

At one side of the dance floor, the situation turned chaotic. Zhao Fugui saw that he had Mu Zhaoyang's support, he then continued with his lies and slander. He berated Qin Ming for being disloyal and ungrateful, exchanging strong words with the other side.

Qin Ming did not expect to see Chen Muling, he was extremely grateful and said, "President, Chen Muling, thanks for defending me."

Zhang Qingqing mumbled, "I wasn't helping you; I was only helping Haitang."

Chen Muling glanced towards Nie Haitang, she then said with a tone of defiance, "I was also barred from entering earlier, I'm just here to get my revenge, don't think that I'm helping you."

Zhou Yu said, "I wanted to look for you but couldn't find you. Then Zhang Qingqing and Chen Muling found me, so we decided to come up here to check it out."

Qin Ming knew something was up, he then asked softly, "What's wrong?"

Zhou Yu replied with a low voice, "Sir, Ms. Song wants me to inform you that we have caught the mercenaries who were disguised as waiters. There were twelve of them. They have also confessed that there is still one more special team lurking around somewhere. Captain Qi was worried the Huabei person-in-charge would be in danger, so he had gathered his men on the fifty-eighth floor. Ms. Song is also headed there."

Qin Ming did not expect that there would be a third group of assassins. To be able to have so many of his subordinates infiltrate the building, Chang Huan must have had a detailed and comprehensive plan.

Since Qi Yundong had gone to reassure the person-in-charge of the industries in Northern Huabei. Qin Ming could loosen up a little.

Qin Ming continued softly, "Regardless, let's deal



with the issue here first.”

As Qin Ming was whispering to Zhou Yu, Li Meng pulled aside Mu Zhaoyang and whispered to him too. The more she whispered the gloomier his expression got.

The wealthy businessmen around them had also lost their patience and started to complain.

“This really is a kid’s squabble, what do they think this gala is? Where have the security guards gone?”

“Where is the organizer?”

“Chairman Wang had gone to fawn over the Qi family. Didn't you realize that Qi Yundong and his family are gone? I heard they are having a meeting with the city council secretary and some other big shots from the north on the fifty-eighth floor.”

“Let these kids fight it out, just treat it as

entertainment.”

“How did the Nie family's daughter get involved in this?”

“Is that guy really a waiter? How is it possible that Ms. Nie has a waiter for a boyfriend?”

“That's unlikely. A princess and a pauper? This is not some TV drama; this is definitely newsworthy.”

As the situation had changed, Qin Ming grew impatient and said, “Never mind, I'm not in the mood to deal with this today. Step aside.”

Mu Zhaoyang moved forward and blocked Qin Ming, “What's wrong? Are you trying to run while you still can? I won't let you go that easily for harassing my girlfriend. So what if Nie Haitang is here to help you? Do you think you can do as you please?”

“Please tell me what I have done?” Qin Ming



retorted, "Has hearsay become evidence now?"

Nie Haitang was equally defiant, "Mr. Mu, don't be unreasonable. You can't slander my boyfriend without any evidence."

Mu Zhaoyang replied angrily, "Isn't all this your scheme to bully Meng? This guy dumped Meng who didn't care that he was poor and went to leech on wealthy girls. After that Meng had helped him take care of his sister and ended up being tricked by him. This useless man is a liar. Nie Haitang, my advice to you is that you better stay away from him."

"The other day at the mall, I saw with my own eyes that this guy used money to trick Li Meng. He then got his men to beat her up badly just to satisfy his materialistic desires."

"Bai Yuchun is his junior in school. He took this job because he wanted to get close to her. Such a two-timer."

“A guy like this is scum indeed, please open your eyes, Nie Haitang. Don't end up as the laughingstock of Guang City's elite.”

Li Meng sobbed, “Never mind, Zhaoyang, it's all my fault. I shouldn't have come. I have spoilt everyone's mood. *Boohoo.....*”

Mu Zhaoyang hugged Li Meng to comfort her. He gritted his teeth and said, “If I had not seen her jump into the river and rescued her, she wouldn't be alive today. Qin Ming what else can you be if not scum?”

Nie Haitang was so furious that she was speechless. She had unconditional trust in Qin Ming.

Qin Ming himself was also shocked at the great lengths Li Meng was willing to go just to malign him.

Qin Ming knew it was useless to reason with them. He then said, “Alright, since you don't



believe me, it's a waste of time to say anything further. What do you want?"

Mu Zhaoyang pointed at Qin Ming and said, "Apologize and get out. Get out immediately. You're not allowed to appear at any place that Li Meng is present in."

Nie Haitang and the others were defiant, "How dare you!"

Mu Zhaoyang said coldly, "Because I'm the eldest son of the Mu Family. Nie Haitang, do you still want to go against my family with all your family's recent troubles?"

Nie Haitang bit her lip and couldn't say a word.

The Nie family was no match for the Mu family in terms of power and influence. The Mu Family felt like a mountain on top of her head. The pressure was so great that she didn't know how to respond.

At that moment, Zhou Yu could no longer tolerate it, he moved forward and said, "Mr. Mu, what right do you have to ask for that? Is it simply because your family is famous?"

Mu Zhaoyang raised his eyebrow, "Head of Tian Cheng Securities. Hmph, is Qin Ming your friend? And which hole did you crawl out of? Do you want me to close down your securities firm tomorrow?"

Zhou Yu rubbed his chin with his hands and said, "So what if you close us down. I will still do what is right. Qin Ming is right and you're wrong. It's that simple."

Mu Zhaoyang smirked and arrogantly replied, "Hehe, fine. When Hou Qing admired you despite your young age, I thought you had a bright future ahead of you. In the end, you can't even differentiate right from wrong. Who do you think you are? Tell the organizing manager to come here and kick all of them out!"



Suddenly, a woman emerged from the crowd gracefully and said, "Enough, Zhaoyang, have you forgotten who you are? Why are you demeaning yourself by arguing with a waiter over a woman?"

Mu Zhaoyang answered, "Mom? When did you come? Weren't you just chatting with Mdm. Cao?"

A young lady standing beside Mrs. Mu spoke out, "Brother, why are you being so noisy. Everyone in the ballroom can hear you. You seldom get angry, what's wrong with you today?"

Mu Zhaoyang said, "If it wasn't for this lying scum..."

Their family's reputation alone commanded a lot of respect within the community. No one dared to interrupt when both mother and son spoke.

Bai Yuchun began to worry about Qin Ming when she saw the situation getting out of hand.

Both Qin Ming and she were just ordinary students. Those wealthy classmates of hers were just abusing their position. She could no longer tolerate seeing Qin Ming being harassed and slandered.

Suddenly she felt a surge of courage and bit down on He Menglian's hand. She then managed to free herself.

He Menglian yelled, "Ouch! You stupid girl! How dare you bite me?"

Bai Yuchun moved forwards and said, "I'm sorry, I was the one that caused all this. I, I don't even know how to begin to apologize. Everyone, please calm down....."

Mrs. Mu shifted her gaze to Bai Yuchun who was in a waitresses' uniform and said, "How dare you interrupt me when I'm speaking?"

Bai Yuchun was stunned into silence. She bowed quickly to excuse herself.



Mrs. Mu then looked towards Nie Haitang and the rest, she said, “Just because your family made it big doesn't make them one of Guang City's prominent families. You chose to get a broke scumbag as a boyfriend and now you're trying to malign Zhaoyang instead? The trouble that your family was going through is already common knowledge. Since you love to make a fuss, I shall make a bigger one by telling everyone about it.”

The crowd was filled with curiosity. They wondered what had happened to the Nie family for Mrs. Mu to have spoken with such confidence.



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Mrs. Mu arrogantly ordered, "Apologize to my son and leave, you still have a chance."

Qin Ming shot back without any fear, "You should apologize to me. I'll then consider the Mu Family to have made a foolish mistake for being gullible. I'll look the other way and let you go instead."

It was shocking.

Everyone around them was dumbfounded. What gall did Qin Ming have to even dare to say those words? He was still in his waiter's uniform while holding a few empty glasses on his tray.

Mu Zhaoyang laughed in disbelief, "Hmph! You really are shameless beyond belief. Do you think that I won't dare touch you just because there are a lot of people around? Even if I had to lower myself to your level, I'll teach you a lesson for harassing your classmates. You scum!"

Mrs. Mu let out a one-sided grin and said,



“Forget it, these two are nobodies. The Nie family, however, thought they would be considered aristocrats just because their business had greatly expanded. They didn't realize that people were just being polite.”

“Last month, Yanghe Group Group wanted to take over the shares of Nie Sanitary Ware Group and they almost succeeded. The last eleven percent was held by the He family.”

“Do you all know that Ms. Nie had agreed to marry into the He family in exchange for their support? Hehe, despicable indeed.”

“However, she changed her mind at the last minute and caused He Kun a lot of anguish. What an untrustworthy girl, trying to take advantage of the feelings of others.”

“Her brother Nie Zhengming, broke up with his longtime girlfriend to court my daughter so that he could secure our family's support. He too was willing to do anything for money. They're both

shameless garbage. Do they think that the Mu family runs a garbage recycling facility?"

"Mr. Nie himself went around begging for help and finally secured the support of the Hou family. Only then did they managed to stop the takeover. Hmph!"

"Recently, the Nie family offended the Qi family, hehe.....looks like the company is going to change hands again. Its share price has collapsed and they are losing their biggest customers at the same time."

"With so much trouble going on at the company and their children desperately offering themselves to the highest bidder, I think the Nie family is done for," she said with a sly grin.

When Mrs. Mu had finished the story, all the wealthy businessmen around them shook their heads in disbelief. This was indeed bad news for the Nie family.



Nie Haitang's face and ears were red in anxiety. She held onto Qin Ming's hand tightly as she was terrified of being torn apart by Mrs. Mu that easily.

Mrs. Mu then pointed somewhere nearby and said, "Oh, Mr. and Mrs. Nie, why don't you come over for a chat? Or are you still pretending not to have heard anything?"

Nie Jianmin who was nearby was stunned, he was there the whole time watching the commotion.

However, he felt that it was just a petty squabble among their children. It would be a disgrace for him to come forward and he hoped that they would quickly disperse.

No one expected the matter to have gotten out of hand and attracted everyone's attention.

Nie Jianmin couldn't bear the shame. He wanted to find a hole to cower himself in. There was no

way he was going over. Wouldn't that just be suicide? He turned over to excuse himself and continued to feign ignorance.

Nie Haitang was so anxious that she furrowed her brows. Both her parents were there, would they be disappointed to see her in that predicament?

Despite the circumstances, there was no reason for her to back down. She didn't want to be cowed by money and power.

Nie Haitang's mother quickly came forward as she knew her husband was unwilling to do so. She forced a smile and said, "Mrs. Mu, Haitang is still a child and ignorant, hence she is still gullible. Please forgive her. We are truly sorry about this incident. Haitang, leave with me now."

Nie Haitang refused, she knew she couldn't leave Qin Ming behind at this crucial moment. Even if she was to be humiliated, she would go through it together with Qin Ming.



Nie Haitang said, “Mom, Qin Ming is my boyfriend, I know him inside out. They are the ones twisting facts instead.”

Her mother's face turned red in anger, and sneered, “What boyfriend? I don't approve of him. He has been nothing but trouble up to now. He even got our family involved for nothing. Your dad had just secured Cao Xiangliang's support after much persuasion. And now you offend the Mu family. This boy is certainly bad news!”

“Enough!”

Qin Ming stamped his foot down on the situation, and said, “Mrs. Mu, we will get He Kun to verify what you had just said. Let him tell everyone what truly happened. But I must warn you, if you smear my girlfriend's reputation, I'll make sure you pay for it.”

As he had finished, everyone's attention shifted to a corner of the ballroom. He Kun was there

drinking alone.

Qin Ming loudly said, "He Kun, tell Mrs. Mu what happened that day. If you miss a word, I'll kick you in the balls again."

He Kun pinched his thighs in fear and came forward reluctantly.

The crowd was puzzled. "What a domineering kid to order He Kun around just like that."

"What happened? Wasn't he just a leech of the Nie family?"

"Are you stupid? The coward, Nie Jianmin, didn't even dare face Mrs. Mu... What is there left to leech upon?"

"Does the guy have some other patron?"

"Beats me, let's see."

"This young guy is starting to grow on me.



Although he is just a waiter, he has got guts. Even his uniform can't cover the shine of his potential.”

The He family wouldn't disobey Qin Ming as they had already been warned before by Hou Qing.

He explained truthfully, “Mrs. Mu, I used our eleven percent stake in Nie group to ask for Nie Haitang's hand in marriage. If she agreed, I would sell them the shares.”

“Nie Haitang refused. I then wanted to take advantage of her by force, but she was saved by her boyfriend in time before I could do anything.”

“I never had the opportunity to apologize to Ms. Nie for my actions since then. Ms. Nie, I'm truly sorry. Luckily your boyfriend stopped me from making a mistake with a kick, or else I would have done something I would've regretted.”

He then finished with a bow.

The crowd fell silent. He Kun's explanation had exposed Mrs. Mu's version as a lie.

She was furious as she hadn't expected the He family to blatantly challenge her authority. He Kun was expected to corroborate her story even if it was untrue.

*How dare he!*

Qin Ming smirked and said, "Did you hear that? That was the truth. It's despicable to twist the facts for your own selfish motives. Don't go throwing your weight around just because you are filthy rich and have some connections."

Qin Ming then waved He Kun away, "You can leave now."

He Kun nodded in acknowledgment. He then looked towards the Mu Family with contempt and said, "Chairman Hou has personally given



me a warning. This young man is not to be trifled with. Hehe, your family would have a tough time if the Hou family comes forward.”

Qin Ming, still holding on to Nie Haitang's hand said, “Why are you quiet now? Didn't you have a lot to say about my girlfriend just a moment ago?”

Mrs. Mu angrily retorted, “So what if I had misunderstood? Why do I need to explain myself to you? You're just a waiter. I'm curious about what kind of consequences will I be facing?”



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Qin Ming looked around and said, “We are all aware the Mu family is among the wealthiest in Guang City. However, all I see in front of me is a foolish family who uses their influence to bully the weak. You harassed and slandered my girlfriend, but after knowing the truth, you still refused to admit your mistake. How can someone like you who knows no shame still pretend to be charitable? How do you expect anyone to respect you when all you do is to throw your family's name around to harass others?”

Mrs. Mu was shocked into silence. Her mockery of Nie Haitang had been exposed as a lie by Qin Ming. She didn't know what else to say.

However, she was adamant not to apologize.

The paparazzi were taking photos discreetly as they were not officially allowed to do so. Not only had they bent the rules, but they had also figured out the juicy headline that was to be printed.



Nie Haitang recovered her composure and looked at Qin Ming lovingly with her eyes filled with gratitude. Everyone around was envious as they truly looked like a fairytale couple.

However, Mrs. Nie was still worried about the consequences their family would face for offending the Mu Family.

*What's so great about Qin Ming? So what if he has the gift of gab? It couldn't be more valuable than cold hard cash.*

Mu Zhaoyang came to his mother's rescue, "My mom only heard stories, she too had been lied to. It's not her fault."

Qin Ming grinned and said, "Then it is your fault. You look like a great guy on the surface but I can now see that you are just a bum. You can ask Zhao Fugui and his dad yourself how they tried to stop us from entering the building so that they could embarrass us. They started this but it has now become our fault while they are presumed to

be innocent. Hehe, you are really good at twisting facts.”

The crowd could see Zhao Fugui and his father were looking down awkwardly. Their embarrassment alone had demonstrated that Qin Ming was telling the truth.

They had never expected Qin Ming would openly challenge the Mu Family. He wasn't afraid of any retribution at all.

Mrs. Mu was lost for words after Qin Ming's tirade but now seeing an opportunity to shift the blame, she commanded, “Security, get them out of here. If not for my son, they wouldn't have been allowed in anyway. Are you blind?”

A couple of security guards came forward to escort Zhao Fugui and Xie Tao's family out of the ballroom.

“Huh? How can this be? Mr. Mu, didn't you say it was okay for us to enter?”



“Li Meng, help me! I just entered. I can't be chased out twice!”

“Qin Ming, I admit it was my fault. I wanted to take revenge on you, please forgive me.”

“Qin Ming, don't forget we are Bai Yuchun's relatives.”

Qin Ming smiled and said, “Wait a minute.”

Mrs. Mu was exasperated that Qin Ming had challenged her authority again. *How dare you allow them to stay when I wanted them out?*

She sneered, “Who do you think you are to disobey me?”

The security guards hesitated when they heard Qin Ming's command.

Qin Ming stepped forward and waved them away. They complied at once as they were his men anyway.

Qin Ming gave Zhao Fugui's suit a gentle pat and asked, "Zhao Fugui, we're all classmates here. It's normal to have some squabbles and friendly insults. But can you tell everyone what you have done? So that they won't assume I'm harassing you."

Zhao Fugui grew increasingly nervous and confessed, "I started it first, it was my idea to bar you from entering the building. Later on, I begged Li Meng for help to get back in."

"However, I had no intention of harassing you after that. It was Li Meng who asked me to spread those lies, or else she would have us kicked out again."

"All the accusations I hurled at you just now were untrue, I'm sorry. I really don't want to offend you anymore; it was Li Meng that forced me into it."

Zhao Fugui's face was filled with remorse and he looked as if he was going to kneel down in front



of Qin Ming to beg for forgiveness.

When Mu Zhaoyang heard that, he was enraged and said, "You ungrateful piece of shit. Security! Get them out of here!"

However, all the guards stood still. None of them made a move.

The crowd was surprised at how the Mu family seemingly had lost their influence.

Qin Ming spread his hands in vindication, "Listen carefully. Who is right? Who is wrong? Who is the one that's blind?"

A voice from the crowd replied, "Mr. Mu is the one that's blind. Hahaha."

"Hahaha....."

Everyone in the ballroom started to laugh. The Mu Family was humiliated.

Both Mrs. Mu and her son were mortified as they stared at Qin Ming in disbelief. They couldn't fathom how an ordinary guy in a waiter's uniform could have turned the tables on them with such ease.

Why was it that no one came forward to defend them?

Qin Ming waved his hand and said, "All right. Security, you can escort these two families out now. They are indeed a painful sight. I never allowed them in anyway."

They security guards then acted upon Qin Ming's instructions.

There was a sense of bewilderment in the crowd. Everyone was puzzled about how a waiter who was filling up glasses of wine ended up being the host of the event.

Was the Nie family the source of his influence? Shouldn't the Nie family rely on him instead?



Qin Ming continued, "Since you refused to apologize after my girlfriend had cleared her good name, are you still refusing to apologize since I have now cleared mine? What say you, Mr. Mu?"

Mu Zhaoyang was stunned and he was visibly furious. If not for the fact that there were a lot of people watching, he would have ordered his bodyguards to beat Qin Ming up. This young man had humiliated him in front of Guang City's social elite.

Mrs. Mu started to leave and said, "Zhaoyang, let's go, don't bother anymore."

"Hey, not so fast!" Qin Ming said in a loud voice, "I still have some popcorn left. Mrs. Mu, if you leave, the show will be over too soon."

The crowd burst into a roaring laughter.

Qin Ming had put on a good show in front of them. A young waiter had single-handedly humiliated one of the most prominent families in

the city.

No other prominent family in Guang City had dared to offend the Mu Family, let alone humiliate them. All except Qin Ming.

Qin Ming continued, "Your son's girlfriend had insulted me just now. I must let you know I am not easy picking."

Mu Zhaoyang came to Li Meng's defense, "How did she insult you? Isn't it true you abandoned her? Wasn't it a fact that you had tricked her with the help of others?"

Qin Ming replied with a smirk, "Tsk, Tsk, Mr. Mu you do still have some guts. You can ask Li Meng yourself why did she need to return the hundred thousand to Nie Zhengming."

Li Meng heart stopped. This wasn't looking good. She's finished.

She had felt that it was ridiculous how the



evening had turned out. How could a leeching Qin Ming be so bold to challenge the Mu family when Nie Haitang and her family had already submitted to them.

How could Qin Ming still be so brazen?

Wasn't he just leeching on Nie Haitang? Why did she fail to get at Qin Ming even though she had the Mu family supporting her? Qin Ming should have been crushed already. She couldn't figure it out.

Qin Ming picked up an old copy of a socialite magazine from a corner of the ballroom. He threw it in front of everyone and said, "The previous scandal that involved the Nie family that had made the headlines was started by yourself, Li Meng. You wanted to swindle them for a hundred thousand. Once the matter had been cleared up, you were supposed to return the money but had spent it all instead. I helped you pay the debt off out of pity as an ex-boyfriend. Instead of being grateful, you repay me by trying

to humiliate me?”

Mu Zhaoyang was shocked as he looked at the magazine on the floor. The evidence was so overwhelming that he didn't know what to say. Li Meng's face was also splattered across the magazine.

Li Meng too was alarmed.

“Looks like Mu Zhaoyang's girlfriend is a scammer.”

“No wonder people say that he is blind, looks like it's true.”

“This woman sure is conniving. Nie Haitang instead has been very loyal to have not abandoned her poor boyfriend.”

“This waiter sure is smart!”

Qin Ming raised his hand, motioning the crowd to quieten down and said, “Alright, I'm done



talking. What do you have to say?"

There was silence. A charity gala was meant to be boisterous, but other than the background music no one dared to utter a word. Qin Ming had won a decisive victory with his sharp mind and clever tongue. He had not only cleared the Nie family of their controversy but also put the Mu family in their place.

Mu Zhaoyang and his mother were speechless. It was the first time Mrs. Mu had been utterly humiliated in a public setting. She was so upset that even her makeup had smeared. Finally, the only words that she could manage were, "Let's go."

As the Mu Family left in disgrace, Nie Haitang pulled Qin Ming closer and said with admiration, "Qin Ming, you're amazing!"

However, Mrs. Nie was fuming at the side, "What's so amazing? The Mu Family is one of our most important business partners. Now we

will be in trouble for offending them. You, you have caused enough trouble already!”

Qin Ming replied, “Mrs. Mu, don't worry, I have a plan.”

Mrs. Mu gritted her teeth in anger, “What plan can you possibly come up with? You're just an employee here. What else can you do?”

Qin Ming took the opportunity to ask, “If I can resolve the problem, would you then approve of me dating Haitang? How about that?”

Mrs. Mu replied, “Sure, prove yourself to me then.”



Qin Ming had made a name for himself for not only kicking out Zhao Fugui again but also getting the better of Mu Zhaoyang and his mother.

Although it was only a verbal victory, it was a huge boost for his reputation.

In high society, reputation is all that matters because reputation equals power.

It was common for prominent families to use their influence with impunity. Although there were also a lot of rich and powerful people in the ballroom, most did not intervene for fear of repercussions from the powerful Mu family.

However, if someone managed to put them in their place, the aura of invincibility would be gone and people would no longer fear them.

The Mu family's second daughter, Mu Sichun, was present at the ballroom. When she saw how bad her brother and mother were humiliated by Qin Ming, she wanted revenge.

She went over to her dad and tried to instigate him, "Dad, aren't you going to help mom and brother? They were badly berated by some waiter."

Mu Hao had a sharp and cold expression, he scolded, "They deserved it for trying to throw their weight around. What is this place? Has he forgotten who he is? Does he not know how to differentiate right from wrong? Even if it was a mistake, why did he have to make such a big fuss? I'm talking business with Uncle Cao now, leave us."

Cao Zhengmin was a middle-aged man with a chubby head and big ears. He laughed, "That waiter sure is someone, to have dissed the two of our families. My useless son was also beaten up by him; even Nie Jianmin had come to ask for forgiveness. Hehe."

Mu Hao was intrigued and asked, "Cao, does that boy have any patron? Even He Kun had to obey him."

Cao Zhengmin replied, "The Bluesky Charity



Foundation Chairman told me that he is a good friend of Qi Minghui who values him a lot. Qi Minghui works for the boy's brother, so there's somehow a connection there. The Qi family is very tightknit, to offend Qi Minghui means to offend the whole Qi family.”

Mu Hao and Mu Sichun both had a realization, the way they see Qin Ming had also changed. It was on one hand caution and the other disdain.

Mu Sichun pouted and said, “I had thought that he had some unknown capability himself. When faced with weaker parties he would depend on the Nie family's influence while against stronger ones he would rely on the Qi family. Isn't he just a leech? The Qi family is now growing stronger than ever, while he is just garbage.”

Mu Hao said, “To be able to find a patron is a form of capability in itself. Why don't you go try finding one yourself?”

Mu Sichun pouted with indignance and said, “I.....I can't accept it. If you won't intervene, I will do it myself. Hmph, I'll show them.”

She turned to leave once she finished. Mu Hao was so annoyed that he stomped his feet, "You foolish girl, why can't you be half as wise as your sister."

At the dancefloor, Nie Haitang was waiting for Qin Ming who had gone to change.

Nie Jianmin was feeling uneasy. He looked at Nie Haitang, as if he had something to say but couldn't.

Nie Haitang said, "Dad, we did nothing wrong. We don't have to take the Mu family's slander quietly."

Mrs. Nie said, "Can we afford to offend the Mu family? Even if we were in the right, we would still have to admit that it was our fault. Qin Ming had caused us so much trouble and cannot be found now. Such a useless fellow."

Nie Jianmin said, "Let's put aside the Mu family first. What's up with you and Qin Ming? Since when did you get together?"



Nie Haitang pursed her lips and said, "We just started for a while. Why? Although he is poor, he is a very sincere and capable person. He will be successful one day. Even brother approves of him."

"I disapprove." Mrs. Nie was annoyed and said, "Even if he became successful, how much could he achieve? Can he reach the level of the ultra-rich? Dear daughter, this would be an extreme example of marrying downwards. You would be scraping the bottom of the barrel here. You will become a laughingstock."

Nie Haitang said, "Let them laugh if they want to. It doesn't matter because I like him. Whether a shoe fits or not, we won't know unless we try."

Nie Jianmin let out a heavy sigh as he was speechless. With his hand on his forehead, he said, "I know he has some connections with the Qi family, and perhaps even the Hou family. But networks are not assets, it won't change the fact that he is a poor kid. By the time he achieves success, you might have become an old hag. He won't want you then."

Nie Haitang replied in annoyance, "Qin Ming isn't that kind of person."

At that moment, Mu Sichun approached them. She bowed slightly and greeted, "Mr. Mu, Mrs. Mu, good evening."

Nie Jianmin stood up excitedly and humbly said, "Oh, isn't it Ms. Mu? A very good evening to you too. We're sorry for the trouble just now caused by our foolish daughter. It was just a misunderstanding. We will apologize to your parents when we see them."

Mu Sichun put on a harmless expression and said, "It's nothing. My mom and brother were lied to, that's how the misunderstanding escalated. I wasn't affected at all. My dad also said my brother deserved it. So I hope I have put both of you at ease now."

Nie Jianmin was reassured by Mu Sichun's attitude. He felt relieved and replied, "That's good, that's good."

Mu Sichun giggled and said, "Haitang, there is



something I want to ask of you. I love the look of your pink gown, it's gorgeous. Can I borrow it to take some pictures? I just want to share it with my friends for fun.”

Nie Haitang pouted and thought that it was a good idea to use the opportunity to mend ties with the Mu family after what had happened. She nodded in agreement, “Of course you can.”

The two ladies proceeded to rooms that were made available for guests to rest. The two of them took off their dresses to change.

Mu Sichun giggled and stared at Nie Haitang's figure. She said, “Haitang, you do have a very beautiful figure. It would be wasted on that poor pauper.”

Nie Haitang raised a brow and said, “Ms. Mu, please respect my boyfriend.”

“Fine, I was just saying.” She continued, “I'll wear your gown first and then you help me take a picture. I'll return it to you after that.”

As Mu Sichun put on Nie Haitang's evening gown, Nie Haitang waited in her undergarments. She looked extremely sexy.

She picked up the phone and took pictures of Mu Sichun.

At that very moment, Mu Sichun grabbed her own gown from the bed and ran out of the room.

Nie Haitang was stunned and called out, "Hey, you....."

Mu Sichun had a wicked grin on her face and said without even turning to look back, "I have something urgent I need to do first. Wait for me to come back."

Bang! The door was slammed shut. Nie Haitang was left dumbfounded. Only then did she realize she was tricked.

Without any clothes on, she couldn't leave the room.

No, there was still a pair of pajamas in the room.



But how could she go out in the pajamas?

Mu Sichun was delighted when she returned to the ballroom. She had already changed back to her own evening gown. She walked back to her mother and told her what had happened with a triumphant expression.

Mrs. Mu's lips twitched and said, "You did well my daughter. Who do they think they are to dare offend us? They deserved it."

Mu Sichun said, "Mom, you should find an excuse to return Nie Haitang's gown to her. Then order someone to ask her for a dance. Tell her that if she agreed, tonight's matter would be over. I guarantee you they wouldn't know what hit them. Hehehe."

Mrs. Mu gave her daughter a thumbs-up and said, "What a filial daughter you are to help me get my revenge. No one other than your father had ever embarrassed me all my life. How dare that Qin Ming did so. The Nie family is also responsible."

Mrs. Mu felt that her opportunity for revenge had

come. Both mother and daughter held hands and walked towards Nie Jianmin arrogantly.

As Mrs. Mu approached, Nie Jianmin stood up quickly to receive them. He put on his best smile and asked, "Mrs. Mu, just now....."

However, when he and his wife saw Mu Sichun hand them Haitang's gown their smile turned to a frown.

What is the meaning of this? Didn't the both of you leave together? Why did Mu Sichun come back without Nie Haitang?

Mrs. Mu made a half-hearted wave and said, "Mr. Nie, it was my fault for misjudging your daughter. I apologize. Let Shaoyang dance with your daughter, to show everyone that there's no bad blood within our families. How about that?"

Nie Jianmin had turned serious and asked, "Ms. Mu, wasn't Haitang with you just now? Where is she?"



Mu Sichun put on an innocent look and said, "I said I would return ahead of her. Why? Has she not come back? I don't know where she is."

Mrs. Mu asked haughtily, "What is it? I get the feeling you are reluctant to agree. Or is it Ms. Nie that is reluctant to do so?"

Nie Jianmin wiped the sweat off his forehead that had started to trickle down and replied, "I'm willing to let her dance with Shaoyang of course, very willing. If we can let the matter be water under the bridge, it will be for the best. Please wait a while, Mrs. Mu, Haitang has gone out. Let me call her."

Mu Sichun and her mother looked at each other with glee. They love watching others fawn over them. Even though the Nies knew Mu Sichun had done something to their daughter, they didn't dare bring it up due to their fear of offending the Mu family.

That was the power of a prominent family.

Nie Jianmin said, "Hey, Haitang, where are you?"

Come back quickly. The Mu family is willing to give us an opportunity to patch up. All you need to do is to dance with Mu Shaoyang, to show everyone that there is no bad blood.”

He could hear Nie Haitang's furious tone at the other end say, “No way! Dad, I've just been tricked by Mu Sichun. She deliberately lied to get me in this room and stole my gown. I'm trapped here, I can't leave now.”

Nie Jianmin was annoyed.

Even though he knew Nie Haitang had been tricked, but he had to endure the shame.

Although he owned a 7 figure business, his influence still didn't come close to the Mu family.

He never had the opportunity to get into the good graces of prominent families such as the Mu family.

However, with Mrs. Mu personally proposing to bury the hatchet with him just with a dance, it was an offer too good to refuse.



Nie Jianmin forced himself to smile and pretended to laugh, "Mrs. Mu, how about I let my son dance with your daughter? To show the unity between our two families?"

Mu Sichun rolled her eyes and said, "Over my dead body, Nie Zhengming is not qualified. All he does every day is to either show off his luxury car or his shoes. As if he is afraid that no one knows, he is rich. No way."

Mu Sichun's blatant refusal made Nie Jianmin feel even more awkward than he already was.

Mrs. Mu was annoyed, "What's wrong? Is it so difficult to ask for just one dance? This is just basic manners, okay? Mr. Nie, have you decided to go against the Mu family? To show the whole of Guang City how capable you are that you can now take us on?"

Nie Jianmin hastily denied, "Mrs. Mu, no, no, no, we wouldn't dare go against you. We just need some time, that's all. Please bear with us a while."

“What's wrong?” The head of the Mu family Mu Hao approached them and said, “Are the both of you trying to cause trouble to Mr. Nie again?”

Cao Zhengmin who had come along also said, “We are all important figures of Guang City. Mrs. Mu, for my sake could you look past the squabbles of those kids?”

Mrs. Mu replied, “Darling, Mr. Cao, you have misunderstood my intentions. Don't you see I'm here to patch things up? I'm offering Shaoyang to dance with Haitang to show everyone that there's no bad blood between our families. However, Ms. Nie has hid herself, what else can I do? Wouldn't it look bad on Shaoyang?”

Mrs. Nie couldn't stand for it anymore and stood up, “Mr. Mu, this is not.....”

“Shut up,” Nie Jianmin immediately pulled his wife's hand. He then quietly said, “Don't say it. If you do you will put Mr. Mu in a difficult position, then it would be even harder to patch things up.”



Mrs. Nie retorted, "Isn't that the same as admitting it was our fault? I, I, .....this is sheer cowardice."

Nie Jianmin sighed, "They are so much more powerful than us, we just have to swallow our pride."

Nie Jianmin said helplessly, "Mr. Mu, I'm so sorry. My daughter is not feeling well so she can't join us."

Mr. Mu raised an eyebrow and said, "Wasn't she fine just now? Why is she unwell all of a sudden? Mr. Nie, you are not being fair to us here. Are you bringing the petty squabbles of those kids into our relationship now?"

Nie Jianmin tried to explain, "Nonono, this....."

"Wow!"

"Wow!"

Suddenly the whole ballroom erupted in surprise, everyone's attention was focused on the entrance.

It was Nie Haitang in the tailored gown ordered by Qin Ming. The Dreamgirl white evening gown had glistering diamonds embroidered everywhere. She gracefully reentered the ballroom with everyone watching.

“My God! This, this is the limited edition Dreamgirl gown designed by Swedish designer Vivienne Michaels. It was handmade by twenty tailors from Chanel and opened the Paris fashion show.”

“That's right, it was allocated to the local Chanel headquarters waiting to be purchased by some ultrarich. Word is that only insiders knew about it and it was sold out before it became public knowledge.”

“This gown costs around a million. The last edition of a fashion magazine had showcased it on its cover. Tsk Tsk, a million for a gown, only the ultrarich can afford it.”

“Nie Haitang looks gorgeous in that dress, it fits her perfectly.”



“My God, those diamonds are blinding my eyes!”

“It looks even more glamorous than the wedding gowns of the ultrarich.”

Nie Haitang's grand entrance into the ballroom in the Dreamgirl gown had made her the center of attraction. At that moment, she was the undisputed beauty of the whole event.

Standing right beside her was Qin Ming.

Nie Haitang had called Qin Ming once she realized that she was tricked. Qin Ming was unexpectedly pleased that there was now an opportunity for Nie Haitang to put on the dress that he had ordered. It had been lying around unopened.

After Qin Ming brought her the dress, he heard all about what Mu Sichun did to Haitang and was enraged.

He had initially not planned to escalate the conflict with the Mu family further, as they had gotten what they deserved and it was just a minor

incident after all.

However, they would not stop causing him trouble.

Qin Ming held Nie Haitang's hand and walked to the center of the dance floor. They then began to dance to the tune of the music gracefully.

The other dancers began to step aside, as they felt either that the couple's presence was too pressurizing for them or that the gown had simply outshone them. Soon, Qin Ming and Nie Haitang were the only two people left dancing. They were now the focal point of attention in the ballroom and there was silence throughout.

Qin Ming's dance steps were a little clumsy but no one minded. The socialites of Guang City watched on and enjoyed the couple's graceful movements.

Even the other ladies in the ballroom were enthralled with Nie Haitang's beauty in the Dreamgirl gown.



When the song ended, the ballroom erupted with a loud applause.

“Wow, they're a beautiful couple indeed.”

“They are the undisputed couple of the night.”

“You're looking at tomorrow's headline.”

“This young man is going to quickly become the Nie family's son-in-law.”

Mu Sichun and Li Meng, who had been hiding amongst the crowd, were filled with angst. Qin Ming had turned the tables on them and has now become the leading man of the night.

The wealth magazines tomorrow would be showcasing Nie Haitang for her gorgeous beauty.

Both of them were jealous of Nie Haitang as they naturally craved to be the center of attention.

However, other than being filled with envy, there was nothing much they could do about it.

After the dance, Qin Ming knew he still had everyone's attention. He walked up the stage and picked up a microphone. He said, "Ahem, sorry to bother everyone here. Is Mu Sichun around? Can you please return the evening gown you stole from my girlfriend?"

Just as he had finished, the crowd reeled in shock.

"What happened? A daughter of the Mu family stole a dress?"

"That's unlikely."

"Tsk tsk, the Mu family really can't catch a break today."

Mu Sichun was dumbfounded, she had not expected Qin Ming to accuse her of stealing in public. She was furious and said, "Slander! That's pure slander!"



Qin Ming had deliberately accused Mu Sichun of theft in front of everyone. He was so furious that he no longer cared for the Mu family's reputation.

Because they had not cared for his.

His allegation was a huge insult to Mu Sichun. She sprang forward at once and said, "Qin Ming, you shameless bastard. Don't throw wild accusations around lightly. How dare you slander the Mu family just because you have some patron backing you up?"

"Ladies and gentlemen, everyone in Guang City knows about my family's reputation and wealth. Why would I need to steal a dress? This is a joke."

"Speaking of her dress, isn't it in Mrs. Nie's hand now?"

The crowd looked at where Mu Sichun had pointed. Haitang's mother was indeed holding the pink gown in her hands. How could it have been stolen then?

“This is a baseless accusation.”

“To accuse the Mu family of theft is to declare war on them.”

“Why is he causing trouble again when we just had some peace?”

When Mu Sichun heard the crowd's dissatisfaction, she continued, “Distinguished guests, you are all our elders here. Please be our judge. Qin Ming relied on his patron to stop his classmates from joining tonight's event. He then beat up Uncle Cao's son Cao Xiangliang and started an argument with my brother. Now, he is accusing me of theft. This is getting ridiculous.”

“I think he is just a troublemaker and party pooper.”

“How dare you look down on the Mu family and slander us impudently?”

Nie Haitang looked at Qin Ming from below the stage. She knew he was avenging her, but was worried that matters would get out of hand.”



She said, "Qin Ming, shall we let it go? Since I'm fine now."

When Mrs. Mu saw Nie Haitang had relented, she seized the opportunity to press their advantage, "How could we let it go that easily? Who gave you the right to slander our family?"

"I had just wanted to tell Mr. Nie that we should look past the childish squabbles of yours. As parents, we should get the lot of you to bury the hatchet."

"But you just come and continued creating trouble."

"My children are honest and principled. They would never steal someone else's clothes."

"I'm going to report you to the police for hurling baseless accusations like this."

"They should lock both of you up for being so shameless."

Mrs. Mu spoke with conviction as she threatened

to call the police.

The crowd chattered amongst themselves non-stop about the controversy. Tonight's matter had taken a turn for the worse and it wasn't going to be resolved easily.

Nevertheless, they enjoyed watching the drama unfold and waited in anticipation to see what else Qin Ming could pull out of his sleeve.

Qin Ming smiled and replied, "Please go ahead and get the police involved. But don't blame me when you're the one that got yourself in trouble. I have forgiven you once but I'm not going to do it again."

Mrs. Mu appeared worried that he was on to something. She pulled her daughter to her and asked, "Darling, does he have anything on you?"

Mu Sichun replied confidently, "Mom, don't worry. Where do you think we are? This is the Century Tower where everything is secure. The rooms and corridors are not monitored. Who does he think he is? Does he own the building? How



can he possibly have access to the surveillance cameras? Even if he did, it would take ages to sort through the footage as it's so crowded here today.”

Mrs. Mu gave her daughter a discreet thumbs-up, “Darling, you did well.”

Qin Ming held his chin up high and said, “Do you really want to see the evidence? Remember, you forced me to do this. I'll show you the evidence.”

Snap! As he crossed his finger and his thumb.

The building's staff walked in and started to operate the computer behind the stage. A large screen unfolded before the guests and a video was projected onto it.

It showed Nie Haitang and Mu Sichun chatting and laughing as they entered a room. In a short while, Mu Sichun could be seen hastily leaving the room wearing Nie Haitang's pink gown while holding her own dress.

She then entered the washroom and emerged from it wearing her own dress.

When the footage ended, there was an uproar among the guests.

“Isn't that deception?”

“You can stop guessing, it's definitely revenge.”

“They had the gall to say they wanted to bury the hatchet with a dance. That's just bullshit.”

“The Mu family is very powerful, who would dare offend them? Even if they were in the right, they still had to swallow their pride and give in.”

“The Mu family's reputation is in tatters now.”

“Hehe, I had thought Mu Sichun was a decent girl, but now it's obvious she is a sly one.”

Mu Sichun and her mother gawked at the video; they were utterly speechless. There was nothing they could say that could disprove the evidence.



Mu Hao was enraged and gave his wife and daughter a slap each. He yelled, "You're both a disgrace to the family, get out!"

Qin Ming's smirked and said, "Wait a minute. I applaud Mr. Mu for trying to save his wife and daughter. You are indeed a good husband and father."

He pointed to a panicking Mu Sichun and said, "Don't worry, I'm not going to ask you to apologize. It would be futile as your family would never admit to their mistake even if the evidence was irrefutable. It would be a waste of my time trying to get through that thick skin of yours. I just want to let you know that you can continue to stay, I'm feeling gracious and decided to forgive you lot."

"However, I may have forgiven your slanderous lies, but I cannot forgive the theft. This is a matter of principle."

"I've already reported it to the police. When they arrive to investigate, I hope all of you can cooperate."

Mu Sichun was already in tears. She had never in her life been criticized and humiliated to this extent.

She couldn't fathom how this turn of events came about. How was Qin Ming able to get hold of the Century Tower's security footage? They had suffered a complete defeat tonight.

Mu Hao looked at Qin Ming and laughed instead of being angry. He said, "You are an intriguing young man indeed. No wonder Master Zhang saw a bad omen for our family and advised us not to attend tonight's event. I didn't believe him at first, but now it's obvious it's you. Master Zhang is indeed a very wise man."

Mu Hao approached Qin Ming and said, "Young man, it's my fault that this happened. I hope we don't have to involve the police. I will apologize on behalf of my wife and children to Ms. Nie. Ms. Nie, I'm truly sorry. Please forgive my family, I will teach them a lesson when we return home."

Mu Hao bowed slightly towards Nie Haitang in



front of the crowd, demonstrating his ability to remedy the situation quickly as the head of a prominent family.

Nie Haitang bowed in return and said, "Uncle Mu, this is a small matter, it's water under the bridge. Qin Ming, get yourself back down here."

Qin Ming admired how Mu Hao had decisively took charge of the situation and apologized without delay.

He replied, "Mr. Mu has taken full responsibility in this matter. It is indeed admirable compared to those that deny the truth and are unwilling to apologize for their mistakes. I'm not a vindictive person. Since you have apologized, we shall consider the matter closed."

Mu Hao had successfully resolved the situation.

He then invited Qin Ming to have a drink together and chat. The other prominent families were bewildered at how generously Mu Hao was treating Qin Ming.

Even Qin Ming was suspicious of his true intentions. He couldn't yet ascertain whether Mu Hao was sincere or just another sly old fox.

As the two of them talked, the ballroom's door burst open. A group of armed men entered rapidly and yelled, "Men to the left and ladies to the right! Put your hands behind your head, you are all hostages now. You bastards!"



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The assassination team had secured the thirty-eighth floor of Century Tower. All of them were in full body armor with their weapons locked and loaded.

The team under Bi Yuan's command was monitoring the two entrances.

The two groups of overseas mercenaries sent by Chang Huan had been captured by Bi Yuan's team after Qin Ming discovered them.

Money Leopard had a stern expression on and said, "Bi, we still have one more team unaccounted for, it's not going to be easy. If young master was to be discovered by them, it would be bad."

Bi Yuan asked, "How's the situation in the ballroom?"

Money Leopard replied, "Long is there together with the bulk of the building's security team. Unless they're all dead, young master is still in safe hands."

Bi Yuan nodded but was still feeling distraught and worried.

He then pointed at the pretty blond mercenary lady and said, "Speak, where is your third team?"

The lady had her face beaten in and was swollen, however, she remained defiant. She spat some blood from her mouth and replied, "Hmph, our third team is the best of us. No one knows their plans. You would not be able to find out either."

"If you kill me, it won't do you any good," the blonde lady then looked up at Bi Yuan, "Besides, it was your boss that asked you to keep us alive right?"

Bi Yuan was enraged and pointed his gun at one of the other mercenaries and shot him. The man then slumped into a pool of his own blood.

Bi Yuan then pointed the gun back at the woman's chin and threatened, "We're the same kind, I have more blood on my hands than yours. Young lady, it seems you are not being grateful to my boss for sparing your life. If you don't give



me a reason to keep you alive, I will kill you and my master won't bat an eyelid.”

The lady replied, “Since you already know that we are of the same kind, you should then know that we do not have our freedom.”

Bi Yuan couldn't be bothered anymore and pointed his gun at her.

Money Leopard stopped him and asked, “Do you yearn to be free?”

She replied, “No one can give it to me.”

Money Leopard continued, “Our boss is the richest man in the world, he can give you anything you desire. If you want freedom, then you should know which side to choose.”

The lady hesitated. She wondered if their leader could really give her what she wanted.

Suddenly, a voice called out over the radio, “Emergency, emergency, we have lost contact with the twenty-eighth-floor ballroom. The

security cameras are also down. A group of armed men has taken control of the surveillance room on that floor.”

Bi Yuan was caught by surprise, he ordered, “Get the main surveillance room to take over the security feed. Let Song know and get her to come down.”

The voice over the radio continued with a worried tone, “We have just lost contact with the security guards on the fifty-eighth floor. Xuanyuan Wu and his men are badly hurt and they are still exchanging fire with the enemy. We can't reach Song and Mr. Qi, I'm afraid they may have been captured.”

Bi Yuan and Money Leopard exchanged glances and said, “How did they manage to sneak in under their noses?”

The blond lady couldn't help but mocked them, “Why not? You had managed to track us initially, now it's our turn to show you what we're made of. I must have you know that we too are well-trained mercenaries.”



Money Leopard kicked over a chair in anger and said, "Damn that bastard Chang Huan. I should have let him die the last time instead of saving him. Now they have the upper hand."

Bi Yuan furrowed his brows and said, "Shut up, they have not won yet. They still don't know who the young master is. Even if they controlled two floors, we're still in the game as long as the boss is unharmed."

Money Leopard replied, "Let's go up now to rescue him. What about the guests on the fifty-eighth floor?"

Bi Yuan replied firmly, "The priority is to rescue the boss, the rest don't matter."

Money Leopard said, "If they died, the organization's assets in Huaxia Group will be thrown into turmoil."

Bi Yuan replied "Xuan is there and Ms. Song is a formidable force by herself. Besides, if everyone on that floor had died, it would not benefit Chang Huan in any way too. Instead, it is in his interest

to keep them alive.”

Money Leopard waved his hand and commanded, “Pay attention everyone, we will now proceed to infiltrate the twenty-eighth floor. Watch out for an ambush.”

Bi Yuan raised his gun and pointed at the blond lady's head and said, “This is your last chance. Help me or die.”

The blond smirked, “Do you think I'm afraid of death?”

Bi Yuan gritted his teeth in anger, but he hesitated and did not fire. He whacked her on the head with the butt of his gun and she fainted.

At the same moment in the ballroom on the twenty-eighth floor, fifteen heavily armed men who were wearing masks and body armor were separating the men and women aside.

Qin Ming was worried, but he had Long and Zhou Yu close by his side.



Zhou Yu said, "Sir, there is a secret passageway out of here in the control room behind the stage. We can escape as long as we get there."

Long who looked determined then said, "Cover me, I can take fifteen men down."

Qin Ming grew increasingly worried and wasn't listening to either two. He tried to call Song Ying but the line got cut off instantly.

Qin Ming had a bad feeling and thought to himself, looks like the assassination squad didn't manage to find all the mercenaries.

He happened to be standing beside the window. He took a look outside and saw that people were going about their business at ground level as if nothing had happened. He then looked upwards to the sky and wondered if the mercenaries had infiltrated from above.

All the wealthy guests were in a panic. Someone brought out a bag and asked everyone to put their money and valuables into it.

At that moment, a foreigner holding an AK automatic rifle walked to the center. Bang! Bang! Bang! The gun went off as he shot into the ceiling. Silence ensued.

“I'm looking for a man hidden amongst you, his subordinates call him young master. But I have not seen him before. That man knows I'm looking for him. If he could step out, I'll let the lot of you go. If not, hehe,” the foreigner said carefully.

Kachak! The fifteen gunmen cocked their guns when he had finished and pointed them into the crowd.

The guests looked at each other, guessing amongst themselves who this young master was.

“Please, what do you want? We will give it to you.”

“Have mercy, I really don't know who he is.”

“Who the hell are you guys?”

“Let me go, I beg of you. I really don't know who



you are looking for.”

The foreign mercenary grinned and said, “Looks like our young master has decided not to show himself. But no matter, I'll just kill all of you one by one. Let's see how long he can hold out.”

The mercenary then spoke into his radio and said, “Kill Qi Yundong and throw his body out from the eastern window. Let our young master know how his loyal subordinate died. This will serve as a warning to the Qi family to submit to our boss if they still value their lives.”

Qin Ming felt pressured. The first one on the chopping block was none other than the person in charge of Huanan industries, Qi Yundong whom Qin Ming had valued highly. If he were to be killed, it would have significantly impeded Qin Ming's plans to control Huaxia Group.

Qin Ming stood up immediately and said, “Wait.”

Zhou Yu and Long were caught by surprise by Qin Ming's action.

Is he trying to get himself killed?

However, Qin Ming gave them a quick look, signaling them not to make any moves.

At the same moment, all the guns were aimed at Qin Ming.

A masked mercenary approached him slowly and said, "Are you the young master?"

Qin Ming took a deep breath. With a nervous expression, he then said, "I...I... I'm not. I'm just a student. I got the tickets from my school principal to come in her place."

Whack! The mercenary threw a punch at Qin Ming causing him to fall to the ground and scolded, "Why the f\*\*\* did you stand up for? Do you have a death wish?"

He was about to shoot when Qin Ming quickly added, "I have a way to help you find the young master but on one condition. You have to let us innocents go."



Qin Ming continued, "Most of the guests here are well known in society. It will also be easier if you narrow down your search by age. As long as we get everyone to announce who they are, anyone without a clear reputation would easily be identified. You can then find the one you are looking for."

The mercenary let out a grin and patted Qin Ming on his back once he heard Qin Ming's plan. He said, "Good boy. I'm looking for someone below thirty, who has kept a low profile. He isn't married and is rich, very rich. You will help me look for him. If you succeed, I will then let you go unharmed."

Qin Ming forced out a smile and said, "I'll try my best. But before that I have one request, can you not point the gun at me? It makes me nervous."

"Fine." The leader then waved away the guns.

Qin Ming stepped forward and deliberately moved closer to the control room. He then pointed at the nearest man and asked, "You, who are you? What's your age? What do you do?"

Mu Hao was perplexed; however, it was not the time to be difficult. He replied cooperatively, "I'm Mu Hao. I'm fifty-three this year, old enough to be a grandfather. I have always been working in Guang City. Qi Yundong is someone whose influence is way greater than mine, hence it would be impossible for him to be my subordinate."

Qin Ming pointed at Mu Hao and looked over to the mercenary leader and said, "This one is definitely not him. He has his family in tow including a son and daughter."

The leader then waved his hand, motioning Qin Ming to continue.

Qin Ming picked out all the older men followed by all the children.

He was finally left with around thirty young men whose age was below thirty.

Qin Ming bowed gently and said with a smile, "I think you can go ahead and kill them all. Your mission would be accomplished."



“What!” the group of young men who had been rounded up objected vehemently. Their relatives shuddered when they heard Qin Ming's proposal.

“Please have mercy, I sneaked in just for fun. I'm not some rich young master you are looking for.”

“I am Cao Xiangliang and everyone knows me. I'm rich but definitely not the young master. Qin Ming, I know you are trying to get your revenge, get me out of here.”

“Qin Ming, let me go, I'll be eternally grateful.”

“I'm innocent, I'm just an ordinary businessman and among Guang City's top ten young entrepreneurs. I am not involved in any shady businesses and don't know any of you.”

“This is just a big misunderstanding, I'm not rich at all. Look, I'm just wearing a rented suit.”

As the thirty of them begged for mercy, no one else was listening.

Qin Ming had planned to use his suggestion to

have them all killed as a test. He wanted to see what their true objectives were.

If the mercenary was to accept his suggestion to kill them all, he had a backup plan to stop them.

However, the mercenary leader hesitated, he sidestepped Qin Ming's proposal and said, "Keep looking. Find the one from the group. It should be easy enough. If you fail, I'll have you thrown out of the window."

When he heard the instruction, Qin Ming let out a side grin and was able to relax a little.

He had confirmed that they were ordered to take him alive, killing him would be the last resort.

It seems he was of some use to Chang Hongxi's godson, Chang Huan.

Boom!

A loud explosion was heard and a blood-soaked mercenary came running in. "Boss, we are under attack. The target must be here."



At that moment, wailing sirens could be heard outside the Century Tower.

It was obvious someone had called the police. They now had the whole place surrounded.

The mercenary leader then walked to the window and looked out. He furrowed his brows and approached Qin Ming with his gun pointed to his head. He glared at him and said, "I'll give you one minute. Find that man or die together with all of them."

Qin Ming pretended to panic. He raised his arms and said, "Yes... Yes sir."

At that moment, all eyes were on Qin Ming. They all knew that their lives were now in Qin Ming's hands, they were all nervous as to what would happen next.

Qin Ming maintained his composure and walked among the men. The suspense only made them feel worse.

Long managed to whisper something in Qin

Ming's ear as he walked by him.

Qin Ming then casually walked back towards the control room's entrance.

The mercenaries were standing guard at the door but they had yet to discover the secret entrance.

He could see clearly where the switch for the mains was.

He then scanned the room for the mercenaries. Most of them were barricaded at the ballroom entrance, firing at Bi Yuan and Money Leopard's men time to time. They tried to make their shots count and did not shoot indiscriminately.

There were only two mercenaries who were watching Qin Ming.

He then looked past them at the window and pointed with a shocked expression, "Look! Someone is breaking in!"

The two mercenaries were stunned. It was the twenty-eighth floor; how could it be possible?



They turned around to take a look. At that very moment, Long pulled up the red carpet and flung it in the air.

The carpet blocked the mercenaries' view of Qin Ming, who then made a run for the control room and pulled the mains' switch immediately.

With a loud Bang, the ballroom fell into darkness.

There was utter chaos as everyone screamed.

In the darkness, Long turned into the God of death. He jumped at the mercenary leader and snapped his neck with his bare hands before he could react.

The leader had blood oozing out of his eyes and fell limp on the floor.

Long then snatched over his gun and the lights came back on at the same time.

Most of the guests who had covered their heads and laid low had now stood up and started to run

aimlessly. Some had collapsed in a pool of blood.

The rest of the mercenaries were stunned to see their leader killed by Long when the lights came back on. Long then fired five shots consecutively.

The mercenaries that were guarding the hostages fell to the ground. Long indeed lived up to his reputation as an elite sharpshooter.

One of the remaining mercenaries raised his gun and yelled, "Kill him!"

The lights then went off again and the ballroom fell back into darkness.

Long moved like a cat under the cover of the darkness. He approached the enemy and snapped their necks with ease one by one.

A few seconds later, Qin Ming turned the lights back on. Long was the only one left standing in triumph. Everyone else was huddled either on the ground or dead.

They stared at Long in shock and awe, what he



did was just unbelievable. He had neutralized fifteen heavily armed hostage-takers in less than a minute. And he didn't break a sweat.

When Qin Ming was sure Long had the situation under control, he too sat down from fatigue. He was glad none of the guests were harmed.

Long looked towards Qin Ming and gave him a thumbs-up. He was impressed with Qin Ming's ability to think on his feet. Qin Ming had seized the initiative and bought them valuable time with the fake search. Without Qin Ming providing a distraction and cover, Long would not have been able to act with such deadly efficiency.

The ballroom's main door finally burst open. Bi Yuan and money leopard rushed in. However, they were surprised to see the enemies all dead and everything already under control.

The two of them looked at Long in awe.

Long casually said, "It's safe now."

Bi Yuan then said with a reassuring tone,

“Everyone please calm down, we are on your side. Please follow our instructions and make your way downstairs in an orderly manner.”

Once the wealthy guests heard they could now leave, they rushed to the exit at the same time.

Nie Haitang ran towards Qin Ming but was forcefully ushered downstairs by Bi Yuan's men.

When the guests had left, Qin Ming was furious. He questioned, “How did they infiltrate the building? Bi Yuan, what have you been doing?”

Bi Yuan looked down in shame and said, “Sir, they entered through the roof. We had lost contact with the guards there, I take full responsibility.”

Qin Ming clenched his fists and said, “Fine, go help the police to evacuate the guests safely. Our victory has to be decisive. By the way, I need someone alive, do we have one?”

“Erm, yes. We do.”

Bi Yuan was relieved that he didn't kill the blond



The police had surrounded the whole of Century Tower.

The hostages and injured had been evacuated safely. The remnants of the mercenaries were mopped up with the help of the police. They also secured the helicopter landing pad from the enemy and sealed off their last escape route.

With the building locked down from top to bottom, there was no escape for the enemy.

As the owner of Century Tower, Qin Ming kept in close communication with the police.

“My only priority is for all the guests to be evacuated safely. Any other collateral damage is of no consequence to me,” Qin Ming said in a commanding tone.

The visit by his subordinates from the Huabei area was of great importance to him.

If he failed to guarantee their safety, it would only be a pyrrhic victory over Chang Huan.

Without a decisive victory, it would be difficult to fully convince the four elders of his capability.

One of the police captains said, “Mr. Qin.....erm, it's my first time meeting the boss of Guang City's landmark building. I didn't expect you to be so young. I guarantee you that the police would do the utmost to rescue all the hostages.”

As he finished, another officer came running over and to report, “Sir.....the fifty-eighth floor is now secured.”

“What?” Everyone was surprised including Qin Ming.

Aren't the guests on that floor being held hostage? How is it safe now?

They rushed up to the fifty-eighth floor to check. There were two large meeting rooms on that floor. In one of them sat the person-in-charge of Huan Ning Century Corporation's Huabei area and his men. From the look of their faces, they had likely been through something traumatic.



In the other room, there were fifteen kidnappers who were unconscious and bound securely. All their weapons were piled up on one side of the room.

Song Ying was standing between the two meeting rooms. When she saw them approach she made a slight bow and gracefully said, "I have neutralized all the perpetrators, although it did take me some time."

"Er....." Everyone looked at Song Ying in disbelief. The tail of her gown had already been cut off for easier mobility. One could see her slender pair of legs. There were bloodstains on her gown, but they did not belong to her.

Everyone wondered how did this demure looking beauty take down so many heavily armed men.

One of the SWAT team leaders asked her, "Who are you really?"

Song Ying politely smiled and said, "I am Song Ying, Mr. Qin's secretary. Rest assured that I will provide my full cooperation to the police."

Qin Ming rushed up to her and put both his arms on her shoulders, he asked with a concerned expression, “Ying, are you hurt?”

Song Ying let out a gentle smile, “Sir, don't worry, I'm a professional. I have been handpicked by Master from the training camp to assist you. These people are no match for me.”

“It's just that.....the first present you have given me,” she then looked down at her torn gown.

Qin Ming laughed, “The only thing that matters is that you are safe. If you want, we can get you another dress.”

Song Ying let out a girly grin and proceeded to follow Qin Ming from behind.

Although Qin Ming knew that Song Ying was a good fighter, he did not expect her to be able to subdue fifteen armed men by herself with barely a scratch on her. Even Long had needed his help to provide cover.

Nevertheless, he was truly glad that both of them



are his loyal subordinates.

As the dust settled, it was clear that he had won a decisive victory.

Chang Hongxi had also sent Qin Ming a message at that moment.

Beautifully done.

Qin Ming appreciated the significance of those words because his godfather was already in the final stages of his cancer. The doctor only gave him half a year left to live.

Despite that, Chang Hongxi had been traveling around to canvas support for Qin Ming within the group's senior management. He had continuously monitored Qin Ming's performance and provided constant encouragement.

Qin Ming could feel that Chang Hongxi had placed a great deal of hope on him, and he did not disappoint his godfather.

The message also contained a list of four names,

who were close allies of Chang Huan. It provided all the details regarding the four men, it also informed him that what he did with the information would be at his own discretion. Qin Ming smiled when he finished reading the message.

With his victory complete, he then let the police investigate the attack and tie up all the loose ends.

Qin Ming brought his allies to a private meeting room and said, "You have all done well in resolving this incident, especially Ying and Long."

Long humbly replied, "Sir, I was just doing my job."

Song Ying smiled confidently, as if it was nothing at all.

Bi Yuan, Money Leopard, and the injured Xuanyuan Wu hung their heads in shame.

They thought back to their time at Yun Shan



Villas, Qin Ming had run circles around them. However, they still had a high opinion of themselves.

However, after their first actual assignment here, not only they were slow in detecting the presence of the enemy, but were outshone by Long and Song Ying in terms of combat ability. There was nothing for them to be proud of.

Bi Yuan squeezed his fist in frustration. He swore to himself that he would do better next time.

“Sir, we did manage to capture and kill quite a number of the enemy still,” Money Leopard remonstrated.

Given the complex circumstances, Qin Ming chose not to punish them. He let them off with just some criticism to preserve their dignity as team leaders. However, he made it clear that he did not want to see a repeat of today's disappointing performance.

After that, Qin Ming waved for the blond mercenary to be brought in. Her eyes were

blindfolded.

Qin Ming looked at her and laughed, "You sure have a terrible memory. I let you go the last time at sea, and now you're back to get yourself killed again."

The blond asked in surprise, "Have we lost?"

Qin Ming replied, "Of course, I must commend you for your courage to have parachuted onto the building. That's why we didn't notice."

The blond lady sat down on the floor depressed and said, "Those were top-class assassins, of course they knew a thing or two.....nevertheless, it's over. Congratulations, you have beaten Mr. Chang."

Qin Ming went through some documents and asked, "I know you are one of Chang Huan's spies. However, you have been defeated twice by me. If I let you go, he won't take you back. If you have a chance, do you want to live freely again?"

The blond lifted her head and moved it in the



direction of Qin Ming's voice, she said, "My sister is being held hostage by him. I have no choice but to do his bidding, I will never be free."

Qin Ming responded, "What if we could rescue your sister?"

The blond shook her head in sadness, "That's impossible, I don't even know where she is. We could only speak to each other over a secure channel once in a while."

Qin Ming disagreed. He lifted her chin with his fingers and said, "I can provide you with the financial and logistical support to save your sister in M nation. However, you must do one thing for me. You have to expose all of Chang Huan's crimes so that he becomes an international wanted criminal. Once he is dealt with, I will have one less threat to be worried about and you will be free. Can you smell freedom in the air yet, girl?"

Qin Ming's proposal was indeed too good to refuse.

The blond was tempted. She bit her lip but her facial expression gave her away. However, she did not answer immediately as she still needed to weigh the risks of the choice she was going to make.

Qin Ming wasn't in a rush; he knew he had to be patient. It wasn't easy to turn an enemy. But if he succeeded, he would have gained a major strategic advantage.

He felt that he was very lucky to have met the blond twice already, and she could potentially be the key to his victory over Chang Huan.

A minute later, the blond raised her head and replied, "Alright, I'll help you. However, I will need some cash to recruit men for the job, at least fifty million. Once it's done, I want another hundred million."

Qin Ming smiled, "No problem. I'll hand you to the police first, then you will have to figure out how to escape on your own and return to Chang Huan's side. Once you are back at M nation, someone will get in touch."



Once Qin Ming gave the instructions, the details would be left to Song Ying.

After dealing with the blond mercenary, Qin Ming stood up and straightened his tie and said, "Alright, on to the main event."



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In the meeting room on the fifty-eighth floor, Qi Yundong and the other southern leaders were nervous. One had even wet his pants from the earlier incident.

They had become collateral damage in the fight for the inheritance.

Although no one died, it was still a traumatic experience for all of them.

Although they were powerful and influential in the business world, they became helpless when faced with real physical violence. All their bodyguards were killed by the mercenaries and their blood had just been cleaned off the floor.

Everyone waited silently for Qin Ming's arrival.

Qi Yundong was proud as the head of the southern delegation that his subordinates had demonstrated their loyalty. They had seen Qin Ming's face but did not give him away during the attack.

Qin Ming entered with Song Ying close behind.



Qi Yundong and the others stood up to welcome him.

Qin Ming stopped them and said, "Stay where you are, please sit. It's been a long day."

Qi Yundong immediately replied, "Sir, we're not tired."

When Qin Ming settled into the seat at the center of the table, the ones that had met him for the first time understood that this bold young man was the chosen heir of Chang Hongxi. He would be the owner of Huan Ning Century Corporation, their true boss behind the scenes.

The person-in-charge of Huabei industries stood up and greeted him respectfully, "Good evening sir."

Qin Ming nodded and said, "Please sit. You have been through a lot today; I take full responsibility."

The group quickly responded, "No... No..., who would have expected the enemy to be so savage."

Qin Ming smiled but his expression quickly turned serious. As his finger tapped on the table, he said, "The Century Tower is my home base. It has a hundred floors and no one knew which floor the meeting would be held on except for Qi and my secretary. Hence the question of an ambush does not arise, the enemy only got wind after you have gathered."

Everyone's heart started racing. They were all experienced men; they naturally knew how to read between the lines of what Qin Ming meant. Was there a traitor among them?

Qin Ming continued, "When you had gathered, the third enemy team parachuted onto our roof. That explains why my men couldn't find them in the building before that."

"After they had deployed on the roof, they infiltrated the building floor by floor and disposed of one of my assassination teams. They then found you and the rest is history."

Qin Ming paused and looked around. He said, "It was a good plan and had almost succeeded."



However, good always triumph over evil. Chang Huan will soon suffer the consequences and kneel at my feet begging for mercy.”

Qin Ming spoke with a calculative and vicious tone, his voice filled with contempt for Chang Huan.

Qin Ming's words triggered two of Chang Huan's loyalists. They stood up suddenly and raised their hands holding porcelain guns aimed at Qin Ming, “You're a bastard and you have no right! Chang Huan is the legal heir, die!”

Everyone was in shock.

The guns were custom made from porcelain which would slip through metal detectors. It was the both of them that had leaked the location of the meeting.

Bang! Bang!

Before the two traitors could shoot, Bi Yuan and Money Leopard managed to beat them to it and shot the guns off their hands from behind.

“Argh!” the bullets had pierced their hands and they grimaced in pain. Blood was already oozing out of their palms.

Bi Yuan and his men charged at the two traitors and subdued them at once.

“Your impatience is your undoing. I never expected that a few insults could have drawn you out that easily. Take them to the police,” Qin Ming waved his hand and motioned for them to be removed.

Song Ying closed the door behind the assassination team, before they left, she rubbed her neck with her hands and said to Bi Yuan, “You did well, make sure there are no more problems.”

Bi Yuan replied softly, “Don't worry, they won't live to see tomorrow.”

Qin Ming did not clarify the reference to him as an illegitimate child. He felt that he could use it to his advantage and let it be.



Qin Ming then said, "Can the other two of you step out?"

The crowd was stunned, there's more?

Within the group, a man and another woman were utterly bewildered. They were supposed to be moles embedded deep in the organization, where they did not participate in the attack and would instead continue to be Chang Huan's spies in the event the attack failed."

No one should have known about them.

They looked at each other and wondered if they have been cheated?

Qin Ming then raised his hands and pointed at both of them. Their colleagues around them quickly kept their distance to avoid being collateral damage.

Xuanyuan Wu then entered the room with his men and held both of them at gunpoint.

As the two were escorted out, Song Ying wanted

to give Xuanyuan Wu some instructions but he preempted her, “Ms. Song, I know what to do. They won't be able to threaten young master anymore.”

When the traitors had finally been flushed out, a thin middle-aged man approached and said, “Sir, is it over already?”

Qin Ming smiled, “I'm sorry to have embarrassed myself in front of you, Mr. Feng. I'm still new to running this global organization, so forgive me for any deficiencies. Please don't laugh at my inexperience too.”

The man was surprised that Qin Ming knew his name. It was obvious that he had done his homework and it was his way of according respect to the old guards of the organization.

Feng Jianxing humbly replied, “You must be joking sir, we are your subordinates, how dare we laugh at you? We were greatly impressed by the fact that you had managed to defend us against such a large group of foreign mercenaries while still keeping us company. It's just that I'm no



longer young and my heart can't take such excitement anymore. Or else I wouldn't be of service anymore to you sir.”

Qin Ming laughed aloud, “Mr. Feng, you may be old but still going strong. Another twenty to thirty years of work shouldn't be a problem.”

After Qin Ming had dealt with Chang Huan's spies, he then focused on improving his relationship with the people in charge of Huaxia's industries in the north. He wanted to reassure them that as long as they worked hard for him, he would guarantee their welfare and career progression.

Besides, talk is cheap. He downed three glasses of wine and started enjoying himself with them.

As the night grew late, everyone had returned to their rooms to rest for the night. Qin Ming finally could heave a sigh of relief. He then sat quietly in the luxurious study room on the top floor and looked out the window towards the riverbank and the other skyscrapers.

Song Ying bent over and let Qin Ming rest his head on her chest, while she gently massaged his forehead.

Whenever he had too much to drink, Qin Ming always felt that her massage was especially comforting. It helped him soothe the headaches he experienced.

Qin Ming who was already feeling drowsy suddenly caught Song Ying's hand and turned to look at her. He asked, "Were all the mercenaries taken care of?"

Song Ying looked down and her hair touched Qin Ming's face. Their faces were only two inches away from each other. She replied, "Sir, don't worry, it has been taken care of."

Only then did Qin Ming let go of her hand. He then said, "That's good. My life had never been threatened this way ever before. They must suffer the consequences."

Song Ying squinted her eyes and looked out the window into the horizon and said, "Yes, sir. I will



dispose of whoever that dares to threaten you.”

Qin Ming slept but a ring from his handphone woke him up.

He looked at the time and it was 1 a.m. Song Ying had undressed him and placed him on the bed.

Qin Ming mumbled and said, “Who is it that's calling in the middle of the night. Do you believe that I'll whoop you in the ass?”

However, when he saw that he had over a hundred missed calls and three hundred unread messages, he instantly awoke from his drunkenness and stood up.



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