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"No, Mrs. Zhou, I... " Daphne Tao wanted to explain.

But Mrs. Zhou blocked the ward door with four or five accompanying relatives and shouted at Daphne, "No? If someone hadn't called to inform me, I wouldn't have known that my son was in danger at the hospital. How do you even fulfill your duties as an attending doctor?"

Daphne bowed to Mrs. Zhou apologetically and said, "Mrs. Zhou, we do bear responsibilities on Zeke's matter. I've just got to know of the news, and we're currently investigating the situation. Don't worry, Zeke is no longer in danger. We will make sure to cure him."

Hearing this, Mrs. Zhou's expression tightened and she said, "What do you mean there's no danger? My son's minor illness has now turned grave after you've treated him. And you're saying it's not a dangerous situation?"

The aunts around also joined her and started accusing Daphne.

"That's right. I really don't know how someone like you became a doctor!"

"It's so shameful to have someone this irresponsible treating patients here."

"You have to be responsible for Zeke's matter."

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Daphne bowed repeatedly and apologized, saying, "Everyone, I admit that Zeke's matter was our fault, but I would never shirk from my responsibilities. I promise to take full responsibility once the situation has been cleared up. However, the most important thing now is to treat Zeke. The toxins in his body have not been completely cleared, we have to -"

"Toxins? What toxin? Do you mean that my son is poisoned? Didn't he just have rashes on his body?" Mrs. Zhou was shocked, and her expression changed greatly. She grabbed Daphne tightly.

The relatives around her also started to speak out in confusion.

"Wasn't it just gastritis that led to him vomiting? How did it become toxins?"

"As a doctor, is this the way you treat your patients? It's way more serious than we thought. Zeke was even poisoned."

"You'd better give us an explanation for this matter."

"Zeke is the only heir of the Zhou family for the third consecutive generation. He has to be safe at all costs. If something goes wrong, can you bear the responsibility?"

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In a chaos, Daphne was shoved back and forth like an old rag doll that was fought over by a group of children.

Fade couldn't stand it anymore and said, "Zeke's current condition was because someone maliciously poisoned him and has nothing to do with Dr. Tao. Now, Dr. Tao is trying her best to treat Zeke. If you continue to delay her time, you're wasting the precious time used to save Zeke too."

Hearing this, everyone was momentarily dumbfounded before once again erupting into questions.

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"What do you mean by poisoned? Zeke is in the hospital. How could someone poison him?"

"Save Zeke? Does that mean he is still in danger?"

"Ah, what kind of hospital and doctors are like this? Zeke was just having gastritis and now he's poisoned? You all must take responsibility for it."

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Daphne apologized again, "I will definitely take responsibility. But right now, we have to figure out the situation and find out who poisoned Zeke, then cure him. Everything else can come later. "

With this, Daphne wanted to leave the ward.

Mrs. Zhou and her relatives paused for a moment. Among them, someone suddenly said, "Who knows whether you're telling the truth or not? How could Zeke be poisoned for no reason? Besides, why should we believe you? Who knows if you're trying to dodge your responsibility and find a scapegoat?"

As soon as the person said that, the ward immediately burst into an uproar.

"That's right. I suspect that it was you doctors who made the mistake. You guys are probably trying to avoid taking responsibility by claiming that he was poisoned."

"Yes, we can't let her go. Maybe she's in a hurry to destroy the evidence. Stop her."

"Catch her and bring her over. If she doesn't make it clear about Zeke's poisoning, she mustn't be allowed to leave."

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All of a sudden, they grabbed Daphne and pulled her back. Then, as if they were interrogating her, they shouted, "Tell us, what's going on?"

"Mrs. Zhou, I really didn't. I'm just..."

Daphne wanted to defend herself, but these people were not giving her any chance to explain. They shouted noisily at her, some even attempting to undress her. They shouted, "Take off her clothes and do a body search. Let's see if she hid away the evidence!"

"Yes, take off her clothes. Rip them all off. She won't be able to hide anything on her."

In an instant, they began tearing Daphne's clothes apart, but she stopped them in a hurry.

However, against this group of angry and irrational middle-aged women, Daphne didn't even stand a chance.

In no time, her coat was torn open messily. Two of the buttons of her shirt were also ripped off, revealing some of her skin and undergarments inside. Her hair was messy, and the black-framed spectacles she was wearing were knocked off. There were even several red marks on Daphne's face and neck. Clearly, someone had taken advantage of the situation to beat her up.

Faced with such a chaotic situation, Fade's eyes narrowed and he gave a loud bellow before rushing over to Daphne's side, "All of you, stop."

His loud warning contained a touch of his internal energy, which shocked these women and made them stop in their tracks.

Then, Fade pulled Daphne back and held her in his arms. He quickly pulled over a white coat and draped it over her.

At that moment, Mrs. Zhou and the others, who were temporarily shocked, came back to their senses and stared at them

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fiercely.

"How dare you shout at us! You murderers!"

"If you're helping her, you must be the accomplice."

"You both must be responsible for Zeke's matter."

"Get your principal here this moment. You must provide us with an explanation regarding this matter. Otherwise, we won't hesitate to rain down hell even if it's the last thing we do."

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Daphne, who was in Fade's arms, straightened her messy hair and wiped away the tears from the corner of her eyes. She once again said to Mrs. Zhou and others, "Mrs. Zhou, we are in charge of this, and we will certainly take responsibility for it. But right now, Zeke's condition is more important. We are in a race against time to treat him!"

Although their attitude was horrible, the poisoning of Zeke Zhou had indeed happened in the ward under her management. Thus, Daphne felt very remorseful and couldn't bear any resentment towards them.

However, Mrs. Zhou and others did not buy her words and refused to give in. Instead, they directly approached Daphne and Fade and started shouting at them one by one.

"Trying to leave? Think again!"

"No one will leave before figuring out who is responsible for this matter."

"Bring the head of your hospital over, as well as all the reporters and the police. I want you to reveal your ugly manner in front of

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everyone."

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Hearing this, Fade could not help frowning. They'd made it clear that Zeke was in a critical situation, but these people did not even bother to visit him or let them treat him properly. Instead, they were stirring up trouble here. Looking at their indifferent attitudes, those who didn't know would never believe that they were Zeke's relatives.

Just as this thought came to his mind, Zeke, who was lying on the hospital bed, suddenly coughed and woke up. Then, he spat out a mouthful of blood, spraying it all over the sheets.

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Daphne was the first to react and immediately dashed over. She pried open Zeke's eyelids and began to examine his condition. Seeing Daphne in action, Mrs. Zhou and her relatives came to their senses and turned to look towards the hospital bed. When they saw Zeke vomiting blood, Mrs. Zhou was finally shocked.

She rushed over and shouted in panic, "How could this happen? How could this happen? Zeke, are you all right? Why are you vomiting blood?"

Daphne explained hastily, "We informed you just now that Zeke was poisoned. Although Dr. Chen had managed to control his condition just now, the toxins in his blood have yet to be completely cleared. We need to conduct further examination right now, so please stop wasting our time."

As she spoke, she was about to leave.

However, Mrs. Zhou and the others paused for a while before they rushed over again, and grabbed Daphne to stop her from leaving.

"You can't go. My son has become like this. You can't leave him like this!"

"That's right, Zeke's condition is so critical. You must be responsible for him."

"You'd better give us an explanation. How could this happen? I thought Zeke only suffered from rashes, but why and how is he

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poisoned now?"

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Daphne was anxious but helpless, and she tried to explain to them in desperation, "Zeke is my patient, so I will definitely take responsibility for whatever has happened to him. But for now, the situation is really urgent, and my priority is to cure the patient first. I really can't delay it any longer."

Although Daphne was already begging them, there was still doubt in the eyes of Mrs. Zhou and the others. After exchanging a few glances, they remained adamant on not trusting Daphne and said, "We don't believe you. If you want to leave, you have to write a confession letter to admit your mistakes."

"Yes, you must write a confession. You have to admit that you caused Zeke's accident and illness, and take full responsibility."

"You'd also need to sign it. Now hurry up and start writing, now!"

"If you're not going to write the confession, don't even think about leaving."

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Daphne was frustrated. Although she knew that she shouldered much of the responsibility, it was clear however that someone poisoned Zeke this time. How could she write this so-called confession admitting to something she didn't do? Moreover, if she wrote it, she knew that more trouble would be headed her way due to these stubborn people.

So, Daphne shook her head and said, "I admit that I'm responsible for Zeke's illness. But the person who poisoned him should be at bigger fault. I can't bear responsibilities for the things I didn't cause."

Hearing this, Mrs. Zhou and others became rowdy again.

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"You're just saying you don't want to take the responsibility!"

"You're a quack. You've mistreated Zeke yet you're still trying to find a scapegoat for your mistakes."

"Catch her. People like this ought to be punished and locked up."

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Amidst all the shoving and arguing, the frail Zeke spat out another mouthful of blood on the hospital bed, his expression looking even weaker and pale than before.

Seeing this, the group of people beside him became even more anxious.

Daphne wanted to leave to manage his condition, but the group of women held her down tighter, not allowing her to leave.

At this moment, two nurses rushed in and shouted urgently, "Dr. Tao, the results of the blood analysis are complete."

The minute they saw the situation in the ward, both of them gaped awkwardly and fell silent.

"You can hand it to me. Also, please ask the principal of the hospital to come over." Fade directly stepped forward to take the blood analysis results and screened through it quickly.

After looking through the details, he shifted his gaze towards Zeke on the hospital bed with a dire look on his face.

Daphne wanted to rush over to have a look at the test results, but Mrs. Zhou and the others tightened their grip and refused to let her go.

Fade said to her, "Dr. Tao, you don't have to be anxious. None of this is your fault."

Daphne was shocked and looked at Fade wide-eyed.

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The group of people were also flabbergasted. They looked at Fade in visible annoyance and started making a ruckus.

"Who are you to say that she bears no responsibility?"

"That's right. Zeke was sent here to receive treatment, not to get poisoned. Now that things have escalated, you still try to dismiss her of her responsibility?"

"Both of you are crazy and useless. I'm going to expose you and sue you to the heavens!"

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Fade ignored them, shoving them away with a clean gesture. Then, he grabbed hold of Daphne and handed her the test results. He pointed to a spot on the results and said, "Look here."

Daphne stared at the sheet for a while, visibly confused at first but soon frowning in concern. After thinking for a while, her face showed an expression of disbelief. She looked at Fade who nodded his head, then turned to look at Mrs. Zhou and the others in surprise.

The other party was also confused by Fade and Daphne's actions. They glared at the both of them and continued to yell stubbornly.

"What tricks are you both playing?"

"Don't try to avoid us. Take responsibility for Zeke now!"

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At this moment, there was a commotion at the door. The nurse had called the principal of the hospital and a group of executive

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leaders who all came in anxiously.

When Mrs. Zhou and the others saw the principal, they immediately gathered around him to stir up a wave of complaints.

"Principal, my son was improperly treated by the quacks in your hospital. You must give us an explanation."

"That b*tch didn't want to be responsible, and she didn't even want to write a confession to admit her faults. What more, she even wanted to run away from the responsibility."

"Let me tell you, my husband is from the Health Bureau. If you can't give me a proper answer, I'll make sure your hospital gets shut down."

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Upon hearing the threats, the principal grew anxious. He said a few comforting words to Mrs. Zhou and the others, then turned to look at Daphne and asked harshly, "Dr. Tao, what's going on?"

Daphne's mouth moved. She wanted to explain, but she didn't know where to begin.

Seeing this, the faces of the principal and executive leaders could not help but sink, their expressions growing ghastly by the minute. Mrs. Zhou and others were even more delighted as they added on to the ruckus.

"Look, she obviously has a guilty conscience. They are the ones who caused my son's illness."

"That's right, maybe they were the ones who poisoned Zeke."

"Catch them, catch them all."

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In the midst of the shouts, Fade gently patted Daphne on the shoulder, then stood up and hollered coldly, "Shut up, all of you!" With a roar that contained his internal energy, all the people in the ward immediately fell silent.

Then, Fade swept his eyes across everyone and said in a cold voice, "I just diagnosed the patient's condition. I was also the one in charge of his treatment. Hence, I have the right to inform you of the patient's current situation. Let me tell you what happened to him."

While speaking, he grabbed hold of the tablet that was lying on the side and started showing the principal and the other executive leaders the ward's surveillance video. He announced, "According to the video, the patient's condition suddenly deteriorated because someone had maliciously poisoned him. Therefore, it has nothing to do with Dr. Tao."

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As soon as he finished speaking, Mrs. Zhou and the others started protesting against his announcement, "Don't try to shift the responsibility. My son was lying in your ward before he became like this. And yet you say that the doctor doesn't hold any responsibility? Do you think that's possible?"

"Right! What more, how sure are you to say that this person in the video was the one who poisoned Zeke? Look, he's wearing a white coat, so maybe it's just one of your doctors who is attending to him."

Hearing their words, the principal frowned and looked at Fade and Daphne as though questioning their findings.

Fade sneered and looked at the group of middle-aged women. His eyes narrowed slightly as he said, "Indeed, we can't confirm for sure that this person was the one who poisoned Zeke just by looking at the surveillance video."

"Moreover, even if we somehow confirmed that he was the one who poisoned Zeke, as the attending doctor of Zeke, Dr. Tao still has to shoulder a certain responsibility."

At the mention of this, Mrs. Zhou and others were momentarily dumbstruck. They did not understand why Fade suddenly spoke out for them.

Just then, Fade's gaze hardened as he spoke coldly, "But I just got Zeke's blood test results. After reading the report, I found that the situation was different from what we've thought."

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"On the contrary, Dr. Tao bears no responsibilities in this matter at all. You elders are the ones at fault instead." Fade directly yelled at Mrs. Zhou and others. He shook his head and said spitefully, "I really don't understand, what kind of benefits were you given for you to risk your child's life? Or perhaps, you don't even care about Zeke's life because he was never your biological child?"

Hearing this, Mrs. Zhou's eyes widened, and she immediately pointed at Fade while yelling, "What nonsense are you talking about? Risking my child's life? Are you trying to imply that this is our fault? You're clearly just shifting the responsibility!"

"Sir, is this what your hospital does to solve a problem?" Mrs. Zhou turned and questioned the principal, "I will have to talk to my husband about this matter. He is the department head of the Health Bureau in Long City. Just you wait and see, I'll make sure your hospital receives punishment and closes down."

The principal looked a little flustered after hearing those words. He quickly looked at Fade and Daphne and said, "What did you mean just now? Tell us clearly."

Fade looked at Mrs. Zhou and sneered, "Up to this point, you are still not worried about your son's physical condition. Instead, you kept causing trouble. Do you really think there is nothing wrong with the offer the person made to you?"

"What are you talking about? I don't understand!" Mrs. Zhou vehemently denied.

"You don't understand?" Fade said coldly, "If you don't understand, then let me explain to you once again slowly."

As he said this, he took out the test results and pointed to an index. "According to the test results, there are excessive levels of alpha protein in Zeke's bloodstream."

"This kind of alpha protein can't be regarded as a toxin and can only be regarded as a foreign protein. After entering the human

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body, the antibodies in the body will reject the protein, giving rise to rashes on the skin. Although the situation might look scary, it is in fact not dangerous and can be cured quickly."

Upon hearing this, the principle and the higher-ups nodded and understood Fade's analysis. But they still did not know the point of him saying this.

On the other hand, Mrs. Zhou and the others' expressions changed when they heard this. They looked somewhat awkward.

Fade stared at them and continued flatly, "We just managed to discover this protein in his body, and we also just realized the fact that it causes rashes. However, you guys immediately mentioned that Zeke was suffering from rashes the minute you entered the ward. When we informed you that he was poisoned, you were shocked and did not believe us, yet you act unsympathetic and unconcerned towards him. Instead, you decided to berate Dr. Tao for answers."

"Therefore, I would like to clarify with you. Dr. Tao didn't even have time to inform you nor tell you in advance that Zeke was suffering from rashes. How did you manage to arrive so quickly and be so confident about his condition?" Fade asked coldly.

"We, we heard from other doctors." Mrs. Zhou stammered and tried to explain.

"Who? Which doctor told you, and when?" Fade immediately shot back.

"Well, we don't need to tell you the minor details, you just have to know that we were informed beforehand." Mrs. Zhou looked a little flustered and proceeded to change the subject. "You can't change the fact that you're trying to shirk from the responsibility after saying so much. No matter what, my son became like this after being admitted to this hospital, so you have to take responsibility."

"Yes, you must be responsible!" The bunch of aunties started to make a ruckus again.

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The principal frowned and thought to himself. Even if Fade was telling the truth, it was just their inference. They were still unable to confirm if the responsibility fell on the family's part.

However, Fade shook his head as he sneered coldly and stood his ground, "Responsibility? What a joke. Even if Dr. Tao and the hospital were to shoulder all the responsibilities, did you think everything would be settled?"

"I would like to ask, you were talking about the rashes as soon as you came in. Yet until now, Zeke's skin has shown no signs of rashes but he has started to vomit blood. Why do you think this happened, and are you truly not concerned at all?" Fade retorted.

Hearing this, Mrs. Zhou's face turned pale and looked concerned. She rushed to her son and held his hand. She could feel his weak pulse and cold touch as she asked, "Zeke, how do you feel? Are you alright? Tell Mom quickly."

Zeke replied weakly, "Mom, I, I feel very uncomfortable. It's hard for me to breathe. I feel like I'm suffocating. I don't feel well - "

Hearing this, Mrs. Zhou was truly anxious. She held her son's hand and pleaded, "How could this happen? How could this happen? Please save my son. Hurry!"

Seeing this, Daphne could not help but bite her lips, and she was about to step forward to help.

But Fade suddenly held her back, and turned to look at Mrs. Zhou coldly as he said, "We can save your son, but you must tell us the truth about the poisoning. Otherwise, no one can save your son."

"I - " Mrs. Zhou was in a dilemma and was reluctant to speak.

Seeing this, Fade said unsympathetically, "Since you're not willing to admit, let's go. After all, it's your son who's dying, not someone else's."

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Hearing this, Mrs. Zhou suddenly became anxious and said in a hurry, "I'll tell you, I'll tell you everything."

"Alright then, spit it out!" Fade shouted at her harshly.

Mrs. Zhou's face darkened, then she slowly admitted, "This happened two days ago when I brought Zeke for a checkup. But after I completed the admission procedures for Zeke, someone approached me."

"He said that he had some things to discuss with me and gave me an offer that was irresistible. I was reluctant to believe it at first, but the man managed to speak of my personal details without mistake. He even said that he would help my husband get a promotion in the Health Bureau and allow my family to make more money."

"Hearing what he'd said, I was a little moved. So, I started to negotiate the terms with him."

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At the mention of this, Mrs. Zhou's eyes reddened and she could not help but weep in sorrow.

Fade remained unmoved and shouted coldly, "What did you two talk about?"

Mrs. Zhou revealed slowly, "We, we talked about how the person wanted to use my son against the hospital. He wanted to ruin the hospital's reputation and his target was none other than Dr. Tao."

Daphne was startled and did not expect this to be related to herself.

Mrs. Zhou continued, "He said that his plan was to make Zeke's condition worsen. As such, Dr. Tao would have to take responsibility, and the hospital would need to pay a large sum of compensation at the same time."

"When I heard that Zeke's condition would worsen, I was very worried and immediately refused him. I wanted to leave, but the man grabbed me and said that my son's deteriorating condition would only be superficial, and Zeke would be fine."

"I didn't believe him. However, he showed his own medical license and immediately gave me a sum of money. He even performed an experiment and showed it to me. So, I believed him and promised to carry out the plan."

Hearing this, everyone's eyes widened in disbelief. Even Zeke, who was lying in the hospital bed, looked at his mother in shock and betrayal. "Mom, how could you - "

Mrs. Zhou tried to explain herself, "Zeke, I was blinded for a moment. You know too, your father has not been given a raise in so

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many years. I don't have a job, and our family's financial status is nothing close to the prosperity of what's being displayed. So, I, I - "

Halfway through her words, she could not continue anymore and burst into tears.

Seeing this, Fade helped her sum up her sentence, "So, you agreed to the man's request and cooperated with him to poison Zeke. After the incident, you immediately brought people to guilt-trip Dr. Tao to fulfill his request and put the blame on her and the hospital. This was the reason why you were never worried about your son's condition from the beginning, right?"

Mrs. Zhou continued to sob. Finally, she nodded and said, "Yes, you're right. Now, can you save my son?"

"Not yet!" Fade shook his head and asked, "There is one last question. Who was the person who poisoned him?"

Mrs. Zhou paused for a moment, hesitating before she revealed, "He showed me his certificate, saying that he used to be a doctor in the City Medical Center. His name was Fabian Lin."

Upon hearing her words, everyone in the hospital was taken aback.

Daphne did not expect that Fabian still harbored a grudge against her after he was fired due to Chief Zheng's matter last time. Not to mention, he even came up with such an elaborate plan to frame her and take revenge.

The principal and other executive leaders were also shocked. The former Principal Lin was dismissed by Chief Zheng because of his special relationship with Fabian. However, now that Fabian was still trying to cause trouble at the hospital, they wouldn't sit still and allow him to do so.

Silence hung in the ward for some time, disrupted only by Zeke's coughing as he spat out another mouthful of blood.

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Mrs. Zhou was horrified when she saw this. She quickly said, "Hurry up and save my son. Please, hurry up!"

Fade did not say anything more. He said a few words to Daphne, who then walked to the side of the bed, grabbed Zeke's wrist and began to treat him.

Quickly, Fade managed to stabilize his condition while Daphne brought the corresponding medicines over. After injecting it into Zeke, his condition obviously improved. His complexion looked better, and all his vital signs gradually returned to normal as he fell asleep.

Seeing this, Mrs. Zhou and the others let out a sigh of relief.

At this time, they looked at Fade and Daphne again. Their eyes flickered with guilt and they did not know what to say. After all, Mrs. Zhou was the one who decided to bet her son's life for riches without properly considering the risks. She was the one who almost caused a tragedy to happen.

Seeing that they were restless, Daphne was ready to say a few comforting words. After all, the patient's condition was what mattered the most.

However, just as Daphne took a step towards them, a heavy clatter of footsteps were heard along with a loud accusation, "What have you done to my son? Your hospital must be responsible for this!"

Upon hearing those words, everyone turned to see a middle-aged man in his forties or fifties walk in with a serious face.

As soon as the man entered the ward, he looked around and his gaze soon landed on Daphne. He bellowed, "You must be Dr. Tao. I'm Zeke's father. I heard that Zeke's condition has suddenly deteriorated, how did you even treat him? You'd better be responsible for this!"

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Daphne was dumbfounded for a moment, then she stepped forward to explain, "Mr. Zhou, it's not like this, I - " "Still looking for an excuse, eh!" Mr. Zhou swung his hand to slap her.

Daphne was so frightened that she squealed, she didn't have the time to dodge his blow.

Seeing how Mr. Zhou was about to slap her, Fade snorted and grabbed him with his right hand. He immediately twisted his arm accurately, stopping his movement effectively.

With a loud crack, Mr. Zhou's right arm was twisted into an unusual and ugly angle and it dangled by his side uselessly. His face contorted in pain as he cried out, "Ouch! It hurts, it hurts. Let go of me!"

Fade sneered and shoved Mr. Zhou away roughly, only then freeing him from his grasp.

"Do you even know who I am? How dare you do this to me - " Mr. Zhou was furious. He pointed at Fade and was about to scold him.

But at this time, Mrs. Zhou hurried over, grabbed Mr. Zhou's arm and whispered something into his ear.

Hearing this, Mr. Zhou's expression could not help but change. He hurriedly looked at his son on the hospital bed. Seeing as his son was fine, he heaved in relief and his face relaxed. At that thought, his eyes gleamed as though he had a plot in mind.

Everyone knew what they were talking about even if they did not hear the contents. It was nothing more than Mrs. Zhou telling him about how their plan to blackmail and ruin the hospital's reputation was ruined.

At the thought of the couple risking their son's life for the sake of money and power, everyone looked at them in disgust and contempt.

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Fade and Daphne did not want to spend anymore time around people like them. They snorted and turned around to leave. But just as they were leaving, Mr. Zhou suddenly said, "Stop right there, who allowed you both to leave?"

Fade frowned. He turned around to look at Mr. Zhou with an eyebrow raised.

Daphne frowned slightly and asked, "Mr. Zhou, do you still have a problem?"

"A problem?" Mr. Zhou snorted and claimed, "My son was admitted to your hospital, but he was poisoned and almost lost his life. What do you think the problem is here?"

"Mr. Zhou, you - " Daphne gawked in disbelief. Who could expect that he would bring this matter up again!

Mrs. Zhou quickly pulled Mr. Zhou's arm to remind him in a low voice, "They all know that we've been exposed. Right now, Zeke's health is of utmost importance."

However, Mr. Zhou did not take it seriously. Instead, he retorted sharply, "So what if they know? Do they have any evidence? Besides, Zeke was poisoned in their hospital, so they must bear the responsibilities of inadequate supervision. No matter what they do, they can't escape this claim anyways."

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"But Dr. Tao and Dr. Chen just saved Zeke. We can't - " Mrs. Zhou was a little embarrassed.

Mr. Zhou said unhappily, "You women are too kind. Now that Zeke is fine, what could they possibly do? I'm not going to let go of this matter."

With this, he directly blocked Daphne's way. He looked at her and the other doctors in the hospital and announced, "Tell me, what is your hospital going to do about this matter?"

The doctors were also shocked by Mr. Zhou's shamelessness, and their faces could not help but sink. They tried to explain nicely, "Mr. Zhou, the truth behind this matter has already been exposed. You are the ones responsible for it, not our hospital."

"Not your hospital? Are you kidding me?" Mr. Zhou's tone rose along with his anger as he retorted, "My son was poisoned in your hospital, and yet you still want to shirk from the responsibility. Well let me tell you, it's not that simple."

"But..." Daphne and the other doctors still wanted to defend themselves.

Yet, Mr. Zhou was being absurd and unreasonable. He said directly, "Let me get straight to the point. I'm from the Health Bureau, and if you don't handle this matter properly, I'll report it to my superiors, and your hospital will soon be in trouble."

Hearing this, the faces of the principal and the others could not help but darken, and they began to discuss in a low voice.

Although Mr. Zhou was just a small department head of the Health Bureau, if he were to spill the incident and exaggerate the

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story, there would be probably nothing the City Medical Center could do to clear its name.

Moreover, they had just been promoted and transferred over here not long ago. If such a thing happened to them after they had just started performing their duties, the higher-ups would probably be dissatisfied with them and dismiss them immediately.

At the thought of this, the principal and the other high-level officials were debating on whether they should pay to resolve this matter.

Mr. Zhou looked at the troubled expressions of the principal and his colleagues and felt satisfied. He smiled as he said, "Although your hospital bears the main responsibilities to this matter, we also have a certain responsibility. Therefore, I won't ask much and will be willing to let you off with around 1 million yuan."

His offer left everyone in shock.

One million yuan was an absurd amount. Even if City Medical Center was a rich hospital, it was impossible to directly compensate Zeke Zhou with so much money.

The principal immediately shook his head in disagreement, "This is too much. It's impossible—"

Upon hearing his words, Mr. Zhou's demeanor changed. He took out his mobile phone and said, "Well, if you are unwilling to pay, I guess I have no choice but to make a phone call to the Health Bureau. When the time comes, I'll have the superiors come and talk to you."

The principal's expression soured, as he was now put into a difficult position.

Mr. Zhou was still speaking threateningly, "If you can't make a decision, then I'll call them now."

Seeing this, the principal got anxious and tried to stop him, "No!"

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Mr. Zhou sneered and said, "Well, if you don't want me to do it, then you'd better compensate me now. I asked for a million yuan just now, but you hesitated. Now I've raised the price and you have to pay me 1.2 million yuan. If you're not going to compensate me, then I'll see you in court."

"You—" The principal and the others were fuming with anger, but they had no choice but to admit defeat.

At this moment, Fade's cell phone rang and he fished out his phone to answer the call. Hearing the words from the other side of the phone, Fade's expression brightened, then he said, "Okay, I am in the hospital. Ward number 512."

Soon after, he hung up the phone. When he whispered something to Daphne, her eyes lit up before turning to the principal to inform them of the news they had just gotten.

Immediately, the principal and the other higher-ups couldn't contain their joy and their eyes brightened up with glee.

Seeing this, Mr. Zhou could not help but frown. Feeling that something was wrong, he snapped, "Did you guys hear me? Compensate me immediately, otherwise, I'll make a phone call."

However, the principal was not backing down now, and instead said defiantly, "Department Head Zhou, if you want to call your superiors, just do it. Our hospital bears no responsibilities towards this matter. If you insist, we could always hold a lawsuit."

"You—" Hearing this, Mr. Zhou's expression fell, and his brows were knitted tightly. He didn't understand why they suddenly changed their minds when they were obviously about to agree to the compensation already.

Immediately, he shifted his gaze to Fade, and said coldly, "You are not a doctor in this City Medical Center, are you?"

Before Fade could open his mouth, Daphne said, "Although Dr. Chen is not a doctor here, his medical expertise is top-notch. If it weren't for him, your son would have been long dead."

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Hearing this, Mr. Zhou's gaze trembled slightly and he tried to cover it up by snorting, "So you're saying that he's not a doctor of this hospital, and yet he is here to treat my son."

"Principal, this is clearly not in line with the regulations of the Health Bureau. What else do you have to say?" He accused angrily.

The principal was dumbstruck for a moment. He did not expect Mr. Zhou to grab hold of a matter like this.

Mr. Zhou took advantage of the silence and proceeded to glare at Fade while berating coldly, "You are not qualified to treat patients here, but yet you're here 'treating' my son. About the compensation, you can't run away either."

"Considering the fact that you've cured my son's illness, I'll go easy on you. As long as you compensate me with two hundred thousand yuan, it's enough." Mr. Zhou seemed to take it for granted.

Upon hearing his words, almost all the people at the scene were infuriated.

Daphne shouted angrily, "How could you do this? If it weren't for Dr. Chen, your son would have already died. How could you still blackmail him?"

Even Mrs. Zhou looked awkward. She tugged at her husband's clothes and whispered, "Honey, let's just forget about Dr. Chen."

Mr. Zhou glared at his wife and shouted, "Forget about who? He went against the regulations. No matter what purpose he bears, a violation of the law is still a violation of the law. He must pay the price. I'm already showing enough kindness to not report this matter to the superiors and suspend his practicing license."

With this, Mr. Zhou snorted, glanced sideways at Fade, and said, "I'll give you two hours. Go gather the money immediately."

Fade looked unbothered and directly took out a stack of cheques from his pocket. He scribbled down a string of numbers, and

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handed them to Mr. Zhou, saying, "Gather money? Nah, I don't need to. I don't have too much of anything else, but I certainly have a lot of money."

Hearing what he said, Mr. Zhou was shocked. He stared at the numbers on the cheque in Fade's extended palm, before gasping in disbelief and pure ecstasy upon double confirming the numbers.

This was because the number jotted down on the cheque was not 2 hundred thousand, but it was 2 million yuan.

With that, Mr. Zhou smiled and reached out his hand to take the cheque, saying, "You sure know how to play the game. It's best that you compensated me quietly. I won't hold you accountable for this matter anymore."

Mr. Zhou grabbed the cheque and showed it off to the principal in delight, "See? Be like Dr. Chen and just take the initiative to compensate me. He's someone who can look at the bigger picture - "

Chapter 516

Just as Mr. Zhou's hand was about to grab the cheque, Fade took his hand back and avoided Mr. Zhou's touch.

Mr. Zhou was dumbfounded. He looked at Fade in disbelief and said, "What was that for?"

"What that was for?" Fade glared at Mr. Zhou and raised his right hand. Without any warning, he slapped the cheque book in his hand onto Mr. Zhou's face.

With a loud slap, the book collided with Mr. Zhou's face.

Fade's huge strength left a giant red welt on Mr. Zhou's cheek. His face was now swollen like a football, making his head look like twice its original size. Two of his teeth had fallen out of his mouth from the sheer force, and small blood stains could be seen splattered on the ground and from where his teeth were originally were.

"I mean, I have money, but you don't deserve my money." Fade snapped coldly, and shook his arm softly. The cheque that he'd just written turned into scraps of useless paper that dangled right in front of Mr. Zhou's eyes.

Mr. Zhou was already in shock after being dealt such a shocking blow to his face. A few seconds later, he came back to his senses, clasped his wounded cheek, and glared at Fade with pain and anger. He roared, "How dare you hit me! How dare you! I want you to die! I'm going to kill you!"

"You're all finished. I'm going to make sure that none of you leave unscathed. I will make sure this City Medical Center goes

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bankrupt and closes down." While speaking, Mr. Zhou began to fumble for his mobile phone, preparing to make a phone call. Just as Mr. Zhou was making a phone call in a haste, a sound greeted from the outside of the ward, "Is Dr. Chen here?"

When Fade heard the voice, he smiled and said, "I'm inside. Please come in."

Following that, two men walked into the ward. One of them looked 26 or 27 years old and was dressed smartly in a suit and a pair of leather shoes. He looked elegant and was composed. In one hand, he was holding onto a gray-haired, middle-aged and squared-face man.

The elder's gaze landed on Fade. With a smile forming on his face, he strolled towards Fade.

Just when Mr. Zhou managed to dial the number and make a complaint, he looked up and was shocked to see the man. He spluttered out greetings while his eyes widened in shock, "Chief, Chief Zheng, why are you here?"

Upon seeing Mr. Zhou's current state, Chief Zheng could not help but frown slightly and said, "Do I know you?"

Mr. Zhou quickly poised himself and said, "Hello, Chief Zheng. I'm Helcurt Zhou, the department head of the Epidemic Prevention Department in the Health Bureau."

"Oh!" Chief Zheng nodded slightly. Obviously, as the head of the Health Ministry, he would not have heard of such a small department head of the Health Bureau.

However, Department Head Zhou was extremely excited at this moment. He quickly tried to curry favors with Chief Zheng and said, "Chief Zheng, what brought you here?"

Chief Zheng said faintly, "It's nothing much. I just came for a hospital review, and I wanted to see Dr. Chen to thank him for curing my illness."

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"Dr. Chen?" Department Head Zhou was astonished. It was then that he noticed Chief Zheng walking towards Fade with a warm smile. The smirk on his face froze and his expression stiffened.

It never occurred to him that this young Dr. Chen was Chief Zheng's life savior. He didn't expect Chief Zheng to value him so much that he even came to thank him especially.

Immediately, Department Head Zhou's heart pounded furiously as he quickly hung up the phone call. He plastered an ingratiating look on his face in an attempt to make up for the grave mistake that he had committed just moments ago.

Chief Zheng was slightly unhappy upon seeing him and said softly, "Department Head Zhou, do you have a problem here?"

Hearing this, Department Head Zhou smiled furiously and said, "I - "

However, before he could even come up with an excuse, Fade directly snorted and interrupted him, "Department Head Zhou was here for something important. He colluded with an outsider to poison his own son, then he used it to blackmail and threaten the hospital."

"What? How did that happen?" Chief Zheng's face darkened, his expression turning as cold as ice.

"Chief Zheng, no, uh, there were some misunderstandings. I - " Department Head Zhou hurriedly waved his hand as he tried to explain.

"Shut up, I only want to hear from Dr. Chen." Chief Zheng yelled at him with a look of spitefulness, then turned to look at Fade.

Fade quickly spilled the tea on the entire incident that just happened.

Upon hearing Fade's explanation, Chief Zheng's expression gradually darkened like storm clouds. He glared at Department Head

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Zhou with a gloomy face and shouted, "Is what Dr. Chen said true?"

"This, I..." Department Head Zhou stammered, not knowing how to explain.

Seeing him like this, Chief Zheng immediately understood what was going on and reprimanded him angrily, "As an officer of the Health Ministry, instead of trying to reform the medical system in place, you took the opportunity to blackmail the hospital and its staff. It seems like you no longer want your position as a department head anymore."

"In that case, feel free to leave now. You've been dismissed." Chief Zheng announced and directly made a phone call.

Hearing this, Department Head Zhou was shocked and hurriedly begged for mercy, "Chief Zheng, Dr. Chen, I'm sorry. I won't dare to do it again. Please, give me another chance."

However, how could it be possible to give such a person another chance? Chief Zheng had already called to inform the relevant personnel and there was no turning back.

Soon, Department Head Zhou's cell phone rang. It was a call from the director of the Health Bureau. As soon as it was connected, the director scolded him angrily and announced that he had just been fired.

In an instant, Department Head Zhou's face went ashen, and his whole body nearly collapsed to the ground.

Seeing this, the principal gestured to the people behind him and ordered, "Drag him out."

As he spoke, two security guards came over and were about to drag Department Head Zhou out.

All of a sudden, he sprung from the ground in a fit of frenzy, his eyes gleaming with an unnatural madness while he shouted, "No, I won't leave, I won't go. Even if I have been fired, this matter is yet to be over. The hospital must compensate me, you must! Otherwise, I will cause trouble until the end."

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Department Head Zhou was still acting so obstreperously under such a situation and the crowd could not help but frown. However, there was nothing they could do to deal with such a crazy person. After all, no one could guarantee what he would do in such a situation.

Seeing how the man was now causing a ruckus in the ward, everyone was at a loss for what to do.

But just then, Fade snorted and looked at Department Head Zhou, smirking coldly, "You're still thinking about the compensation? It seems that you've missed out a problem."

"What problem?" Department Head Zhou looked at Fade doubtfully.

Fade continued, "Did you ever consider why the non-toxic alpha protein inside your son's bloodstream that was recommended by Fabian Lin would poison him instead of showing signs of rashes?"

It was only after Fade had brought this up that Mr. and Mrs. Zhou had realized this problem.

Indeed, the drug given by Fabian was supposed to be a normal substance. If so, why would there be unexpected complications on their son's body?

Thinking of this, the two of them immediately looked at Fade in confusion, their faces a little flustered as they asked cautiously, "Why, why is this so?"

"Why?" Fade snorted and said, "Well, you'd have to ask your good son."

"My son? What, what's wrong with him?" Both Department Head Zhou and Mrs. Zhou looked at their son who was lying on the hospital bed in puzzlement.

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Fade spoke in a cold tone, "The main reason why the alpha-protein injected into your son's body mutated to produce toxins was because your son's blood contains amphetamine. Thus, the combined reaction of alpha-protein and amphetamine resulted in a brand-new toxin that caused your son to be poisoned."

Upon hearing the professional terminologies, Department Head Zhou and Mrs. Zhou were still visibly confused and did not seem to understand him.

However, when the doctors around heard these familiar terms, their faces suddenly changed. They looked at Zeke who was on the bed and said, "Amphetamine is the main component of ecstasy pills. In short, Zeke had been taking drugs."

Hearing this, Department Head Zhou and Mrs. Zhou were completely dumbfounded. They looked at their son on the hospital bed in disbelief, and turned to look at Fade and the others. Shaking their heads, they denied, "No, it's impossible. How could my son be taking drugs? He has always been very well-behaved."

"You all must be lying. You just want to scare us. What you've said cannot be true." Department Head Zhou just didn't want to believe them.

Fade snorted coldly, "You don't believe me? Look again, do you really think that it's normal for your son to be this skinny?"

The couple froze at the mention of this, slowly turning to look at their son. They lifted the quilt and Zeke's clothes, revealing his skinny body. The two of them were immediately shocked to see him like that.

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"How, how could this be?"

"When did Zeke become so skinny?"

.....

Although they always knew that their son was slim, they never expected for him to be just skin and bones. It was no longer close to what a normal person would look like.

At this time, they had no choice but to believe in what Fade had said.

At that moment, Fade continued coldly, "Let me tell you one last time. Although I've cured Zeke this time, he has obviously been addicted to the drugs for a long time. If he goes on like this, you guys can start to prepare for his funeral in around 3 months."

With that, Fade directly turned around and walked out of the ward, while the others also started to leave.

Seeing this, Department Head Zhou instinctively rushed over and tried to stop everyone by continuing to stir up trouble. "You guys can't leave, you - "

But this time, there was no need for Fade to stop him anymore. Mrs. Zhou, who was fully covered in tears, pulled him back directly and cried, "Your son is in such a state, yet you still have the mood to ask for money. You should think of a way to save your son!"

Looking at his scrawny son on the hospital bed, Department Head Zhou was completely dumbfounded. He collapsed to the ground without the slightest idea of what to do.

A series of crying and quarreling could be heard from inside the ward not long after everyone left.

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Outside the ward, Fade and the others had already left. The hospital staff thanked Chief Zheng before they left. They knew that Chief Zheng was mainly here to visit Fade.

Chief Zheng sat down beside Fade and said with a smile, "Dr. Chen, I couldn't thank you properly last time. This time, I'm here to express my gratitude to you in person."

Fade smiled and said, "Chief Zheng, you're too polite. This time, I'm the one who should thank you. You've helped me so much just now."

Chief Zheng said, "Department Head Zhou is the scum of our medical field. We should have fished him out by ourselves, but we troubled you to do it for us instead. It was our fault! So, I should still thank you."

Fade smiled and said, "Chief Zheng, if we keep thanking each other, we might have to sit here till the evening."

Chief Zheng laughed, "You're right, I shouldn't dilly-dally anymore. Let me just tell you directly. Today, I came here firstly for a checkup, and secondly, to thank you. I would like to introduce my son to you."

With this, he pointed to the young man beside him while he introduced, "This is my son, Edgar Zheng."

He continued, "Dr. Chen, Edgar, both of you are young. You guys should get to know each other better and help each other out in the future."

"Dad, I understand." Edgar smiled faintly, nodded to Fade and greeted him.

"Nice to meet you." Fade said and nodded to Edgar as well as a sign of goodwill.

Seeing this, Chief Zheng smiled and said, "It's good for you to get to know each other. You could have fun together in the future

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and talk about medical matters."

"Edgar, like me, is also working in the Health Ministry," he explained to Fade.

Upon hearing this, Fade's heart skipped a beat. He glanced at Edgar, who was obviously less than 30 years old. Considering the fact that he was working in the Health Ministry at such a young age, Edgar was undoubtedly extraordinary. He must be a talented man whom Chief Zheng had meticulously raised.

Then, Chief Zheng turned to his son and mentioned, "Dr. Chen's medical skills are superb. Edgar, if you want to perform well in the medical field, you'd have to communicate more with famous experts like Dr. Chen."

"Yes, I will." Edgar smiled faintly and nodded.

Chief Zheng said, "Actions speak louder than words, my son. How about this? Aren't you going to the holiday resort with Haymitch the day after tomorrow? You're all youngsters anyways, why don't you take Dr. Chen along, and introduce him to Haymitch too?"

Edgar was dumbstruck momentarily. It seemed that he did not expect such a request from his father, but he still nodded and agreed, "Well, okay. However, I'm not sure if Dr. Chen is -"

With this, Edgar looked at Fade.

Chief Zheng then said to Fade, "Dr. Chen, are you free the day after tomorrow? Haymitch is Edgar's friend and the child of an old friend of mine. You can join them and chat with each other as youngsters."

Fade's eyes gleamed upon hearing so. Chief Zheng's old friends must all possess a high status, so their children would be similar to that of Edgar. It seemed like it was going to be a social gathering of all second generation youngsters.

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Since Chief Zheng had asked Edgar to bring him along, he was probably thinking of introducing Fade into their social circle. Fade was not very interested in this. However, since Chief Zheng was only being kind, he couldn't refuse him flatly either. Therefore, he nodded and agreed, "I have time, but I'll have to trouble you then."

Chief Zheng patted his son on his back and said to Fade, "It's not a big deal. Edgar was going to go alone anyways. Now that he's with you, at least he has a companion with him."

Fade nodded and agreed. After exchanging phone numbers with Edgar and agreeing on the rendezvous details, the matter was settled.

Afterwards, Chief Zheng and Edgar bid him goodbye and left.

Later on, Fade found Daphne and bade her goodbye, then he was ready to leave.

She walked with him side-by-side to the car park and was about to see him off.

But just as Fade was about to get in the car and leave, he suddenly saw a black shadow flash through the parking lot and between the parked cars. Out of the blue, it pounced viciously on Daphne.

Daphne was waving goodbye to Fade, and never expected someone to attack her. The black shadow was just 2 meters away from her when she noticed it.

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There was a dagger in the black figure's hand, and it was headed towards Daphne's chest.

Daphne was petrified. She stood rooted firmly to the spot without any ability to react.

"Go to hell!" The black shadow let out a roar as it pounced ferociously on her with his dagger, clearly trying to kill her with one blow.

Seeing as Daphne was about to fall victim to the black shadow, Fade who was a few meters away from them quickly reacted. He raised his right hand and let out a blow of energy towards the figure.

The energy cut through the air like a sharp blade and managed to penetrate the black figure's right hand and knife at the very last minute.

Accurately piercing the black figure's wrist, a streak of bright red blood spattered across the air. The black shadow then let out a cry of pain, and his body tilted to one side before he could throw himself towards Daphne.

Amidst the chaos, the black figure still tried to reposition himself and charged towards Daphne.

Thankfully, Fade had already rushed to Daphne's side quickly. As fast as lightning, he managed to land a blow onto the black shadow that knocked him onto the ground. Then, Fade gave the shadow a heavy kick on his belly, which caused the figure to spew out a mouthful of blood. He clenched his stomach and lay motionless on the ground.

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After managing to stop the black shadow, Fade looked at Daphne and asked concerningly, "Dr. Tao, are you okay?"

Daphne regained her senses and shook her head to show that she was ok, but her face was still as pale as a sheet. She was obviously terrified as her voice quivered in fear, "Who, who is he? Why did he attack me?"

Fade's face darkened. He looked down at the black shadow on the ground, and pulled off the hood on his head, revealing a vicious yet familiar face.

As soon as they saw this face, Daphne could not help exclaiming, "Fabian, it's you!"

Fabian's face was full of resentment. He glared at Daphne and said with exasperation, "Daphne, it's you who caused me to be in such a plight. It's you who ruined me. It's all you..."

Daphne knitted her brows and wanted to explain.

But at this time, Fade said coldly, "There is no need to explain anything to such a person! He has long been out of his mind."

Hearing this, Fabian looked at Fade and said angrily, "And you're still here being self-righteous. You two are the damned couple who ruined me..."

Fade's temper was not as good as Daphne's. When he heard those vulgar words, he snorted and stamped directly on Fabian's injured right arm, twisting his foot mercilessly.

Soon, the excruciating pain made Fabian shriek wildly. "Ah, no, stop hurting me, no, it hurts too much! I was wrong, I was wrong —"

Seeing this, Fade snorted coldly. "Weren't you quite tough just now? Why would you admit defeat so soon?"

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At this moment, Fabian was already in so much pain that he was immersed in tears and snot. He was overwhelmed by the intense pain. It seemed as if he was not as tough and ready to take all risks as he had imagined.

Fade didn't bother to pay attention to a weakling like him. He called the hospital security guards to secure Fabian. Then he called the police to arrest him.

Needless to ask further, Fabian spilled the beans immediately after he was interrogated.

Because of Chief Zheng's illness, Fabian was dismissed from the hospital, thus holding grudges towards Daphne. Teaming up with Department Head Zhou's family, he set up the blackmail and tried to get revenge on her.

With the intention of revenge, Fabian also hid in the hospital and observed Daphne's situation in secret, ready to witness and salvage her despair once she was humiliated. However, he did not expect for Fade to turn the tables again. Not only did Fade resolve the issue with Department Head Zhou's family, but Fabian was also revealed to be the mastermind behind this incident.

Knowing that his plans had failed, Fabian felt resentful. Thus, he hid in the parking lot to take revenge on Daphne himself, leading up to the incident that happened just now.

Hearing what he'd said, Daphne could not help but feel a lingering fear. After all, if Fabian's dagger had managed to stab her just now, she would definitely be dead by now.

Therefore, Daphne thanked Fade again, who replied with a smile and said goodbye to Daphne.

Meanwhile, Edgar had just returned home with his father, Chief Zheng. He went to his own room, took out his mobile phone and sent a voice message in his WeChat group.

"I'd like to tell you guys something. I'll bring someone along to the party the day after tomorrow."

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As soon as Edgar's message was delivered, the WeChat group immediately became lively, as someone immediately responded to him.

"What the f**k, Edgar, it's so unlikely of you to bring people along!"

"That's right. Edgar, who are you bringing? Is it a beautiful young lady? Do introduce her to us to see if we know her or not."

"The lady that Young Master Zheng is bringing along must be very beautiful!"

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Edgar looked at the messages sent by his friends and could not help but laugh bitterly. Then, he sent another message to the group, "What beautiful lady? He's a man in his twenties."

After this message was sent out, there was an uproar in the chat group again.

"What? Edgar, you're bringing a man? Don't tell me that your sexual preference is..."

"Wow, Edgar, I didn't know that you had such interests. I can't believe that I even shared a room with you last time, my chastity was endangered!"

"Young Master Zheng, are you going to announce that you're gay?"

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When Edgar saw these rowdy guesses, he was speechless and quickly sent a message to explain, "What are you guys even talking about? It's not me, but my father who asked me to bring him along. He wants me to introduce him to you guys so we can get along."

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"The person Uncle Zheng wants you to bring along can't be a descendant of some big shot, can he?"

"Exactly, Young Master Zheng, introduce him to me! Chief Zheng's position in the Health Ministry is not low, so the person he introduced to you must be very powerful."

"Yes, Young Master Zheng, tell us quickly. If he's someone influential, we'll have to flatter him in advance."

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Edgar looked at the message as his lips pouted. He typed, "Big shot? Influential? Nah, he's none of that. He's just a doctor."

"Doctor?"

"Edgar, are you kidding me? Just a doctor? Does he have a powerful family behind him, or is there anything special about him?"

"Young Master Zheng, you must be kidding!"

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Edgar explained bluntly, "Neither of those. Stop guessing blindly already. He's just an ordinary doctor. When my father got admitted to the hospital, he managed to cure my father's illness, so my father was very grateful to him. Thus, he insisted on introducing him to me, and told me to bring him along to the hangout so we can all get to know him."

After sending this message, there was a moment of silence in the group chat. A few seconds passed before someone replied.

"....."

"I don't know what to say!"

"Edgar, It's not that I'm trying to go against you, but if you're bringing an outsider like that, how are we supposed to have fun?"

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We're not people of the same world after all."

"That's right. We have nothing in common with such a person."

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Edgar explained helplessly, "There's nothing I can do about it. My dad insisted on me bringing him. And it's all settled. He'll definitely come the day after tomorrow."

"When the time comes, you should just give me some face and get along with him perfunctorily. Since it's only once, let's get it over with. When he notices the gap between us this time, he will surely refuse next time."

There was another moment of silence in the group, and then a message popped up.

"Alright, since Young Master Zheng has requested , we would certainly do so."

"Yeah, let's just deal with it for this one time."

"However, Edgar, you'd better warn that guy in advance not to mess around. If he messes with me, I won't be polite either."

"Yes, when we get to the holiday resort the day after tomorrow, we're going to play with the beautiful women there. That guy should not be a wet blanket."

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"Well, he looks smart, so he should know how to behave well." Edgar reassured.

"I hope so!" One of the people in the chat group said.

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"Edgar, you've brought some trouble with you this time. Don't ever come up with such awful suggestions again."

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"I understand. If it weren't for my father, I'm sure this wouldn't have happened. I really don't know why my father insisted for me to get to know such a person. He's so boring." Edgar finished complaining and ended the conversation with his friends.

After thinking for a while, he regained his composure to send a message to Fade. The gist of the message was what his friends had just said. He wanted to give Fade a hint in advance that those people were not of normal identities, for him to pay more attention on his behavior that day.

When Fade got home, he received Edgar's message and immediately understood what he was trying to imply.

After reading it, Fade made a decision in his mind. It seemed that Edgar didn't have much interest in getting along with him. After this gathering, they probably shouldn't remain in touch anymore.

"That's good, it'll save me a lot of trouble. At least I can still give Chief Zheng an explanation." Fade thought to himself. After giving a simple reply to Edgar, he went to rest for the day.

After resting for one whole night, Fade stayed at home and did not go out the next day. However, he received an unexpected phone call instead.

The phone call was from Yuri Zhang, who rarely took the initiative to call Fade up as she was shy and reserved. This time, she called to inform him that she was coming to Long City.

When Fade heard that Yuri was coming to Long City, he wanted to welcome her and take her for a tour around the place.

However, for Yuri's case, she came to participate in a cultural concert which was organized by her school and held in Long City.

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As she had to prepare for the concert and rehearse, she was unable to join him for a tour as of now. Therefore, Fade made a promise with her that he would come to watch as an audience on the day of the show. After the show ended, he would bring her around to have some fun in Long City.

After chatting with her, Fade went out to buy some things in order to welcome Yuri when she arrived.

Finally, the day to go out with Edgar arrived. Fade arrived at the agreed location, got into Edgar's car, and they headed to the holiday resort.

Due to Edgar's previous message, Fade had gotten the gist of what he meant. After exchanging a few polite greetings, he did not say anything more and sat in the car while listening to some music. Although Edgar was a little dissatisfied with Fade's indifferent attitude, he secretly felt glad in his heart. It seemed that Fade had understood how to behave. It would be better if this was the first and last time he had joined their gathering.

Just like that, they didn't say a single word throughout the journey, the atmosphere hanging awkwardly between them. Soon, they arrived at a holiday resort in the suburbs.

After the car was parked, the two got out of the car and walked into the resort.

Fade looked around. There was a broad lawn, a sparkling lake, lush woods, wooden houses, and castle-like buildings. All of them were constructed very well.

The resort was coupled with a tennis court, a golf course, an archery field and an equestrian park. These were sports which were hard for ordinary people to get in touch with. It was obvious that this holiday villa was specially set up for the rich.

When Edgar saw Fade looking around, he couldn't help but worry. If Fade were to display a clueless and fascinated country-

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bumpkin appearance, he would lose his reputation in front of his fellow friends. Hence, Edgar reminded, "Mr. Chen, my friends are right in front of us. If you have anything which you're unfamiliar with later, feel free to ask me, or just have fun with something you're familiar with."

Fade knew exactly what Edgar meant. He nodded and said, "I know. I'll just drink some tea. I'm not interested in playing with anything."

"That's great then!" Edgar secretly heaved in relief and nodded his head gently.

Then, they walked towards the main building.

When they came to the entrance of the main building, a group of young people were chatting and laughing away lively.

When they saw Edgar coming over, they immediately greeted him warmly.

"Young Master Zheng, you're here."

"Edgar, you're finally here. Why are you so slow?"

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Edgar smiled and waved at them. Then he glanced at Fade and said, "These are my friends."

He never intended to introduce them to him in detail. After all, they would not be having any contact with Fade anymore after this.

When Edgar's friends saw Fade beside him, they could not help but scan Fade curiously from head-to-toe like a never before seen specimen.

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Edgar also introduced him to them and said, "This is Fade Chen, or Mr. Chen, he's a doctor."

After listening to this introduction, everyone was sure that this was the doctor whom Chief Zheng forced Edgar to bring along.

Several people nodded to Fade politely as a greeting. However, some just glanced at Fade from the corner of their eyes and turned their heads around immediately without the slightest intention of talking to him at all.

Fade had already expected this unfriendly welcome, so he was pretty much unbothered. He responded politely to the people who greeted him, and quietly stood aside.

After Edgar and his friends greeted each other for a while, Edgar said, "What are you doing standing at the entrance? Let's go in."

With this, Edgar was ready to enter, but then someone said, "Edgar, wait a minute, Young Master Haymitch is coming soon. Let's wait for him to arrive and go in together."

Hearing the name "Young Master Haymitch", Edgar's expression couldn't help but change. He stood still in his tracks for a while and said, "Since Young Master Haymitch is coming, let's wait for a while longer."

Seeing this, Fade narrowed his eyes slightly. It seemed that this Young Master Haymitch was a person of higher status among them. Otherwise, why would such a nobility like Edgar take the initiative to wait for him at the entrance?

Not long after, a vintage-styled car pulled over slowly and came to a halt in front of the castle. Then a young man at the age of 25 or 26 came out. He was dressed fashionably in a casual leather jacket and a slanted fringe. A big, confident smile was spread across his face.

After the young man got out of the car, two beautiful young ladies who were dressed sexily exited the car with him. Looking closely, the two of them looked eerily similar, and it was easy to see that they were a pair of twins. They approached him from

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the left and right side, and he immediately held them in his arms, planting a kiss on their faces respectively. After that, he walked towards the crowd with a smile.

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As soon as he arrived, many around them rushed to greet him immediately.

"Young Master Haymitch, you're finally here."

"Young Master Haymitch, you've brought a new batch of beautiful women! And it's even a pair of twins this time!"

"Young Master Haymitch, this vintage car looks pretty good. Is it your newest purchase?"

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Hearing the voices of the people around him, Young Master Haymitch smiled and said to one person, "Master. Liu, I got this pair of twins a week ago. They're decent, aren't they?"

"Young Master Haymitch, you sure have good taste." Master Liu immediately laughed.

Young Master Haymitch looked at another person and said, "Xu, my car was bought from an auction abroad last month. I heard that it was an old royal car with a history of 80 years. Remembering that there was a castle here today, I felt that an old car would match it well, so I drove it here. Xu, you like cars. Go have a try."

When Xu heard this, he was instantly overjoyed and said, "Thank you, Young Master Haymitch. But we can always try later. Let's go in and have a rest first."

"Alright then!" Young Master Haymitch laughed heartily while hugging the twins tightly in his arms.

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At this moment, Edgar was about to welcome him with a smile too. But just as he was about to step forward, he suddenly thought of something. He stopped and introduced to Fade, "This is Haymitch Zhao, also known as Young Master Haymitch. His father is the deputy minister of our Long City's Ministry of Culture. You should be more alert later."

Hearing this, Fade immediately understood. This man's father had a position that was much more higher and influential than the rest of them such that everyone had to flatter and be obsequious to him.

Even Edgar was the same. Despite the fact that his father was in the Health Ministry, which was of the same level as the Ministry of Culture, his father was just Chief Zheng, while this Young Master Haymitch's father was a deputy minister. This meant that his position was a level higher than Chief Zheng.

At this time, Edgar had already approached Young Master Haymitch and began to greet him.

Young Master Haymitch greeted him with a few words, then looked over at Fade to ask Edgar, "Is he the doctor you brought?"

Obviously, he'd also heard that Edgar was going to bring someone here.

Upon hearing his words, Edgar nodded and said, "Yes, it's him. His name is Fade Chen."

After that, Edgar turned his head around to hint Fade with a wink, gesturing for him to come over and greet Haymitch.

However, Fade was not interested in talking with them, and it was impossible for him to suck up to such a person. Therefore, he simply pretended not to see Edgar's wink and ignored it.

When Edgar saw this, his expression tightened. However, in the face of Haymitch, it wasn't appropriate for him to vent his anger, so he could only let out an awkward laugh.

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Haymitch's face also darkened when he saw this, and he said, "This man is quite interesting, isn't he?"

Edgar's heart skipped a beat when he heard that. Things didn't seem to be going well. He immediately explained, "He's just a bumpkin who hasn't seen much of the world. He must've been completely dumbstruck by you. Please don't mind him, Young Master Haymitch."

Haymitch only snorted lightly and said nothing. Then he went straight past Fade, walking into the castle escorted by the others.

Edgar silently slowed down his pace and joined Fade at the end of the crowd with a gloomy face. With a questioning tone, he asked, "I just winked at you to come over and greet Young Master Haymitch. Didn't you see it?"

Fade put on a surprised look and said, "You wanted me to say hello to him? I thought you were just contorting your face, so that was what you really meant."

"You - " Edgar was so infuriated that he was tongue-tied. He could not help but glare at Fade and said, "Don't you know how to take the initiative when you saw the others? I can't believe you lack the proper etiquette."

Fade replied blandly, "Young Master Zheng, wasn't it you who wanted me to communicate less with them?"

His words left Edgar dumbfounded. It was true that he had instructed Fade not to talk to people casually so as not to embarrass him. As a result, it was now used by Fade against him.

Edgar was at a disadvantage now, so he did not say anything else, but still reminded him one last time, "Forget about these things. When you go in later, you should be more careful and do whatever I ask you to do immediately. Do you understand?"

"Okay." Fade responded faintly, then took the initiative to walk in. "Everyone went in, let's go in too. Otherwise, we'll end up hungry if they finish the food before us."

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"You - " Upon hearing this, Edgar was so annoyed that he was about to have a migraine, barely holding himself back from cursing out loud.

At this moment, he cursed his father several times in his heart. Why would his father want him to bring along such a weirdo to the gathering? This person was so embarrassing.

However, at this point, Fade had already walked in, and Edgar could only quicken his pace to catch up with him.

In the castle, the people who had entered earlier, including Young Master Haymitch, had gathered around a big table full of food and drinks. They began to chatter away enjoyably.

Edgar looked around to check where Fade had gone. However, his heart thumped loudly in his chest as though it was going to explode the moment he saw where Fade was. Fade had helped himself to a giant plate of food in his right hand, and a bottle of drinks in his left. He sat alone in the corner and began to feast to his heart's content.

Edgar held back his anger and walked towards Fade. He growled in a low voice, "What are you doing?!"

Fade replied nonchalantly, "Well, I'm eating, of course! I hadn't drank any water after sitting in the car for so long so I'm starving and thirsty."

"Do you want some? I grabbed a lot, it's even enough for you." While speaking, Fade handed Edgar a handful of food.

After hearing Fade's words, Edgar could feel the veins on his head throbbing madly and the blood pounding in his ears. He was furious.

Before he could erupt in madness, Young Master Haymitch called out, "Edgar, what are you doing alone over there? Come over here!"

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"Sure, Young Master Haymitch, I'll be right there." Edgar nodded quickly and shot Fade a fierce glare, he then walked toward Haymitch in a hurry.

Sitting next to him, Edgar picked up a glass of wine, proposed a toast to Haymitch, and then bottomed it all by himself.

Haymitch took a small sip, then glanced at Fade as he said to Edgar, "The guy you've brought is quite interesting!"

Edgar was shocked and quickly explained, "Young Master Haymitch, that guy is just a country bumpkin. He doesn't know any manners. If you feel that he's annoying, I can drive him away right now."

However, Haymitch waved his hand and said, "No, no. Usually, it has always been the few of us. It's a nice change of pace to have a person like him join us. Just let him stay."

"Yes!" Edgar nodded.

The group of people ate, drank and chatted with each other noisily. From time to time, they would glance at Fade's direction and burst into laughter. Obviously, they were discussing about him behind his back. As for the content of the discussion, needless to say, it wouldn't be anything nice.

Of course, Fade noticed all this, but he was unbothered. He pretended that he did not hear anything and completely ignored it. After he was done eating, he leaned against the sofa to rest. Anyway, there would be no next time after this gathering, and he didn't really want to mix with this group of people in the future anymore.