

"I...damn..."

Chu Wen-Fei was so angry that he almost had a stroke.

These bastards. Are they idiots? Since they are toasting me, how could they not know me?

If they don't know who I am, then why the hell are they toasting me!

"Haha, this is your first meeting, so it is natural that you can't recognize him."

"Let me make the introduction. This person is my son-in-law. He is Chu Wen-Fei, the son of Chu Yang, owner of Yangtian Real Estate. You may also call him Mr. Chu." Just then, with a smile on her face, Wang Qiao-Yu volunteered to introduce her son-in-law to the assembled executives.

"What?"

"He is Mr. Chu?"

"Then who is that person?"

The hotel executives were flummoxed.

Why was there another Mr. Chu?

“Young Master Shen, what...?”

The hotel General Manager, Lin Feng, looked at Shen Fei in confusion.

But Shen Fei only winked at the General Manager and said, “A true hero does not reveal his identity, and someone who goes around claiming to be one is not a true hero. So why don’t you all just pretend he is Mr. Chu and toast him.”

Lin Feng understood the meaning behind Shen Fei’s words immediately. The former turned to look at Ye Fan with an ambiguous smile on his face and said, “Haha~ I get it. I get it.”

“In that case, let us finish our drinks.”

Lin Feng and the executives laughed before quaffing their drinks.

“Mr. Lin, about what you said earlier. Is that a promise?” Wang Qiao-Yu asked her question after Lin Feng and the other executives had finished their drinks.

“What I said?”

“About the free meals for Mr. Chu?”

“Yes, of course. It is our honor to have Mr. Chu visit us. Not only are we going to comp his meals, we will also serve the Manchu-Han Imperial Feast. At the same time, we will offer a free flow of drinks such as Château Lafite and Feitian Moutai. He can drink as much as he wants.”

One has to give before they receive. In order to forge ties with Ye Fan, the executives were willing to put in quite the effort.

After they had finished toasting each other, Lin Feng left with the other executives. And Shen Fei also left the room to answer a phone call. Wang Qiao-Yu, who had been holding in her emotions, decided to take the opportunity to cut loose.

“Haha~”

“Look, look. Look at how much they respect our Wen-Fei.”

“When we go for free meals in future, we will also receive free wine worth several hundred thousand.”

The other Qius could only stew in their envy and jealousy.

Damn it. Rich people get all the luck. Everywhere, there will be people who are willing to suck up to them.

Many of the Qius gave Chu Wen-Fei the thumbs-up gesture. Even the eldest Qiu brother, Qiu Guang, was full of praise for him. "Awesome, Wen-Fei. Even the Shens have to suck up to you. When I go about my business outside, I can hold my head up high because you are my nephew."

"Haha, Uncle Guang, you are standing on ceremony. We are one family. If you ever run into any trouble you can't handle, give me a ring. I will take care of everything with just one phone call."

Chu Wen-Fei could not stop showing off, and he kept at it at the dining table. One by one, the Qius toasted him. It was clear from what they were saying that they were toadying up to him.

In contrast to the bustle around Chu Wen-Fei, it was rather quiet where Ye Fan was sitting. Nobody was offering to toast him or his wife. Both of them were ignored by

everyone else.

Ye Fan remained as composed as before. He continued to sip his tea. But as Qiu Mu-Cheng looked at the preferential treatment Chu Wen-Fei was getting, she could not help feeling aggrieved.

Eventually, in order to cover up her embarrassment, Qiu Mu-Cheng took her chopsticks and tried to pick up some food.

She did not succeed. When she tried to get some fish, someone swivelled the rotating turntable and moved the fish dish out of her reach. So Qiu Mu-Cheng had no choice but to pick the vegetable dish. But just as she was stretching out her chopsticks to pick up the food, someone swivelled the turntable again. That made her feel even more embarrassed.

“Hmph, you pair of ungrateful wretches. Are you still after the free food? Stop dreaming, will you?” Wang Qiao-Yu smiled smugly and kept swivelling the turntable. She was determined to keep the food out of Qiu Mu-Cheng’s reach.

“Mu-Cheng, did you want some fish? Why didn’t you tell me?” Ye Fan suddenly spoke

up. His hand darted out, quick as a cat, and he managed to pick up a piece of fish with his chopsticks. Which he placed on Qiu Mu-Cheng's plate.

And that angered Wang Qiao-Yu. She retaliated by mocking the couple. "If you feed a dog, it will know to wag its tail and bark to express its gratitude. But some people are really shameless. They did not say one word of thanks, after they have gorged themselves on the free food and drinks. And they even picked the expensive stuff."

"How shameless are they?"

Although Wang Qiao-Yu did not mention names, every Qiu present knew who she was referring to.

"That's right. We didn't want them to come, but they followed us shamelessly. And now, they are eating my husband's food, drinking my husband's wine and sharing his limelight. But not only did they not fork out a single cent, they are sitting there now looking so high and mighty. These people, they deserve to remain poor and useless their whole lives."

Just then, Chu Wen-Fei left the room to use the toilet. Qiu Mu-Ying and her mother quieted down for a bit, but they continued to smile mockingly at Yen Fan and his wife.

Qiu Mu-Cheng turned paler and paler. She felt as if she was sitting on a bed of nails.

Ye Fan frowned.

He slammed his tea cup on the table, looked up and said in cold voice, "Are you looking for trouble?"

"Whoa, you are getting angry?"

"We wouldn't dare. You are so awesome. You are the renowned live-in son-in-law of Yunzhou city. Even if we look through thousands of candidates, we would not be able to find someone awesome like you. You are indeed worthy of the position of live-in son-in-law. I am your wife's little sister, so I definitely do not dare to find trouble with you." Qiu Mu-Ying's speech, which was loaded with sarcasm, caused the Qius to burst out laughing.

Ye Fan's frown got deeper. Just as he was about to get up from his seat, Qiu Mu-

Cheng stopped him and shook her head.

Under the circumstances, starting a fight against their relatives would only make matters worse for both of them.

Just then, the doors were pushed open and, amidst a flurry of footsteps, a middle-aged man strode into the dining hall while being escorted by his bodyguards.

The middle-aged man had the look of a successful businessman. And he had the aura of someone used to command. Beside him, the normally arrogant Shen Fei looked as meek as child. Both of them were walking together.

The latecomer was none other than Shen Jiu-Yi, the head of the Shen family and Shen Fei's father.

Shen Jiu-Yi did not stop at the dining table. He went up to the podium and turned to look at Ye Fan. "Mr. and Madam Chu, I have kept you waiting. I came late because I had some matter to attend to. Please forgive me."

"I have only one reason for throwing this banquet today. And that is to apologize to

Mr. and Madam Chu. My failure to educate my son has caused him to offend Madam Chu and, in the end, he angered Mr. Chu. I am sincerely sorry.”

“Here, I and my unworthy son will bow in apology to Mr. and Madam Chu.”

Once he had finished speaking, Shen Jiu-Yi and his son bowed at the waist in front of everybody. AS they did so, their eyes were filled with sincere regret.

“Mm?”

“Ying-Ying, what’s going on? When did Shen Fei offend you?” The Qius were flummoxed and they all looked at Qiu Mu-Ying in confusion.

Qiu Mu-Ying herself was feeling bewildered. She could not remember an occasion when Shen Fei had offended her. But she smiled and told her relatives: “Maybe they are talking about that time when he accidentally stepped on my foot. It’s not a big deal and I have already forgotten about it.”

When the Qius heard this, they glanced at each other.

That was awesome!

Just because Shen Fei had accidentally stepped on Qiu Mu-Ying's foot, the Shens had to arrange a banquet to apologize. How much clout did Chu Wen-Fei have?

"Finally, to express my sincere apology, I would like to present an antique painting to Mr. Chu. I hope you will accept my humble gift."

Shen Jiu-Yi adopted a servile attitude and then he carefully opened a wooden box. From inside the box, he retrieved a scroll, which he unrolled in front of everybody.

On that scroll was a painting. It depicted an evening during late autumn. A man, supported by a walking clutch, could be seen returning home after visiting someone or some place in the mountains. The painting gave off a sense of chaos, but the composition was well done. The layout was both graceful and compact. Some areas of the painting were sparse while others were compact, but the artist had managed to skillfully blend the two aspects together. One could tell, at a glance, that the painting was extremely valuable.

“Whoa!”

“Could...Could this painting be “Visiting a Recluse near the Streams”? Drawn personally by one of the Four Masters of the Ming Dynasty, Tang Bo-Hu?”

“I heard it appeared three years ago at the auction held at Jianghai city in Jiangdong province. It was sold to a mysterious tycoon at the astronomical price of twenty million. It created a new record and shocked the entire art collecting world of Jiangdong!”

“Don’t tell me, the mysterious tycoon who bought the painting is Mr. Shen?”

Qiu Guang had few hobbies, and one of them was collecting artworks.

So when he caught sight of the painting, he got so agitated that he could not help but shout out loud.

Chapter 41 An Heirloom Painting



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Whoa! As expected of Shen Jiu-Yi, the head of the Shen family!”

“He gives away an antique painting worth twenty million just like that! That’s very generous of him! Very generous!”

“Qiao-Yu, your family has hit the jackpot! You are going to be so rich~”

Twenty million. How much money was that?

The Qiu’s family business, Qiushui Logistics, itself was only worth several dozen million. And so, giving them a painting that was worth twenty million was akin to giving another Qiushui Logistics to Qiu Mu-Ying’s family.

“Whoa, is it really worth twenty million?”

“Hahaha~”

“Mu-Ying, we have hit the jackpot! Our family has hit the jackpot!”

Wang Qiao-Yu and her daughter were so elated that their faces had turned a bright shade of red. They were acting as if they were just a couple of unsophisticated

country bumpkins. And it was all they could do to prevent themselves from rushing onto the stage to grab the painting.

The other Qius were full of envy.

“Mr. Chu, please accept our gift.”

Just then, Shen Fei’s voice drifted through from the stage.

“Quick, where’s Wen-Fei?”

“Oh my! This is so frustrating!”

“How could he go to the toilet at such a crucial moment?”

“Quick, give Wen-Fei a call. Tell him to come back right now.” Wang Qiao-Yu was hopping with anxiety as she hurriedly urged Qiu Mu-Ying to call her husband.

“He’s here. He’s here. Qiao-Yu, Wen-Fei is here.”

Qiu Mu-Ying was about to dial her husband’s number when Chu Wen-Fei, who had just finished using the men’s room, walked in through the door.

It was obvious that Chu Wen-Fei had a bit too much to drink, as his face was slightly flushed. The moment he stepped into the dining hall, he saw his wife and mother-in-law running toward him like a couple of crazies.

“Wen-Fei, quick!”

“Stop dilly-dallying. Quick, get up to the stage and get your painting.”

“Mr. Shen just gave you a painting. An original by Tang Bo-Hu. It’s worth twenty million.”

What?

“A painting that’s worth twenty million?”

“For me?”

When he heard the good news, Chu Wen-Fei shivered and sobered up immediately. He stared at his wife and mother-in-law with wide-opened eyes and asked, “Is this true? He’s going to give me a painting worth twenty million?”

“But of course!”

“Quick, get on the stage. Mr. Shen is still waiting for you.” Both Qiu Mu-Ying and her mother were racked with anxiety. And without wasting any more time, they started pushing Chu Wen-Fei toward the stage.

Just then, Chu Wen-Fei felt as if he was floating on air. As if he was in a dream.

Although Chu Wen-Fei’s family dealt in real estate investments, their company was just a joint-stock company. So the total worth of the Chu family’s assets was only several dozen million. That was why Chu Wen-Fei was so taken aback when he heard that Mr. Shen was going to give him a painting worth twenty million.

That meant that Chu Wen-Fei would become just as rich as his father.

“Mr. Chu, please accept our gift.”

Once again, Shen Jiu-Yi’s voice rang out in the hall.

“What are you standing around for? Quick, get on the stage. Mr. Shen has been waiting for a long time.” Wang Qiao-Yu and her daughter continued to hurry him along.

Chu Wen-Fei was overflowing with joy. He was about to become a multi-millionaire at such a young age. To him, it was truly an unexpected piece of good fortune.

Hmph, dad. You keep telling me I am a good-for-nothing. You think I am unambitious. Now look at me. I am going to become a multi-millionaire. The next time you see me, I wonder what you will have to say?

Chu Wen-Fei could almost see the look of astonishment on his parents' faces, as he stood tall and proud before them.

When he pictured that scene, Chu Wen-Fei felt a sense of satisfaction. And then, without further ado, he quick-stepped forward toward the stage.

"Hahaha."

"Mr. Shen, you are standing on ceremony!"

"I am undeserving of such a valuable gift. But since you are insisting, I will just have to accept it."

Chu Wen-Fei laughed as he walked toward the stage. Just then, he felt as if he was

floating on air.

He was ready to cry tears of joy, because he felt that Life was just too good to him.

What do men want? Women and wealth. Many men will strive in vain throughout their lives to obtain them. But Chu Wen-Fei, a recent university graduate, had already obtained both of them.

His wife, Qiu Mu-Ying, was still a beauty even though her cousin was far more attractive.

As for wealth, after the banquet, he was going to become a multi-millionaire. With that achievement under his belt, he could easily be acknowledged as one of the elites in a low tier city like Yunzhou.

“Haha, I am truly the chosen one, the beloved of the gods.”

Chu Wen-Fei felt thoroughly satisfied. Enveloped by the envious gazes of the Qius, he looked to be in high spirits and his laughter was full of confidence. As if he was an emperor reigning over the world.

His arrogance knew no bounds.

At that moment, Chu Wen-Fei was the most dazzling existence in the vast dining hall of the hotel.

With his head held high and his chest puffed out, he strode toward the stage.

All the Qius were looking at him, the born winner.

“Chu Wen-Fei is the son every parent hopes for!” Qiu Guang’s face was full of admiration.

“Yes, our brother has such a capable son-in-law. Their family will definitely soar to greater heights. They will be out of our league then.”

“Wen-Fei is truly capable~”

“He turns himself into a multi-millionaire in just one day. Ying-Ying, you have found yourself a good husband~”

The Qius were full of praise for their star son-in-law.

The families of the eldest and second eldest Qiu brothers looked on enviously.

Master Qiu was also all smiles. The more he looked at Chu Wen-Fei, the more he liked that young man.

As for Qiu Luo's family, they were savoring their moment of glory. Wang Qiao-Yu was smiling smugly, and her daughter was holding her head up high with pride. The more amazing Chu Wen-Fei was, the prouder they were.

Among the crowd, the neglected Qiu Mu-Cheng continued to watch the show quietly.

Throughout the show, she merely looked at the glory that belonged to others, without saying a word.

Was she envious?

Of course she was.

But she was only envious. She did not resent Ye Fan or hate him for being incompetent. After all, everyone had their own lives. Some people were rich and some were ordinary. Some things could not be forced.

It was better to be satisfied with one's own

lot in life.

But, just then, Ye Fan, who had been sitting beside Qiu Mu-Cheng, suddenly stood up.

He turned around and started walking toward the stage as well.

“Ye Fan, what are you doing?” Qiu Mu-Cheng asked in confusion. Because she knew what Ye Fan was like, she suddenly had a bad premonition.

“Mm?”

“You useless piece of trash! What are you trying to pull here?”

“Are you crazy? Quick, sit down!”

“You disgraceful fool,” Wang Qiao-Yu scolded. She had also noticed what Ye Fan was doing,

“Shit, don’t tell me you think Mr. Shen is giving you the painting?”

“Oh my heavens! Don’t tell me you actually think you are Mr. Chu?”

“What an idiot!” Qiu Mu-Ying sneered.

When the Qius saw that Ye Fan had no intentions of turning back, they were scared witless.

“Ye Fan, are you crazy?”

“Are you an idiot?”

“Go back to your seat!”

“You disgraceful fool! Do you think you can bear the burden of angering Mr. Shen?”

“Shit! We should not have let you come with us~”

Qiu Guang stood up and roared angrily. Meanwhile, Master Qiu had already turned green with anger.

As the Qius scolded Ye Fan, their eyes were filled with ridicule. They knew, after today, their live-in son-in-law would become the laughing stock of the Qiu family.

In the corner, Qiu Mu-Cheng’s eyes had turned bloodshot with worry. And as she looked at her husband’s retreating back, she almost burst into tears.

Chapter 42 Who Is the Real Fool?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“You bastard! One day, you will completely disgrace our family~”

In the dining hall, the Qius continued to hurl abuse at Ye Fan. And Master Qiu was so worked up that his whole body was trembling. As he watched his family’s live-in son-in-law make a spectacle of himself, he got so enraged that he nearly choked to death.

Nobody had noticed that, at the moment of Ye Fan’s appearance, the Shens’ demeanor had turned more respectful. And just then, the Shens were escorting him with eyes that were filled with piety and reverence, as he walked toward the stage.

At that moment, however, the great dining hall of the hotel was filled with the noise of clamor and ridicule.

And two men were walking on the red carpet leading to the stage.

One of them was the most excellent son-in-law of the Qiu family, the husband of the fourth Qiu daughter, Qiu Mu-Ying. He was also the son of Chu Yang, the boss of Yangtian Real Estate. Chu Wen-Fei was

someone born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

To Qiu Mu-Ying, her husband was the son of a multi-millionaire. To Wang Qiao-Yu, Chu Wen-Fei was a most excellent son-in-law. And in the eyes of the Qius, he was the Mr. Chu who was so powerful that even the Shens had to toady up to him.

It could be said that, in the Qiu family, Chu Wen-Fei's light was so dazzling that no one else could measure up to him. Even though he had only just become their son-in-law mere days ago, he was already in a pre-eminent position within the family.

Qiu Guang, the eldest Qiu brother, had declared that Chu Wen-Fei was the son every parent hoped for.

The attitude of the Qiu family showed just how much they respected and appreciated Chu Wen-Fei.

If Chu Wen-Fei was the one who brought glory to the Qiu family, then Ye Fan was their shame.

All the Qius were scolding and ridiculing Ye Fan, as he made his way toward the

stage. Wang Qiao-Yu and Qiu Mu-Ying even came up with all sorts of insults to mock him.

They laughed at his humble background, his plain clothes, his misapprehension and his shamelessness.

At that moment, Ye Fan had become the shame of the Qiu family.

But Ye Fan ignored their jeering.

He continued to walk slowly and composedly along the red carpet, giving off the impression of being an unstoppable glacier. As Ye Fan looked forward, his eyes were calm and impenetrable. At that moment, the Qius had no idea just how powerful he was.

"Idiot. He's an idiot."

"He's just like a moron!"

"How did our family get a son-in-law like him?" Qiu Guang roared in anger.

"You are just a useless piece of trash. A country bumpkin. How dare you compete against my husband?" Qiu Mu-Ying's eyes

were filled with ridicule as she looked at Ye Fan.

“Are you worthy?”

“You are overestimating yourself!”

Master Qiu was so worked up that his whole body was trembling with rage. “You bastard! Are you not coming back? Are you trying to shame our family?”

Meanwhile, Qiu Mu-Cheng was so worried that her eyes had turned bloodshot. She was ready to burst into tears. “Ye Fan, why are you doing this? Even though you are not as capable as Chu Wen-Fei, I have never looked down on you. So why are you acting like this?”

A stream of rebukes erupted from the Qiu camp.

By then, Chu Wen-Fei had already noticed Ye Fan. Disdain filled the former’s eyes as he said mockingly, “Is this fellow an idiot?”

“You really think you are Mr. Chu?”

“Mr. Shen was calling for me. You are just a low-born piece of trash. And you have no

status. How are you going to compete with me?"

Chu Wen-Fei smiled smugly as he looked at Ye Fan in contempt. And then he continued to stride down the carpet in high spirits.

They were both sons-in-law of the Qiu family. And they were both human beings, doing the same things. But what Ye Fan received for his efforts was very different from Chu Wen-Fei's rewards.

Chu Wen-Fei was getting praise, flattery and respect from the Qius.

On the other hand, the Qius were ridiculing, mocking and insulting Ye Fan.

Sometimes, whenever Ye Fan thought about how the Qius were treating him, he could not help but think: why?

But why was he being treated differently from Chu Wen-Fei, even though they were doing the same thing?

Could it be because, compared to Chu Wen-Fei, I am just a commoner of humble birth?

But then, that means you people are just blind fools who cannot recognize me for what I am.

A person's birth or family background mattered little to Ye Fan.

After all, even a top Yunzhou tycoon like Shen Jiu-Yi was just a small fry in Ye Fan's eyes. So a nobody like Chu Wen-Fei did not even register on his radar.

Meanwhile, the Qius continued to mock and scold him. But in the face of all his attackers, Ye Fan remained composed. He continued walking forward and his expression did not falter. It was as if he was a small boat sailing on a stormy sea. No matter how strong the wind blew and how hard the rain fell, the boat remained undisturbed.

There is a saying. If the world slanders you, bullies you, insults you, underestimates you, harms you or cheats you, then you should endure the bullying, give way to them, let them be, avoid them, respect them or ignore them.

And then, take a look at those who wish you harm!

Just like that, amidst the scolding voices of the Qius, Ye Fan and Chu Wen-Fei reached the stage, one after the other.

Perhaps Chu Wen-Fei was the faster walker, because he was the one who reached Shen Jiu-Yi first.

At that moment, Shen Jiu-Yi was standing quietly on the stage. In his hands, he was holding the box containing the twenty-million painting. It had already been carefully rolled up and placed in a sandalwood box earlier.

He held on to the box with both hands, as if he was prepared to hand it over to Mr. Chu at a moment's notice.

Shen Jiu-Yi was, after all, the boss of Qianyi Corporation, so it was only natural that his authoritative presence would overwhelm Chu Wen-Fei. It was the latter's first encounter with a tycoon of Shen Jiu-Yi's calibre in close proximity. So Chu Wen-Fei could not help but feel nervous.

But even though he was nervous, Chu Wen-Fei managed to squeeze a smile on his face. He then proceeded to thank Shen Jiu-Yi. "Hahaha~"

“Mr. Shen, you are really standing on ceremony. I find it difficult to reject your overwhelming kindness.”

“Don’t worry. I will treasure this painting. I will not dull its lustre.”

“As for my father, you have nothing to worry about. I will definitely put in a good word for you with my father.”

Chu Wen-Fei laughed heartily. And while he was greeting Shen Jiu-Yi, he stretched out his hand impatiently to take possession of the twenty-million painting.

Ying-Ying, are you excited?

You are going to become a multi-millionaire!

“Haha~”

When Wang Qiao-Yu and Qiu Mu-Ying saw Chu Wen-Fei standing on the stage, they nearly went hysterical.

The other Qius were also full of envy and, one after another, they heaped praises on Chu Wen-Fei.

“Wen-Fei is so capable!”

“Qiao-Yu, you have found a good son-in-law. Ying-Ying, you have found a good man.”

“Congratulations.”

“Don’t forget us when you make it into the big league~”

The Qius were full of good cheer.

Qiu Mu-Ying had a smug smile on her face, while her mother was grinning like a Cheshire cat. As for Chu Wen-Fei, he could barely contain his excitement. The moment he had finished speaking, he was already reaching impatiently for the painting.

But, unexpectedly, a heavy sound rang out from the stage.

A frowning Shen Jiu-Yi had just kicked Chu Wen-Fei to the floor.

“Ouch~”

Chu Wen-Fei let out a scream when his face hit the floor.

“Who is this bastard!”

“This is my gift to Mr. Chu! How dare a lowly scum like you covet it?”

“Guards! Where are the security guards? What are you doing? How dare you let these riff-rafs come in here? If you anger Mr. Chu, just killing all of you won’t appease his anger!”

“Quick! Throw this moron out!”

Shen Jiu-Yi frowned as he cursed angrily. And his screams of rage reverberated through the air.

After kicking away Chu Wen-Fei, Shen Jiu-Yi and his son stepped forward and bowed to Ye Fan. “Mr. Chu, please accept the painting.”

Their tone was most respectful, as if both father and son were just insignificant specks of dust.

Ye Fan nodded. “Mm, I can see that you have given this some thought.”

Chapter 43 A Thoughtful Gesture



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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In front of the banquet guests, Chu Wen-Fei was sprawled on the floor like a dog, while Ye Fan was standing straight up with his hands clasped behind his back. And the Shens were standing in front of the latter, facing him respectfully.

The Qius were dumbfounded, after witnessing the scene on the stage. It felt like they had just been slapped hard in the face.

The atmosphere in the dining hall turned heavy, and it grew so quiet that one could hear a pin drop. The jeers from the Qius had vanished, to be replaced by untold shock and fear.

“What...What just happened?”

“What’s going on now?”

Qiu Mu-Ying stared with her eyes wide opened. While her mother stood rooted to the floor, as if she had just been struck by lightning.

As for Master Qiu and the other Qius, their mouths were wide opened but, due to the shock, they could not get a single word out. Just then, they all looked like chickens

which were being strangled.

Both Qiu Mu-Ying and her mother were hit especially hard by the turn of events.

The mother and daughter pair had been telling their relatives that Chu Wen-Fei was a dragon among men and unrivalled among his peers. But a moment afterward, Shen Jiu-Yi had kicked Chu Wen-Fei off the stage, before the latter had even finished his greeting. Now, Chu Wen-Fei was sprawled on the floor like a dog and moaning in pain.

The shock did not end there. After the Shens had so badly treated the Qiu's star son-in-law, they were now behaving respectfully toward their trashy son-in-law. And Shen Jiu-Yi even presented the painting to Ye Fan.

To the Qius, the huge twist in the plot felt like a kick in the stomach.

It was no longer just a slap in the face.

It was more like a kick in the face.

The Qius were completely flummoxed.

Their faces were flushed and they were dumbfounded.

Meanwhile, the same thought started to swirl around in the minds of the Qius.

Is Ye Fan the real Mr. Chu? The same Mr. Chu whom the Shens respect so much?

Have we made a mistake?

Everyone had their mouths wide opened, while they looked on in disbelief.

Master Qiu's body was trembling, as he stared in the direction of the stage. Inwardly, he was screaming over and over again. Could it be that he had been underestimating Ye Fan?

"Impossible, it's impossible?"

"Ye Fan is a country bumpkin and a useless piece of trash. He is not Mr. Chu."

At that moment, Qiu Mu-Ying was panicking. She kept shaking her head and her heavily made-up face looked distraught.

To Qiu Mu-Ying, it felt like her world was

collapsing.

And Wang Qiao-Yu was yelping like a dog as fear filled her eyes.

The Qius just could not accept the fact that they were now beneath the weakling they had always despised.

As for Qiu Mu-Cheng, her face had already turned pale. As she looked at the young man standing on the stage, she went into a daze and her mind blanked out.

Suddenly, a stream of memories came over her.

She remembered the dream-like light show on the night of her cousin's engagement party, the mysterious man at the auction and the way the Shens had revered Ye Fan at the hospital.

Could it be that Ye Fan was not as simple as he looked?

Silence continued to reign in the dining hall. And the silence was only broken after a long while, by the sound of sharp intakes of breath coming from the Qius. One could only imagine the impact the recent events

had had on them.

“Mr. Chu, please accept the painting.”

Shen Jiu-Yi repeated his request respectfully. But Ye Fan did not take the painting and only smiled indifferently. Then he asked, “Mr. Shen, may I know where the men’s room is?”

Shen Jiu-Yi was stunned for a moment. He had no idea why Ye Fan suddenly wanted to know where the men’s room was. But after hesitating briefly, he gave directions to Ye Fan. And soon, under everyone’s gaze, Ye Fan left the hall.

And that frightened Shen Jiu-Yi. He did not know if Ye Fan had forgiven him or not, because the latter had not accepted the painting. So he turned to his son and asked, “Fei, do you think Mr. Chu dislikes this painting? Or has he not forgiven us yet?”

At that juncture, Ye Fan had suddenly declared his intention to use the men’s room. So Shen Jiu-Yi could not help making speculations about Ye Fan’s thoughts.

He was worried that Ye Fan was dissatisfied with the arrangements for the banquet.

But the truth was that Ye Fan had really needed to use the men's room.

However, Shen Fei was also uncertain. He scratched his head and guessed: "Dad, I think Mr. Chu has already forgiven us. Just now during the banquet, I offered him a toast and he accepted."

"Then why did he turn down our gift? And he even used going to the men's room as an excuse. Isn't it obvious that he doesn't want to accept the painting?" Shen Jiu-Yi had a heavy expression on his face.

Shen Fei considered his father's question and then replied in a low voice: "Dad, perhaps Mr. Chu wants to keep things low-key and his identity hidden? I have not told you this, but when I was toasting Mr. Chu earlier..."

And Shen Fei told his father that Ye Fan had not only declared his surname to be Ye, but had also admitted to being a live-in son-in-law of the Qiu family.

When Shen Jiu-Yi heard his son's report, the expression on his face changed. "Shit, you idiot. Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

"It's obvious that Mr. Chu wants to keep a low profile."

"Damn, no wonder Mr. Chu refused to take our painting and made an excuse about going to the men's room. It's obvious that he wants to keep his identity hidden."

"We have to think of a way to salvage the situation."

Shen Jiu-Yi was panic-stricken. He was worried that he had disrupted Ye Fan's plan.

After all, Ye Fan probably had something in mind when he decided to hid his identity. Shen Jiu-Yi thought that merely killing himself many times over would not be enough to appease Ye Fan's anger, if the gift presentation had somehow disrupted the latter's plan.

"Let me go~"

"You bastards, let me go."

“You bunch of lowly scum. How dare you touch me?”

“I am Mr. Chu~”

Chu Wen-Fei’s angry voice rang out from below the stage.

At that moment, the security guards had already arrived on the scene, and they were carrying out Shen Jiu-Yi’s instruction to escort Chu Wen-Fei out of the building.

Meanwhile, Chu Wen-Fei continued to howl and kept insisting that he was Mr. Chu.

“Screw you!”

“I have already warned you earlier, right?”

“You think you are Mr. Chu? You think you can live up to that name?”

“Get out now!”

The security guard then gave Chu Wen-Fei a hard slap, and the latter quieted down right away. Afterward, the guard called for his colleagues and they prepared to throw Chu Wen-Fei out of the building.

When Shen Jiu-Yi saw them, an inspiration struck him. He hurried forward.

“Stop!”

“How dare you manhandle Mr. Chu? Are you tired of living?”

“Aren’t you going to leave?”

With just a few words, Shen Jiu-Yi managed to scare away the guards.

And then, with a smiling face, he went forward to help Chu Wen-Fei up. “Mr. Chu, what happened earlier was just a misunderstanding. I made a mistake and failed to recognize you. You are indeed the real Mr. Chu.”

“Quick, Fei, help Mr. Chu to his seat.”

Shen Fei was dumbfounded for a brief moment, and then realization dawned on him.

He could not help thinking that his father was indeed a cunning old fox.

“I am coming, dad.”

“Hahaha~ Mr. Chu, are you alright? Let us get you seated.”

After some quick words from the father and son pair, Chu Wen-Fei was once again seated in his seat.

When they saw Shen Jiu-Yi behaving so respectfully toward the person he had just kicked to the floor, the Qius once again found themselves at a loss for words.

“What...What...”

“What the hell is going on?”

“How could both father and son make the same mistake?”

Could it be that cataract runs in the Shen family?

Meanwhile, Chu Wen-Fei was scolding the Shens inwardly.

Are both father and son idiots?

You were the ones who invited me to this banquet, and you can't even recognize me?

“Okay, stop pretending to apologize. Give

me something practical. Hand over the painting. If you do that, I will forgive you for kicking me.” Chu Wen-Fei was obviously in a bad mood. After all, he had failed to show off in front of his relatives. Instead, he had gotten himself kicked by Shen Jiu-Yi. And he had even fallen face first to the floor. He had lost face. So how could he be happy?

The only thing that could console him now was the twenty-million painting.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Whoa.

This bastard is so shameless.

Shen Fei was so incensed by the impertinent demand that he nearly slapped Chu Wen-Fei.

We gave that bastard an inch and he is now trying to take a mile?

He really thinks he is Mr. Chu?

If we didn't need you to help keep Mr. Chu's identity a secret, I would have killed you already.

Inwardly, Shen Fei let loose a stream of rebukes. He had never met someone as shameless as Chu Wen-Fei. The latter had actually made an open demand for the painting.

Shen Jiu-Yi's expression turned heavy, but he finally gave in to Chu Wen-Fei.

"Since Mr. Chu likes it so much, I will give it to you."

"Dad!" Shen Fei was enraged by his father's decision. The former would not

object to giving the painting to Ye Fan, but Chu Wen-Fei was just a nobody who did not deserve such a fine painting.

But Shen Jiu-Yi interrupted his son and said: "Stop talking nonsense and go give Uncle Liu a call. Tell him to bring me the painting I have been keeping in my study. We will give it to Mr. Chu."

Shen Jiu-Yi's tone was authoritative and brooked no disagreement. Shen Fei had no choice but to obey his father. Soon, an energetic old man arrived at the hotel and handed over a painting to Chu Wen-Fei.

"Mr. Chu, this is an original painting by Tang Bo-Hu. You have to treasure it. It is worth several dozen million." As he gave his sales talk, Shen Jiu-Yi had an enigmatic smile on his face.

At that moment, Chu Wen-Fei was overwhelmed with happiness, and he could not stop caressing the painting in his hands.

"You are so thoughtful. Mr. Shen, you are a thoughtful person."

"Haha~"

“Darling, let me see. I want to have a look too.” Qiu Mu-Ying’s and her mother’s eyes were shining with excitement as they rushed forward to look at the painting.

A short while later, Ye Fan returned from his men’s room trip. At that time, everyone’s attention was focused on the painting, so his presence was ignored. But one person did look at Ye Fan. She looked and did not remove her gaze from him. That person was Qiu Mu-Cheng.

Soon, the banquet came to an end.

Because Chu Wen-Fei was afraid that the Shens might ask for their painting back, he decided to leave the hotel immediately after his meal.

“Miss Qiu Mu-Cheng, please wait for a moment.”

While everyone else was leaving, Shen Jiu-Yi called out softly to Qiu Mu-Cheng and Ye Fan, who were the last guests to depart.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was surprised, and asked in confusion: “Mr. Shen, did you just call for me?”

Shen Jiu-Yi nodded. "Miss Qiu Mu-Cheng, your peerless beauty makes you the most suitable owner for this painting."

As he was speaking, Shen Jiu-Yi instructed his son to hand over the painting they had originally prepared for Ye Fan. And it was placed into Qiu Mu-Cheng's hands.

"Eh?"

"Are you sure this is for me, and not my cousin?" Qiu Mu-Cheng was startled and asked Shen Jiu-Yi for confirmation.

She knew that the Shens had bad eyesight and were prone to making such mistakes.

But Shen Jiu-Yi shook his head and smiled. "Miss Qiu, you have a good sense of humor. Today's banquet was thrown in Mr. Ch... your honor. My son did cause you offence. It is only right that we apologize to you. As for the others, they have merely shared the limelight with you."

Shen Jiu-Yi was right. If it weren't for Qiu Mu-Cheng and Ye Fan, the Shens would not have allowed the Qius to attend the banquet.

“No way no way. This is too valuable.” Qiu Mu-Cheng continued to turn down the gift.

“If you turn down our gift, that means you still have not forgiven us. Please do not make things difficult for us~” Shen Jiu-Yi’s tone was respectful and his attitude was servile. Rather than asking, he was pleading with Qiu Mu-Cheng to accept his gift.

“Mu-Cheng, accept it. This is meant for you.”

Suddenly, Ye Fan’s voice rang out softly. When the Shens heard his assertion, they heaved a sigh of relief.

Accepting the painting meant that Ye Fan had accepted their apology and forgiven them. The Shens felt as if a heavy burden had been lifted from their shoulders.

By then, all the Qius had already left the hotel in their vehicles. Not one of them had noticed the absence of Qiu Mu-Cheng and Ye Fan.

After accepting the painting, both husband and wife left in a car sent by the Shens.

“Have a safe trip, Mr. Chu~”

“Have a safe trip, Mr. Chu~”

Outside the Yunjing Hotel, the Shens gave Ye Fan and his wife a respectful send-off.

And the banquet had finally come to an end. Shen Jiu-Yi let out a long sigh of relief. “We have finally resolved the issue that has been troubling me.”

Shen Fei suddenly thought of something and turned to ask his father: “Dad, when did we have two Tang Bo-Hu paintings?”

Shen Jiu-Yi shook his head and smiled. “You silly boy. Tang Bo-Hu’s paintings are extremely hard to come by. It was difficult enough for me to find just that one painting. How could I possibly own two?”

“Then what painting did you give that moron?” Shen Fei grew even more confused.

Shen Jiu-Yi smiled and said, “My painting. I painted it myself.”

The Qiu’s family house.

Some of the womenfolk had already returned to their own homes. But the other Qius, such as Qiu Mu-Ying and the executives of Qiushui Logistics, stayed behind at the house. Just then, they were having a meeting with Master Qiu.

“Wen-Fei, have you properly kept the painting?”

“It’s a Tang Bo-Hu painting. I will definitely treasure such a valuable painting.” Chu Wen-Fei was also attending the family meeting. The Qius had already considered him to be their savior, and even Master Qiu greatly approved of him. The old man had already considered Chu Wen-Fei to be his grandson, even though the two were not blood related.

“Today, our family owe our thanks to you. If it wasn’t for you, I would never have the chance to attend a Manchu-Han Imperial Feast in my lifetime.”

Master Qiu’s laughter rang out in the hall, and the other Qius gazed admiringly at Chu Wen-Fei.

“The stories do not do it justice. This Manchu-Han Imperial Feast is truly a feast

fit for kings. The taste was in a different realm altogether.” Qiu Guang could not help reminiscing about the feast.

The Qius had not expected the Shens to provide an entire Manchu-Han Imperial Feast for the banquet.

“And we also had all those expensive red wine. Today’s banquet probably cost about several hundred thousand.”

Chu Wen-Fei smiled lightly and said:
“Grandfather and Uncle Guang, if you wish to enjoy the feast again, just let me know. I will take you to the hotel. They are going to comp all my meals anyway.”

“Haha~Wen-Fei, you have clout. Our family is sharing your limelight.”

After a short bout of small talk, the Qius started talking business.

Qiu Guang and Qiu Luo gave a report on recent business operations to their father. As it progressed, Master Qiu’s expression grew heavier and heavier.

“Many of our logistic warehouses have fallen into disrepair. There are indeed a lot

of safety problems. And the recent inspections by the relevant departments did expose a lot of problems.”

“Luckily, Wen-Fei was able to help us. Otherwise, our license would have been suspended. Just the fine alone would have bankrupted our company.” Qiu Guang said sombrely. Their company was not doing well.

Master Qiu’s face was filled with worry. “Mm, now that we have discovered the problems, we should make changes. But if we repair the old warehouses, we will have to move the goods to the new ones.”

“That’s right, Guang. Have you managed to get the approval to build the new warehouses? I told you to hurry the process along.”

Qiu Guang shook his head. “Dad, you know as well as I do that government departments are notoriously inefficient. We have to get a specialist to hurry the process along. And, as far as I know, Director Li is the one in charge of granting building approvals. He is a difficult person to get along with. I have been trying to meet him but all my attempts were in vain.

Since Wen-Fei has strong backings, how about we ask him to try?"

"Uncle Guang, please do not bother my husband with this. He just did all of us a huge favor. If you ask him to use his connections again, my father-in-law will think our family is troublesome." Qiu Mu-Ying was quick to dissuade her uncle from his idea.

"You are right. I did not think this through. We should not keep troubling Wen-Fei's family. But we really do need to get this approval. How about we send someone to stake out the Bureau of Industry and Commerce? We will definitely be able to meet Director Li that way."

"Hua, will you do it?"

"No way, I don't have the time. I am too busy with my daily work. How am I going to find the time to do a stake out?"

Qiu Guang asked several more people, but all of them turned him down.

It was summer after all. Nobody was stupid enough to volunteer to hang around outdoors every day. They would get baked

alive.

“Uncle Guang, I think we should give the job to Mu-Cheng.”

“She did cause us a lot of trouble. But our grandfather was generous enough to forgive her. Now it is time to repay the favor.”

Qiu Mu-Ying smiled coldly as she pushed her cousin, who had been sitting quietly in a corner, to the fore of the discussion.

“Mu-Ying, you really love your cousin. You don’t remember her during the good times, but only during troubled times like this.” Ye Fan’s cold voice drifted through the room, before Qiu Mu-Cheng could respond to her cousin.

“What, you are not willing to let your wife take this job?”

“Both of you are so eager when it comes to freeloading. But now you are unhappy just because we have work for you?” Qiu Mu-Ying felt nothing but abhorrence toward her cousin and Ye Fan.

And, because Ye Fan had impersonated

Mr. Chu earlier today, her husband had gotten himself beat up. Twice. Qiu Mu-Ying had been holding in her rage since then. Now it was time to punish the culprits.

“That’s right, that’s right.”

“We have been feeding you, so shouldn’t you do some work to repay the favor? There is no such thing as a free lunch.” The other Qius also agreed with Qiu Mu-Ying.

“Mm, Ying-Ying is right. Mu-Cheng, you will handle this.”

“If you fail, then never come back to our family. We have no obligation to take care of useless people.”

Qiu Guang spoke in a heavy tone, and it carried an authority that brooked no disagreement. He did not offer Qiu Mu-Cheng any room for negotiation.

Meanwhile, Master Qiu remained silent. Obviously, he was in agreement with Qiu Guang’s decision.

“Alright, I will do it.” Qiu Mu-Cheng finally

Chapter 45 Alright, I Will Do It!

broke her silence and answered resolutely.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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As soon as Qiu Mu-Cheng had agreed to take the job, Qiu Mu-Ying started smirking like a cat that had just eaten a canary.

But the latter was not going to let off Qiu Mu-Cheng that easily. Qiu Mu-Ying continued to smile coldly and said, "Mu-Cheng, this building approval is a big deal to us. Our company needs it urgently."

"If you keep failing to get it, do you expect the company to keep on waiting?"

"Don't worry. One month. I just need one month to get the approval." After a moment of hesitation, Qiu Mu-Cheng resolved herself to getting the approval within a month.

"A month?"

"But if we wait a month for the approval, our company would have gone bankrupt by then."

"Mu-Cheng, as you know, our company is facing troubles from within and without. We are in a very worrying situation. You can afford to wait, but we can't."

"Then what do you want?" Qiu Mu-Cheng

asked frostily.

Qiu Mu-Ying smiled coldly and ignored the question. Then she turned to Master Qiu and said, "Grandfather, I suggest we give Qiu Mu-Cheng seven days to complete her task. If she can't get the approval by the deadline, then she has to leave the company. We have no need for useless people like her."

"You~"

"Qiu Mu-Ying, don't push your luck. Uncle Guang has been trying for a year without success. What can I do in just seven days?" Qiu Mu-Cheng retorted angrily.

"What? Didn't you just say you will definitely get the approval? Why are you losing your confidence now? Well, we will not make things difficult for you, if you fail to get it. You can just leave our family. We don't need useless people in our family." Qiu Mu-Ying folded her arms and sneered at her cousin.

Just then, Master Qiu joined the conversation. "Mu-Ying is right. Our company is facing troubles from within and without. We cannot afford to wait for

you to finish dawdling around. We will give you seven days. And then we will hold a family meeting. We will be waiting for you. If you fail to get the approval, then there will be no need for you to return here.”

“We have given enough to your family. It is time for you to repay the favor.”

Master Qiu had spoken and his words were final. No matter how troubled Qiu Mu-Cheng felt, she could only suffer alone.

Ye Fan took all that in and felt a stab of pain in his heart.

Since the Qiu family was unbenevolent toward his wife, Ye Fan decided that it was time to find another place of belonging for her.

A seed sprouted within him.

“Haha~”

Qiu Mu-Cheng, look forward to getting kicked out of our family.

Qiu Mu-Ying laughed smugly, with a cold gleam in her eyes.

“Mu-Cheng, do you need my help?” After they had left the Qiu’s family house, Ye Fan took a look at his blotchy-eyed wife and offered his assistance.

“I don’t need any help.”

“I can do this alone.”

“I will succeed!”

“Everyone who has looked down on me will shut their mouths!”

Just then, Qiu Mu-Cheng’s eyes gleamed with a confident light, and her voice rang with unyielding stubbornness.

Afterward, she returned to her office to start working on a plan to get the building approval.

And Ye Fan was left staring at his wife’s resolute and mesmerizing back. After a long moment, an enigmatic smile appeared on his lips.

My wife looks really beautiful when she is serious.

Over the next few days, Qiu Mu-Cheng left

the house early in the morning and only returned late at night. During the day, she kept watch over the entrance to the Bureau of Industry and Commerce. With just an umbrella to provide shade, she waited for the person-in-charge, Director Li. At night, she did research on the internet to look up his interests.

Since she needed him to do her a favor, she had to cater to his tastes.

Finally, she hit the jackpot. One of Director Li's neighbors told her that he liked to eat Yellow River carp. After obtaining the information, Qiu Mu-Cheng personally made a trip to the Yellow River to purchase some carps. Afterward, she continued to wait outside the Bureau.

Seven days later. The Qiu's family house.

"What time is it now? Why is Qiu Mu-Cheng not here yet?" According to their agreement, Qiu Mu-Cheng was supposed to have obtained the building approval by today.

But even though evening was approaching, Qiu Mu-Cheng was still nowhere to be seen.

“Hehe~”

“I guess she didn’t get the building approval after all. And she is not here because she is afraid of getting punished by grandfather?” Qiu Mu-Ying laughed mockingly.

Master Qiu looked outside and let out a sigh. “Mu-Ying, regarding this matter, I am afraid I will have to trouble you and Wen-Fei again.”

It looked like Master Qiu had already given up hope. Like Qiu Mu-Ying, he also did not think that Qiu Mu-Cheng could get the building approval within seven days.

After all, even an experienced businessman like Qiu Guang had failed to obtain one after trying for a year. And he did not even get to meet the person-in-charge. A girl without connections and backings, like Qiu Mu-Cheng, could not hope to get the building approval within seven days.

Qiu Mu-Ying nodded. “Grandfather, don’t worry. At the right moment, Wen-Fei and I will lend a hand. But grandfather, this time, you must not side with Qiu Mu-Cheng

again. Like we discussed earlier, if she doesn't get the building approval, she has to leave our company. Qiushui Logistics has no obligation to employ useless people."

Master Qiu nodded in agreement. "Mm. Your cousin is indeed useless. It is a waste of money to keep her in the company. I will relieve her of all her duties. Mu-Ying, in the meantime, you will take over her work."

"Haha, grandfather, you have made a wise decision!" Qiu Mu-Ying was so overwhelmed with joy that she nearly started jumping up and down.

Finally, she was able to destroy Qiu Mu-Cheng, the thorn in her side.

Qiu Mu-Cheng, Qiu Mu-Cheng. Without a source of income, your family will have to go live on the streets!

Qiu Mu-Ying laughed smugly.

But, at that moment, somebody pushed open the front door to the family house.

Under the setting sun, a beautiful and graceful figure appeared in front of the

assembled Qius.

“Grandfather, I am sorry for coming late.”

Qiu Mu-Cheng was panting slightly and her face was marred by a bruise. She had tripped earlier while she was hurrying to the family house. But not even the pain on her body could mask the joy she was feeling.

She waved the document in her hand and smiled, “Grandfather, I got it.”

What?

“Really?”

“Seven days. You got the approval in just seven days?”

“It’s a fake!”

“Did you get a forgery to con grandfather?”

Everyone was shocked, and Qiu Mu-Ying expressed her doubt as she stared with wide opened eyes.

It was already evening.

Han Li and Qiu Lei had left to do some square dancing. The house was empty except for Ye Fan, who was mopping the floor.

When he heard the clear sound of foot steps drifting in from outside, Ye Fan smiled and hurried to open the door.

He knew that it was his wife coming home.

“How was it?”

“You got the approval, so did grandfather praise you?”

“Did you get promoted? Did you get a pay raise?”

Ye Fan had seen his wife’s efforts over the past few days. So naturally, Ye Fan felt happy for her now that she had gotten the building approval.

But Qiu Mu-Cheng remained silent and did not respond to Ye Fan’s questions. Finally, her eyes turned red and she started crying.

It turned out that Qiu Mu-Ying had used Qiu Mu-Cheng’s negotiation skills as an excuse to give the latter a new task. And

that was to secure a loan from the bank's general manager within three days.

"Our family is facing a crisis because of you."

"Because of you, we are facing a shortage of funds. So you should be the one to handle loan negotiations with the bank."

"Use your success to cover for your mistake and offset the losses you have caused us."

"If you manage to secure the loan, then grandfather will reward you. As for getting the building approval, it was all thanks to my husband. If he had not called Director Li, do you think a weak girl like you could have gotten the approval?"

.....

That was what Qiu Mu-Ying had said during the family meeting.

"What about grandfather? What did he say?" Ye Fan frowned and asked in a cold voice.

"What could he say? He followed Qiu Mu-

Ying's suggestion. Her husband just helped Qiushui Logistics through a crisis. Grandfather has to respect their opinions."

"But Qiushui Logistics was already facing a shortage of funds several months ago. So why do I have to take responsibility for that?"

"And Qiushui Logistics is already in a stage of insolvency. We still owe plenty of loans to the bank, so it is impossible to get new ones."

"That Qiu Mu-Ying. She just wants me to leave the company."

"Forget it. I am not going to fight with her. I am backing out. I will leave the company tomorrow, so they won't have to see me again."

"I have lost and they have won."

At that moment, all the grievances Qiu Mu-Cheng had been harboring inside her finally exploded.

She choked and then started sobbing, with tears streaming down her face.

Chapter 46 Grievance



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

She was tired.

She really was tired.

For so many years, she had been making sacrifices for the Qiu family and Qiushui Logistics.

She had taken on the work that others did not want.

And she had borne the blame for the mistakes of others.

For so many years, she had been the most hardworking employee in the company and had done her work diligently. All she had ever wanted were her grandfather's praise and her family's approval.

She had wanted to show her family the results of her hard work and make them regret their actions.

But in the end, what did she get?

After years of slaving away at the company, her reward was being treated like an idiot.

And turning into everyone's punching bag

was the reward for her accommodating nature.

Despite her efforts, she remained the pariah of the Qiu family.

At the family meeting, Qiu Mu-Ying and her family had been gunning for her. Any idiot could see that. But not one single person among her relatives had stepped up to defend her.

Qiu Mu-Cheng could not understand the reason behind their hostility.

Could it be because her husband was useless?

Could it be because Ye Fan was a live-in son-in-law without a good family background?

Or was it because Ye Fan had neither power nor wealth?

She felt aggrieved, and her eyes turned red.

In the past, Qiu Mu-Cheng had a stubborn streak. Whenever Qiu Mu-Ying picked on her, she had fought back. And she had

stayed with the company despite Qiu Mu-Ying's efforts to oust her.

But now, she was tired.

She was going to withdraw from the competition with Qiu Mu-Ying.

"You are leaving?"

"Mu-Cheng, why do you have to leave?"

"If you leave now, then you are just going along with their whims and making things easy for them." Ye Fan's expression had already turned cold.

He had considered letting his wife leave the Qiu family and become independent.

But Qiu Mu-Cheng was Ye Fan's wife. He was not going to let the Qius oust her with jeers and insults. When she leaves, she will leave in style.

"But what else can I do?"

"I have to leave sooner or later. After three days, they will still chase me out when I fail to secure a loan from the bank."

“Qiushui Logistics has a very low credit rating. The bank will definitely not lend us any money.”

Qiu Mu-Cheng shook her head. She did not want to leave the family in such a sorry state, but there was no other choice.

The loan negotiation task was a fool’s errand.

“Says who?”

With a cold smile on his face, Ye Fan picked up the phone and dialled Master Qiu’s number.

“Grandfather, Mu-Cheng asked me to tell you this. She doesn’t need three days. She will bring you the loan contract this very night. Those people who have mocked her should wait for her at the family house.”

What?

“Ye Fan, are you crazy? What are you talking about?”

Qiu Mu-Cheng turned pale at his words and hurried to snatch the phone away from him. But it was too late. The call had

ended.

“How dare you speak such nonsense?”

“Making an empty promise like that will only embarrass me further.”

Qiu Mu-Cheng’s eyes were filled with rage as she yelled angrily at her husband.

But Ye Fan did not explain himself and pulled her downstairs.

“Mu-Cheng, trust me.”

“I will take care of everything.”

Ye Fan’s words were firm and resonated strongly.

Soon, Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng left the house and got into a taxi.

Half an hour later.

The husband and wife pair were standing outside the Hongqi Bank.

“Stop, Ye Fan. It’s after business hours. Nobody will see us.”

“Also, this Hongqi Bank is a high class establishment. They don’t handle loans below a hundred million, and they only deal with the world’s top five hundred corporations.”

“If we walk in, we will only embarrass ourselves.”

“Let’s go back. The worst that can happen is that my family will laugh at me. I am already used to that.”

Outside the Hongqi Bank, Qiu Mu-Cheng continued to pull at Ye Fan. She kept trying to persuade him to leave. Trying to get a loan from the bank was a hopeless endeavor. And anyway, she was already used to the jeers from her family.

But Ye Fan remained calm. “Mu-Cheng, don’t worry. You just wait here.”

“What are we waiting for? The bank is already closed. Even if you are distinguished enough to merit VIP treatment, there is nobody here to see you. Who are you going to negotiate with? Let’s go home. Stop causing trouble for me. I am already in a bad mood.” When Qiu Mu-Cheng saw that Ye Fan was determined to

continue bragging, she got angry and spoke resentfully to her husband.

Ye Fan replied with a smile, "Who told you they are closed? Look, it's opened now."

Right after Ye Fan's declaration, the pitch-black lobby of the bank lit up immediately.

Soon after the lights had come on, several bank employees suddenly appeared before them and bowed. "Sir, please wait upstairs. Miss Xu will be here soon."

Ye Fan replied with a single yes, and followed the employees upstairs.

But Qiu Mu-Cheng remained rooted to the spot, and stared at the doors of the bank as if she had just seen a ghost.

What...What...

They have really opened their doors?

Could it be a coincidence?

Qiu Mu-Cheng continued to stare in disbelief.

A few minutes later, Ye Fan returned.

“Go in. Miss Xu is waiting for you. We have already finished talking. Now, you just have to sign the contract.”

What?

“It’s really?”

“So soon?”

“Ye Fan, are you lying to me?” Qiu Mu-Cheng stared incredulously at her husband.

Was it possible to negotiate a loan contract worth several dozen million in such a short while?

What about the qualification review? What about the credit rating?

And the performance report?

“Ye Fan, you jerk. You must be lying to me.” Qiu Mu-Cheng roared angrily.

Ye Fan shrugged and smiled wryly.
“Whether it’s a lie or not, you just have to walk in to find out.”

The VIP reception room.

Xu Lei was sitting in the room, looking poised and noble in her business skirt suit.

“This is a loan contract for twenty million. Just sign here and we will transfer the money to you tomorrow.”

“In addition to the loan contract, I also have an order contract for you. I want Qiushui Logistics to be responsible for supplying us with the goods. I know you can’t make the decision, so why don’t you bring this back to your company and then decide? If there is no problem, we will meet three days later at Lishui Cafe. The one in the western district. I will wait for you there.”

“Believe me, your family will not reject this contract.”

“I look forward to working with you!”

Throughout the meeting, Qiu Mu-Cheng did not say a word.

Because Qiu Mu-Cheng had been stupefied, upon learning Xu Lei’s identity.

Xu Lei was the general manager of Hongqi Bank and the number one tycoon in

Yunzhou. Qiu Mu-Cheng found it difficult to believe that such a personage would personally receive and talk business with her!

The meeting did not take long. Xu Lei had gone straight to the point and kept it short. And then, as she sat on the sofa, she looked curiously at Qiu Mu-Cheng.

After a long while, Xu Lei shook her head and smiled.

“To be honest, Miss Qiu, I am curious. What is it that you have and how did you attract a man like him?”

“Eh?” Qiu Mu-Cheng was dumbfounded. She had no idea who Xu Lei was talking about.

Xu Lei laughed lightly. “Nothing. I am just congratulating you. Miss Qiu, you are the envy of all the women in the world, including me.”

Xu Lei’s words only served to confuse Qiu Mu-Cheng further.

And the latter remained confused, even after she had left the bank.

“Oh yeah, do you know Miss Xu?”

Ye Fan nodded. “Yeah, we are acquainted. I did her a favor. That is why she is helping us now.”

“Mm? How did you two meet?” Qiu Mu-Cheng got even more curious. She thought that since Ye Fan and Xu Lei belonged to two different worlds, there was simply no opportunity for them to meet.

But Ye Fan glazed over the question instead of answering. “Okay, we will talk about it another time. We have to get back to the family house now. Don’t you want to see the looks on their faces when you show them the loan contract?”

“I am looking forward to it~”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The Qiu's family house.

Members from various branches of the Qiu family had gathered at the family house. They were either executives of Qiushui Logistics or senior members of the family.

Just then, Qiu Mu-Ying was lounging around the meeting hall and looking displeased.

"It's the middle of the night. Are we not allowed to rest?"

"Why did grandfather call for a meeting at this hour?"

"Can't we wait till tomorrow?"

In the huge meeting hall, Qiu Mu-Ying was the only person who dared to complain.

After all, her family now held a prestigious position among the Qius. Qiu Mu-Ying had married a successful man from a powerful family, so nobody dared to cause her offence.

"Ying-Ying, this is what I heard. Qiu Mu-Cheng was the one who called your grandfather. She wanted us to wait here

for the loan contract.” One of Qiu Mu-Ying’s aunts confided in a whisper.

“The loan contract? Qiu Mu-Ying frowned and then laughed disdainfully. “She doesn’t have backings or connections. How on earth is she going to get the loan contract?”

“I think she is just joking around with us.”

“That’s right, Ying-Ying. I agree with you. It has only been one night. I don’t believe Qiu Mu-Cheng can persuade the bank to give us the loan in such a short amount of time. She is not such an amazing person.”

“But this is good as well. We can make use of this opportunity to oust her from the company. We have never liked her.”

The Qius gave their opinions and discussed the matter in a low voice.

Very soon, Master Qiu arrived at the meeting hall and everyone quieted down immediately.

Qiu Mu-Ying took the opportunity to approach her grandfather. “Grandfather, did Mu-Cheng really get the loan?”

Master Qiu shook his head and said: "I have no idea. She said she would get it tonight and told me to set up this meeting."

"Chh~ I thought she has already got the loan. Now it looks like she was just playing to the gallery." Qiu Mu-Ying sneered and continued, "Grandfather, I think Mu-Cheng is just giving in to her despair. She knows it is impossible for her to get the loan and continue to freeload off us, so she wants to prank us before she leaves."

"Grandfather, just think about it. Right now, it doesn't matter if Mu-Cheng is capable enough to get the loan or not. It is late at night now. All the banks are closed. There is nobody to see her, let alone negotiate a loan contract with her."

"She is obviously lying to you."

"That's right. What an ungrateful wretch. Our family has treated her so well, and yet she wants to prank us before leaving. Next time I see her, I am going to pretend not to know her." The other Qius followed suit and criticized Qiu Mu-Cheng as well.

As criticisms against Qiu Mu-Cheng

continued to mount, Master Qiu's expression turned darker and darker.

It was obvious that Qiu Mu-Ying's words had made him realize that he could have been tricked by Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng.

"Qiu Guang, call that wretch right now. Ask her what she is planning to do," Master Qiu ordered coldly.

Qiu Mu-Ying grew more satisfied as she looked at her visibly angry grandfather.

Qiu Mu-Cheng, Qiu Mu-Cheng. You are really an idiot. Pranking us like this will only anger grandfather. You are just asking for trouble!

"Grandfather, there's no need to call. I am here."

The door opened with a clang.

Without a hint of expression on her face, Qiu Mu-Cheng walked in carrying a handbag.

"Hmph, Qiu Mu-Cheng, how dare you show your face around here?"

“Where’s the money? Where’s the loan contract? Where are they?”

“I think you have nothing to show us.”

“Don’t go around bragging when you are so useless. We need our sleep, you know?”

“Grandfather has a noble constitution. If he falls sick because of your prank, will you be able to take responsibility for your actions?”

“That’s right, Qiu Mu-Cheng. Since you are so useless, why do you still want to show off?”

“You made everyone gather here in the middle of the night. Don’t you feel guilty?”

“You are a really horrible person.”

“A person like you should not remain in the company.”

“We will let you keep a bit of dignity. Resign and leave by yourself. Save us the trouble of firing you.” Judging by the mass of criticisms the assembled Qius were leveling against Qiu Mu-Cheng, it was obvious that they were all on Qiu Mu-Ying’s

side.

If a man is successful, then his wife will be respected as well. Qiu Mu-Ying had married a successful man, so the other Qius were quick to toady up to her. As for Qiu Mu-Cheng, because she had married a useless piece of trash, everyone looked down on her and, naturally, nobody cared one bit about her dignity.

Bullies tend to pick on those weaker than themselves. And because Qiu Mu-Cheng held a low position within the Qiu family, the other Qius would consciously or unconsciously pick on her.

But Qiu Mu-Cheng simply turned a deaf ear to her relatives' criticisms. She did not even bother to look at them.

"Qiu Mu-Cheng, I am asking you a question. Are you deaf or dumb?" Getting ignored by her cousin had angered Qiu Mu-Ying.

Qiu Mu-Cheng continued to ignore her cousin, and Qiu Mu-Ying's face turned red in anger. The latter was about to yell again, when a stack of documents landed on the table with a piak.

“Grandfather, I have done what you told me to do. Here is the loan contract.”

“It is a loan for twenty million. They will release the fund in four batches. We will receive the first batch tomorrow.”

“Grandfather, please take a look at these loan documents.”

Qiu Mu-Cheng’s indifferent words hit the assembled Qius like a slap in their face.

Qiu Mu-Ying and her allies were dumbfounded.

“Your...your negotiation was successful?”

“But how is it possible?”

Qiu Mu-Ying could not believe her ears. She quick-stepped over to the table and started looking through the documents.

“Twenty million?”

“A loan from Hongqi Bank?”

“Shit, Mu-Cheng, how did you do it?”

“Hongqi Bank only serves the top elites.

Even if our family head goes to them, they might not see him. And the bank actually gave you a loan?" The Qius were shocked and their eyes were filled with disbelief.

Hongqi Bank was renowned throughout Yunzhou. The bank only dealt with the big clients, such as state-owned enterprises and corporations on the world's top-five-hundred list.

"Damn!"

"Xu Lei's signature?"

"Shit, she's the richest woman in Yunzhou!"

"Mu-Cheng, did you meet Miss Xu to negotiate the contract?"

As his relatives trembled from the shock, Qiu Guang raised his voice to ask the question. It was obvious that he had been thoroughly frightened by the sight of Xu Lei's signature.

Who was Xu Lei?

She was the strongwoman of Yunzhou, and an equal of Master Li Er. Not only was she the number one tycoon of the city, but

she also ruled over half of it. As a top-level elite, Xu Lei was idolized by many people, including Qiu Mu-Ying and Qiu Guang. But the two Qius' positions were too low to let them see her so, naturally, something like having a business meeting with their idol was out of the question.

Therefore, when the Qius saw that the signature was Xu Lei's, they could not help being shocked.

"It's a fake. It must be a fake!"

"Who do you think you are?"

"You are just a speck of dirt who married a piece of trash. A person like you has no chance of even meeting her, let alone negotiate a contract with her."

"Grandfather, this contract must be a fake. Don't let yourself get cheated by her."

"This Qiu Mu-Cheng. How dare she use a fake contract to cheat us. Her motive is execrable."

"And you even forged Miss Xu's signature. Do you think you are worthy enough to talk business with Miss Xu?" Qiu Mu-Ying

screamed viciously.

But just then, Qiu Guang's phone suddenly vibrated.

"Whoa! Father!"

"Fifty million. Fifty million was just transferred to our company account."

"Name of sender is Hongqi Bank?"

What?

Like rocks dropping into the sea, Qiu Guang's words stirred up waves in the meeting hall.

Almost every Qiu in the hall, including Master Qiu, jumped from their seats in shock. As for Qiu Mu-Ying, she stayed rooted to the spot, as if she had been struck by lightning.

"This...This...This contract is real?"

The text message hit the Qius in the face like a slap. Qiu Mu-Ying and the others who had mocked Qiu Mu-Cheng earlier were especially humiliated. All at once, the voices of doubt in the hall vanished.

Silence reigned in the Qiu's meeting hall.

Outside their family house, the moonlight flowed down like a river.

The wind blew, the grass moved and the insects chirped.

Under the moonlight, the slim figure of a person could be seen sitting on a stone step. He was having a conversation on his phone, while a foxtail dangled from his mouth.

"Mr. Chu, I have done as you asked. The first batch of the fund has already been transferred to Qiushui Logistics' account."

And Ye Fan replied politely: "Mm, Miss Xu, thanks. When I have time, I will buy you lunch."

The unbridled chuckling of a woman drifted through from the other end of the line. Ye Fan could almost hear the heaving of Xu Lei's breasts through his phone.

Some women could seduce the opposite sex with just the sound of their voices.

"Mr. Chu, you are standing on ceremony. I

ask for nothing but a microscopic bit of the affection you have shown Miss Qiu.”

Xu Lei’s enchanting voice chimed out from the phone.

Ye Fan shook his head with a smile and replied indifferently: “Miss Xu, you are a greedy person.”

And then Ye Fan ended the call.

She must be joking?

His affection for his wife was one of a kind. It was not possible to share it with anybody else.

Xiangxie Villa.

In her bedroom, Xu Lei slowly put down the phone. As she looked at the night sky outside the window, she smiled ambiguously.

“Qiu Mu-Cheng?”

“I really envy you.”

And her whisper was carried faraway by the wind.

Chapter 48 The Qius Were Shocked



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“How is this possible? Only a few hours have passed since our last family meeting.”

“How did you get the loan approved in such a short time?”

“And the loan was approved by Miss Xu herself? But how is this possible?”

Qiu Mu-Ying was perplexed. It was hard for her to believe her cousin’s words.

The other Qius were also overwhelmed with shock. Even now, they found it difficult to accept the truth before their eyes.

As Qiu Mu-Cheng looked at the dumbfounded expression on their faces, she hmped and said: “I could be lying. The contract could have been forged. But what about the fifty million in the company’s account? Did I make that up too?”

Her eyes were filled with ridicule as she questioned her relatives.

Not one of them could answer her question.

After all, the fact of the matter was exactly as Qiu Mu-Cheng had said. The fifty million had already been transferred to their company's account. Therefore, the loan contract was genuine.

But Qiu Mu-Ying continued to disbelieve her cousin. She smiled coldly and said, "Mu-Cheng, don't be cocky now. Maybe my husband was the one who called Hongqi Bank, and secured the loan for us. You merely got lucky."

"Yes yes yes. It's possible."

"In our family, only Wen-Fei has that kind of capability and clout. Your husband is just a live-in son-in-law, so why would Miss Xu meet you? She's the top tycoon of Yunzhou, you know?"

The other Qius thought that Qiu Mu-Ying's explanation was reasonable and, one after another, they voiced their agreements.

Qiu Mu-Cheng nearly had a stroke when she heard her cousin's lie.

Ye Fan was the one who had used his connection with Xu Lei to get the loan approved but, now, Qiu Mu-Ying was

shamelessly taking the credit for his work.

However, Qiu Mu-Cheng was no fool. She immediately retorted, "Oh yeah? Since you think this is Chu Wen-Fei's work, why don't you give him a call? Ask him and the truth will be revealed."

"Alright, I will ask him. Once he owns up to it, I wonder how you will end this farce?" And without giving her cousin a chance to respond, Qiu Mu-Ying dialled Chu Wen-Fei's number on her phone and set it on speaker mode.

"Darling, this is Ying-Ying." The call had connected. And the hitherto shrewish Qiu Mu-Ying suddenly became as cute as a kitten.

That bit of acting vexed Qiu Mu-Cheng further.

Hmph, let's see how you are going to keep on acting.

"Ying-Ying, what's up? Are you missing me again? Last night..." Chu Wen-Fei had no idea that he was on a conference call, so he did not censor himself.

Qiu Mu-Ying blushed and interrupted her husband hurriedly. "Alright, stop talking nonsense. You are on a conference all. Grandfather and the others are listening in. Let's talk business."

"Darling, let me ask you. Did you call Hongqi Bank and persuade Miss Xu to give us the loan?"

Chu Wen-Fei was stupefied. "What Miss Xu? What loan?"

Qiu Mu-Ying's heart tightened. "The general manager of Hongqi Bank. The number one tycoon of our city, Miss Xu Lei."

"Whoa, it's her? She is one of the top elites of Yunzhou. There is no way I would know her, right?"

"Then what about your mom and dad? Do they know her? Did you ask them for help?" Qiu Mu-Ying asked stubbornly.

"It's a shame, but my parents do not know her either. Xu Lei is one of the top elites. She moves in a completely different circle from the one we inhabit. Only someone like Master Li Er can approach her."

Although Chu Wen-Fei liked to brag, he dared not claim familiarity with Xu Lei.

That was just how powerful Xu Lei was.

“Okay, I am hanging up.”

When Qiu Mu-Ying ended the call, her face had already turned an unhealthy shade of green. All trace of her earlier cockiness had vanished, and she dared not speak another word.

Qiu Mu-Cheng humphed and asked, “Mu-Ying, how’s that? Do you have anything more to say?”

Just then, Master Qiu burst into laughter.

“Well done~”

“Mu-Cheng, you have done a good job. You did not disappoint me.”

“As your reward, from this month onward, your salary will be tripled.”

What?

Tripled!

When the other Qius heard this, many among them turned green with envy.

“Thank you, grandfather,” Qiu Mu-Cheng answered with a smile. Finally, for the first time in so many years, she was able to hear her grandfather’s praise.

“Hmph, you are just a jumped-up small fry. So what if your salary is tripled? You are still poor and nowhere as rich as my husband.” Qiu Mu-Ying felt really terrible but she could only grumble in a low voice.

And then, Qiu Mu-Cheng’s voice rang out in the hall once more.

“Oh before I forget, grandfather, I still have another matter to discuss with you. I did not just negotiate a loan contract with Miss Xu. On behalf of Hongqi Group, she would like to place a logistics order worth fifty million with us. But because it is a huge deal, I did not accept it by myself. I have brought the contract here. Please have a look, grandfather. And if you think there is no problem with it, I can make an appointment with Miss Xu to sign the contract.”

But the moment she had finished

speaking, the meeting hall went dead silent.

In the room, it got so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

Once again, the assembled Qius were flummoxed.

“What...What did you say?”

“Please repeat what you have just said?”

“How...how much is the order worth?”

The chairman of Qiushui Logistics, Qiu Guang, started trembling and looked at Qiu Mu-Cheng as if she was a ghost.

“Mu-Cheng, did...did you just add another zero by mistake?” Master Qiu’s face was twitching uncontrollably as he stared at his granddaughter.

What did a fifty-million order mean to Qiushui Logistics?

For the whole of last year, all the orders Qiushui Logistics had received only amounted to several million.

And recently, the logistics industry had gotten really competitive. A small enterprise like Qiushui Logistics would be hard-pressed to get an order worth more than a million. An order worth more than ten million would be considered an extremely valuable contract!

But Qiu Mu-Cheng had just told them her order contract was worth fifty million.

“Damn!”

“Even if we sell Qiushui Logistics, there is no way we can get this much money, right?” The Qius sighed feelingly.

As for Qiu Mu-Ying, she did not believe her cousin one bit. “Qiu Mu-Cheng, you are taking the joke too far!”

But Qiu Mu-Cheng ignored her and handed over a contract to Master Qiu.

The old man kept trembling as he read through the documents. In the end, he had to get his eldest son to help verify the authenticity of the contract.

“There is no problem with the contract.”

“The seal looks genuine.”

“Could this be real?” Even now, Qiu Guang still thought that the whole thing was just too incredible to be real.

Finally, after spending half an hour to study the contract, both Qiu Guang and his father were assured of the authenticity of the documents. And Master Qiu burst into laughter once again.

“Hahaha~”

“Mu-Cheng, well done! Well done indeed!”

“Thank you for getting the contract for our family.”

“From toward onward, Mu-Cheng, you will take on the position of project manager. You will be given a company car and you will be fully in charge of all negotiations with Hongqi Group.”

“You must not make any mistake and do your best to get the contract.”

“Whether or not Qiushui Logistics can grow bigger, it all depends on you now.”

Master Qiu's hearty laughter reverberated through the hall.

At that moment, Qiu Mu-Cheng felt that her happiness had come too suddenly. A smile blossomed on her face and her eyes were filled with happiness. "Thank you, grandfather. Thank you for giving me this chance to prove myself. I promise. I will not disappoint you."

After receiving the reward for her toils, Qiu Mu-Cheng felt that all was right with the world.

In her eyes, the pitch black sky was suddenly filled with many beautiful colors.

Meanwhile, Qiu Mu-Ying was seething in jealousy and hatred. Her eyes had turned bloodshot and both her hands were clenched tight.

The other Qius sighed inwardly when they thought about Qiu Mu-Cheng's sudden reversal of fortune. All these years, she had always been the weakling of their family, so her elevation in status came as an unexpected surprise to them.

"Ye Fan, thank you." Qiu Mu-Cheng had a

blissful and dazzling smile on her face, as she strolled along the moonlit street with her husband.

Meanwhile, Ye Fan was looking up at the night sky with his hands folded behind his back. "It is not enough to express gratitude with just words. I expect something practical."

"Okay, what do you want? Let me know and I will give it to you," Qiu Mu-Cheng promised happily.

"Alright, you said it. Tonight, let us both work toward the propagation of mankind."

Qiu Mu-Cheng: "....."

"Get lost~"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Qiu Mu-Cheng's huffy exclamation startled the birds in the trees.

And then, with her face red, she stomped angrily away in her exquisite high heels.

But Qiu Mu-Cheng was only feeling embarrassed. If Ye Fan had suggested copulation to her before today, she would definitely despise him.

Maybe she herself did not notice that her attitude toward Ye Fan was imperceptibly changing for the better.

Upon reaching home, she told her parents the good news. Both Han Li and Qiu Lei were overjoyed. Right away, they made the decision to go celebrate at a restaurant. Naturally, Qiu Mu-Cheng asked Ye Fan to come along.

"Why did you invite him?"

"He is just a freeloading piece of trash. Does he deserve to spend your money?" Han Li asked coldly.

"Mom, this time it is all thanks to Ye Fan. If it weren't for him~" Qiu Mu-Cheng continued to defend her husband, but she

was rudely interrupted by Han Li.

“Him? All thanks to him? I will be thankful as long as he doesn’t cause you trouble. Mu-Cheng, you have been acting weird lately. You keep defending that piece of trash. I am warning you, you have to divorce him sooner or later. You had better keep that in mind. My brother is already helping you to look for a suitable match. Someone wealthy and powerful. You go meet him in a few days.”

“That’s enough, mom. I am not going to the restaurant. You and dad can go by yourselves. I will stay home with Ye Fan.” Finally, Qiu Mu-Cheng lost her temper with her mother and went into the bedroom by herself, ignoring Han Li completely.

Han Li also got angry and, in the end, she had no choice but to go the restaurant with just Qiu Lei.

Meanwhile, Qiu Mu-Ying was seething in rage in the comfort of her own home. The more she thought about her cousin, the angrier she got.

She had planned to make things difficult for Qiu Mu-Cheng, and embarrass the

latter before ousting her from the company. But unexpectedly, Qiu Mu-Ying's plan had helped pave the road to her cousin's success.

"This Qiu Mu-Cheng. How did she get so lucky?"

"Not only did she get the loan, she also managed to get the opportunity to work with Hongqi Group."

Hongqi Group was backed by Hongqi Bank and managed solely by Xu Lei. The company had strong backings and was financially strong. And Qiu Mu-Cheng had managed to obtain an order from such a company. Wang Qiao-Yu was shocked and angry when she found out about it. Just then, she was pacing up and down in her room.

"Ying-Ying, this will not do. We have to think of something."

"That order is worth fifty million. If Qiu Mu-Cheng gets the deal, she will rise to the top of the company and your grandfather will favor her even more."

"More importantly, if she uses this

opportunity to get to know Xu Lei, then her position in our family will be unshakeable. Maybe your grandfather will even hand the company over to her.”

“When that time comes, we will lose our positions in the family.”

Wang Qiao-Yu was full of worry, as she talked away beside her daughter.

Qiu Mu-Ying was also furious and had her own grievances to air as well. “Mom, what’s the point of saying all this now? Grandfather has already made her the person-in-charge of this project and all negotiations with Hongqi Group. What else can we do?”

All along, Wang Qiao-Yu’s family had considered Qiu Mu-Cheng to be a thorn in their side. In the past, whenever Wang Qiao-Yu and her family had embezzled money from the company, Qiu Mu-Cheng had always been the one to report their misdeeds to Master Qiu. As a result, the old man had reprimanded Wang Qiao-Yu and her family a number of times.

Therefore, as long as Qiu Mu-Cheng remained in the company, Wang Qiao-Yu

and her family could not act as they wish. And now that Qiu Mu-Cheng's position in the company was higher than before, Wang Qiao-Yu and her family were naturally panicking more than ever.

"I have a plan."

"Let's go, Ying-Ying. We will go see your grandfather."

"We cannot let Qiu Mu-Cheng rise above us." Wang Qiao-Yu seemed to have thought of a plan. And even though it was late at night, she pulled her daughter along to see Master Qiu.

To ensure success, Wang Qiao-Yu even brought Qiu Guang along to the meeting.

"Grandfather, when I got home earlier, I had a meeting with Uncle Guang and the others. We feel that it is not right to give Mu-Cheng the responsibility of handling negotiations with Hongqi Group." Qiu Mu-Ying said sweetly as she gave Master Qiu a shoulder massage.

"What's wrong with that? Mu-Cheng was the one who got the contract. It is only right to let her negotiate with Hongqi

Group,” Master Qiu responded with a frown.

“Grandfather, think about it. All these years, Mu-Cheng has been in charge of the grassroots work and so she has only been interacting with the low-level people. She has never negotiated a contract with an elite, let alone a top-level elite like Miss Xu. This order from Hongqi Group is worth a great deal of money, and our company’s survival depends on the success of this deal. Grandfather, do you really want to entrust the important task of ensuring our survival to an inexperienced person?”

“You may be right. But didn’t Mu-Cheng get the loan contract? Isn’t this proof of her ability?” Master Qiu replied heavily.

“Dad, this has nothing to do with her ability. She simply shared Wen-Fei’s limelight and got lucky. Think about it. Only a few days ago, the Shens made such a huge deal out of our banquet. So Miss Xu probably heard about the VIP in our family and, out of consideration for Wen-Fei, she approved our loan. So it has nothing to do with Qiu Mu-Cheng. Anyone else from our family could have gone to Miss Xu and gotten the loan approved. Dad, think about

it. Is it possible for Qiu Mu-Cheng, the wife of a live-in son-in-law, to meet Miss Xu in person? And it is possible that Miss Xu only gave Qiushui Logistics the fifty million contract because Wen-Fei is our son-in-law." The words spewed out of Wang Qiao-Yu as she tried to convince Master Qiu of her idea.

"This~" Master Qiu was dumbfounded.

To be honest, he was also perplexed by Qiu Mu-Cheng's successful negotiation with Hongqi Group. By right, she should not have been able to do so.

"Yes, dad. I have given this some thought as well. It is indeed not proper to allow Mu-Cheng to negotiate with Miss Xu. Let's not talk about her capability as a negotiator for the moment. Mu-Cheng's status alone makes her unworthy of negotiating with Miss Xu."

"Who is Miss Xu? She is one of the two overlords of Yunzhou. Only someone who is at least a vice general manager, like Ying-Ying, has the right to sit before Miss Xu. Mu-Cheng was just a salesperson in our company. And her husband is a live-in son-in-law. If Miss Xu finds out that

Qiushui Logistics sent such a low-level person to negotiate with her, what will she think of us?"

"She will think we are humiliating her."

When he heard this, Master Qiu turned pale. "Mm, I did not give this matter enough thought. Mu-Cheng is indeed not a suitable candidate. From now on, Ying-Ying will handle all negotiations with Hongqi Group."

"Ying-Ying, give your cousin a call later, and inform her of my decision."

Qiu Mu-Ying was overjoyed when she heard this. "Yes, grandfather. I will not let you down. I will definitely get the contract."

"And grandfather, please don't worry too much. Everything I do is for the sake of our family. I am only thinking of the big picture. I am not gunning for Mu-Cheng."

"Mm, I know. I have seen your family's contributions with my own eyes," Master Qiu nodded.

At this moment, his phone rang out suddenly. The caller was Qiu Mu-Cheng.

The old man answered the call immediately.

“Grandfather, I just looked through the contract again. And I don’t think we can fulfill Miss Xu’s requirements with our current capabilities. I suggest we purchase some more transport lorries...”

Qiu Mu-Cheng was about to continue when her grandfather interrupted her. “You don’t have to worry about this anymore. Ying-Ying will take care of it,” Master Qiu said heavily.

“Ah?” At the other end of the line, Qiu Mu-Cheng was momentarily struck dumb.

Master Qiu continued, “Also, you don’t have to attend the contract signing either. Ying-Ying will handle all negotiations between Qiushui Logistics and Hongqi Group. You just stick to your own duties.”

Silence.

The silence went on for a long time.

After who knew how long, Qiu Mu-Cheng’s hoarse whisper drifted through the phone. “Grandfather, I want to know why. Why?”

Why are you letting someone else take away the fruits of my labor?”

“What insolence! How dare you speak to me like this! You have no respect for your elders and you are indeed unworthy of negotiating with Miss Xu.” Master Qiu was enraged after Qiu Mu-Cheng’s back talk, and he ended the call by slamming down the phone.

Shortly after, Qiu Mu-Ying and her family left the family house, fully satisfied with themselves.

“Ying-Ying, if you get the contract, you will be making plenty of profit on the side, right?” On their way home, Qiu Guang looked at his niece and smiled lightly.

“Haha, don’t worry, Uncle Guang. When the time comes, I will remember to share.”

The three Qius started laughing and, just then, they looked really hideous.

Qiu Mu-Ying continued smiling, even after she had reached home. Finally, she gave her cousin a call.

“Mu-Cheng, grandfather wanted me to tell

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you that I will be in charge of all negotiations with Hongqi Group. As for you, you can go chill in a corner.”

“Haha~”

“Mu-Cheng, thank you for your present. After I get the contract, I will definitely remember your selfless offering.”

At this moment, Qiu Mu-Ying’s eyes were filled with disdain and she felt very smug indeed.

Inwardly, she was smiling sinisterly.

Qiu Mu-Cheng, you are not worthy enough to be my rival!



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