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There weren't a lot of corporations in the world who were able to develop their own integrated circuit, and the only one that managed to get it to five nanometers was Tescon, because this company had the best IC experts in the world.

Two of them hailed from China.

At this moment.

Inside Tescon's IC R&D lab.

Luo Lin was wearing a lab coat as he looked at the model on the computer screen. Every time a singularity changed, it looked like a video in slow motion to him. He took note of every single detail.

"No, this method isn't going to work," concluded Luo Lin even before the model testing had completed.

"It won't work?" the Caucasian lab assistant by his side frowned immediately. "Professor Luo, we haven't completed the testing, so how do you know it's not going to work?"

"This model is something that many of us have worked hard to produce and develop and it can reach the next iteration. I don't think it's a good idea for you to jump to a conclusion so quickly."

Luo Lin looked at the Caucasian man quietly. He knew that these people were a proud bunch and never respected him.

It didn't matter that Luo Lin was supposed to be the one in charge of this lab.

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“Then you can wait for the testing to be completed and check the results. If it can reach the next iteration, then it’ll be oversight on my part.”

He didn’t want to say anymore. It wouldn’t be of any use anyway.

Luo Lin just turned and left without saying anything else.

BAM!

He could hear the sound of something crashing to the floor after he walked out of the lab.

“What’s he so cocky about? Does he think he’s the only one who’s talented? If he’s so amazing, then why is he in Tescon? He should just go back to his own country!”

“Ignore him, he’s just a prideful idiot. Without Tescon, he’s nothing.”

“What are we going to do with this model? The singularity is changing too quickly and there’s no way it will continue iterating. Do you want to stop the test?”

“Stop the test? Fine! Stop the test!”

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Luo Lin’s expression was nasty after he returned to his office. He had suffered so much discrimination in this country.

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He was the core pillar of this lab, but he didn't belong here at all.

He turned on the computer to look at the photos he had hidden within a folder. One photo was of his family, and the other was of the Chinese flag. The bright red color stung his eyes.

Luo Lin couldn't help but tear up a little. He looked up at the immense number of surveillance cameras around his office and slammed a fist onto his desk.

"Did you think I don't want to leave?!" Luo Lin grit his teeth and his voice was trembling. "Let me leave if you dare!"

He seemed to be venting his anger at the surveillance cameras.

At the same time.

Hayson was sitting in an office on the top floor of Tescon's office building and put down the cigar in his hand as he watched Luo Lin's threatening expression on his computer screen.

"Getting indignant now?" Hayson narrowed his eyes and a malicious and disdainful air seeped from the two slits. "Without me, your wife would have died a long time ago."

After thinking for a while, he typed out a series of commands. A video appeared on Luo Lin's computer at the same time.

The video showed Luo Lin's wife locked up in a

well-furnished apartment.

She had everything she needed for living and access to as much money as she wanted, but she had no freedom.

Luo Lin's eyes became even redder as he watched the screen. The veins on his tightly clenched fists bulged and they trembled violently.

He knew that Hayson was warning him, and reminding him that he had no freedom, no choice, and no way out.

Right now, he was just a tool that belonged to Tescon and belonged to Hayson!



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Luo Lin took a few deep breaths and the way he looked at the cameras slowly calmed down. It even carried a tinge of despair and helplessness now.

He had no choice.

Now that things had come to this, there was nothing he could do about it.

Nobody was willing to become a tool or to become someone else's puppet. But there were times where one had to bear the consequences of one's own decisions.

But he never expected this to possibly last a lifetime.

He knew that Hayson was watching him now. This lab, the whole of Tescon and even his own daily life was being watched all the time.

He had thought of leaving this sort of life, but he knew very well that was impossible.

His wife was alive because of Hayson, so if he left, his wife would die.

When he thought about this, Luo Lin sighed and could only resign himself to his fate.

He got up and got changed. He was already used to being watched no matter what he did. He left the office and got ready to go home.

He was constantly being watched even while going home, and Luo Lin knew about this a long

time ago.

As usual, he went to a cake shop on the way home to buy his wife's favorite cake for her.

"Hello there, one slice of blackforest cake to go, thanks," said Luo Lin politely.

The shop assistant nodded and packed the cake neatly into the box.

"Mr Luo, that will be \$5."

Luo Lin instantly looked up with a start. He had come here to buy cake many times now, but he had never told the staff his name. How did this shop assistant know his name?

He looked at the shop assistant, but the shop assistant just smiled and passed the cake to Luo Lin. As they exchanged hands, the shop assistant secretly tapped Luo Lin's hand with his fingers and Luo Lin got the message.

He calmly said, "Thank you."

After Luo Lin left with the cake, Jiang Ning lowered the baseball cap on his head and narrowed his eyes slightly.

"I can't believe this poor professor has been held hostage. This Tescon is really something, huh."

Jiang Ning found out through his information that Luo Lin and the other experts in integrated circuits had all found themselves in this sort of predicament. It was going to be hard for them to

get themselves out of this one.

Tescon looked like a corporation on the surface, but they dabbled in other things in secret. Not many people knew about their dark side.

But Jiang Ning had already gotten Amelia Ceyranka to help him check on Tescon's involvement in illegal activity for him.

"Big Boss, are you sure we can't just kidnap this fellow?" asked Brother Gou in a low voice next to Jiang Ning.

He didn't understand why they had to go through so much trouble. It was just one man, so why couldn't they just kidnap him? That was a faster and simpler method.

Jiang Ning glared at Brother Gou. This fellow had been led astray by Fei and he started talking about kidnapping too.

"He still has a wife, so unless he can ensure his wife's safety, he's never leaving this place even if he has to die," snapped Jiang Ning in annoyance. "Didn't the Legend of Shengcheng teach you anything about grasping the main point of any problem at hand?"

Brother Gou blinked and nodded. "I think she did, but I forgot."

Jiang Ning shook his head and couldn't be bothered with him.

He walked into the kitchen, removed his cap,

changed out of the uniform and left with Brother Gou.

Meanwhile.

Luo Lin came home to find his wife watching TV on the sofa. This was her only entertainment.

She immediately stood up when she heard the door.

“You’re home!”

“I’ve bought you cake,” said Luo Lin with a smile. “Go wash your hands.”

His wife was as excited as a child, as if this was the thing she looked forward to all day.

She ran off to wash her hands while Luo Lin opened the box to see a note inside.

He could feel his heart pound wildly!



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