor later called us and demanded payment, and Qin Ming's boss was the one who was kind enough to help us out with it. Neither of you has the right to yell at him until you at least repay him every penny you stole!"

Bai Dayou's face turned red, but he couldn't say anything because that was the cold, harsh truth.

He was an asshole, and he knew it well. He didn't care, though, all he wanted was money.

Bai Yuchun continued reprimanding, "You guys gambled so much that you owe others five hundred thousand! If Qin Ming hadn't helped the last time, your wife wouldn't be able to return in one piece. Hell, if the creditor didn't know Qin Ming, neither one of you would be given an extension to pay off your debts. Both of you owe Qin Ming so much, yet you are not grateful. Instead, you're insulting him like that. What gives you the right to do so?"

Mrs. Bai rolled her eyes and looked scornful. She turned around and couldn't even be bothered to listen.

Bai Dayou, however, tilted his head down in shame. He didn't even dare to look his sister in the eye.

Bai Yuchun wasn't finished, though. She added,

"Yes, Mr. Cao is extremely wealthy, but what does that have to do with Qin Ming? And what does that have to do with me? I need Qin Ming's help, and he is willing to help me, so what does that have to do with either of you? This is the hospital. It's not your home, and Qin Ming can come and go as he pleases. You have no right to chase him away!"

After venting it all out, Bai Yuchun realized that everyone was flabbergasted and had their eyes on her.

They were simply too surprised. Bai Yuchun was a sweet and caring woman, and she regularly spoke softly. She had always been the one who silently endured everything, and that was the first time she dissed her brother and his wife. All that change just to defend Qin Ming.

Qin Ming was surprised as well. Is this the same Bai Yuchun I know? Awh, she's all grown up. Her words got her brother and sister-in-law to shut up, and it sounds like yelling it all out was fun.

A nurse suddenly popped out and reminded, "Kid, you're in a hospital, so don't be loud. If you have to argue, do it somewhere else."

"Oh, okay," replied Bai Yuchun after being scolded. She clamped her mouth shut once more, and she looked pitiful when she turned to Qin Ming. His flabbergasted expression only got her to blush even more, and she stood to the side of the wall and thought, Oh no, oh no! Qin Ming must think that I have a bad temper now.

They waited for a long time before the doctor got out of the emergency room.

Everyone hurried over to ask how things were.

The doctor replied, "The patient had food poisoning, and she was brought over too late. That delayed her treatment. She just underwent a heart surgery some time ago, and her heart is extremely weak. Plus, her brain didn't have enough oxygen due to the delay. We're trying our best to help her, and we will need to use some imported medications. Those are slightly more expensive. Here, you guys should go settle these

fees first."

Everyone turned quiet after hearing what the doctor said. The situation seemed grave.

Bai Dayou got nervous and asked, "That's not right. Doc, how much would it take to help my mother? Didn't she simply pass out? I thought this is all because the surgeon for her heart surgery didn't do a good job?"

The doctor replied, "It would cost about two hundred thousand or so to treat the patient. She was poisoned with aconitine. I don't even know how someone could end up eating something like this. Fortunately, her heart surgery was done well, and her recovery seemed to be going smoothly. That allowed her exhausted heart to recover quite a bit. Still, if you guys hadn't gotten her over in time, she would've passed away from deprivation of oxygen to her brain."

Qin Ming's heart trembled upon hearing the word 'poison'.

He Menggu had always cooked her own meals at

home. My brother isn't poisoned too, is he?

Qin Ming quickly called Qin Chaoyang and asked, "Hey, you don't have any food poisoning or anything, do you?"

Qin Chaoyang was surprised when he heard that question. Still, he replied, "Not at all. I'm perfectly fine. Why'd you ask?"

Qin Ming sighed a breath of relief after hearing that. It seemed that there wasn't any issue with their daily food intake. What did He Menggu have for lunch then?

Qin Ming asked, "Bai Dayou, how did you find your mom? You just stole the money from your mom this morning, so why did you drop by again this afternoon?"

Bai Dayou shifted his gaze guiltily before he suddenly yelled, "What the f*ck? Are you interrogating me? You are nothing but a servant, so why should I answer any of your questions? Saving my mom is the most important matter right now. You're too poor to do anything, so f*ck

off."

Mrs. Bai shouted as well, "He's right. Do you have the money to help? If not, freaking leave."

Qin Ming was truly stumped. He happened to not have any money that day, so he couldn't say anything.

The two married couples later walked to Cao Jingcheng and smiled politely before saying, "Mr. Cao, as you see, the situation is terrible now. Please help us out with our family's issue."

Cao Jingcheng replied, "The medical fee means nothing to me, but... I need a reason for wasting so much money. Bai Dayou, we may be acquaintances and friends, but my family will still demand an explanation from me if I suddenly spend so much. I honestly don't have a good explanation right now."

Bai Dayou immediately dragged Bai Yuchun over and said, "Hey, sis, hurry and help us ask Mr. Cao for his help. We must beg if we have to. He is the only person who can save our mom now."

Mrs. Bai added, "It's true. Our family, and even our relatives, are too poor. No one can afford something like this."

After that, Mrs. Bai turned to He Menglian and her husband. Both of them rolled their eyes as if He Menggu being hospitalized meant nothing to them. Their family couldn't actually afford anything, though.

He Menglian was cruel and direct when she handed two thousand to Bai Yuchun. The former said, "Your mom is my sister, but you two are still her children and should be the ones dealing with the matter. Here's two thousand to help with recovery post-surgery. Chun, keep it safe, and don't let your brother get ahold of it."

Two thousand... And He Menglian acted like that was all she needed to do.

Bai Yuchun felt her life being swallowed by darkness once more. She barely had any energy left to keep her head up at that moment. The burden caused by her family was crushing her. It was just like when her mother needed heart

surgery. Everything was about money.

Qin Ming didn't have the money, so he couldn't help her, and she couldn't shamelessly ask Qin Ming to borrow money from his boss again. After all, she still owed the donor a lot of money and a favor.

Qin Ming stared at Bai Yuchun. She was only nineteen and was supposed to be studying in college and enjoying her life. However, she was suffering so much for her family. How will a woman so thin and weak deal with all this?

Cao Jingcheng spoke up at that moment, "I can actually pay for the medical fees if Bai Yuchun agrees to be my girlfriend. As your boyfriend, it'd be my duty to help you out, and I'd be able to give my family a valid explanation if they ask about why I'm spending so much money. Don't worry, Yuchun. We studied in the same university and knew each other well. This is actually the perfect solution. Will you take me as your boyfriend?"

An ancient saying taught them that a gentleman would never take advantage of someone while they were low.

Unfortunately, that was a time when no one wanted to be a gentleman. Most preferred being an ordinary dude who flirted endlessly, wasted money all the time, and basically led an easier life.

Still, being an ordinary man wasn't equivalent to being an a*shole. Cao Jingcheng's request had plainly labeled him as a j*rk.

Bai Yuchun was so angry that she clenched her fist and trembled in anger. Despite all that, she was still gorgeous.

Qin Ming grinned when he saw that. Those idiots were fooled by her beautiful appearance. She may look weak, but she is persistent and strong underneath it all. She will not bow down to hardship and is someone who cannot be forced.

Bai Yuchun rejected that offer immediately, "It's fine, Jingcheng. It is unreasonable to ask you to

pay for my mom's hefty medical fees, so there's no need for you to do that. We will find some other way to deal with it."

"What the f*ck?" blurted Bai Dayou, who thought, Why is my sister so dumb? She wouldn't even accept the money right in front of her. Hell, if I have a figure that sexy and a face that beautiful, I would've jumped right onto the guy's bed. You can make money just by lying on the bed, so why would you turn that down?

Mrs. Bai was exasperated as well. She kept advising, "Mom's life is in your hands, Chun. Did you see how Mr. Cao drove the car and is willing to pay for the medical fees just for our mom? He also loves you with all his heart. He's young, capable, and rich. Amazing men like that are virtually impossible to find, so why are you still hesitating?"

Bai Yuchun didn't bother to even look at Cao Jingcheng. Before, she would be polite since they knew each other from school, but that day, she started loathing Cao Jingcheng with her entire being. He's just another a*shole who is acting up

to get to me.

Bai Yuchun turned to Qin Ming. She knew that he was broke. If he weren't, he wouldn't have gone to do a part-time job with her.

Cao Jingcheng signaled Bai Dayou and his wife endlessly at that moment to get them to do something.

Mrs. Bai dragged her husband to the side and said, "You have to come up with something quickly, or all our previous efforts would be for naught. The guy's paying us a hundred thousand, and we can't let that money slip through of our fingers."

Turned out, the entire incident was a scheme plotted by Bai Dayou, his wife, and Cao Jingcheng.

Bai Dayou got a little nervous, and he replied, "She refused to be with him. What can I do about that? Mr. Cao is interested in her, not me."

Mrs. Bai punched his arm and scolded, "That's

why I told you to come up with something. Your sister has always loved your mother. Use that love to con her or pressure her or something."

Bai Dayou licked his lips. He decided to go all out for the hundred thousand offered. He also wanted to make it easier to con money out of his sister in the future.

He walked to Bai Yuchun and knelt down before crying, "Yuchun, you can't let our mom die. You know how much she loves and cares about you. She has always loved you the most. She would rather go hungry just so you would be full, and she would save all the best clothes for you. She even spent her life savings to pay for your education. Please, Yuchun. Will you save our mother? I was wrong in the past, and I deserve to die..."

Bai Dayou paused to slap himself across the face before continuing, "But our mom is in grave danger right now, and you must save her. If we get through this, I promise that I will change and work hard. We will care for mom together, and I will help pay your tuition fees, okay?"

Mrs. Bai helped by saying, "Chun, a human's life is hanging on the balance. You can't abandon our mom like that. She is fighting right there in the ICU, but the hospital won't administer the medication to save her life if we don't have the money."

Cao Jingcheng jumped in as well. "Yuchun, we've known each other for so long, and you know me well. You know how much I love you and how I have been courting you for over two years. I have never given up on you before. What I'm doing right now may be evil, but it's only because I love you too much to care about being nice."

Bai Yuchun was troubled when she saw her brother kneeling like that. She wanted to discuss the matter with Qin Ming, but the guy was nowhere to be found.

He Menglian caught that from the side, so she informed, "Qin Ming walked to that direction. I'm guessing he left because he knew that he was broke and can't do anything, anyway."

Bai Dayou immediately pointed out, "See? That

Qin Ming is unreliable and fled at a crucial moment like this. He is absolutely useless and only knows how to put on a show. All he wants is to sleep with you. Yuchun, this is the perfect solution. You can be in a happy relationship, and our mom will be saved. Your relationship might even progress into a beautiful marriage."

Mrs. Bai forcefully dragged Bai Yuchun's hand to Cao Jingcheng as she said, "Come, Chun. Take Mr. Cao's hand, and our mom will be saved."

Cao Jingcheng looked excited. Bai Yuchun was resisting, but she didn't have a choice. She could not back away once their hands touched. He would not let go once he held her hand, and he knew that the peer pressure would crush the last bit of defense in Bai Yuchun's heart.

Cao Jingcheng was delighted as if he had already won. He thought, That penniless sap, Qin Ming, knew he was too broke to compete against me and finally left, huh?

The pressure from her family was overwhelming Bai Yuchun, and she was lost. Qin Ming being

away meant that her last emotional support was away as well.

Bai Yuchun wanted to break free from Mrs. Bai's hold, but Mrs. Bai was too strong, and Bai Yuchun couldn't do anything about it. Still, everyone could tell that Bai Yuchun was extremely reluctant.

Bai Yuchun claimed, "No, I don't want this. I-I can come up with something. I'll go borrow some money or ask for a loan."

Bai Dayou insisted, "Didn't the loan sharks almost kill you? Asking for another loan would just push you towards your end. Mr. Cao is capable, young, and rich. Countless women dream of being with a man like him, so please just get in a relationship with him?"

Xie Guangkun spoke up from the side as well, "It's true. I would die without worry if my daughter, Tao, have met someone as amazing as Mr. Cao."

He Menglian was feeling jealous as she stood at

the side. She didn't understand why her sister's luck was that good. That Bai Dayou is a total mess, though. He Menglian thought that, at least, was funny.

Cao Jingcheng noticed that Bai Yuchun still refused to reach for him, even though they had been struggling for some time. Hence, he decided to take the initiative and walk over. The woman he lusted after, the one he spent so much effort on... I must get her.

A young lady in a pair of seven-inch high heels and curly hair rushed over from the other side of the corridor before Cao Jingcheng even touched Bai Yuchun. The woman was quick, and she slapped Bai Yuchun across the face.

Slap! That was a loud and heavy slap.

The young lady shouted as she slapped yet again, "You homewrecker. How dare you seduce my man? B*tch! Let me tell you something. Cao Jingcheng is my man. You think you can be a mistress just because you have a pretty face? You worthless skank. Have you no shame or dignity?"

Do I need to teach you basic human decency?"

Bai Dayou, Xie Guangkun, He Menglian, and the others were all surprised. When did he get a girlfriend? And why is she here?

They saw how angry the young lady was, and everything was instantly clear. That f*cked up Cao Jingcheng planned to cheat on his girlfriend? Yep, he's definitely a playboy from a rich family.

Cao Jingcheng was surprised by that as well. His voice even trembled when he spoke, "L-li, w-what brings you here?"

The young lady growled angrily, "Cao Jingcheng, have you forgotten about how you asked me out on a movie date today? Has this homewrecker seduced you so much that your mind is gone? Do you take me as someone who can be bullied?"

Li later turned around and fished a red lipstick out of her purse. She pressed the lipstick on Bai Yuchun's face and reprimanded, "You don't know basic human decency, so I will write it on your face to remind you! You worthless b*tch. Do you

not have any skills other than seducing taken men? Your family is dying, huh? You don't have the money to pay for the medical bill? Good! They can go ahead and die. Then you'd have no excuse to seduce my man anymore!"

Bai Yuchun struggled to break free as she explained, "No, I-I didn't. Help!"

Two women were fighting in the corridor outside the ICU, and the situation was in a mess.

The security guards rushed over to stop them, but a number of women showed up to block their paths. The one who led them was a rich, middle-aged woman in an expensive outfit. She threatened, "The security guards can leave. This has nothing to do with you. My future daughter-in-law is here today to deal with a homewrecker. Girls, go strip that woman naked. I'd like to take a good look at the shameless woman who seduced my son!"

Cao Jingcheng was terrified when he saw his mother there. He didn't even dare to breathe too loudly, and he knew that his plan to get to Bai

Yuchun would not be fruitful that day.

A few more women showed up to strip Bai Yuchun.

Bai Yuchun was in pain and was hopeless. Her brother and his wife were too afraid to help her, and her relatives were standing idly by and watching the show. Bai Yuchun thought, Qin Ming, even you have abandoned me, huh? I guess that makes sense. I am an unlucky charm, and you have been dragged into countless troubles after you met me.

Slap!

Bai Yuchun was feeling hopeless when a loud slap rang up. She felt the pressure on her body being lifted, and the women who were trying to strip her had disappeared. Bai Yuchun was lying on the floor at that moment, and all she saw was the back of a strong man guarding over her.

Qin Ming had gotten into an argument with Chang Hongxi and would not be inheriting the corporation. Feng Dongxian later made Qin Ming lose his wallet. Damn, the old saying is true. Even a hero can be troubled by the lack of money.

Unfortunately, life went on, and he had to come up with something. The first person Qin Ming thought of was Liao Qingxuan. She was somewhat rich, so she could probably loan him two hundred thousand.

Qin Ming walked to the stairs to call her and ask if she had two hundred thousand to borrow him.

The call connected, but all he received was Liao Qingxuan's hiccups and drunken reply, "Qin Ming, where are you? Why aren't you home yet? I was going to cook for you, but I didn't cook since you're not home, anyway. Hehe, I signed a contract with the network today and found a pretty reliable guy to be the male lead. My work will be presented soon, so remember to watch the show and support me, okay? ... Dang, that's hot... When are you coming back, Qin Ming? I still

have to help you shower."

Qin Ming was speechless. He narrowed his eyes and guessed that Liao Qingxuan had to drink with some clients again. At least she still knew her way home. Dang, that woman is always either drinking or being drunk. I wonder which unlucky idiot will marry her in the future. The poor guy will be worried every day about why his wife hasn't gone home. He'd probably also wonder if she was taken advantage of while she was drunk. Even thinking about it made Qin Ming feel like he was watching a terrible drama show.

Qin Ming later called Mu Hao, but Mu Hao's wife, Xu Shulan, picked up the phone.

The first thing Xu Shulan did was buttering him up. "Hey, Qin Ming, my incredible son-in-law, when are you coming home? I have delicious soup prepared for you every day. I heard about how you helped Sichun get a job in a tv network station. Her work will be shown on local tv. Ah, and I heard that the renowned ballet teacher, Ms. Liao, is working there too. Oh, I love her shows. Qin Ming, you are so powerful. Will you be

coming home tonight? I'll make you your favorite dessert."

Qin Ming's expression darkened.

He and Mu Xiaoqiao had gotten a divorce and ended their fake marriage that only happened due to a crazy superstition. Didn't Mu Hao tell his wife about any of this? What is up with the Mu family?

Qin Ming was about to ask if he could loan some money when he heard a commotion from the ICU. He quickly hung up the call and went back.

That was when he saw three women sitting on top of Bai Yuchun. One of them was drawing things on Bai Yuchun's face while the other two were trying to strip her.

That infuriated Qin Ming. What the f*ck are these people doing in public?

Bai Yuchun was a physically weak woman and wasn't strong enough to defend herself. Cao Jingcheng, Bai Dayou, Xie Guangkun, He

Menglian, and even the security guards were standing at the side. No one went to help her.

Qin Ming growled angrily, "Have you gone insane?"

Mrs. Cao reprimanded, "Where did you come from, you broke punk? How dare you butt in on the Cao family's business? Do you not know how powerful we are in Guang City? Or are you simply trying to commit suicide?"

Qin Ming ignored her threat. He hurried over and pried Cao Jingcheng's girlfriend away before tossing her to the side. That got her to fall on her butt. Qin Ming also punched and kicked the two other women aside.

"Ah, you crazy idiot. How dare you hit us? Ah!"

The ladies wanted to fight back, but Qin Ming's slapped some senses into them. His cruelty got them to back away.

Qin Ming checked on Bai Yuchun. Red lipstick was all over her face, but Qin Ming showed up in

time, so her clothes weren't taken off.

Still, she was crying and was trembling in fear. She looked extremely weak and pitiful as she stared at him.

Qin Ming was heartbroken. He turned to the crowd and shouted angrily, "What the f*ck is wrong with you? How could you gang up on a weak woman like that? What has she ever done to you to deserve that?"

Cao Jingcheng's girlfriend, Li, stepped forward and yelled, "She's a homewrecker and should be attacked. If my friend working in the hospital hadn't called me today, I wouldn't even know about her existence."

Mrs. Cao chimed in, "That worthless wh*re seduced my son, and she deserves to be punished!"

Qin Ming chuckled and pointed at those people before he turned to Bai Dayou and Cao Jingcheng. Qin Ming insulted, "Bai Dayou has always been trash, so there's nothing to say about

him, but Cao Jingcheng, you know exactly what you did. Yet, you didn't step up to help? How shameless are you? You bring shame to the renowned Cao family... Ah, wait, sorry, I forgot. You are just a part of their extended family, so your immediate family is not really that honorable."

Mrs. Cao was furious and scolded, "What the hell is that supposed to mean? You don't think we can deal with a penniless idiot like you? I don't need to ask my brother's family to help me destroy you."

Qin Ming explained, "Oh, that's not what I meant. I'm just telling you that your son is an a*shole who tried to cheat on his girlfriend, so don't pin the blame on others. She never seduced your son. Instead, your son is the one who keeps badgering her over the past two years. She had already rejected his advances, but that shameless j*rk keeps coming after her. The school had a bully named Wang Chenghu, who was into her as well. He didn't want to be beaten up, so he backed away and stopped annoying her for a while. However, Wang Chenghu later got kicked

away, and your son showed his true colors once more. He kept badgering the lady despite being rejected. Isn't that right, Cao Jingcheng? You even threatened her just a second ago. You said that you would give her two hundred thousand to pay for the medical fee if she is willing to be your girlfriend. How shameless. You know what? If you're not here to help, then you should just f*ck off and stop playing games."

Cao Jingcheng blushed red after being exposed like that. He looked guilty when he turned to his mother and his girlfriend.

Mrs. Cao's expression darkened. She knew her son well, and his expression told her that it was all true.

The young lady was infuriated. She stepped forward and slapped Cao Jingcheng right across his face. "How dare you cheat on me, Cao Jingcheng? My family is powerful in Guang City, and you are lucky to have a girlfriend like me. Yet, you want to cheat? F*ck! I shouldn't have believed what your mom said about how the girl must've seduced you."

Cao Jingcheng was nervous, and Mrs. Cao kept signaling him with her eyes. They were just an extended branch of the Cao family, so they weren't as powerful. The immediate family's finances were also tight at that moment, and they needed Li's family to help. Cao Jingcheng couldn't afford to lose Li as his girlfriend at that crucial moment.

Mrs. Cao quickly said, "Li, don't listen to what those strangers said. Cheng is a good boy, and he would never do something like that."

Cao Jingcheng was in a pitch as well. He turned to Bai Yuchun. In the end, she was just a pretty face to him and was penniless. It was fine to take her as a plaything, but losing Li's family money for Bai Yuchun? Oh, hell no.

Cao Jingcheng changed his story immediately and insisted, "No, listen to me. She's the one who threw herself at me and tried to seduce me. If you don't believe me, you can ask her brother and his wife."

Cao Jingcheng glared over and whispered his

threat to Bai Dayou, "I will pay the agreed-upon hundred thousand if you help me lie instead."

Bai Dayou was delighted to hear that he would be receiving a hundred thousand that easily.

Bai Dayou backed Cao Jingcheng up immediately and claimed, "Ma'am, young lady, he is right. Mr. Cao is my employer, and I run errands for him. When he heard about how my mom is sick, he immediately rushed over to help, and he is truly a kind man."

Mrs. Bai chimed in as well, "It's true. Mr. Cao is kind and had paid for the initial medical fees. Unfortunately, the subsequent fees were too expensive, and he said that he couldn't help anymore. That sister-in-law of mine then suggested being his girlfriend in exchange for that two hundred thousand medical fees."

Bai Dayou nodded in agreement and claimed, "Yeah, that sister of mine is... She used to be kind and sweet, but she was later influenced by terrible friends. There was a rich guy who used to flirt with her. The guy bought her a house, and

she immediately moved our mother into the house. The rich guy's secretary even used a luxurious car to pick her up and drive her whenever she went out for lunch. I'm guessing the rich guy dumped her, and that is why she wanted to get close to Mr. Cao. As her brother, I am truly ashamed of her."

Mrs. Bai then added, "The guy's name is Qin Ming, and he is nothing but a dog. It's only natural that he stepped forward to help my sister-in-law because he is her fallback guy. He even asks for money from my sister, so don't believe in a word he said."

A group of spectators had gathered around, and they gasped when they heard what Bai Dayou and his wife said.

"My gosh, this woman is so b*tchy. She only cares about money."

"Shamelessness really is undefeatable."

"Young ladies nowadays are too money-minded. All they think about is how to use their bodies to

make money."

"She looks so weak and pitiful. Who would've thought that her personality is that terrible?"

Mrs. Cao and Li cooled down after hearing Bai Dayou's and his wife's "explanation".

Mrs. Cao insisted, "Hear that, Li? Cheng has nothing to do with this. The woman is the one at fault, and she is so shameless that even her own family couldn't bear to help her."

Li caressed Cao Jingcheng's face with a broken heart as she said, "I-I'm so sorry, sweetie. I was too impulsive, and I made a mistake. D-does your face still hurt?"

Cao Jingcheng replied softly, "Not at all. You can slap me a few more times if you think that would keep my head straight and stop me from making any mistakes."

"Y-you..." growled Bai Yuchun, who could barely hold it together after hearing those people's accusations. The public's misunderstanding also

got her to tear up. The sorrow, helplessness, and hopelessness in her heart were so intense that she was tempted to kill herself to prove her innocence.

Qin Ming knelt down beside her at that moment and helped her wipe the lipstick off her face. He also got a shirt and placed it over her head before promising, "Don't worry. It's fine. I'm here, and I will seek justice for you."

Cao Jingcheng scoffed, "Justice? What can a penniless fool like you do to get justice? Given my family's wealth, nothing you say can hurt us."

Qin Ming stood up slowly and calmly before he said, "Is that so? Well, let's see, shall we?"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

It was as though Qin Ming's jacket over Bai Yuchun's head could shelter her from all the degrading remarks aiming at her from everyone else at the moment. Feeling despondent, she sought solace in the temporary silence and peace offered by his jacket.

With her eyes red and swollen with tears, she stared at the smile on Qin Ming's face which seemed to have a healing effect on her. In fact, she was content even though the whole world was against her as long as Qin Ming was willing to believe her.

"Where did you go just now?" Bai Yuchun asked him in a frail voice.

Wiping the warm tears away from her face, he replied, "I went to borrow some money. Now that I was fired, I can no longer ask my rich boss for help but I have some friends of my own. I have a friend who works as a live host and I think he will be able to lend me some money since we're quite close with each other. So, please don't worry."

Bai Yuchun felt much more at ease with his reassurance. If they were alone at the moment, she would not hesitate to throw herself into his embrace and confide in him.

In her perception, Qin Ming was the only one in the world who could understand her sorrow, her grievance, and why she felt so helpless.

"Qin Ming, I-I..." She started tearing up again but this time, she shed tears of gratitude. With her vision blurred by the moisture in her eyes, she was having difficulty coming up with something to say to him. She was more than willing to marry him for he had done for her but the thing was, Qin Ming didn't need her to be his wife.

He consoled her, "Don't worry because I'm here with you and I'll do justice for you."

Then, he spun around to examine each and every one of them behind. The way he stared at them was so vengeful that it sent chills down their spine. It was as though he would launch into an angry outburst and pounce on them anytime.

Cao Jingcheng snorted disdainfully, "Hmph, justice? What can you do to achieve without having any money? You're nothing in front of my family and me!"

Mrs. Cao scowled, "Don't you think you can leave this place without any punishment after beating up my men as well as my future daughter-in-law! You will end up being bankrupt but still, you won't be able to compensate for the damage you've caused us!"

"Haha..." Qin Ming sneered, "Let me explain everything to you guys starting from the moment Bai Dayao started behaving erratically."

Pointing at Bai Dayou who looked guilty, he pointed out, "I caught him asking money from his mother this morning. Why did he visit her again in the afternoon? It wasn't logical of him to do so knowing well that she had no more money to offer him. So, there must be something fishy with his visit."

"On top of that, at the time his mother lost consciousness all of sudden, he actually

contacted his friend, Cao Jingcheng, first instead of calling the ambulance. Then, he summoned his sister back home and deliberately acted slow in bringing his mother to the hospital. That's the first questionable point of the matter."

"Instead of sending his mother to the nearer and better Public Hospital, he insisted on sending her to the General Hospital which was much further away. It seemed to be arranged in this way so that I wouldn't get to know which hospital He Menggu received her treatment. That's the second questionable point."

"And, when He Menggu was diagnosed by the doctor to be suffering from food poisoning, Bai Dayou was adamant that her discomfort was caused by the heart surgery which had not been done properly on her earlier. This totally baffles me. Bai Dayou, since you aren't a doctor but a jobless man, what gave you the confidence to make such a judgment? That's the third questionable point."

"Last but not least, when Cao Jingcheng shamelessly agreed to pay the medical fees for

He Menggu subject to the condition that Chun became his girlfriend, not only was Bai Dayou not offended by his request, but he also even helped him persuade his sister to be his girlfriend. That's the fourth questionable point."

As Qin Ming's speech was logical and clear, the people around him couldn't help but be convinced as they all started doubting Bai Dayou's character. Many of his actions were unreasonable and senseless.

Now that both parties had offered different versions of the same story, the people around them were unsure which was the truth.

"Since this matter is more complicated than it seems, we shouldn't pin the blame on the young girl too quickly."

"Exactly. Now that there are two versions of the story, we should gain more insight from that lad before making any judgment."

Pleased to hear some sensible opinions from the crowd, Qin Ming carried on, "Mr. Cao, who

comes from a rich family, cheated on his girlfriend by trying to make Chun, an innocent and obedient girl, his girlfriend. He unscrupulously threatened her to date him or he wouldn't fork out the money to pay for her mother's medical expenses."

Infuriated by his words, Cao Jingcheng bellowed, "That's a truckload of crap! Do you have any evidence to support your argument?!"

Mrs. Cao chimed in, "Exactly, you should show us your evidence! Now, not only am I going to sue you for assaulting my future daughter-in-law, but I'm also going to sue you for defamation as well. You will soon lose everything and spend the rest of your life in jail!"

"Evidence?" Qin Ming suddenly fished out his phone and said gloatingly, "Well when I was misled to look for He Menggu at the Public Hospital, I made use of the chance to visit the doctor who was in charge of the heart surgery she underwent last time and asked to go through her surgical profile. Judging from the results of all the medical tests she went through after the

surgery, it showed that the surgery was done successfully. Based on the several questionable points I pointed out just now, I started becoming suspicious of the whole thing so from then onward I've been taking some voice recordings. Please listen to them."

Bai Dayou and his wife went stupefied at the mention of the voice recordings. At the same time, they were shocked to learn that Qin Ming was shrewd enough to record their conversations.

In the meantime, Cao Jingcheng's face turned as pale as a sheet as he had a feeling that he would screw up big time because of the voice recordings.

Before they could even try to stop Qin Ming, he already pressed the play button.

"Yuchun, I can pay for the medical fees if you're willing to be my girlfriend."

"Yuchun, you should say yes because Mr. Cao is a very rich man."

"No, I don't want to be his girlfriend. I will come up with some other ways to raise the money."

"You know what, as soon as you agree to become Mr. Cao's girlfriend, he will give us two hundred thousand to pay for Mom's medical fees."

"Yuchun, I'm begging you to be his girlfriend. Just think about the money..."

Everyone looked enlightened as the conversation recorded provided irrefutable proof of their collusion.

As it turned out, all of them had misunderstood Bai Yunchun.

"The rich guy was accusing the innocent while he was the true jerk! We put the blame on the wrong person just now!"

"Exactly. Young lady, I'm sorry about that."

"He's such a despicable rich spoiled brat!"

"What he did was no different from forcing that

young lady into prostitution! Look, we should all contribute some money to help the young lady pay for her mother's medical fees!"

With his face reddened with fury, Cao Jingcheng seethed, "Qin Ming you rascal, stopped playing the recording right now!"

He lunged forward trying to snatch the phone away but Qin Ming managed to dodge his attack just in time. Then, he gave Cao Jingcheng a punch making him collapse onto the floor. That was indeed one forceful punch because half of his face was swollen.

"Ouch." Slumping on the ground, Cao Jingcheng groaned in pain because his hands were injured too.

"Oh, my son!" Mrs. Cao was so shaken to see that and she frantically approached him and helped him to his feet. "You penniless guy, we'll be back soon to make sure you suffer for this!"

"Hmph!" Suddenly, Liang Li let out a sneer. She charged toward Cao Jingcheng and gave him a

slap. "Cao Jingcheng, it's over between us. It must be hard on you pretending to be a successful and faithful guy, isn't it? I don't need a scum like you in my life."

Mrs. Cao went panic-stricken when she heard that considering that her son's relationship with Liang Li was the reason why the two families were negotiating to form a business partnership.

"Li, t-this is just a misunderstanding." Mrs. Cao pleaded fervently, "Please give Cheng another chance because he has realized his mistake."

Liang Li approached Bai Yuchun and gave her a bow before she apologized, "I'm sorry for misunderstanding you. S-Since I can't think of any other way to help you, please accept this."

She took out a stack of cash from her purse and stuffed it into Bai Yuchun hands but it was rejected by her.

Qin Ming kept away his phone and confronted Cao Jingcheng, "Cao Jingcheng, you're so shameless for plotting against Chun by colluding

with her brother."

The situation was so embarrassing for Cao Jingcheng that he dared not even lift his head. Anxiously he rose to his feet intending to take to his heels.

Yet, he was stopped by Qin Ming. "Mr. Cao, where are you going? I still need your help for some other matter and I suppose it's time we get into that right now."

At that juncture, a crisp and clear female voice came, "Who called the police just now? Did someone go against the law by administering poison?"

Qin Ming spun around and was delighted to see the woman coming his way. "Changxi, it was me who called the police."

The policewoman who was leading a squad of police officers commented with a trace of annoyance in her voice, "Qin Ming, it's you again?"

With a broad grin, Qin Ming edged closer to Changxi, and noticed the new shoulder flashes on her. "Changxi, it's me again, and congratulations for getting promoted."

The beautiful policewoman Qin Ming was talking to was Sun Changxi whom he was close with. She had arrested several criminals before with the evidence provided by Qin Ming and she was promoted to be the captain of her squad with his help.

"Who was the one that administered the poison?" she questioned.

Qin Ming pointed at Cao Jingcheng, Bai Dayou, and his wife. "The three of them did that. The doctor found traces of aconitine in the patient's body. Aconitine isn't something we normally come into contact with and on top of that, there's nothing wrong with the food consumed by the patient."

Colors drained from Bai Dayou and his wife's face at the sight of the police officers. It didn't occur to Bai Dayou that Qin Ming was sharp

enough to find out what they did.

Looking flabbergasted, Bai Yuchun yelled, "There's no way my brother could have poisoned my mother since he has taken all the money from her."

Qin Ming explained, "In fact, there was something else for them to gain out of the situation because they were instructed by Cao Jingcheng to carry out the plan. Your mother's safety wasn't important at all to your brother and his wife because they were desperate for money. For your information, they already gambled away the money you borrowed from loan sharks to pay for your mother's medical expenses."

Whoa, whoa, whoa!

Everyone felt indignant after listening to Qin Ming.

"They are too crooked to be human!"

"They are worse than animals!"

"I can't believe they gambled away the money to pay for the medical fees!"

"That young lady is such a poor thing!"

Bai Dayou was frightened out of his wits after hearing Qin Ming's speech. At the same time, he was eaten up with guilt too because he was indeed the one who poisoned his mother.

He did so because Cao Jingcheng told him that the drug he gave his mother was not poisonous but just a pill that will only make her faint. He couldn't bother finding out the name of the pill because his mind was fully occupied by the one hundred thousand Cao Jingcheng promised him when he successfully made Bai Yuchun his girlfriend.

Because of Cao Jingcheng's reassurance, Bai Dayou had been very sure that his mother's condition would not be life-threatening.

When his mother was diagnosed to be suffering from food poisoning, he was seized by a sense of guilt immediately but his mother managed to pull

through in the end much to his relief.

Now that Qin Ming had basically guessed everything correctly, he could no longer conceal his guilt because he was going to be charged as a criminal. Was Qin Ming some sort of a sleuth? How did he figure out everything on his own?

Meanwhile, Mrs. Cao felt so guilty that she broke out in cold sweats looking at her son. Feeling bitter, she lamented deep down inside over how stupid her son was. She couldn't believe he needed to resort to such a despicable trick just to get a girl. If the police were going to charge him for his crime, he would surely be sent to jail.

Staring at the bunch of people in front of her, Sun Changxi asked, "Qin Ming, do you have any evidence to collaborate your allegation? We won't arrest anybody based on your testimony only because the evidence is all that matters."

Qin Ming responded, "Yes, I have. The glass of water He Menggu drank was still there in their house and I've contacted my brother to keep it away nicely. I believe the water inside contains

aconitine and we can run a test on it to verify that. At the time He Menggu drank the water, she was with Bai Dayou and his wife. Hence, they are expected to offer an explanation for the poisoned water."

There was nothing they could say to exculpate themselves. Instinctively Bai Dayou rested a hand on one of his trouser pockets, suddenly remembering that he still had the packaging of the poison with him in there.

Noticing his movement, Qin Ming acted swiftly by seizing his wrist and stuffing his hand into the pocket.

"Hey, what're you doing?" Bai Dayou, who was taken aback by his action, immediately extended his arm in an attempt to punch him.

Smack! However, he was stopped by Sun Changxi as Qin Ming fished out a plastic packaging that still contained some traces of powder.

"Take this to the lab too. No, better make a

solution with it and let Bai Dayou drink it to prove his innocence. If he doesn't dare to drink it..."

Looking horrified, Bai Dayou started shaking his head vigorously. "No, I'm not going to drink it! C-Cao Jingcheng gave it to me and asked me to feed my mother with it! He told me it wasn't going to kill her but will only make her lose her consciousness!"

Cao Jingcheng went stupefied in an instant, unable to believe that dumbass actually blurted out everything in fear. Was he trying to drag him into hot water together with him?!

It wasn't me who asked you to put so much of the poison into that glass of water! Everything would be fine if you just put a little of it!

It was a lively scene in the corridor in front of the intensive care unit of the hospital. After several plot twists, the matter turned out to be a case of aconitine poisoning!

It all took place because of a man who was

unable to get his girl. In the end, he went as far as plotting against her whole family just to force her to be with him. Indeed, it was one complicated and intricate story.

"I-I wasn't involved in this!" Out of the blue, Mrs. Bai suddenly lifted her hands to show her innocence after realizing that the odds were against her. "I was just an onlooker throughout the process and I wasn't involved in any incriminating action! Qin Ming, all I did was humiliate and taunt you but I wasn't the accomplice. You'd better don't pin the blame wrongly on me."

Glaring at her, Qin Ming rebuked, "Nothing describes you better more than an accomplice! You instigated Bai Dayou into poisoning his own mother and nearly get a poor woman killed."

Smack!

Someone from the crowd of spectators hoisted a plastic packaging that contained a cold beverage at Mrs. Bai, causing her to be drenched with the liquid.

"You're a scum who should be arrested right away! You deserve to be shot for betraying your own family and trying to murder your mother!"

"Yes, she should be shot! I'm so pissed off by the both of them!"

"What's wrong with our society nowadays?"

"Beat them up! Beat them up!"

The spectators started showering them with random items which caused an uproar in the corridor.

Mrs. Cao and her son were not spared either. Someone aimed a packet of boiling hot soup at them which scalded their skin. They squealed and jumped around in pain but that didn't deter the crowd from attacking them. Their hatred and resentment toward the two of them were intensifying as they started hurling all sorts of obscene remarks at them.

Cao Jingcheng's handsome face looked haggard and disheveled.

Mrs. Cao ended up worse as the make-up on her face was totally ruined. She wanted to make a call to ask for help but even her phone was hit by the crowd and dropped to the floor.

At last, peace was restored with the effort of the police officers.

At that juncture, the door to the intensive care unit was opened from where the doctor walked out. At the sight of the mess and the presence of the police officers, he looked utterly flummoxed. "What's going on here? Stop messing around and pay the medical fees now because we've given the patient her drugs. There are more to come and all the drugs we use are imported..."

Although the doctor did not finish his sentence, it was crystal clear what he was trying to imply. Since the drugs were very expensive, the hospital would suffer a substantial loss if they refused to pay and as the doctor, he would have to bear the responsibility.

"Hahaha..." Cao Jingcheng, who was looking like a drowned mouse, suddenly guffawed, "You can

throw the patient out now because they can't pay you at all! They are just a bunch of losers who have no money. I could have paid for them but now I don't see the need to do that anymore."

In the meantime, Mrs. Cao started yelling hysterically, "It's the best if she ends up dying! This is too outrageous. How dare a bunch of losers like you guys attacked me so badly? I want all of you to be arrested and sent to jail!"

Bai Dayou, who clearly did not repent his mistake, confronted Qin Ming, "Qin Ming, look at what you've done. Are you happy now because my mother is dying? Why are you causing us so much trouble when you can't help us with the money?"

Bai Yuchun grew restless too. "Qin Ming, what should we do now? M-My mother will really..."

Looking like he had gone mad, Cao Jingcheng taunted, "What're you going to do now, Qin Ming? Why don't you beg me now and I'll lend them two hundred thousand to rescue their mother. However, my help is subject to a

condition."

Qin Ming was under immense pressure at the moment because everyone was expecting him to come up with a viable solution.

He hurriedly called Zhang Xiaoyan to borrow some money from her.

Suddenly, a cleaner walked over carrying a filthy wallet with her. "Which one of you here is Qin Ming? Someone asked me to return his wallet to him."

Everyone was dumbfounded. A wallet belonged to Qin Ming?

Staring at the cleaner and the filthy wallet she was holding in consternation, Qin Ming opened the wallet smeared with mud and took out an identification card from one of its compartments. The card belonged to him.

A smile curled his lips upward as he said triumphantly, "Who said we have no money?"

The filthy wallet indeed belonged to him and the cash inside was all soaked through by mud water and it gave out a horrible stench.

The cleaner said, "Someone asked me to bring this to you. Is it yours?"

Qin Ming nodded at the cleaner and thanked her.

Never in his wildest dreams did he imagine that he would be able to get back his wallet which he dropped into the gutter. As all his bank cards inside were still intact, he had money to pay the medical fees.

However, he had no time to think about who found his wallet for the time being.

Cao Jingcheng asked provocatively, "Qin Ming, do you have two hundred thousand in your wallet? I can lend you the money if you don't."

At the same time, he inched closer to him despite looking like a mess with his face swollen and his skin scalded by the hot soup.

Their plan could have been airtight if it weren't for Bai Dayou who blurted out their entire plan out of fear just now. Now, Cao Jingcheng found himself in a dire situation facing a criminal charge.

He whispered next to Qin Ming's ears, "Qin Ming, I'll fork out a total of three hundred thousand for the medical expenses of Bai Yuchun's mother as well as the costs of food supplement after the surgery. How does that sound? Other than that, I'll offer you an extra five hundred thousand and you will help me shove all the blame to Bai Dayou to prove my innocence. What do you think?"

Frowning at their interaction, Sun Changxi boomed, "What're the two of you discussing? Cao Jingcheng, don't you dare threaten Qin Ming into doing anything."

Mrs. Cao was looking similarly haggard but her priority at the moment was to save her son's ass. "Ouch! Madam, I just sprained my waist! Please come over here and help me," she yelled all of a sudden.

Qin Ming couldn't believe they had no guts to shoulder the responsibility of their bad deeds.

Shaking his head, he turned down his offer, "Cao Jingcheng, you should admit your mistake in front of the judge and ask for mitigation."

Cao Jingcheng was panicked to hear that. "I can't be sent to jail because of this. In fact, everything would be fine if Bai Dayou were careful with the dosage of the poison! I told him that a little would do the trick but he was too dumb to listen and he ended up putting too much powder into that glass of water. I shouldn't be blamed for his stupidity!" he pleaded in a soft voice.

Qin Ming felt sick listening to his argument. After instigating Bai Dayou into poisoning his own mother and plotting against Bai Yuchun, Cao Jingcheng didn't feel repentant at all.

Seeing Qin Ming refused to budge, Cao Jingcheng pressed on, "How about one million? Qin Ming, I'm not looking down on you but you must realize that you might not be able to have that kind of money even after working for the rest

of your life. One million is enough for you to build yourself a mansion in your hometown and live a comfortable life."

Qin Ming rolled his eyes at him and rejected him decisively, "I'm not taking your money."

Exasperated, Cao Jingcheng fumed, "Without my money, are you going to do nothing and let He Menggu pass away just like that? My family is rich enough to hire a good lawyer to fight for my case and push the blame to Bai Dayou. Do you understand that you are going to offend my family by turning down my offer? Do you think you can handle that?"

His threat irked Qin Ming even more.

"Who told you I have no money?"

Qin Ming snorted icily and left. He made it back five minutes later and showed the receipts to everyone, letting everyone know that he had enough money to pay.

"Damn, what's going on?" Xie Guangkun

exclaimed in astonishment.

He Menglian, who had been watching the scene on the sideline, wondered, Isn't Qin Ming nothing but a poor student? How does he become so loaded all of a sudden? I don't think he has that much cash in his wallet, has he?

Bai Dayou was puzzled too. "What's this about? I-Isn't he just a wage-earner? Why didn't he make the payment just now if he had the money?"

Cao Jingcheng went wide-eyed and open-mouthed in shock. "H-How's that possible? I did an investigation on his background before and there's no way he could have that kind of money."

At first, he wanted to threaten Qin Ming and Bai Yuchun into exculpating him with He Menggu's medical expenses but to his dismay, Qin Meng was capable of paying everything with his own money in the end.

Qin Ming decided to ignore Cao Jingcheng because he didn't want people to associate him with a bastard like him.

Meanwhile, Sun Changxi cast an inquisitive glance at Qin Ming and asked, "I must say you're very rich for a student."

"I earned it by trading stocks before this but now I am left with nothing again. However, that doesn't bother me at all because nothing is more important than saving someone's life," Qin Ming answered modestly.

Sun Changxi's eyes couldn't help but brighten with admiration when she heard his remark. Nowadays men like him who stayed humble and weren't money-minded were rare. Hence, she gave him a thumbs-up and complimented him, "I'm impressed!"

Once again, Bai Yuchun started sobbing, "Qin Ming, thank you so much for your help because I wouldn't even know what to do without you. Sob, sob... You must be an angel sent from heaven to help me! You're my lucky star!"

Chuckling, he wiped away the tears on her face and said, "Nothing is more important than your mother's health."

It was true that one could only be confident and courageous with a deep enough pocket. However, Qin Ming was unfazed even though he owned several hundred million in his bank account. As he saw Bai Yuchun as his friend, he did not expect her to return his favor.

It was because he cherished their friendship very much.

Then, Qin Ming said to Sun Changxi, "Since I've made the payment, I'll leave the rest to you and your colleagues and I expect things to be done strictly according to rules."

She shot him a supercilious glance and snapped, "Call me Madam Sun."

He giggled mischievously and rectified, "Yes, Madam Sun. I don't think you will be lenient to them just because they are rich?"

Looking annoyed, she glared at him and criticized, "What nonsense are you talking about? I won't be bothered whether they are rich or poor because I will only do things by the book."

With both the evidence and eyewitnesses in place, the only thing left to be done was to bring them back to the police station to take their testimonies and then carry out an investigation on the case. Last but not least, they needed to draft the charge on them.

Cao Jingcheng suddenly went all bananas by squealing at the top of his lungs, "I'm not going to the police station because I didn't do anything wrong! Mom, please help me and get Dad over here! I'm sure he'll be able to get me off the hook!"

Several police officers pressed Cao Jingcheng onto the floor and handcuffed him before hauling him away.

"Mom, please help me! Sob, sob, I don't want to go to jail! Mom..."

"Jingcheng..."

In the corridor, the duo who looked like a mess was putting on a melodramatic show.

"Stop, all of you!" Suddenly, an angry snarl came from somewhere behind as a middle-aged man with a bulging belly weaved his way through the crowd.

As soon as Mrs. Cao spotted the man, she immediately started wailing, "Dear, you're finally here! Your son and I were badly bullied by them just now!"

Sun Changxi could recognize the guy. He belonged to the Cao family, a wealthy family in Guang City, and he was Cao Lijian, the cousin of Cao Zhengmin.

Cao family had been a wealthy family in Guang City for decades. Just like the Mu family, they were influential and had vast connections all over the country. The properties and lands they owned were worth up to billions and they were close with some of the government officers.

Although Cao Lijian wasn't as outstanding as the rest of his family, people still respected him because he was Cao Zhengmin's cousin.

Cao Lijian charged toward the police officers and demanded, "Let my son go right now! I can't believe police are handling things in such an improper way now. How did my wife and my son end up looking like this? Is there still law and order in this country? Are those who attacked them allowed to get away with their crimes scot-free?"

Sun Changxi spoke, "Mr. Cao, we're doing everything according to rules. The spectators around got emotional just now and attacked them but we already tried our best to minimize the damage."

Cao Lijian growled at her, "Look at how badly injured they are! You guys clearly failed at your job if that were the best you could do. By the way, you look really young for a captain. Did you get promoted by making use of your connections? Give me your ID number because I'm going to launch a complaint against you! I am a close friend of the head of your department, Mr. Wang, and I'll file the complaint directly to him. You don't have to wait long for his criticism!"

Meanwhile, his son cried out, "Dad, please help me! It's Qin Ming who got me into this!"

With a stern look, Sun Changxi responded, "Mr. Cao, I'm afraid your warning doesn't work on me and Cao Jingcheng, you'd better watch your words."

Taking his son's hint, Cao Lijian marched over to Qin Ming and couldn't help but look down on him because he looked like a nobody judging from his appearance and his attire.

Lifting his chin haughtily, he scoffed, "Lad, you know what? You've just got yourself into huge trouble. Look, I'll spare your life if you kneel down in front of my son and apologize to him now."

Pfft... Qin Ming burst out laughing. It was his first time coming across someone so naive despite his age.

He took a step forward. With his height towering over Cao Lijian, he confronted him in a presumptuous tone, "Who do you think you are?"

"Dad, please help me!" Cao Jingcheng, who was subdued by two police officers, cried out for his father's help.

After all, he was a college student with enough knowledge to know what kind of punishment was awaiting him if he was sentenced for his crime. Although his family was a wealthy one in Guang City, they also had a lot of enemies.

Would Cao Zhengmin pull his strings and ask around for favors just to get his cousin's son off the hook? No one had a sure answer of that.

Staring at Qin Ming, Cao Lijian threatened, "Do you believe I can turn your girlfriend and you into two floating corpses in the Pearl River by tomorrow with just one phone call?"

"Go ahead and make that call." Qin Ming was unperturbed.

When Bai Yuchun heard that she was labeled as Qin Ming's girlfriend, her heart couldn't help but flutter for some reason. Although she loathed Cao Lijian and his threat, she didn't mind him

assuming she was Qin Ming's girlfriend.

Cao Lijian was furious because his threat did not work on Qin Ming. Although he wasn't a famous or talented man in Guang City, he still had the people's respect because of his cousin, Cao Zhengmin.

Yet, his threat, which usually worked on other people, lost its magic on Qin Ming, who was resilient and tough. He wondered whether there was something wrong with Qin Ming's mind because he couldn't see why he had the guts to set himself against someone from a wealthy family in the city. Was he a moron?

"You country yokel, just wait and see what I'll do to you!" he snapped heatedly.

Immediately, he fished out his phone and walked to a corner of the corridor to make a phone call. In a humble tone he spoke to the person on the other end, "Hello, Mr. Nian, I need your help to teach someone a lesson. His name is Qin Ming and he's a student studying at Hua Sheng University of Technology... Hello? Mr. Nian?"

Why did he hang up on me?"

He was puzzled. Mr. Nian a.k.a Old Six from the east side of the city had been his business partner for years. In spite of the fact that Old Six had bamboozled him into paying him a huge fortune in the name of random investments, the two had stayed quite close with each other. Hence, he couldn't see why he gave him the cold shoulder all of a sudden.

Shortly after that, he called his cousin, Cao Zhengmin, instead. "Zhengmin, it's me. I'm facing some issues at the moment because Cheng was sabotaged by a guy named Qin Ming and now he's in trouble. Say what? W-We can't afford to offend him and I have to apologize to him immediately? That makes no sense at all!"

Cao Lijian had no choice but to end the phone call because even the head of the Cao family, Cao Zhengmin, was unable to offer him any help.

Looking like a deflated balloon, he seemed to become a changed person.

This was what he normally did when he was in trouble: firstly, he would boast about his family because that trick always worked. If that didn't work, he would start making phone calls to his friends and his cousin to ask for their help and then use it as a threat. Last but not least, he would resort to paying if everything else failed. He would increase his offer until the other party relented.

Now, he felt reluctant to apologize to a penniless guy who came from the countryside but he knew he had to do something to save his son's neck.

At last, he decided to ignore his cousin's instruction.

He walked over to Qin Ming with a long face. "Lad, since you're studying at the same place as my son, you guys are considered as college mates. Don't you think you have to take that into account? Also, I understand it's easy for youngsters like you to make unwise decisions and I'm willing to give you a chance to change your mind. Look, I'll offer you three million to keep my son out of your testimony. How does

that sound?"

Qin Ming chuckled and shouted his offer for everyone to hear, "Changxi, Mr. Cao here is trying to bribe me! He's offering me three million for me to amend my testimony!"

"Hey!" Cao Lijian went panic-stricken. It was obvious Qin Ming was trying to embarrass him by telling everyone about his offer.

Boo! The crowd of spectators hollered thinking that it was unscrupulous of Cao Lijian to commit bribery.

"Young man, I'm impressed! You shouldn't lose your spine because you're offered money by capitalists!"

"Young lad, you have our support!"

"Young man, you're so cool!"

Sun Changxi made her way over and separated them. "Mr. Cao, please be more careful with your words," she warned.

Qin Ming waved his phone at him and revealed, "For your information, I've recorded the threats both your son and you made against me just now with my phone here."

"You!" Cao Lijian went livid with rage. Staring at the triumphant expression on Qin Ming's face, he clenched his teeth in rage.

Meanwhile, Qin Ming remained calm and composed because he didn't need to do much to deal with a bunch of losers like them. All he had done so far was call the police, draw the attention of the public to the matter with the assistance of the CCTV cameras installed at the hospital and his phone. As long as he took enough control of the situation, there was no need to resort to violence in this law-abiding society.

Cao Lijian and his wife totally freaked out seeing that there was no hope in cutting a deal with Qin Ming. Cao Jingcheng was their only son and his life would be ruined if he were sentenced to jail.

"Qin Ming, if anything bad happens to my son I will make sure you go down with him!" Cao

Lijian snarled.

His wife too shrieked hysterically, "We aren't a bunch of pushovers and we have enough money to hire an assassin to get the job done."

The crowd around them went uproarious in an instant upon hearing their remarks. How dare those rich people make threats like that in public? Did they actually think they ruled the world? The people wouldn't hesitate to pounce on the couple and attack them if the police weren't there.

"Mr. Cao..." A sonorous and powerful voice came from the crowd all of a sudden.

Several bodyguards shoved the crowd to two sides to make way for the owner of the voice. Soon, Hou Qing, the team leader in charge of Guang City in Huan Ning Century Corporation made his way over through the throng of people.

He exuded an imposing and domineering aura probably owing to the fact that he had occupied an important role in his company for decades. The place fell silent in an instant due to his

presence because the people assumed he was a government officer.

Hou Qing stood at the first line of the crowd where he questioned Cao Lijian, "Do you want to follow the path of Wang Youcai and Zhang Jundong?"

Cao Lijian's heart gave a lurch and his chest tightened at once.

He knew those two guys Hou Qing mentioned!

He used to hang out with both of them quite frequently but they must have offended someone lately because one of them had their sons murdered and the other was sentenced to imprisonment for sixty years.

Could Chairman Hou be the mastermind behind that?

Hou Qing had been doing business in Guang City for decades with the help of the fame of Huan Ning Century Corporation. His influence in the commercial world, the government, as well as the

army, was even greater than the Cao family. In his presence, Cao Lijian was just a nobody who wasn't even qualified to be his assistant.

At the sight of Hou Qing, Cao Lijian quickly scurried over and offered him a bow. "Chairman Hou, I certainly don't wish to end up like the two. Have I offended you in any way? Please don't hesitate to enlighten me."

Hou Qing pointed at Qin Ming and Bai Yuchun. "Your immorality was offensive to the people of this city and what you did go against justice! I've heard about what your son did. He instigated someone to poison an old lady just to force a girl to be his girlfriend. How can you cover it up for him? You should know there will always be someone out there who you can't afford to offend in the rest of your life."

Suddenly, he pulled Cao Lijian closer to him by his collar and whispered in his ear, "If Mr. Qin refuses to forgive you, you and your family will vanish into thin air in Sea City. Your son doesn't need to go to jail because his ashes will be ready for collection at the funeral parlor. Not to

mention your cousin, even your grandfather won't be able to bail you out this time. So, you'd better get lost while you still can."

After that, Hou Qing gave him a forceful shove to the ground. Looking flabbergasted, Cao Lijian sat dazedly with his mind in total turmoil.

What was the story behind this Qin Ming guy? Why was everyone defending him?

Cao Lijian was wrong because everyone was counting on Qin Ming for their well-being. If any mishap happened to Qin Ming, the successor to Huan Ning Century Corporation might immediately be changed. By the time it happened, all the team leaders of the company would be fired and dealt with. Therefore, for people like Hou Qing and Qi Yundong, ensuring Qin Ming's safety was their priority.

Hou Qing departed after issuing his warning, leaving Cao Lijian behind who was scared out of his wits. Something suddenly dawned upon Cao Lijian when he recalled the advice from Old Six and his cousin.

He tried to get to his feet but couldn't do it because his legs had turned into jelly.

Putting his dignity aside, he crawled on all fours toward Qin Ming like a dog and hugged his legs with his trembling arms. "Mr. Qin, please spare my life! I'm just a small businessman who tries to make a living by using the fame of my family! P-Please forgive us!"

The surrounding crowd was gob smacked. Didn't Cao Lijian look so proud and sure of himself just now?

Why was he suddenly behaving in this way?

Cao Jingcheng couldn't believe what he saw. His father had turned into a coward who knelt down on the floor to beg for Qin Ming's mercy. It was a humiliating and embarrassing sight.

All of a sudden, he let out a growl and freed himself from the two police officers. Grabbing a stainless steel fork from the ground, he lunged toward Qin Ming. "I'm taking you down with me, Qin Ming!"

Hou Qing's warning scared the living daylight out of Cao Lijian. Consequently, it only further reinforced his belief that there were individuals capable of making his entire household vanish from Guang City.

Then, it finally dawned on Cao Lijian that Qin Ming wasn't someone he came across as. To the former's suspicion, there was a great likelihood that the latter had a special identity, yet he maintained a low profile. Unknowing to the former, he pushed his luck and niggled at the latter.

After being brought back to reality, Cao Lijian knew he was a nobody without backing. So, he crawled toward Qin Ming and begged, "Please forgive me for offending you, Mr. Qin. I'm but an ignorant fool. Please let me make it up to you and spare me."

Many people could not believe their eyes upon witnessing this scene.

"Why did he chicken out suddenly? Hahaha. His legs have turned into jelly."

"It's not like I'm hating the rich, but serve those wealthy individuals like him right for committing evil deeds with their money and causing us troubles."

"That man is pretty well-known, isn't he?"

"Let's record it."

Qin Ming might appear to be an unremarkable poor young man. Still, none of the turns of events had changed the fact that he stood undefeated from the beginning, be it the uproar among bystanders or Cao Lijian admitting his defeat.

As Cao Jingcheng stared at his shackled hands, it suddenly came to his realization that he would be sent to jail while losing his luxurious life in the process. Furthermore, his parents couldn't even save his skin.

Not to mention the woman he lusted after had sided with Qin Ming. All in all, everything that happened utterly hurt his pride and dignity.

Why? Who is he to win over all the fame and

even the woman, whilst I have to be put behind bars? I can't accept this!

Without warning, Cao Jingcheng pushed the two police officers away with all his might, then picked up the stainless steel fork that was thrown into the scene by an upset onlooker.

With the fork in his hand, he charged at Qin Ming and exclaimed, "Qin Ming, I'll kill you!"

Surprised by his son's actions, Cao Lijian yelled, "No, my son! We can't touch him!"

Unfortunately, Cao Lijian's words could no longer get through Cao Jingcheng as the latter was overwhelmed with jealousy. Unable to accept his failure, he put up a last-ditch to drag Qin Ming with him.

In an instant, Qin Ming reacted by taking a step backward, but his foot slipped as he accidentally stepped on one of the random objects thrown in by the crowd. The corridor was in a complete mess. Moreover, losing balance was inevitable as the outsole of his sneakers had worn out.

It was too late for Qin Ming to dodge the incoming fork closing in before his chest after staggering to his feet. Instinctively, Bai Yuchun launched herself in front of him to block it.

Startled, Qin Ming shouted, "Chun, no!"

Even so, Bai Yuchun didn't evade, because she couldn't bear to see Qin Ming getting hurt. Before the woman knew it, she was already in front of him. I couldn't do anything for him, but I can at least protect him from a strike once!

In the blink of an eye, a scalpel flew out from the crowd and pierced Cao Jingcheng's wrist. As a result, the assault was interrupted, and blood oozed from his punctured wound, causing him to scream in agony.

Right then, Cao Jingcheng held his wounded and trembling wrist while the officers that regained their composure seized him and pressed him to the ground.

Sun Changxi looked at the crowd in surprise. Who was the one that threw the scalpel?

What could've happened if the aim was off? The mere thought was terrifying. Nevertheless, whoever did that must be extremely confident. Still, someone with this skill level is no ordinary person.

After a failed attempt to look for the person responsible for it, she ordered, "Alright! Take the suspect back to the station!"

Qin Ming was in a dazed state for some time. It was careless of me for causing such a scene. How could I allow an accident like this to happen? Bai Yuchun took the blow for me but how can I face her if she were to be injured. In the end, I was saved by the company's bodyguard.

"Chun, everything's gonna be fine." Qin Ming patted Bai Yuchun, who was leaning against his chest and holding on to him tightly. To think that she has the courage to block the attack like this. It's truly commendable.

Bai Yuchun lifted her head slowly and pulled the hood of her jacket up to avoid being seen.

She had butterflies in her stomach as it was her first time leaning against Qin Ming's body. His heartbeat became clear when she put her ear on his strong chest. The sound had given her a sense of security and serenity, which strengthened her urge to stay in that position.

To her disappointment, Qin Ming pushed her away and asked, "Are you okay?"

"Huh? Hmm... I-I'm fine." Bai Yuchun flushed while looking disappointed and continued, "I-I'm not sure what's going on. My body just moved on its own. I just didn't want you to be hurt."

Qin Ming was touched by her response and smiled. I didn't help the wrong person.

At this moment, the doctor got out from the entrance of the ICU and became enraged after seeing the crowded corridor. Then he chided, "Clear the way! Cooperate with the officers and wrap things up already. Stop hoarding in the corridor. There are more patients coming in. Well... is the patient's family here? She's conscious now. We're transferring her to the

ward."

Bai Yuchun immediately followed the doctor after hearing that.

Later, she glanced at her brother, Bai Dayou, who was handcuffed. But he avoided her eye contact as he was guilt-ridden.

After this, Sun Changxi took the suspects with her to the station. While ignoring Cao Lijian and his wife's pleading, a familiar figure suddenly caught Qin Ming's attention as he planned to follow the police officers.

He was shaken after noticing the individual. Isn't that person the one who found my wallet and threw the scalpel?

Without delay, he dashed into the crowd and tailed that woman all the way until they were out of the hospital.

Peering at the woman in a white dress, Qin Ming yelled, "Stop right there!"

His sudden roar shocked everyone outside the hospital, and it drew a quizzical look on their faces. What's his problem? What's he shouting for?

However, Qin Ming's gaze was fixed on the tall woman with long fluttering hair, who continued to escape.

Seeing that she had no intention to stop, Qin Ming exerted his strength and caught up to her like a cheetah, then he grabbed her hand from behind, causing her to turn around with her hair swung behind her shoulders and revealed her face. Isn't she Song Ying?

Nonetheless, Song Ying's face, hair, hands, and whole body were covered in filth. Even her white patterned lace dress was full of black mud. The stains looked exactly the same as the ones on my wallet!

The sight came to him like an epiphany. Song Ying was the one who got his wallet back. Otherwise, it wouldn't explain why she was in this condition.

Although she was visibly panicky after being stopped by Qin Ming, she managed to calm herself in a short while, and said, "You've found me, Young Master."

Qin Ming felt a little distressed as he gazed at her. How could a delicate woman like her go down to the sewer to look for my wallet? How did she manage that? It is extraordinary that she found it back.

Out of tenderness, he wiped the mud off Song Ying's face. Even so, no amount of mud could hide her fair, smooth, and beautiful face.

Feeling concerned, Qin Ming inquired, "Why did you do that? Feng Dongxiang is one of the four elders of the company. On top of that, he is your superior. Aren't you going against him now?"

Song Ying shook her head and denied, "No. I'm your person, Young Master. If you lose your wallet, it's my job to get it back. Please come back. I can't go on without you."

Qin Ming was stunned after she called herself his

subordinate.

There might be tons of complaints, but a pleasant feeling filled his heart after hearing her words. His mind was all over the place as he felt valued.

Qin Ming regained his senses after a while, then he looked around before gripping her hand, and instructed, "Follow me."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

They stopped by a public restroom faucet on the roadside. Qin Ming grabbed her hand and started washing the filth off them meticulously, including her fingernails.

As he knew how desperate she was to return him his wallet that she neglected her own hands. So, he did that as an appreciation of her effort and not to disappoint her.

The greatest leadership technique of controlling one's subordinates was to win over their hearts.

Needless to say, Qin Ming didn't take advantage of the situation to touch her. He just thought that she had slender and soft fingers.

Come to think of it. Song Ying won't consider that the sewer is dirty, anyway. She lived in a training camp on a small island in the Pacific Ocean for more than a decade, and she was sent on missions to various locations around the world. She had been through dirtier and scarier situations.

Unable to comprehend his actions, she

pondered. He washed my hands over a trifling matter like this. He must have valued me greatly, right?

Song Ying felt loved as she recalled the time when she worked at Yun Shan Vilas until late into the night, then fell asleep on the table. Qin Ming would take her back to her room gently.

Losing her parents at a young age, Song Ying basically grew up in the training camp. Hardship was part of her daily life. Thus, she had never received warmth and care from anyone. Qin Ming was the first to let her feel loved.

Even though those things were considered basic etiquette to Qin Ming, they were enough to make her nervous. Something began to ignite in her heart as she checked on his side profile. She could hardly open her eyes as he was too hot for her to bear.

Their odd behavior sparked comments from the surrounding people.

"Hey, look... Are they a couple? They're so sweet.

The guy is washing her hands diligently."

"Wow! The woman is hot, and she has a great figure. I'd say she looks better than most of those TikTokers."

"Did you see the way she looks at the guy? Aww, that's true love."

"Hey, you've been occupying the basin for too long. We don't need to see your public display of affection here. We need to wash our hands."

"Oh! We're sorry, ma'am. We'll leave at once." Qin Ming quickly apologized after hearing a complaint from a middle-aged woman. Then, he pulled Song Ying away since they were done washing her hands.

Song Ying burst into laughter at his response. Meanwhile, she also noticed his mannerism towards everyone, which didn't have the airs of the richest man in the world.

Finally, Qin Ming wiped off the mud on Song Ying's cheeks with soaked toilet paper and

revealed her beautiful face.

When facing Qin Ming, Song Ying became gentler and had a feminine coyness to her. As he was wiping her face, her face reddened like a tomato, and she flashed a delighted smile on her face.

After some time, Song Ying queried with expectation, "Young Master, when will you be back? Are you still mad about Master Chang? He has his own set of problems as well. Many are against you taking over the group. Therefore, he has to come up with some terms to get more support."

Qin Ming replied, "I have my principles. I may love money, but I'm not its slave. Even on my worst days, I had survived with only bread and water daily. What do I have to fear? My godfather tried to force me into going along with his arrangement, subsequently, to orchestrate my life. He has crossed my bottom line. My life belongs to me. No one has the right to comment on the way I live."

Obviously, Song Ying couldn't understand his words.

Seeing that she was controlled, trained, sent on missions, and given tasks all her life. Hence, she had become a mindless killing machine that obeys all her master's commands. Naturally, she wouldn't understand what freedom of choice was.

Despite that, she didn't wish Qin Ming to leave the company since she was assigned to Qin Ming. Without him, there'd be nothing left for her, and that would be the end of the world for her.

Song Ying asked worriedly, "Do you want to leave us behind, Young Master? The Nie family's crisis has nothing to do with us. It was Nie Jianmin's aggressive investment that caused their downfall and their eventual bankruptcy."

Qin Ming's heart softened after seeing her distress and pitiable look on her face.

Out of a sudden, Qin Ming realized that he too was the kind who would only give in to persuasion and not coercion.

A while later, he scratched his head and declared, "Enough. I will not go back anytime soon as it's our fight. You wouldn't understand. But, I'll never leave. I promise."

Even Qin Ming wouldn't cast away a sudden immense wealth that came to him. He was not a fool, and he was certain that there was no way for him to get out of this anymore. The only way was to carry on.

After hearing his promise, Song Ying put on a joyful and beautiful smile on her face, while clenching her fist tightly in excitement, and declared, "I'll take good care of businesses in the country before your return, then."

Qin Ming nodded and asked, "Do you need more hands? How are Qi Minghui and Long doing?"

Song Ying responded, "You're brilliant, Young Master. Qi Minghui is good at many things, and he has been doing his job perfectly. Besides, the standard of our armed forces has improved a lot of thanks to Long's new training method, as expected of Huaxia's special forces."

Qin Ming nodded in acknowledgment and felt relieved after knowing that the company was thriving.

Qin Ming was feeling elated after knowing Song Ying was the one who found his wallet. After all, any man would be happy to have a beauty like her who gave him her all and being told 'I'm your person'.

Following that, he went to visit He Menggu but didn't let Song Ying tag along.

After seeing him off, Song Ying took out her phone and made a call, "I want to see the news of Cao Lijian's household disappear from Guang City by tomorrow. Once Cao Jingcheng is sent to jail, send someone and come up with a reason to sentence him to death."

The person on the other side of the phone asked hesitatingly, "Won't it upset the Cao family? Mr. Hou has some business dealing with them in Guang City. Besides, Cao Zhengmin and Cao Lijian are cousins. I'm afraid this might upset them."

But Song Ying retorted, "Inform Cao Zhengmin then. If they have a problem with that, I'll make his household disappear as well. We shall root them out and leave no potential threats."

The blood of the person on the other end ran cold at her remarks and answered, "Yes, Ms. Song. I'm on it."

She murmured to herself in a cold tone after the call, "Don't blame me for being cruel! If you didn't attempt to harm Young Master, you could be pardoned. But..."

After Qin Ming arrived at the hospital, he waited outside the ward. Although He Menggu survived after hovering between life and death, she wasn't doing well.

Qin Ming saw Bai Yuchun got out of the ward with a sorrowful face, but he didn't know what to say. Life is too hard on her!

Qin Ming remarked, "I have some friends who are lawyers. You may file a lawsuit against the Cao family. You'll get compensation if you win."

Bai Yuchun answered with a heavy heart, "Compensation is not important. My mother had been suffering all her life until she met you and get your help. Who would've thought that her happiness was short-lived? Now she... she's living in misery again."

Qin Ming shook his head furtively. He Menggu is a submissive person. Therefore, she is bound to suffer. If she could be bullied by just anyone, how can she gain a firm foothold in society? To survive, she has to rely on a man, but he ditched her.

Not wanting Bai Yuchun to follow in her mother's footsteps, Qin Ming encouraged, "You have to be strong. You need to take care of yourself more and not just putting up with everything. You should tolerate the people you care about, not those who bring you suffering."

Bai Yuchun stared at him without fully grasping what he meant. Yet, she thought that he made a good point as she was taught to tolerate her bullies by her mother since young. Qin Ming was the first one who taught her to fight back.

Bai Yuchun wiped her tears away, put up a brave front, and said, "Yes, I will. Thanks a lot, Qin Ming. What would I do without your help?"

At that, Qin Ming stroked her hair and cheered, "Haha. Life goes on no matter what. Look at the bright side and smile more often."

Without notice, the nurse came out of the ward and cried out, "Oh no! Where's the patient of Bed 6? Her name is He Menggu! Where has she gone to?"

A patient from the same ward replied, "I think I saw her took the elevator to the top of the building."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The rooftop?

He Menggu must have gone up to the rooftop through the back door when Bai Yuchun and Qin Ming were chatting in front of the ward.

Realizing that something was amiss, the two of them rushed towards the elevator.

When they reached the rooftop, He Menggu was already standing at the edge of the twenty-story hospital building with her foot dangling dangerously in the air.

"Mom!" Shocked and frightened, Bai Yuchun's knees buckled as she screamed, "Mom, please don't do anything stupid!"

He Menggu steadied herself on the railing and stretched a leg out. She answered in an extremely weak voice that was otherwise inaudible if not for the quiet rooftop. "I'm begging you, Chun. Please don't get near to me... Please..."

Bai Yuchun sobbed, "Mom, what are you doing? Can you please get down?"

Qin Ming was bewildered by He Menggu's suicide attempt because she had just escaped death and regained consciousness.

Is she in despair because she thinks that her son poisoned her?

Qin Ming thought that He Menggu was reaping what she sowed. He Menggu spoilt Bai Dayou and turned him into a dependent mommy's boy, and yet she taught Bai Yuchun to put up with people submissively.

She was indeed a failure as a mother.

Nevertheless, Qin Ming called the police. Not long after, firefighters arrived at the hospital and started setting up an inflatable air cushion. The ground was already crowded with murmuring onlookers even though it wasn't uncommon for patients to commit suicide at a hospital.

The hospital director, security officers, and He Menggu's attending doctor rushed to the rooftop.

"Madam, please come down! You don't have to

worry about your medical bills because we've applied funds for you."

"Madam, what do you need? Can you please calm down and talk to us?"

"Mom, please come down," Bai Yuchun begged. She feared that her mother might be agitated if she went nearer to her.

He Menggu merely shook her head and said, "I'm not going down. I want to speak to my son. I want to speak to Dayou."

Qin Ming sighed speechlessly because He Menggu valued her unfilial son more than the daughter who loved her.

After about ten minutes, the police got Bai Dayou out of the detention center in hopes of calming He Menggu down.

Bai Dayou was initially confused about the sudden transfer to the hospital before he saw his mother standing on the edge of the rooftop.

"Mom, please come down," Bai Dayou pleaded, "I know you're angry at what I've done and I understand if you hate me, but I swear I didn't know that Mr. Cao gave me poison instead of medicine! He tricked me into helping him with an act by offering me money. It's all his fault! Can you please come down? You can hit me all you want."

He Menggu burst into angry tears when she saw Bai Dayou approaching. She looked as if she was going to fall from the rooftop anytime. Even if there was an air cushion on the ground, she might not survive the fall because she was too frail at the moment.

Qin Ming and the others could only hope that the firefighters would climb from the window just in time to push He Menggu away from the edge to a safer spot.

He Menggu continued sobbing for a while before turning to Bai Yuchun, "Chun, I'm so sorry. You've been through so much all these years, and yet I've never stood up for you every time you're bullied. It's all my fault."

Bai Yuchun cried, "Mom, that's all in the past! I'm not holding a grudge against you and I'm not affected by it at all. Please come down, Mom."

He Menggu shook her head remorsefully. "After this poisoning incident, I realize that I can't let you suffer anymore. My incompetence is the reason for your sufferings."

Her voice dropped to a whisper. "There's something that I haven't told you, Chun. I don't know if I should."

Everyone perked their ears at the mention of a secret. They wondered what sort of secrets would a normal family have. Could it be that Bai Yuchun wasn't He Menggu's biological daughter?

Qin Ming had suspected it before because Bai Yuchun was exceptionally beautiful. She had fair skin and a curvy figure, unlike her mother, who looked frail and skinny. Perhaps He Menggu looked different when she was younger, but Qin Ming didn't think her facial features suggested that she was a beauty.

However, Bai Dayou's facial features and figure differed too much from Bai Yuchun's. He was not only potbellied but also disheveled in appearance. No stranger would have thought that they were siblings.

Qin Ming guessed that Bai Yuchun must have inherited her good looks from her father.

As Qin Ming expected, He Menggu announced, "Chun, I'm not your biological mother."

The rooftop went eerily silent because everyone couldn't believe that they were witnessing something that happened in movies.

He Menggu continued, "I married Dayou's father twenty years ago. His gambling addiction was so serious that he often left me and Dayou starving and hiding from loan sharks. One day, I met your father, Bai Jingting. You were just a baby then."

He Menggu let her eyes drift as she recalled the past. "Mr. Bai was handsome and elegant. However, he was hurt because his enemies were hunting him down. I brought him to my

hometown and we hid together from our respective pursuers."

"After Mr. Bai paid off our debt with his own money, I was finally able to live in peace. Since Mr. Bai had the same surname as my vanished husband, he was able to pose as Dayou's father in our village without raising any suspicions."

"The next two years were the happiest time of my life even though we weren't really husband and wife. If only things could go back the way they were..."

Everyone felt their heart sink as they realized that she was going to say something heartbreaking.

He Menggu continued sadly, "Mr. Bai's enemy found him in the end. After putting you in my care, he lured his enemy away and never came back."

Bai Yuchun was astounded by the news. She wasn't He Menggu's daughter! With her father absent, she might never know her biological mother's identity.

It didn't take much time for Bai Dayou to recover from his daze. He muttered, "I always wondered if my sister had a mutation because she's so pretty. It turns out she's from another family!"

"Shut up!" He Menggu was appalled by her son's indifference. "Why can't you grow up for once?" She sobbed.

"I've always saved the best for you all these years. In the end, you turned out just like your missing father! All you know is indulging yourself in all sorts of debauchery and wasting away in casinos and brothels!"

"Except for the brothel part, mom," Bai Dayou retorted.

"Shut your mouth! All these years..." He Menggu choked on her words. "Do you have any idea how much trouble you've caused Yuchun?"

"I was wrong to put up with your behavior. I was too biased to see that you wouldn't grow up if I continued doting on you."

"Dayou, you have to be independent when I'm not around anymore because no one will clean up your mess like I always do."

Everyone exhaled sharply when He Menggu trembled at the edge of the rooftop.

She choked on her tears before continuing, "Chun, my daughter, I can't be a burden to you anymore. I hope you'll forgive me for my mistakes." She turned to Qin Ming and addressed him, "I know I was too hard on you, but please help Chun. Bless you."

Having said her last words, she turned around and jumped.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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A firefighter managed to grab He Menggu's clothes from the window of the top floor. However, the fabric wasn't strong enough to endure He Menggu's weight. The clothes were torn and she fell to the ground in the end.

"Mom!" Bai Yuchun screamed and rushed forward. She fainted after taking two steps.

Bai Dayou let out a horrible cry and crumpled to the floor in agony. However, he stayed rooted to the spot because he was too afraid to get near the edge and look down.

Qin Ming approached the edge and heard the crowd exclaiming frantically. It happened too fast for anyone to comprehend.

Luckily, He Menggu landed on the air cushion. She was immediately attended to by the paramedics.

Qin Ming sighed when he thought about the contrast between his loving family and Bai Yuchun's tragic family.

He turned to Bai Yuchun and helped her up in a sitting position. After he pressed her philtrum and smoothed the flow of air in her chest, she regained her consciousness.

Pale and frightened, she grabbed Qin Ming's arm tightly and asked, "Where's my mother? Is she saved?"

"The air cushion caught her. The doctors must be saving her right now. Let's go down and have a look. " He carried her in his arms and went downstairs. "Everything's going to be fine, Yuchun. I'm here with you." He comforted her, fearing that she might fall sick because of the shock and despair.

Bai Yuchun felt better although she was still scared and feeling weak. Qin Ming's embrace made her feel safe and gave her emotional support.

The doctors were already proceeding with the emergency rescue when they arrived outside the emergency ward.

Unable to walk because of the shock, Bai Dayou was dragged to the ward by police officers.

When Dayou's eyes met Yuchun's, the latter hollered angrily, "Bai Dayou! Mom is in this state because of you! Are you happy now?" She broke down into tears finally.

She hated herself for not being able to do anything to save her mother.

All Qin Ming could do was comforting her and whispering words of encouragement to calm her down.

Bai Dayou knelt in front of the emergency ward with his handcuffs still on him. His thoughts were in a whirl but no one paid him any attention.

When the doctors and nurses finally came out of the ward at three in the morning, their sad expressions hinted at He Menggu's condition.

One of the doctors went up to Bai Yuchun and shook his head. "We've tried our best, but the patient is too weak because she hasn't fully

recovered from the poison when she made the jump. You may go in to see her for the last time."

Bai Yuchun almost fainted again at the news. Qin Ming got hold of her this time, but she could barely walk.

When Bai Yuchun reached He Menggu's deathbed, she cried at the sight of various tubes protruding from her frail body. The signal on the electrocardiogram was getting weaker. She was on the brink of death.

He Menggu turned her murky gaze on Bai Yuchun as a drop of tear fell down her cheek. "Chun, I'm so sorry... I'm a useless mother... Will you forgive me and your brother?"

Bai Yuchun wailed as she gripped her mother's hand tightly.

"Bai Dayou is a fool to not realize that his mother loves him so much," Qin Ming sighed to himself.

He Menggu continued, "Your father left a strip of paper with his contact number before he left..."

But Dayou ripped off a part of the strip... After we moved, I couldn't remember where I put it. I'm sorry that you can't find him again."

Bai Yuchun sobbed, "I don't care if I'm able to find him! I just want to be with you, Mom. Please don't leave me!"

He Menggu smiled lovingly at Bai Yuchun. After making a weak attempt to raise her hand to caress her daughter for the last time, she looked towards Bai Dayou and closed her eyes forever.

Beep.

"Mom!" Bai Yuchun sprawled on He Menggu's deathbed and cried her heart out. Her mother's death was so painful that it felt like her heart had been pierced and torn apart. Even if He Menggu wasn't the best parent, she was the only mother that Bai Yuchun ever knew.

Bai Dayou knelt silently beside them.

"I'm sorry for your loss, Chun. Aunt He's wish is for you to live happily and freely. She will be

watching and guiding you from above." Qin Ming comforted Bai Yuchun.

The next few days were a blur. They went to the morgue, funeral parlor, and crematorium. Bai Yuchun had to temporarily keep her mother's ashes because she had no money to buy a grave for her in Guang City.

Bai Dayou went back to jail after the funeral deservedly so since he was the one to blame for He Menggu's death. Qin Ming could only hope that he would repent his past misdeeds and turn over a new leaf in the next few years of serving his sentence.

Whatever the case, Bai Dayou had no more reason to pester Bai Yuchun for money since they were not related by blood.

Qin Ming helped Bai Yuchun with the funeral. She hardly slept for two days straight. Qin Ming felt his heart aching to see such a kind and honest girl like Bai Yuchun suffering.

After settling everything, Qin Ming told Bai

Yuchun to leave the work at the library to him, but she insisted on going to work because she made a promise.

Knowing that he couldn't change her mind, he said nothing.

Bai Yuchun actually wanted to stay close to Qin Ming because he was her only friend at the hardest time of her life. The loss of her mother and brother left a huge void in her life, but seeing Qin Ming made her feel better.

They went to work together every day and talked about random news and jokes. Their life went on as normal.

Later on, Cao Lijian and his family moved out of Guang City after Cao Jingcheng was sentenced to seven years in prison. He died in the prison due to an accident not long after. Although the Caos compensated Bai Yuchun for her loss, she didn't take it because she swore never to forgive them.

After a month of working in the library, things started to get better for Qin Ming and Bai

Yuchun. Qin Ming recovered from his hand injury while Bai Yuchun recovered from the trauma with Qin Ming's help.

After getting their salary on the last day of work, Bai Yuchun turned to Qin Ming, "Can I... Can I treat you to dinner?"

Qin Ming declined, "You need the salary, Yuchun. How about I treat you to dinner?"

She shook her head determinedly. "No, let me treat you to dinner today. You've already done so much for me. Besides, I have something important to tell you."

Qin Ming nodded, "Alright. What do you want to tell me?"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Qin Ming wondered why Bai Yuchun insisted on telling him over dinner because they were already meeting every day as colleagues.

He normally ate dinner prepared by Liao Qingxuan at Green Island. Although she was a drunkard, she was a brilliant cook.

Blushing, Bai Yuchun continued, "I want to repay you by treating you to dinner. As for what I want to tell you, please wait for me because I need to prepare for something first."

Qin Ming didn't press on the matter. When he was about to leave, the head librarian rushed out and stopped him. "Qin Ming, you and Yuchun forgot to collect your photocopied documents!"

Qin Ming murmured a reply and took the documents. Out of curiosity, he glanced at Bai Yuchun's birthdate. It was coincidentally today!

Realization dawned on him as he muttered to himself, "Today is her birthday! No wonder she wants to treat me to dinner... But now that she has no one to depend on, will it be too expensive for

her?"

Qin Ming was pondering over the matter when his phone buzzed.

"Qin Ming, I forgot to ask you just now. Do you prefer Chinese food or Western food?"

As Qin Ming didn't want Bai Yuchun to spend too much money, he decided to go for something cheaper.

Let's have a barbecue beside the swimming pool in our school! We can get some barbecue tools and sneak in easily because there's no one in the school during the holidays. Anyway, I've been itching to break the school rules. I don't like the idea that I have to pay to swim in the pool when school opens.

Bewildered by Qin Ming's request, it took quite a moment for Bai Yuchun to respond to his message.

He wants to have a barbecue by the pool because he's itching to break the school rules? That's so

rebellious!

In the end, Bai Yuchun agreed to Qin Ming's rather odd request. Should I bring a swimsuit?

Qin Ming couldn't stifle his laugh. No, we're not going to swim!

After replying to her message, Qin Ming started racking his brains to come up with a surprise for the birthday girl.

The sun set after seven in the evening.

There weren't many students in Hua Sheng University of Technology's school compound, so it was quite easy for Qin Ming and Bai Yuchun to sneak into their rendezvous outside the pool with two big boxes and a small cart.

Qin Ming asked, "How much did you pay for these?"

Bai Yuchun replied, "Not much, about two hundred."

"That's quite pricey, but at least it's cheaper than dining at a restaurant." Qin Ming continued.

Bai Yuchun couldn't help blushing because she knew that Qin Ming was being thoughtful by requesting the barbecue dinner to save her money. Furthermore, she was pleased to prepare food for Qin Ming personally.

After the pool manager knocked off, Qin Ming and Bai Yuchun sneaked around the entrance and found their way in through a hole in the fence. The hole was covered by shrubs. Apparently, someone cut open the fence and sneaked into the pool before.

Bai Yuchun went through the hole first. When she bent down to fit into the hole, Qin Ming saw her blue and white striped underwear and her fair, long legs.

Feeling aroused, Qin Ming shook his head wildly to clear the alluring sight from his mind.

Soon, the two of them entered the pool successfully.

Bai Yuchun exclaimed, "Why is the pool full of water at this time?"

"Who knows? Let's start the fire." Qin Ming merely shrugged. "Wow! How do you know that chicken wings and oysters are my favorite food?"

Bai Yuchun rushed forward and said, "Let me prepare the food. You might hurt your hand."

Qin Ming swung his arms to show Bai Yuchun he was fine. "My hand has healed completely. Don't worry."

However, Bai Yuchun shook her head firmly. "No, I'll prepare the food since I'm the one treating you to dinner today. All you have to do is eat."

Qin Ming chuckled, "Are you worried that I'll burn the food? I know how to do it!"

Bai Yuchun pouted and swatted his shoulder. "No way."

The next moment, she clasped her hands and

pleaded, "Please let me prepare food for you, Qin Ming. Let me serve you!"

Grinning, Qin Ming gave in, "Alright, alright! Go and get me a rattan chair. I wish to enjoy the moonlight beside the pool."

Bai Yuchun hurriedly dragged a chair towards Qin Ming. As he settled himself in a comfortable position, he couldn't help smirking to himself at the thought of his classmates' jealous reaction if they knew that the prettiest girl in school was being so nice to him.

After Bai Yuchun lighted up a fire, she asked, "Qin Ming, what do you want to eat first?"

Qin Ming replied, "I want oysters, prawns, chicken wings, and brinjals! Don't forget the beer!"

Soon, the air was filled with the aroma of barbecued food. Bai Yuchun was sweating from the heat as she cooked the food.

Qin Ming tried an oyster. It was juicy and

delicious. "Hmm! Not bad!"

Bai Yuchun grinned at his praise. "I'm happy that you like it! I've been so worried that you might not like it!"

Qin Ming said, "You should eat too. It's not fun if I enjoy the food alone."

Bai Yuchun wiped away the sweat on her eyebrows and beamed at Qin Ming. "I have to repay you. Without you, I wouldn't have made it till this far."

Qin Ming smiled warmly, "We're friends, Yuchun. I'm doing what every friend does. Come and try some." He picked up an oyster and handed it towards Bai Yuchun's lips. Bai Yuchun felt her heart pound and her face flush as she opened her mouth to eat the oyster.

Puzzled by her sudden silence, Qin Ming asked, "What is it?"

Bai Yuchun tried to explain but Qin Ming couldn't make out what she was talking about

with the oyster still in her mouth. He laughed heartily at the funny noise she made.

Qin Ming enjoyed his time eating barbecued food and kicking at the water under the moonlight with a pretty girl. It had been so long since he thoroughly enjoyed himself.

He thought that Bai Yuchun has recovered from her trauma as she was in such good spirits that day.

Suddenly, Qin Ming remembered something else. "Chun, you wanted to tell me something earlier. What is it? Is it about your father? Have you found the number?"

Still preparing food, Bai Yuchun froze when she heard Qin Ming. "I... I found the number in my mother's wardrobe."

Qin Ming asked, "Have you tried calling? If it's only missing the last two numbers, it won't take too long before you reach the right number."

Bai Yuchun remained silent for a long while

before replying in a whisper, "I've tried every combination, but..."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Qin Ming heard that Bai Yuchun had actually tried to search for her father.

Bai Yuchun was silent for a moment, then she said, "I tried the dumbest way by dialing several numbers and managed to get through to a few of them. But none of them knew my mother, and they even called me a scammer."

"Err..." Qin Ming said. "It's alright. There are other ways we can try."

Bai Yuchun shook her head and said, "It's not that. I'm not bothered by that at all, and I'm fine with the way I am. I just want to study hard, find a good career and be with someone I love. As for my father, I don't have a single photo of him. I only heard about him from my mom when I was little. According to her, he was a handsome man, gentle and loving towards her. It's my brother's biological father who gambled and fell into debt. I'm used to growing up without a father figure. If he really cares about me, he wouldn't wait until this long to come and find me."

Qin Ming said, "Didn't you guys moved to

another house? Maybe that's the reason he couldn't find you."

Bai Yuchun replied, "We moved to town for the sake of my studies. We didn't move far. It should be easy for him to find us if he wanted to. Maybe, he's already dead."

Qin Ming was silent and did not know what else to say. Obviously, this was not the important thing that Bai Yuchun had wanted to tell him.

Bai Yuchun said, "Let's not talk about me anymore. I just want to express my gratitude to you. Thank you, Qin Ming."

Qin Ming laughed, "You've thanked me enough already."

Bai Yuchun said earnestly, "I can't thank you enough. You helped to pay for my mother's medical bills. Also, you were the one who helped to arrange for her funeral. You have done so much for me, and I really can't thank you enough."

Qin Ming felt that it wasn't a big deal. After all, he had volunteered to help, so it was only natural for her to be grateful towards him.

He was a man who was always eager to help those who needed it, and he would do anything for his friend.

But, he would not hesitate to harm his foe.

In fact, Qin Ming had kept a little secret from Bai Yuchun. She did not accept the compensation fee offered by the Cao family, but he had accepted it behind her back. The amount was two million, and he took it because he felt that it should not go to waste. Besides, he considered it as a reward for his hard work.

Qin Ming stated, "Just like you said, life goes on. Life is not a bed of roses, isn't it? We'll just have to take life as it comes."

Bai Yuchun smiled and brought over a plate of grilled vegetables and chicken drumsticks. "Yes. Let's eat, drink and be merry."

After filling up their stomachs with food and a few bottles of beer, they sat by the pool. They leaned against each other and playfully splashed the water with their feet, singing the song "Sunshine after the rain".

Both had been through some tough challenges in life. She was undergoing some family crisis, and he had lost his girlfriend. They vented out their grievances by belting out the song.

After singing the song, Qin Ming undressed and jumped into the swimming pool. He then asked, "Oh! Chun, do you know how to swim?"

Bai Yuchun shook her head and said, "I can't afford to go to the natatorium."

Qin Ming laughed. He lifted his hands and splashed water at Bai Yuchun. She squealed and raised her hands in front of her body to avoid getting wet.

To no avail, her clothes were wet from the pool water, causing it to stick to her skin. Although Bai Yuchun was a little thin, her breasts filled out

nicely. Qin Ming was stunned and said, "Tsk! Tsk! Chun, I didn't know you have such a good figure."

Bai Yuchun quickly covered her chest with her hands, gritted her teeth, and said shyly, "Oh, Qin Ming...you dirty man."

Qin Ming laughed and said, "Come into the water, it's only one and a half meters deep. You won't drown."

Bai Yuchun asked suspiciously, "Really?"

Qin Ming said, "Yes, I'm not lying. Come on in. Have you taken swimming lessons before?"

Bai Yuchun was still a little afraid and said bashfully, "I... I don't have a swimsuit. I've always avoided going into the water, so I took time off during physical education classes to hand out flyers."

Qin Ming was shocked. How could a grown person like her not play in a pool before?

However, after being coaxed by Qin Ming, Bai Yuchun eventually went into the water. She was too naive to believe Qin Ming when he said the pool was only one and a half meters deep. So when she jumped into the pool, she sank deep into the water.

"Glub...glub..." Bai Yuchun struggled in the water and tried to shout for help.

Qin Ming quickly swam over at once, putting an arm around her waist and supported her in the water.

Bai Yuchun immediately grabbed onto Qin Ming, leaning her entire body on him, and breathed heavily. She seemed to have choked on a few mouthfuls of water, looking embarrassed.

Qin Ming laughed and said, "Hahaha, you really came into the water."

Floating in the water, they embraced each other tightly. Bai Yuchun had her chest pressed against Qin Ming, and her wet clothes completely clung onto her body, giving Qin Ming an eyeful of her

womanly figure.

She had no other choice but to hold on to him. The water was at least two meters deep, and she was only 1.6 meters tall. And since she couldn't swim, she did not dare to let go of him. She felt that Qin Ming had tricked her into the pool.

Bai Yuchun coquettishly glared at him and chided, "Qin Ming, you did that on purpose, didn't you?"

Of course, she didn't mind getting the short end of a stick. On the contrary, she felt a little wild for taking advantage of Qin Ming.

Just as she was still fighting her shyness, she noticed Qin Ming staring at her chest, and he was having a nosebleed. She quickly said, "Oh! Qin Ming, your nose is bleeding!"

Qin Ming froze in embarrassment. He saw Bai Yuchun's bra was a little disarranged and caught sight of her half-exposed breasts. He couldn't help but stare a little too long, stirring his inner desire. Unknowingly, that had caused his

nosebleed.

He swiftly wiped it off and said, "Oh, must be the hot weather. Coupled with the barbecue food, it's easy to get too heaty."

Bai Yuchun puckered her lips shyly. She was delighted because she knew that Qin Ming was completely fascinated by her figure. His nosebleed was evident enough, which proved that she was still attractive.

Just then, Bai Yuchun was very happy with her pretty looks and good skin. She was aware Qin Ming was attracted to her, and this meant she stands a good chance later on when she confesses her love for him.

Bai Yuchun took a deep breath. She had been practicing her confession speech every morning in bed for the past month. She felt that she had mustered enough courage to confess.

She just couldn't delay it any longer, Otherwise, Qin Ming would be taken by somebody else.

Today is also my birthday. I can do this. My confession will go well.

Bai Yuchun gave herself a mental pep talk and immediately said intently, "Qin Ming, I have something important to tell you."

Qin Ming paddled and said, "What's that? Wait a minute, I have something to tell you too."

Bai Yuchun looked baffled. She tilted her head and looked at him. Qin Ming wanted to tell her something?

Before she knew it, Qin Ming had already brought them to the center of the pool. With his arms still around her, he slowly lowered her till she was at his eye level and said, "There's something precious in the pool, and you have to pick it up. I'll dive down together with you to get it. Are you okay with that?"

Bai Yuchun shook her head in fright and said, "I... I can't swim."

Qin Ming said, "I'm not going to let you go. All

you have to do is just hold your breath for a few seconds. Come on."

Bai Yuchun wouldn't believe anyone else but him. She nodded her head and said, "Ok. Don't leave me."

Both of them took a deep breath. Then, Qin Ming held onto Bai Yuchun's hand and pulled her down into the pool. When they had dived down, she saw the pool was lit up by a colorful ball of light, and the water was filled with a kaleidoscope of dazzling colors. Bai Yuchun's eyes widened in shock. What's happening?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The crystal lanterns that had been embedded beneath the swimming pool illuminated the entire space, emanating a dazzling brilliance that would enchant the visitors.

What is this? It's gorgeous!

Bai Yuchun's had been completely enchanted.

Qin Ming brought her along with him and made their way to the bottom of the swimming pool. They saw a box with an automated lock by the time they reached the bottom of the pool.

She found the format for the password of the automated lock familiar. DD-MM-YYYY. Does that mean I'm supposed to fill in a certain date?

Bai Yuchun turned around and looked at Qin Ming confusedly. The latter signaled her to give it a try.

All of a sudden, Bai Yuchun's heart skipped a beat as she recalled something. She attempted to unlock the box as instructed using her date of birth. Once she unlocked the box, she saw a red

diamond necklace that stood out at the bottom of the pool.

Actually, that necklace was the one Qin Ming successfully acquired with a hundred million from the auction.

Once Bai Yuchun retrieved the necklace, Qin Ming brought her up with him immediately.

After they returned to the ground, Bai Yuchun leaned against Qin Ming, panting because she had been holding her breath. She was shocked as she sized up the red diamond necklace she had with her. When she recalled the scene she saw at the bottom of the pool, and the experience she had gone through, she felt a heartwarming sensation deep down.

"Q-Qin Ming, how do you know today is my birthday?" Bai Yuchun asked, expressing her surprise.

"What do you think? Do you like the surprise I have prepared for you?" Qin Ming replied with another question.

She smiled as though she was the most pampered woman in the world, expressing her joy and gratitude, "Q-Qin Ming... I-I have never once celebrated my birthday before."

"Seriously? Not even an egg on your birthday? Back in the day, my family wasn't wealthy either, but my parent would allow me to splurge and have an egg on my birthday." Qin Ming shared his past experience with Bai Yuchun.

Bai Yuchun shook her head with a bitter smile, sharing her past experience with him in return, "Ever since I have grown up, I stopped celebrating my birthday. Eventually, I have gotten used to it. Previously, I would keep the birthday wishes I have to myself. This is the first time someone celebrates my birthday with me. In fact, this is the first time I have received a birthday present from someone else."

"This is such a gorgeous necklace! It seems like real diamonds have been etched on the necklace!" Bai Yuchun held her first birthday present firmly, stating in a joyful tone.

Women had always been suckers for diamonds. Hence, Bai Yuchun grew fond of the diamond necklace she deemed a replication once she got her hands on it. Since diamond was a luxurious item, Bai Yuchun thought Qin Ming would never present her with a real diamond necklace.

Qin Ming chuckled in return. He decided to play along with the innocent woman and told her, "It's a random necklace I have purchased from a random store from the street. It's nothing much, but I hope you'll like it."

"I like it! I'll put it on whenever I'm out with others!" Bai Yuchun gripped the red diamond necklace she had with her, stating determinedly.

Upon hearing Bai Yuchun's reply, Qin Ming's lips twitched. He secretly hoped she didn't mean it. After all, it was a rare crimson diamond that was worthy of a hundred million. She would get robbed if she had the necklace with her whenever she was out on the street.

Qin Ming lifted Bai Yuchun in between his arms, feeling her plump and velvety buttocks with his

slender fingers the moment he placed her on the shore.

Consequently, Bai Yuchun flushed embarrassedly as soon as she detected Qin Ming's fastened grip.

"Huh? I-Is that a cake?" Once Bai Yuchun returned to the shore, she noticed there was a birthday cake that was placed nearby.

Needless to say, it must have had been part of Qin Ming's plan. She figured out he must be the one who had cleaned the entire swimming pool and decorated it with all sorts of underwater illumination. He must be the one who had prepared the cake and the present she found at the bottom of the pool. Everything was part of the surprise he had in store for her.

Qin Ming lit the candles, urging Bai Yuchun to join him, "We can't possibly celebrate your birthday without a cake, right? Hurry up! It's time to cut the cake!"

Staring at the properly positioned cake with lit candles above it, Bai Yuchun was on cloud nine.

She broke down in tears, detecting a prickling sensation behind her eyes as torrents of joy streamed down her cheeks unwittingly.

"What's wrong? Why are you crying?" Qin Ming asked.

"Q-Qin Ming..." Bai Yuchun stuttered as she wailed uncontrollably, "I-I have never... Boohoo... T-Thank you... N-Never has anyone treated me in such a manner before... Q-Qin Ming..."

The wailing woman leaned against the man, wrapping her arms around his waist. All of a sudden, she felt as though she was the most blessed woman in the world. Never would she ever forget this particular joyous occasion she had gone through for the rest of her life.

"Everything is fine, okay? I'll introduce another few of my friends to you soon. I'm sure you will get along with them as well!" He chuckled, caressing Bai Yuchun's back as he assured her.

Blubbering like a child in front of him, she

couldn't suppress her emotions any longer. The only regret she had was the fact she hadn't confessed the affection she had for him. In fact, that was her ultimate goal of the day.

Despite being completely drenched, she kneeled in front of the cake after she calmed herself down, clasping her hands together, making a wish in a serious manner, "I hope I'll get to spend the rest of my birthday with Qin Ming by my side."

"Erm..." Qin Ming's lips twitched involuntarily because her wish seemed like a mission impossible for him.

"Chun, you should have kept it to yourself. Otherwise, your wish may not come true," Qin Ming told Bai Yuchun.

"Huh? Really? Are you serious?" Bai Yuchun was dumbfounded, panicking because Qin Ming's words had taken her by surprise. "I-I have no idea there's such a taboo! Am I allowed to make another wish when I have made one?"

"Don't worry. Let's make another wish in the

upcoming year," Qin Ming laughed, asserting in an attempt to calm her down.

"I should have had done my research on the process of a birthday celebration beforehand!" Bai Yuchun exclaimed petulantly with her lips pursed.

Once Bai Yuchun blew the candles, she served Qin Ming a small piece of cake.

All of a sudden, several patrolling security guards rushed into the swimming pool and flashed their torchlight in the duo's direction. "Hey! Hold it right there! It turns out someone has infiltrated the pool! I knew something was wrong the moment I detected the fragrance of barbecue meals!"

Qin Ming and Bai Yuchun were shocked because they had been busted by the security guards. What the heck? How come the patrolling security guards possess such sensitive noses? They show up when we're about to reach the best part!

Immediately, Qin Ming held Bai Yuchun's hand and sprinted over to the back entrance.

He unlocked the door of the back entrance using the keys as soon as possible and fled once he retrieved his backpack.

The guards behind yelled as they went after the duo, "What the hell? Why do you have the key to the door? Hold it right there! Are you guys students of the university?"

"Hold it right there, both of you!"

Qin Ming and Bai Yuchun would never stop as the guards instructed. He held her hand and dashed out of the campus immediately. They sprinted all the way to the half-completed Lake Weiming, the place where they spent most of their time together in the past. It was also the place where Bai Yuchun gradually fell in love with Qin Ming.

As soon as they reached Lake Weiming, the panting duo exchanged glances and broke into laughter.

"We're like a bunch of delinquents who have caused others a lot of trouble, but it feels great!" Bai Yuchun declared as she chuckled.

"That's how youngsters like us should behave, right? To begin with, I have never been a disciplined person before!" Qin Ming declared nonchalantly.

He reached for a towel from his bag and handed it over to Bai Yuchun because he was afraid she would catch a cold. After all, they were completely drenched.

Bai Yuchun finally figured out Qin Ming had gone to great lengths to have everything sorted out for her birthday.

She surveyed the surroundings of Lake Weiming and recalled the time they spent by the lake on a daily basis, enjoying fried chicken together back in the day. He had also saved her from Wang Chenghu's lackeys and presented her with her first gift in Lake Weiming. To sum up, they went through all sorts of things in Lake Weiming together.

Bai Yuchun took a deep breath and pursed her lips, confessing her affection in a serious manner, "Qin Ming, I love you. Can I be your girlfriend?"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Silence fell once more. Staring at Bai Yuchun in the eyes in disbelief, Qin Ming thought he had been hearing things.

Under the faint illumination of the moonlight, the drenched Bai Yuchun stared at Qin Ming in anticipation of a reply. Occasionally, droplets of water would drop off her unkempt hair.

Qin Ming would never expect a woman would one day confess the affection she had for him in person. In fact, the one who had confessed was one of the most gorgeous women in his university, Bǎi Yuchun.

To be precise, Qin Ming was impressed by Bai Yuchun's gentle yet staunch persona. Due to her miserable past and family background, he felt a strong urge to keep her by his side, protecting her from the mysterious forces behind the scene.

Most importantly, she had a fragile appearance. He had always derived pleasure from bullying her in a playful manner. Therefore, he was sure he would have a great time if he could get into a relationship with such a fun woman.

Meanwhile, Bai Yuchun's heart pounded furiously. She was anxious deep down. Nevertheless, she decided to give it a try despite the possible outcome.

Over the past month, they had gone through all sorts of incidents. They had been working together for a long time. She was afraid Qin Ming would get into a relationship with another woman should she miss the opportunity. Hence, she couldn't suppress her urge anymore.

"May I?" Bai Yuchun queried once more.

Actually, Bai Yuchun's sudden confession had taken Qin Ming had by surprise since he had always perceived her as his best friend. Countless help had been offered because he wished to be of aid to her due to her pathetic background and pitiable front.

Sympathy was the driving force behind his action. In other words, Qin Ming had never once considered the possibility of a relationship between them.

After all, the only one he had in his mind was Nie Haitang.

Qin Ming remained silent throughout the session. Bai Yuchun had a bad feeling about it because it seemed as though she wouldn't stand a chance at all.

Pursing her lips once again, Bai Yuchun clenched her fist and asked, "Even though she has left you behind, have you not gotten over Nie Haitang yet?"

Truth be told; Qin Ming had frequented Old Six's place over the past month, inquiring if they had found Nie Haitang. Every time, Old Six would tell him they were still working on it because it would take some time to locate her.

Although Qin Ming had not found Nie Haitang yet, she was the only one he had in his mind all along.

He had purchased Nie Haitang's home at Yun Shan Villas on her behalf as a surprise for her.

Once Qin Ming sorted out the things in his mind, he nodded, affirming Bai Yuchun's thought, "Yes."

Bai Yuchun shuddered as her heart sank to the bottom of her stomach. Even though she had been expecting the reply since such an idea had crossed her mind before, she felt dejected when Qin Ming affirmed her of her thought.

She refused to give up just yet and directed another question at Qin Ming. "Does that mean you're going to wait for her for the rest of your life until the day you find her?"

Qin Ming was dumbstruck by Bai Yuchun's words. Actually, he wasn't as loyal as the protagonist of a soap opera either. He was, after all, an ordinary man. If he couldn't locate her, eventually, he would give up on her because he couldn't possibly remain single throughout his life.

"If I'm able to substitute Nie Haitang's role, are you willing to give me a chance, Qin Ming? I can't possibly return the favor you have done me.

Please allow me to repay you with the affection I have for you!" Bai Yuchun mustered her courage and suggested yet again.

Repay me with the affection she has for me?

The man's heart skipped a beat as soon as he heard the woman's heartfelt confession. Since Bai Yuchun was a gorgeous and kind woman, it would be an out blunt lie if Qin Ming said he wasn't tempted at all.

He stared at Bai Yuchun, who had cast an intimate gaze at him with an affectionate and determined look on her face. It must have been tough for her to muster the courage required to confess her feelings.

Suddenly, he recalled the time he confessed the affection he had for Li Meng. Previously, he was as anxious as Bai Yuchun because he was serious about Li Meng.

The duo exchanged glances at the shore of Lake Weiming. Soon, they noticed their lips were merely a short distance away from one another's

lips.

Bai Yuchun leaned over unwittingly. She was about to reach his lips with her lips. In the end, she closed her eyes anxiously in anticipation of Qin Ming reciprocating her affection.

Due to Bai Yuchun's ethereal beauty, Qin Ming could no longer suppress his urge as well. He got worked up all of a sudden and kissed her on the velvety lips in return.

Once he came into contact with her scorching lips, he had been rendered irrational.

Lust had engulfed and taken over the man's rationality upon detecting the woman's busty figure. He desired more of her to satisfy his need.

"U-Ugh!"

Finally, Bai Yuchun's first kiss had been taken away by Qin Ming.

Running his fingers across her busty pair of chests, she behaved as though she couldn't be

bothered by it at all. In fact, she wanted him to own her because she would get to be his girlfriend should he need her by his side.

It had been quite some time since Qin Ming got rid of his physiological need. As an ordinary young man, he had a strong urge. Occasionally, he would get rid of his needs with Li Meng back in the day when they were still in a relationship.

Despite having a thing for one another, he couldn't get into any intimacy with Nie Haitang due to all sorts of hardships they had to go through in the past month. Therefore, it had been a month since he last did it.

He couldn't suppress his urge anymore since Bai Yuchun, who was such an attractive woman, was in his arms.

They were about to take things to the next stage, but Qin Ming's phone rang abruptly, giving them the shock of their lives.

Immediately, they moved away from one another as though they were having an affair, afraid of

being caught by others.

They surveyed the surroundings in fear of others' presence at Lake Weiming. Once they ensured they were the only ones around, they finally regained their composure.

"Hello? Who is this? Why the heck have you decided to call me in the middle of the night?" Qin Ming picked up the call, bellowing in an attempt to conceal his anxiousness.

Bai Yuchun was delighted deep down since Qin Ming behaved anxiously in a similar manner. She placed her finger on her lips, recollecting the kissing session they had. Even though she could barely deal with the man's domineering way of kissing, she was overjoyed because she finally got the chance to kiss him.

Nonetheless, she couldn't be sure if a kiss could change Qin Ming's mind and allow her to substitute Nie Haitang's role in her mind.

Bai Yuchun had her fair share of doubts. She secretly hoped Qin Ming was an unloyalty jerk

who would turn his back against the woman he loved. Otherwise, she wouldn't stand a chance against Nie Haitang at all.

"It's you again! I told you before, and I'm going to tell you once more! I'm not in charge of the delivery service. You have called me previously. Have you forgotten?" Qin Ming complained about the person on the other end of the call.

"What? The Third Village? I'm in Guang City! Even if I'm willing to deliver your meal to you, your food would have been spoiled by then! I told you! I'm not in charge of your meal!"

"Huh? Miss, please don't leave me a bad remark! Things ain't easy for us as well, okay? You're the one who has reached the wrong person!"

It took Qin Ming some time to explain the situation to the woman on the other end of the call. In the end, she finally believed Qin Ming wasn't in charge of her meal and she had gotten the wrong person.

After the trivial incident, they weren't in the

mood to continue their intimate session anymore.

Qin Ming turned around, staring at Bai Yuchun. Although the session between them wasn't intimate anymore, he stared at her enthusiastically. She's such a beauty! I can't possibly lie about it, right? After all, I'm indeed tempted by her gorgeous appearance. I'd love to have her by my side as well!

The moment Qin Ming retrieved his phone after he hung up the call, he saw his phone's wallpaper. It was none other than the photo of Nie Haitang with a bright smile. The time they had spent together flashed back in his mind once again.

The woman, whom he had sworn he would marry, had disappeared into thin air.

Qin Ming heaved a long sigh of despair, notifying in a callous tone, "Chun, I'm so sorry for letting loose of myself just now. I need some time to think about it."

Bai Yuchun's heart skipped a beat. She pursed her lips and assured him in a flustered manner, "Why

are you apologizing? It's not necessary to apologize since I was the one who had initiated it!"

"I'm not going to lie to you. Actually, Haitang is still the one I have in my mind. I miss her a lot. If I get into a relationship with you when she's the only one in my mind, I'm going to hurt you for real."

Upon hearing Qin Ming's reply, Bai Yuchun's body shuddered. Tears streamed down her cheek yet again. All along, she had never wanted Qin Ming to move on from Nie Haitang because she would be grateful if she could be her substitute.

However, Qin Ming respected Bai Yuchun and had never once thought of her as Nie Haitang's substitute. He made up his mind and made himself clear because he didn't want to waste her time.

Bai Yuchun was grateful and got her hopes high due to Qin Ming's reply. She beamed her reply, "Mmm... If that's the case, I'll wait for you to get back to me. Thank you so much for celebrating

my birthday. It's the first time I get to celebrate my birthday. I will never forget about it."

He smiled gently in return and dropped her off at the female's dorm before returning to the male's dorm.

Once he returned to the dorm, he received the call from the anonymous woman once again.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Qin Ming got infuriated because he received the call from the one at Jing City again.

He picked up the phone, yelling to express his frustration, "Miss, I'm not in charge of your meal! How many times do I have to repeat myself? Do you really think I'll be affected by your feedback? I don't want you to rate the delivery personnel negatively because you're going to adversely impact the hardworking delivery personnel's daily income!"

The woman on the other end of the call seemed to be shocked. She apologized, "I know you're not the delivery personnel, and I have no intention to give them negative feedback either. I have called to apologize."

"E-Erm..." The initially infuriated Qin Ming was at a loss of words all of a sudden.

She's not playing according to the rules! Since she has apologized, I can't possibly yell at her, right?

Qin Ming asked, "Do you think apologizing is

going to help? If that's the case, the cops' aid won't be necessary! You're interrupting my personal space! In fact, this is the third time you have invaded my privacy!"

The woman on the other end of the call scoffed, "Hmph! I have invaded your privacy? I'm sure you're trying to tend to other women, right? Do you really consider yourself a man? You shouldn't be bothered by such trivial issues at all! I'll spend some time with you to make up for your loss!"

"Why would I need that?" Qin Ming asked sarcastically.

The woman added, "I'm a beauty with brains as well as a sexy figure! Listen to my charming voice! You have no idea how many people are trying to court me! Usually, I will neglect others. Hence, you should be grateful you get to talk to me!"

"I have never seen such a narcissistic woman before! You should be humble since there are so many gorgeous women in our country!" Qin

Ming asserted, laughing hysterically.

"Hmph! I'm sure you're a single man who has never fallen in love with another woman! You must be hiding somewhere, watching pornography as you're pleasuring yourself, right? Are you angry because I have gotten in the way of your self-pleasuring session with my call?" The woman scoffed.

What the hell? Is she despising me? Excuse me? The most gorgeous student in the university has just confessed the affection she has for me a few hours ago. Although it seemed to be a trivial issue, Qin Ming couldn't keep his composure the moment the woman tried to pick on him.

"I have a girlfriend! You know what? She's at least tenfold prettier than you! Her presence will put a woman like you to shame easily! The make-up influencers are no match for her because she doesn't even have to put on any make-up since she has a flawless look!" Qin Ming rebuked the woman's statement.

"Tsk! Tsk! Can you stop bluffing? It seems like

you're even more shameless than me, huh? Isn't your girlfriend around you? She was asking for your permission to remove your shirt the last time I called, right? Aren't you afraid she's going to be jealous?"

"She's not my girlfriend, okay? Hey! Why are you poking your nose into my business?" Qin Ming queried.

"Oh! Why did she try to remove your shirt when both of you weren't in a relationship? You're such a jerk! How dare you have an affair with another woman? You have such a pretty girlfriend, yet you're turning your back against her! You're a real douchebag!" The woman exclaimed as though she had caught Qin Ming red-handed.

"What are you talking about? I'm extremely loyal, okay? A few hours ago, I turned down the request of the most gorgeous woman from our university to get into a relationship with me! How can you accuse me of being a jerk and having an affair with another woman?" Qin Ming replied in a playful manner because the woman had sort of entertained him through the call.

Suddenly, the woman on the other end of the call fell silent for a few seconds before teasing Qin Ming in return, "Oh, God! Have you no shame for telling such an out blunt lie? Are you sure you're not drunk? The most gorgeous woman from your university has confessed the affection she has for you? If that's the case, you should consider yourself lucky! Why did you turn down her request? On a side note, your girlfriend is such a useless wimp! She can't even keep an eye on her boyfriend. If it's my boyfriend we're talking about, I'll rush over and slap him in the face to intimidate other women."

"Hey! Mind your words, okay? You have no idea what's going on!" Qin Ming replied petulantly, frowning in irritation.

He thought about it and decided to tell the anonymous woman the things he had been keeping to himself all along. Truth be told, he couldn't make up his mind.

"Hey! I have a question for you! There's this friend of mine who has lost contact with her girlfriend recently because she has run away for

whatever reason there is. He couldn't figure out the reason behind either, but they hadn't been in contact for quite some time. There's another girl who has confessed the affection she has for him in person, and he asked me if he should get into a relationship with the latter one. With that being said, he felt guilty because he didn't want to turn his back against his girlfriend. I can't really sort this out for him. As a fellow woman, what do you think?"

The woman remained silent for a few seconds yet again before she replied with another question, "You have a friend? Are you sure you're not talking about yourself?"

"No! I'm talking about my friend! Excuse me? You're missing the point! You don't have to know who's troubled by this because I'm asking you what's your next best course of action if you're in a similar situation?" Qin Ming grumbled and drew her attention to the situation.

"I'll do you a favor and analyze the situation for you since I accidentally got in your way countless times when you were about to have the best time

of your life with your so-called girlfriend," The anonymous woman explained before starting her analysis.

"What you're about to get yourself involved in is extremely dangerous. You have a thing for your girlfriend who has disappeared into thin air, right? Maybe she has disappeared because she has encountered some hardships in life? You should stand your ground and wait for her return. Otherwise, when she returns to you and notices you have turned your back against her, she may commit suicide because of you! What are you going to do if that's the case?"

"You're having a doubt because your girlfriend has a lot of faith in you, and she's the only one you have in your mind. Am I right? If that's the case, why don't you turn down the gorgeous woman as soon as possible?"

"Actually, we have kissed. I'm not going to lie because it feels pretty great. Oh! It's my friend who has kissed the girl. I have nothing to do with it. H-Hello? Hey! Why did she hang up out of the blue?" Qin Ming ran his fingers through his

fringe in an attempt to make up his mind.

He looked at his phone in shock because he couldn't figure out the reason she had hung up the call when they were in the middle of a great conversation. Qin Ming thought he might have said something he shouldn't have.

All of a sudden, he felt dejected. He would have a great time with the anonymous woman every time he received her call. However, she would hang up the call out of the blue every time.

He scratched his head in confusion and stared at Nie Haitang's photo once again. Qin Ming missed the gentlewoman's smile a lot. Even though he attempted to reach the girl through another call, his effort was to no avail because the woman had switched off her phone.

Suddenly, Qin Ming recalled Nie Haitang had been deceived to travel abroad by her mother previously. She had lost her phone and got herself caught up in a situation where she was in desperate need of cash.

Once Qin Ming thought about it, he reloaded ten thousand mobile credit on Nie Haitang's behalf because he thought she had run out of mobile credit once again. Then, he attempted to get in touch with Nie Haitang, but it was another futile effort.

He was dejected because he couldn't make up his mind. Bai Yuchun had confessed her affection when Nie Haitang was nowhere to be found.

He turned the idea in his mind for some time, yet he couldn't decide on his next best course of action. In the end, he decided to put it aside for the time being and headed over to take a shower instead. Since it was a problem for tomorrow, he decided to have his future self-deal with it.

Qin Ming asked Bai Yuchun to meet him at Lake Weiming the next morning. He had decided to give her a proper response.

On the other hand, Bai Yuchun couldn't bring herself to fall asleep throughout the night. She tossed and turned in bed because she was afraid Qin Ming would turn her down.

She got worked up when she received Qin Ming's text to meet him at Lake Weiming in the morning. Immediately, she changed into her best set of outfits; a pleated skirt that had cost her seventy, and an embroidered shirt that had cost her sixty. Bai Yuchun dolled herself up with simple make-up and decided to cover the pimple on her forehead with her fringe.

Although she didn't have a set of luxurious outfits and ostentatious make-up, her simple yet elegant look had lived up to her name as one of the prettiest girls in the university.

Bai Yuchun took a deep breath, muttering to herself in front of the mirror, "Lake Weiming had always been my lucky ground! I have encountered all sorts of lucky incidents there! Since Qin Ming had invited me to meet him there, I'm sure he has great news in store for me, right?"

She lifted He Menggu, her late mother's remains, and prayed before departing, "Mom, you have to keep an eye on me, okay? It's an important day for me!"

Qin Ming had reached Lake Weiming ahead of Bai Yuchun. Hence, he detected her presence the moment she reached the venue. He was about to greet her, but he received several consecutive calls from Kelly, who had taken over the mission from Long lately.

Kelly notified him, "Young Master, a bunch of suspicious men had made their way into the campus. They're heading over to you as we speak."



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