Chen Hao was also perplexed by the scene. It was all fine just now, so what happened that caused a change? It seemed like there was a conflict.

So, he looked in that direction in bewilderment.

In his sight, there was a middle-aged woman kneeling on the floor in the crowd.

On the other side, Old Master Fang's countenance was rather gloomy, while the appendage families of the Fang Family were all burning with indignation.

"That's her! She was once the personal maid of Fang Mengxin, the crook of the Fang Family! Quick, tell us where Fang Mengxin is. If you do, we will let you off!"

"In that year, Chen Family and Fang Family had a great fight just because of Fang Mengxin. However, those who suffered the most loss were us, the appendages of the family. I even lost my dear son who had just turned into an adult. It's all because of Fang Mengxin. Old Master Fang, if you are hiding Fang Mengxin, please hand her over

to us!"

"Yes! Hand her to us and give us an explanation!"

Many people gathered around Old Master Fang and shouted at him.

On the other side, Situ Hong sneered coldly.

Just a moment ago, there was a minor conflict.

It all happened when Fang Butong reprimanded Situ Hong in front of everyone for making unilateral decisions.

All these years, Situ Hong had been positioning himself as the head of these few families.

Furthermore, when he requested Fang Butong for some properties and for his son's marriage in the morning, Fang Butong had embarrassed him.

Long-standing grudges had already existed.

As the saying went, 'try peaceful means before resorting to force'. Since the peaceful means were ineffective, Situ Hong decided to risk it all today.

Therefore, he told everyone that the Fang Family had found the maid of Fang Mengxin some years ago.

Before this, Situ Hong had ordered people to monitor the Fang Family's movement.

Besides, there were plenty of Situ Hong's snitches in the Fang Family. Naturally, Situ Hong was informed of this matter.

What was more, he still had an ace card that he was going to hand over personally to Fang Butong.

So, let the internal conflict begin today!

Meanwhile, Fang Butong was staring at the crowd, simmering with rage.

They had been fighting secretly with each other for years.

Although the Fang Family was still large, it

was just a tall building without its framework. It might appear tall and sturdy, but it was actually in imminent danger.

Fang Butong was, of course, well aware of Situ Hong and his son's wild ambition.

However, Fang Butong thought that even though he was old now, he still had the ability to control the pair of father and son in his remaining years.

Yet, it was totally out of his expectation that this pair of father and son would launch attacks in public on his birthday banquet.

This pair of father and son was trying to intensify the conflict that was accumulated throughout the years, which had been suppressed all this while.

If it was not to mollify these few appendage families, Fang Butong would never have had the heart to sever ties with his own daughter!

"Today is my grandfather's 80th birthday. Did you come to celebrate it with my

grandfather or to denounce him?" Fang Jiannan suddenly interrupted in a cold voice.

"Jiannan, we're most honored to celebrate your grandfather's birthday, but our families lost numerous loved ones that year. Your grandfather once promised to offer us an explanation and compensation. It has been over two decades now, yet we still haven't met Fang Mengxin, the culprit. Plus, the so-called explanation is just giving us some mere properties. Now, your grandfather is hiding Fang Mengxin's maid in the Fang Family. If Mr. Situ didn't bring it to light, we would still be kept in the dark!"

"We have been the appendages of the Fang Family for many generations. How will your actions be accepted by us, Old Master?" A middle-aged man reproached indignantly.

"Exactly. I think it's useless to discuss this matter any further. Let's seize this maid and interrogate her with torture. I'm sure she will spill the whereabouts of Fang Mengxin!"

"Someone, pull her up!"

The bodyguards of a few appendage families immediately tried to pull Xia while she struggled.

"That's impudence! Do you think I don't know that you are actually aiming for my aunt's assets by pretending to find out her whereabouts?" Fang Jiannan shouted coldly.

At once, the people from the appendage families went silent.

"Jiannan, it's not quite appropriate to put it that way, but since you've said it, us, the Situ Family, must play an exemplary role. Indeed, we've only gotten a small fragment of Fang Mengxin's assets in the beginning, but the price we paid was way heavier than this. Therefore, it's only reasonable to share the assets equally among all of us!" Situ Hong replied.

In the past, Fang Mengxin and her eldest brother, the first son of the Fang Family, controlled almost half of the Fang Family's power.

Obviously, Fang Mengxin's power was stronger than Fang Jiannan's father.

If the power was shared equally among these few appendage families, they would be on the same level with the Fang Family, or even worse.

It seemed like this was the actual objective of the pair of father and son.

"Keep dreaming!" Fang Jiannan rebutted furiously.

"Jiannan, step aside. I don't need you in this matter!" At this moment, Fang Butong, who was watching with a grim face, finally spoke.

Fang Jiannan did not dare to oppose her grandfather's words, so she stepped to the side.

Meanwhile, Fang Butong went personally to negotiate with Situ Hong.

"Jiannan! Come here!" Suddenly, Fang Yi shouted for her.

Fang Jiannan frowned and walked to her.

When she approached Fang Yi, she saw Chen Hao who was grabbed by her.

Fang Jiannan was rather shocked. "Why are you here?"

"Let's put him aside first. Quick, tell me what happened. Are these few families striking a rebel?" Fang Yi grabbed Fang Jiannan's hand and asked.

Fang Jiannan nodded. "Grandfather told me before, asking me to beware of the Situ Family after his birthday banquet because the Situ Family has been conspiring to do something for all these years..."

She then glanced at Chen Hao before continuing, "But we didn't expect that he would stir up trouble during grandfather's birthday banquet. No wonder he made some requests to grandfather in such an imposing manner this morning!"

"What requests did he make?" Fang Yi inquired.

"Oh, I know. He must have proposed a marriage to you!"

Fang Jiannan nodded.

"Hmph, he's trying to punch above one's weight. I know, grandfather must have rejected him! Oh, and how did grandfather reject him that caused him to act out of desperation?" After a contemptuous snort, Fang Yi asked again.

"Actually... I have a marriage contract with someone ever since I was young!" Fang Jiannan's beautiful face blushed as she answered in a soft voice.

"What? With who? Why haven't I heard about this before?"

"Forget it. Let's not talk about this!"

Fang Jiannan shook her head.

After that, she set her eyes on the scene.

"Old Master, I've shown mercy in every way. Actually, if you give us the compensation we deserve, we will still

follow the Fang Family devotedly in the future. I don't think there's a need for me to spell it all out," Situ Hong said in a cold voice.

Fang Butong furrowed his eyebrows.

He finally understood why Situ Hong acted out of character that day and told him that he found his daughter, Fang Mengxin. He thought Situ Hong had changed his mind.

Unexpectedly, it was just his astute conspiracy.

Fang Butong had been mighty for all his life, but was at last thrown in confusion due to the love for his own daughter.

Nevertheless, veterans were always wiser than newcomers. The sensitive Fang Butong had still implemented extra protective measures.

"Hong, I don't know what you are talking about. Indeed, I've found Xia in order to ask her the whereabouts of Mengxin. Unfortunately, Xia doesn't know anything. I sympathize with her homelessness, so I

took her in. I think we've sorted it all out just now. What else do you want to say?" Fang Butong replied calmly.

"Old Master, I'm truly impressed by you.
However, my subordinates halted a car
right when it came out from the villa by
chance this morning. And by chance again,
we met a girl in the car. Tsk Tsk. That girl
was extraordinarily beautiful. Master Li
and Master Wang, you might not know, but
the girl is extremely beautiful. To what
extent? To the extent that she looks
exactly like Fang Mengxin! If you don't
believe me, I'll let my subordinates bring
her here!" Situ Hong answered with a
smile.

"Y-You kidnapped Ziyue?" At last, Fang Butong could not remain his composure anymore and asked in tremors.

"Is her name Ziyue? She kept her silence no matter what I asked her. I think it's best for all of us to ask her. Someone, bring the girl here!" Situ Hong commanded.



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As soon as Situ Hong finished speaking, a few people brought a girl into the scene.

The girl kept her head down without uttering a word, but her stunning face struck everyone's heart.

"How similar. They look exactly the same!"

"Yes. I thought Fang Mengxin from the past had returned!"

"We've been deceived. Perhaps Old Master Fang knew where Fang Mengxin was all this while, only that we've been kept in the dark all these years!"

Everyone could not stop discussing what they saw.

This girl was none other than Ziyue.

Ziyue's complexion was pale from the injuries, and her body was still weak.

"She really is aunt's daughter. It seems like grandfather found aunt's daughter!" Fang Jiannan also gasped in enlightenment.

"Ziyue!"

Fang Butong's face turned stern.

Initially, he had ordered people to send Su Ziyue away secretly, but he did not expect the Situ Family to have planted their people in the Fang Family. Therefore, Su Ziyue was caught by Situ Hong.

"Old Master Fang, we have both the witness and material evidence. What else do you have to say? Where is Fang Mengxin? Please hand her over!"

At this moment, the other families had united as one and were all glaring at Fang Butong.

In this situation, Fang Butong had nothing more to say, so his face became sullen.

He wanted to rescue Su Ziyue, but he must give an explanation to the appendage families due to the instigation of the Situ Family.

Just when he was in a quandary-

"Why are you making things difficult for the Fang Family? I am here!" A voice rang behind everyone.

Following the voice, they saw a woman walking toward them from outside the door.

"What?"

"Who is that? How did she come in?"

"Ew! Look at her face. She's beyond ugly!"

"I can't bear the sight of her. I'll have goosebumps if I look at her any second longer!"

The crowd was in a tumult at once.

Yang Xia was staring at Su Ziyue just now because Su Ziyue looked familiar, but she could not recall where she had met her.

When she turned and saw the woman who had just arrived, she could not help but purse her lips in disgust.

As for Fang Butong, his whole body

quivered violently.

This voice was way too familiar to him, and he had waited for this voice for twenty years.

However, Fang Butong could not believe his eyes when he saw the woman. This was his daughter, Mengxin, who was once an unparalleled beauty?

"Mengxin? I-Is that you, Mengxin?" Fang Butong asked while his hands trembled.

Fang Ze and Fang Li also stared at Fang Mengxin in astonishment before rushing to support Fang Butong.

"Father, it has been twenty years. I'm back now!"

Tears rolled down Fang Mengxin's cheeks at once.

"Sister?"

Fang Ze and Fang Li were thrown in a muddle and could only look at each other in disbelief.

"Gasp..."

Even Situ Hong and the others could not help but breath in a mouthful of air in astonishment.

"She's really Fang Mengxin, the eldest daughter of the Fang Family! Oh my, no wonder the Fang Family failed to locate her all these years. It's because Fang Mengxin, who was once as beautiful as a flower that dazzled innumerous people, looks like this now!"

"Exactly. Even if someone met her on the street, no one would recognize her!"

Everyone could not suppress their sighs.

"Miss, why did you come here?"

On the contrary, her maid, Xia, ran toward Fang Mengxin.

"Aunt Xia, I have to show myself in order to save Ziyue. You have been suffering for all these years because of me, Aunt Xia," Fang Mengxin said in an apologetic tone.

She then averted her gaze toward her daughter, Ziyue, who was staring at her in perplexity.

"Ziyue, I lied to you previously because we thought it was best after discussing with your brother. I'm actually your mother!"

Fang Mengxin held Su Ziyue's hand gently.

Su Ziyue finally understood why she would feel that Aunt Fang was familiar and approachable when she met her earlier.

So, she was Fang Mengxin, her mother whom she had been searching for?

Su Ziyue was caught in complicated emotions now and she was not sure how to address this woman whom she felt so close to. Should she call her as her mother or Aunt Fang?

"I understand now. No wonder we couldn't find any clues regarding my aunt previously!" Fang Jiannan said.

"Today is not the day for a reunion. Fang Mengxin, since you showed yourself, shouldn't you give us an explanation regarding that year's incident? You have been hiding for over twenty years since then, and we've put in countless effort to search for you!" Situ Hong interrupted coldly.

"Situ Hong, I know what you want to do, and it's pointless for you to threaten the Fang Family using me. That property will never end up in any of the appendage families' hands even if we were to allocate it. Since you wished to find me, here I am. I can go with you and you can deal with me however you want!" Fang Mengxin replied.

At once, Situ Hong's face became red in anger.

Although he had courted Fang Mengxin in the past, those feelings of romance were long gone now.

If Fang Mengxin did not appear, his plan would still succeed, but now that she had appeared, his plan would be fruitless.

Even if he killed Fang Mengxin, it would only be a pointless act if he could not get

those properties.

Situ Hong had been searching for Fang Mengxin's whereabouts all these years so that he could catch her and lock her up somewhere.

To his disappointment, she was nowhere to be found.

She was like a time bomb to him.

Unexpectedly, it exploded at this crucial time, causing Situ Hong and the rest to become the unreasonable rebels.

"Don't think I'll let you off. Someone, bring her away!" The heads of the few appendage families shouted in frustration due to the embarrassment they felt.

Fang Butong was about to stop them.

"Old Master, someone sent a birthday gift to you! They're outside!" Suddenly, a butler rushed in with puffs and pants. He seemed nervous.

"What?"

"Those gifts are all priceless!"

The butler seemed to be shocked.

"What? Who is the sender?"

Today, Fang Butong had invited all the guests that he needed to invite.

Fang Butong knew clearly the abilities of these families, and he was sure that they were unable to give anything priceless.

Besides, the butler would not be in a great shock if the gift was common.

The butler gulped in nervousness and replied, "He said he was your old friend, and that he comes from the Chen Family of the Southern Region!"

"What? The Chen Family of the Southern Region?!"

With a tremble, Fang Butong's walking stick escaped his grip and fell onto the ground.

Even everyone at the scene was stupefied.

Anyone who belonged to the Fang Family's appendage or the direct descendants knew about the Chen Family of the Southern Region.

It was a supreme family now.

It was also because of the Chen Family of the Southern Region that the Fang Family did not dare to make any big move in over ten years.

Their existence was absolutely terrifying.

Obviously, the grudge between the Chen Family and the Fang Family was also well-known by everyone.

Fang Jiannan walked to her grandfather's side at this moment.

After all, the one who caused the death of her parents was the Chen Family.

Were they finally meeting this mysterious great enemy today?

Situ Hong's face went ashen. It seemed to be a bad time to launch an attack on the

Fang Family today. Now that the Chen Family was here, he would totally become a minor character in this scene.

Usually, they were just blabbering when they said Chen Family was their enemy. Who would have the courage to oppose the Chen Family openly?

Even if the Chen Family was the culprit to their great loss of people in the past, Situ Hong and those heads of the appendage families would never have the audacity to utter a word in front of absolute power.

Meanwhile, Chen Hao was watching this scene at a side dumbfoundedly.

Someone from his family came?

Indeed. He did tell his subordinate the location of the Fang Family, but he did not expect them to come under the name of the Chen Family of the Southern Region.

And, who came?

Chen Hao was itching with curiosity.

At this moment, the butler spoke again, "It's the Young Master of the Chen Family, Young Master Chen!"



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