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On the way back, Erbao was still very lively but Ning Ran was about to doze off.

The discussion she had had earlier with Nan Xing on marriage did not end with an outcome.

She agreed to get married, but would only decide on the date after reviewing the terms and conditions of the prenuptial agreement.

Ning Ran had initially wanted to delay the process, as she did not want to marry him.

This did not mean that she had not dreamt of walking down the aisle in a grand wedding, nor that she was not interested in forming a complete family.

She felt that something was not right between the two of them, but could not exactly figure out the problem.

So the best option would be to delay the process, until she figured it out.

Upon reaching Cheng Xiangyun's tiny neighborhood, Nan Xing looked up at the ordinary house and frowned.

"It's time to move to a better place, somewhere more spacious. How about this — if you do not wish to stay in the Nan's residence, I'll buy you one elsewhere."

Ning Ran froze for a bit and immediately rejected the offer, "No thanks, it is fine staying here. Sometimes when I'm busy, Cheng can take care of the kids for me."

"But this house is way too small for so many people...."

"Are you implying those who do not stay in large mansions are not worthy of being called 'humans'?" Ning Ran was annoyed.

"What I mean is, there are too many people living in this small unit. Even if she's your good friend, it just doesn't seem right. I'll buy you a villa. You can invite your friend to move in as well."

"No thanks, really. We're doing just fine here. Once I've earned enough money, I'll buy my own house." Ning Ran did not want to owe Nan Xing a favor.

Moreover, she enjoyed staying here. There was Cheng Xiangyun to help cook, do house chores and take care of the children. It was almost like hiring a nanny for free. Where else could she enjoy these kinds of benefits?

Moreover, she would have to take care of a lot of things on her own should they really move out. At this point, she did not have enough time and energy to take on a heavier workload.

"Fine. Since we're going to get married in a few days, you will eventually move to our place. We'll talk about this then."

Nan Xing had to give in since Ning Ran opposed the idea.

While Nan Xing and Ning Ran were discussing houses, a group of men had approached a BMW that was parked right across the street.

The person in the car was Feng Minsheng, who had brought Ning Ran a bouquet of flowers during the day.

He was waiting at the neighborhood's entrance for Ning Ran, but decided to hide after seeing Nan Xing.

But that group of men had still spotted and got hold of him.

"Who are you? What are you doing?" Feng Minsheng shouted.

"Our boss wants to talk to you. Come with us."

The Nan family's security captain Qiao Zhan, who had a pair of sunglasses on at night, looked like someone you would not want to mess with.

"Who's your boss, and what does he want?"

"Stop talking. You'll know when you see him."

Feng Minsheng was brought to a center with dimly-lit rooms. A man with his back turned was enjoying a drink alone.

Feng Minsheng could only see his back and felt that he had seen this body shape before. What was even more familiar was the cold aura he exuded.

The man heard footsteps but did not turn around. He only lifted his fingers gently.

"What's your name?" Qian Zhan started asking.

"Who are these people? Why did you bring me here?" Feng Minsheng shouted.

"I asked you first." Qiao Zhan responded coldly.

"Wh... why should I answer you. I don't even know who you are..."

Qiao Zhan's punch landed on him, followed by several rounds of kicking, before he could finish his sentence.

Qiao Zhan had seen people like Feng Minsheng, who were good at faking their bravery. And he knew that people like him would not tell the truth unless they were given 'special treatment'.

"I'm Feng Minsheng."

Without a doubt, those punches and kicks did successfully make him talk.

"What's your relationship with Ms. Ding Mi?"

"We've known each other since young and we are lovers." Feng Minsheng intentionally emphasized the word 'lovers' to make a point.

The man with the drink stopped what he was doing. He did not continue drinking but put down the wine glass heavily.

"When did the two of you know each other?"

"We were high schoolmates and have liked each other since then. I left Flower City because my parents had to relocate for work, but we kept in touch." Feng Minsheng said.

Feng Minsheng gradually calmed down, as he realized that the environment was not as hostile as he had thought.

The man with his back turned. It seemed that he was just trying to find out about his relationship with Ning Ran, not to hurt him.

He was relieved. This also meant that he could make up stories, as long as they were not over the top.

"So, are you pursuing her? Are you trying to reignite your relationship with her?"

"Nope, we have been contacting each other all this while. She still loves me and I love her."

Qiao Zhan took a glance at the boss' back. He did not know whether to continue with the interrogation.

The room felt more and more chilly. He was unsure if the problem lay with his questions or Feng Minsheng's answers.

"So, what's the status of your relationship with her now?"

"Of course, we're a couple. I'll do anything for her and she will do the same for me. But two days ago, she did tell me that a rich man was courting her and she was annoyed. The man is very powerful, she had no choice..."

BANG!

The glass on the table fell onto the floor and shattered into pieces.

Of course, the glass would not have dropped on its own. Someone must have thrown it to the floor.

Knowing the boss was infuriated, Qiao Zhan started punching and kicking Feng Minsheng again.

Feng Minsheng screamed with exaggeration, but he was secretly rejoicing, as he was one step closer to achieving his objective. Once he accomplished his objective, his family crisis would soon be over.

The mysterious man waved his hand in the air to stop Qiao Zhan.

Feng Minsheng was taken out, and the room was left with Qiao Zhan and the quiet man.

"Should I kick him out of the Flower City so we don't have to see him again?" Qiao Zhan wanted to know what his boss thought.

The question was left unanswered. This meant Qiao Zhan's plan was not accepted.

The man stood up, poured some wine into another glass, turned around and gave it to Qiao Zhan, "You've worked hard."

Of course, Qiao Zhan must finish the drink. This wine was of a good quality, plus a reward from his boss.

He tilted his head backward and finished the wine, "Thank you, Third Young Master."

"The Nan family's reputation is at stake. You must keep this a secret." Nan Chen said in a cold tone.

"Understood, Third Young Master."

Nan Chen stretched his long legs and walked out of the room. His face was pale and emotionless.

Since did not give any further instructions, Qiao Zhan did not know what to do.

He was also puzzled as to why Third Young Master would want to be involved in this. He would usually wash his hands off this kind of insignificant matter. What's wrong with him? Taking time off his busy schedule just to interrogate him personally?

Qiao Zhan would have been able to get rid of Feng Minsheng from the Flower City had the master given him the greenlight to do so, but that was not the case. What was he thinking?

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The Nan residence. Upon listening to Feng Minsheng's recording, Nan Xing could not help but frown. "Brother, is this true?"

Nan Chen said with his poker face, "You think I made this up to fool you?"

"It's not what I mean. I just thought that this dude could have made these stories up." Nan Xing said. Nan Chen felt disgusted when the image of Feng Minsheng speeding in his BMW popped up in his mind.

"He did not lie. They have been... together all this while." Nan Chen almost blurted out their 'secret love affair', but held back those words, because he did not want to hurt Nan Xing. Nan Xing was down. *Is this why Ning Ran chose not to marry me?*

"I don't understand, brother. Is this BMW guy better than me? What made Ning Ran choose him?" Nan Xing said in disappointment.

"He's nothing. How can he even compete with you? You're just degrading your worth if you put yourself at his level. Do not think like this again." Nan Chen said coldly.

Nan Chen felt that this incident had humiliated not just Nan Xing but himself as well. It might have even humiliated the entire Nan family.

Her children were members of the Nan family, after all. Her questionable and irresponsible behavior had hurt the children and Nan Xing, and this meant that she had also hurt the Nan family as well.

He was raging, but did not say it out, and could not say it out. "What are we going to do, brother?" Nan Xing looked at Nan Chen. Nan Chen kept quiet. Since Nan Chen did not speak, Nan Xing had to think of a solution on his own.

"I will not concede defeat. I must outwit that BMW guy, or else it would be embarrassing for me. I cannot allow this to happen." Nan Xing mumbled. Nan Chen remained silent.

Should I allow Nan Xing to compete with the BMW guy? That just sounds ridiculous. A member from the Nan family fighting for a woman? This is so unheard of.

"Just let her go. It's time to give up." Nan Chen said unsympathetically. "No, she is the mother of my children. I can't give up." Nan Xing refused. Nan Chen was just as troubled. *Why does the mother of the two children have to be this woman? Why her?*

"Forget about her. Let's take the kids back." Nan Chen's tone became even colder. "How can you say that, brother?"

"Do you think a woman like this deserves to be the children's mother? Can you imagine the kind of nonsense she would teach them?" Nan Chen was frustrated.

It was all peace and harmony in the Nan family – until this woman appeared and messed everything up.

"I disagree with what you've said. I don't think Ning Ran is bad. Even if she truly likes that man, what's wrong? She has the freedom to fall in love with anyone."

Nan Chen was stunned. Why are you defending her? And ironically, it seems like a logical justification too...

"A woman who flirts around with several men at the same time, and you don't see this as a problem?" Nan Chen stared at Nan Xing.

"I don't think there are many men... isn't he the only one?"

Nan Chen was speechless. Seemed like Nan Xing was too mesmerized by her charm.

"Suit yourself. But I have to warn you — you cannot allow this woman to bring shame to the Nan family!"

"Brother, she has never done that before, isn't it? I mean she's still an outsider. It would be impossible for her to be a disgrace to the family."

Nan Chen could tell that Nan Xing had truly fallen under her spell.

Whenever someone mentioned the woman's name, Nan Xing would defend her outrightly.

It would have been a good sign for a veritable Casanova like Nan Xing. If this had happened to another woman, Nan Chen would have supported him.

But not this time – not with this promiscuous woman. She would just make Nan Xing a cuckold.

This discussion must not be continued, as Nan Chen was afraid that he might lose his temper at his brother.

"Let's call it a day. Shall we visit Lunlun tomorrow?"

"Has he recovered?" Nan Xing was pleased to have finally received some good news.

'There's still some problems. You'll know tomorrow." Nan Chen said, and walked away.

Nan Xing immediately called Ning Ran right after that.

Ning Ran was still awake, busy reading her script and getting ready for tomorrow's scene.

"Ran, I have good news! I was told that Lunlun is recuperating well. We're visiting him tomorrow. Want to join us?"

"I'd love to, but I have a scene to shoot, not sure if I have the time. I will have to ask the director first."

Ning Ran was glad to hear that Zheng Lunlun was fine.

"Don't bother, I'll call him now." Nan Xing said.

"That's not very nice. You've always been interrupting the production. I think you should stop doing this." Ning Ran was concerned.

"What's wrong? The Nanshi Corporation is the biggest investor in the entertainment business, and they will have to obey everything the investor says!"

Ning Ran disliked his arrogance but admittedly, Nan Xing was the best person to deal with that bootlicking director Wang Yan.

"Alright, if you manage to sort things out with him, I'll go with you."

"Consider it done. I'll pick you up tomorrow morning." Nan Xing said with joy.

After ending the call, Nan Xing came to his dressing room and looked into the mirror.

I'm a handsome and dignified man. How can that BMW guy possibly win me?

Nan Xing would not want to believe it.

"Come on, you're the best. You're going to court the mother of the children." Nan Xing punched the mirror and let out a cry childishly, but in an adorable manner.

While Ning Ran and Cheng Xiangyun were busy preparing breakfast the next morning, Nan Xing arrived.

It definitely looked like a hot mess, since the house was already small and there were still so many people living in it.

Moreover, they did not have the time to tidy up the house. Nan Xing stood beside the sofa and glanced through the piles of things that were scattered all over the house. He did not know where to sit.

"This is not going to work. I will get Chai Hua to arrange two helpers for you. Your house is in a mess, I can't even find a place to sit!" Nan Xing exclaimed.

"Forget it, if you're going to get two more helpers to come in, we might not even have a proper place to stand anymore." Ning Ran said.

"Then change to a bigger house. Ms. Cheng can move in with you all." Nan Xing brought this issue up again.

"I've told you. I like living here, it's comfortable, and Cheng wouldn't want to leave either..."

"Oh no no no, I'm more than willing. Why would I say no to a bigger house?" Cheng Xiangyun quickly clarified.

Ning Ran sighed. Woman, where is your integrity?

"What are you talking about, you're not willing to move, okay!" Ning Ran signaled Cheng Xiangyun to cooperate with the corner of her eyes.

Cheng Xiangyun would not want to play along, "Oh no, I'm definitely willing to move out of here!" "Why would I insist on living in a pigsty if a bigger house awaits me? I'm not crazy, okay. Oh, Master Nan, how big is the house? Does it come with a garden? How about a swimming pool? Will our neighbors be rich and handsome too?"

Nan Xing was overjoyed, and raised his thumb, "Ms., Cheng you're a very honest person! As long as you are able to convince Ran, you'll get your garden and swimming pool!"

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"There's no way she could convince me. Nan Xing, you better stop tempting this ignorant middle-aged woman with all these material desires!" Ning Ran was infuriated.

"You're the damn ignorant middle-aged woman!" Cheng Xiangyun retaliated. "Someone offers you a big house but you reject it. Are you out of your mind?"

"That's right, you're out of your mind!" Nan Xing could not agree more.

"Since you're still a 'sound' person, why don't you go and stay? I'm not going anywhere." Ning Ran said disdainfully.

"If you don't go, I will not allow you to stay here. Don't forget, this is my house!" Cheng Xiangyun was not ready to lose in this argument.

"Oh yes, Ms. Cheng is the owner of this house, she has the absolute right to kick her out of the house!" Nan Xing continued to add fuel to the fire.

"How dare you!" Ning Ran threatened Cheng Xiangyun, "I'm going to be a superstar soon. If you dare to chase me out, I'll get another manager!"

"Wow, such confidence. You think you can become a superstar without me as your prized manager?" Cheng Xiangyun stepped up her game.

"Oh, Cheng, come on. Let's not fall for this temptation. Isn't this house great for us? This place would be left vacant if we move out. Isn't it a waste?" Ning Ran toned down her approach.

"Not at all, I can rent this unit out for some additional income. With a bigger house to stay and extra money to earn, isn't it a win-win situation?" Cheng Xiangyun exclaimed.

"Oh my God, I can't believe a money-minded woman like you exists, and what's worse is — you're my friend!" Ning Ran cried.

Cheng Xiangyun ignored Ning Ran and turned her attention to Nan Xing, "Master Nan, I'm ready to pack my things and move!"

"Cheng, you're a woman with integrity, you will not move out from here. And you will not be blinded by all these vain promises."

Realizing she was almost on the verge of defeat; Ning Ran changed her strategy. Instead of trying to offend her, she tried playing nice now.

"No, being tempted is my greatest joy in life. Besides, it's good for the children. They'll have a more spacious house to grow up in." Cheng Xiangyun was not moved by Ning Ran's words.

Ning Ran thought that there was no way she could outtalk her. Cheng Xiangyun is hopeless!

I've no choice, I have to seek support from the young ones.

Ning Ran turned around and looked at the children, "My darlings, you enjoy living here, right?"

Erbao looked at Nan Xing first, then looked at Cheng Xiangyun, then switched her attention to her older brother, but dared not to answer.

"We'll follow where mummy goes." Dabao suddenly voiced out his thoughts, and Ning Ran was relieved to hear this.

Ning Ran was very touched. Indeed, I know I can always count on you, Dabao!

Erbao resonated, "I'll follow my brother!"

Cheng Xiangyun scooped the two children up in her arms, "You two traitors, Auntie Xiangyun had been treating you so well, yet you decide to go against me!"

Erbao giggled, "Auntie Xiangyun is the prettiest in the world, I will always support you, okay."

All of them put aside their differences, and ended the serious topic on a lighthearted note.

After sending the children to school, Ning Ran decided to go to the filming location first, and would visit Zheng Lunlun later.

No doubt the director had to take orders from the Nan family, but we cannot always do as we please.

Nan Xing's appearance at the site yesterday had already disturbed the filming schedule, and we should not put the project on hold again.

Nan Xing respected Ning Ran's decision, and sent her to the site.

He initially wanted to stay back and watch, but Ning Ran ordered him to leave.

When Nan Xing was at the entrance and ready to get into his car, he heard someone calling, "Young Master Xing."

It was Tang Jing, the supporting actress who worked closely with Ning Ran.

Tang Jing was known for her intelligence and beauty, and this was reflected in the way she dressed.

She was wearing a pair of tight black pants that suited her long legs, a suit that fit her body perfectly, coupled with her proper businesslike posture. She did not look like an actress, but a high-rank white-collared employee.

"Yes?" Nan Xing asked.

I didn't quite notice her yesterday. This actress actually looks quite pretty, and seems to carry herself well.

"I'm Tang Jing, and I wish to have a word with Young Master Xing. Are you free?"

Tang Jing mentioned her name so that Nan Xing could remember.

"Hello, Ms. Tang."

Nan Xing was used to women striking a conversation with him. So long as they were not hideous, he would entertain them out of courtesy.

"Young Master Xing, Ms. Ding's acting is superb, and I have learnt a lot from her." Tang Jing casually used Ning Ran as a conversation starter.

"Oh really? She's an actress with depth."

"But there are some unpleasant rumors about her as well. I argued with another actress yesterday over it. She was questioning Ms. Ding for accepting suitors' flowers, even though she already has a husband." "I told her, that's not a bad thing for an actress after all. Besides, Ms. Ding wasn't the one who took the initiative, how can we blame her." Tang Jing said all this while observing Nan Xing's reaction.

Clearly, Nan Xing was interested in this subject, "Does it happen all the time, besides the guy from yesterday?"

"Not a lot actually. Ms. Ding is a very disciplined person, but fans can be a little fanatic at times. During the first few days when I first came in, about seven or eight people came to see her, but Ms. Ding ordered them to leave." Tang Jing said.

"Seven or eight? So many?"

"Didn't Ms. Ding tell you? But I guess it's for the best. She wouldn't want you to be bothered by this." "How about this – I'll help you to watch out for Ms. Ding, and report to you directly if any handsome man tries to approach her? If these people try to fool around, I'll inform you right away, what do you think?"

"Okay, this sounds good. Report to me if anyone tries to harass her." Nan Xing agreed to the plan.

"Alright. But... would Ms. Ding be angry with me if I do so?"

"What could possibly go wrong if I don't tell her?"

"Ah yes, okay. So... how should I contact you, since I don't have your number?"

Tang Jing finally asked what she truly wanted. It was her intention all along to get his contact.

"Add me on WeChat." Nan Xing took his phone out.

Tang Jing was so excited that her hands were shaking when she whipped her phone out.

She had finally added Young Master Xing on WeChat – the young master from the wealthiest family in all over Flower City. This was definitely a good start for her!

After adding his WeChat, Tang Jing could not contain her excitement, "Thank you for your trust. Don't worry, I will keep you informed if anything happens to Ms. Ding."

"Alright. If anyone bullies her, you have to tell me as well. She tends to keep things to herself, even when she is treated badly."

"Okay, so this is our secret, yeah? Young Master Xing

please do not tell Ms. Ding." Tang Jing reminded him again.

"Don't worry, I won't."

Nan Xing got into his car, while Tang Jing stood there and waved goodbye reluctantly.

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The car was started and sped out. Nan Xing looked at Tang Jing through the reflection in the mirror, and a playful smile spread across his lips.

This woman had hit on him because she wanted his contact information. She thought she was being smart, but Nan Xing had already seen this method countless times.

In the past, many actresses have thought that if they got close to the young master of the Nan family, they would be prosperous and have a bright future.

But, that wasn't the case. Most of the actresses ended up being a mere flower in the bush that Nan Xing would casually pluck, sniff and then toss aside.

Beauty was one of the assets women can possess, but not every woman could rely on their assets to earn themselves a bright future.

There were simply too many beautiful women out there. To a playboy like Nan Xing, the more they tried to get close to him, the less attractive they became.

Then, his phone rang. It was Nan Chen's private number.

Nan Chen told him on the phone that he had something very important to take care of and would visit Zheng Lunlun a bit later.

Nan Xing said it was fine and they could just go together later.

At five o'clock in the afternoon, Nan Xing first dropped the children off at the Nan household for the nanny to take care of them. Then, he went to pick up Ning Ran at the set and prepared to visit Zheng Lunlun at the hospital.

While still on the way, his phone rang. It was a video call request from Tang Jing.

Nan Xing pulled over by the side of the road and answered the call.

As expected of an actress, even the camera angle in the video call looked great. Tang Jing's pretty face appeared on the phone screen.

"Yes, Ms. Tang?"

"Mr. Nan, the guy named Feng has come again."

"Feng?" Nan Xing was confused.

"It's the guy that gave Ms. Ding flowers and drives a BMW." Tang Jing said.

"What the hell, this guy again? I'll be there right away. Watch me take care of him!" Nan Xing hung up on the video call and drove faster towards the set.

On the set, Ning Ran was feeling troubled as well. She was going to leave with Cheng Xiangyun, but Feng Minsheng was in her way.

"Ran, we had some misunderstandings before, but I can explain and clear them up! Just give me a chance and have dinner with me!"

"I told you, I have to go visit a friend, so I'm busy today."

"Then I'll give you a ride there! We can talk on the car too."

"No need. I'll take Cheng Xiangyun's car."

"Ran, why are you being so cold with me? I took half the day off today just to invite you to dinner. I've been waiting a few hours here for you, and this is how you treat me?"

Even Xiangyun couldn't take it anymore, "How about you just take his car instead? I think he's quite sincere."

"That's right. If you don't have time for dinner with me, then at least let me give you a ride. I just want to talk to you." Feng Minsheng said.

"Feng Minsheng, why are you doing this? I told you it's impossible between us! We are not clueless high school students anymore; we can't go back to that! Leave me alone!" Ning Ran got mad.

"Then, can we at least be friends? I did come all this way, after all. It's fine if we can't have dinner, but at least let me give you a ride?" Feng Minsheng was not letting up.

"Ms. Ding, look at how sincere he is being. It doesn't make a difference whose car you take anyway, right? You get off at your destination anyway." Tang Jing also tried to persuade her.

"I......" Ning Ran didn't want to get into Feng Minsheng's car as it would easily lead to misunderstandings.

"Go on, Ms. Ding. If you don't, Mr. Feng won't let up either. It would be never-ending this way." Tang Jing continued to persuade her.

Ning Ran thought about it, She's right. If I don't take up his offer, he'll just keep pestering me here and that would look bad to the others. Guess I'll get in his car then.

"Fine, drop me off at the hospital then. I'll have you know, I'm not free to have dinner with you. I'm visiting a friend of mine there." Ning Ran finally agreed.

"Okay!" Feng Minsheng was delighted that Ning Ran finally said yes.

A smile formed on Tang Jing's face as well.

Tang Jing took out her phone and called her assistant. She told her assistant to not wait for her and just drive away.

Soon after Ning Ran left in Feng Minsheng's car, Nan Xing arrived in his luxurious sports car.

He saw that most of the crew had left, and only Tang Jing was standing there by herself.

"Where is she?" Nan Xing got down from his car and looked around.

"Ms. Ding left in Mr. Feng's car earlier. I think they said they were going to have dinner together." Tang Jing said.

"Have dinner? With that bastard?!" Nan Xing got mad.

"Ms. Ding didn't seem willing either. It was Mr. Feng that kept pestering her, so she had no choice but to say yes. You know how it is, when a guy is too persistent, a girl has to give in a bit. Otherwise, some guys might not take rejection too well and could be capable of doing anything." Tang Jing was very clever with her words. She appeared to be defending Ning Ran, and wouldn't get on Nan Xing's bad side herself either.

"Have they been gone long?" Nan Xing asked helplessly.

"They were gone not long after I called you, so I think they're quite far from here by now. Mr. Nan Xing, don't you trust Ms. Ding? She's a good woman. Don't worry, I'm sure nothing will happen with Mr. Feng. They're just having dinner together, after all."

Actually, Ning Ran had not been gone for long, and Nan Xing could've easily caught up to them if he had chased after them immediately.

Nan Xing took out his phone and called Ning Ran, who answered rather quickly.

"I'm going straight to the hospital now. See you there."

"Why didn't you wait for me?" Nan Xing was a little angry.

"I forgot to tell you; I went ahead in a friend's car. You go on ahead and meet me there. That's all, bye." Ning Ran felt she didn't have to explain much to Nan Xing, and hung up the phone.

Nan Xing was so mad that he nearly smashed his phone.

Tang Jing saw the look on Nan Xing's face, and figured that Ning Ran probably didn't say anything nice to him.

"Mr. Nan Xing, don't be mad at Ms. Ding, she didn't do anything wrong. You're a gentleman, it's unbecoming to get angry at a woman."

"What are you still doing here? Why haven't you left?" Nan Xing looked at Tang Jing.

"I'm waiting for my assistant to pick me up, but she said she had a flat tire on the way here. She's a girl and doesn't know how to change a tyre, so I think I'll be in for quite a wait." Tang Jing looked at her watch.

"It takes a long time to change a tire. How about I give you a ride instead?" Nan Xing said.

"No, I don't want people to see that and misunderstand. I'll wait here, you go on ahead, Mr. Nan Xing." "Let's just go together. It's too rural here, so it'd be hard to get a cab from here anyway. Come on, get in."

"But, are you sure it's okay, Mr. Nan Xing?"

Nan Xing laughed, "Many women have gotten into my car before, so my reputation was already bad anyway. I'm not afraid of a little gossip."

"Alright then, I shall trouble you for a ride." Tang Jing smiled as she got into the car.

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As an intellectual beauty in the entertainment industry, Tang Jing had many suitors around her. But Tang Jing would never accept their offers easily, because she held herself in high regard.

She was after a higher social status and greater benefits, not houses or cars. So, she had rejected the advances of many wealthy suitors. She was waiting until she found a person capable of getting her into the upper classes in society before she would make a move.

Clearly, this handsome young master of the powerful Nan family was exactly the kind of person she was waiting for. She had heard about the Nan family through various sources ever since she arrived in Flower City.

The Nan family was like a symbol of this city, as the Nanshi Corporation's involvement could be seen in all sorts of businesses here. Even the advertisements on the plane she had taken to come to Flower City was all about Nanshi Corporation.

The people around her were also discussing Nanshi Corporation and a person named Nan Chen. She had heard from the gossips that Nan Chen stayed away from women and kept a low profile yet was a very capable person.

In other words, his existence was like that of a God's. As for the Nan family, they were the top in Flower City.

After Tang Jing got off the plane and was on the way to the hotel, the advertisements she saw along the way were also all about the Nanshi Corporation.

At that moment, she had an idea and searched for information about Nan Chen on the internet.

A handsome face that looked as cold as ice and gave off a distant feeling even through photographs.

What disappointed Tang Jing was that Nan Chen already has a girlfriend, which is the famous star Luo Fei.

However, Tang Jing was here to replace Luo Fei in the set, which puzzled her.

Why would Luo Fei be replaced if she had the Nan family to support her?

Besides, Luo Fei seemed to have just disappeared without a trace.

Tang Jing had tried to find out what happened to Luo Fei but nobody knew where she went either.

She felt that there was a secret behind all this.

She had been waiting for an opportunity, and it finally came.

"Mr. Nan Xing, Luo Fei was the original female lead for *The Sound of Thunder 2*, right?"

Tang Jing looked at Nan Xing who was driving. That face was the most handsome one Tang Jing had ever seen!

She had worked with many male handsome stars before, but none of them came close to this one!

"I think so." Nan Xing answered casually as he was not interested in this matter.

The only thing on his mind at the moment was if anything happened to Ning Ran while on that BMW.

It's probably nothing, right? They're in broad daylight right now, so it should be fine, right?

Although that BMW guy looked okay, he's nothing compared to me. Ning Ran wouldn't find him attractive, right?

Nan Xing got increasingly agitated as he thought about it.

"Then, why did they replace her?" Tang Jing continued asking.

"It's very complicated and difficult to explain." Nan Xing was still casual in his reply.

But Tang Jing's curiosity had grown even more after hearing that. Difficult to explain? That means there must be an interesting story behind it!

But she could see that Nan Xing was distracted and knew that she wouldn't get the answers she wanted if she kept asking now.

Besides, she couldn't ask too many questions or Nan Xing might get suspicious.

"Mr. Nan Xing, how did you and Ms. Ding know each other?" Tang Jing tried changing the topic.

Nan Xing clearly found this topic more interesting as he turned to look at Tang Jing, "Why do you ask?"

"I just admire Ms. Ding for having such a nice husband like you."

"But she doesn't think of me like that. Didn't you hear? She wouldn't even let me call her my wife!"

"Yeah, I was curious about that as well. You two already have children of your own, so why wouldn't Ms. Ding let you call her your wife?"

"We haven't gotten officially married. The children were an accident."

Tang Jing was delighted upon hearing that. So there is still a chance!

"Then why not get married?"

Nan Xing got angry when he heard that question, "She wouldn't! I said I wanted to give her a grand wedding but she wouldn't agree to it!"

"Seriously? Every woman dreams of marrying someone as great as you, Mr. Nan Xing! Why wouldn't Ms. Ding agree to it? I don't believe it!" Tang Jing purposely put on a look of disbelief to show Nan Xing her support.

"I don't believe it either, but it is the truth. I don't understand her thoughts at all." Nan Xing said dejectedly.

"My goodness, could Ms. Ding actually like Mr. Feng? I heard they were childhood sweethearts. No, that can't be. That guy could never be compared to someone as great as you, Mr. Nan Xing."

Tang Jing was subtly affecting Nan Xing's emotions.

What Nan Xing worried about the most was that Ning Ran might have a past relationship with that guy.

Tang Jing's words had just made him feel worse about it.

"I'd better advise Ms. Ding about this later. I can't let her keep going down the wrong path like this. Missing out on someone as good as Mr. Nan Xing would be her biggest loss in life." Tang Jing continued to fuel Nan Xing's anger. "I don't believe that I'd lose to that guy. I'm the father of the children, after all. So what if they were childhood sweethearts? They haven't met for so long, whatever love they had for each other would've been gone by now! That guy must have been pestering her relentlessly. I have to do something about it!"

Nan Xing had been influenced by Tang Jing without realizing it. Even the smartest person in the world could be swayed by their emotions.

At that moment, Tang Jing casually whipped out her phone and took a selfie.

Only half of Nan Xing's face could be seen in the picture, but it was enough for his handsome face to be recognized by everyone.

"What are you going to do about it, Mr. Nan Xing? Do you need me to help you with it?" Tang Jing asked.

"How would you help me?"

"I could supply you with information. Things like when Ms. Ding goes on a date with Mr. Feng and where they are going. I can inform you about it immediately, and you can stop them in time."

Nan Xing got anxious, "Date? You're saying they went on dates?"

"I heard that from the crew, but they are envious of Ms. Ding, so they must have made that up to destroy her reputation. You mustn't believe their words; I don't think Ms. Ding is like that."

Nan Xing was losing his patience, "What else have the crew said?"

"Forget about it, Mr. Nan Xing. They're just baseless rumors anyway."

"Tell me! What have they been saying?!" Nan Xing grew increasingly impatient.

"Do you really want to hear it? I think it's better not to. Why would you want to hear about lies meant to slander Ms. Ding?" Tang Jing acted like she was uncomfortable with it.

"Go on, stop dilly-dallying. Hurry up!"

"Ugh, you're such a persistent one, Mr. Nan Xing. The crew said that one time they ended filming very late. Mr. Feng picked up Ms. Ding and they went straight to a hotel nearby. And Ms. Ding came out of the hotel the next day, so she had been with Mr. Feng...... No, that can't be true, I don't believe it."

Nan Xing slammed his hand on the steering wheel, "I'm going to kill Mr. Feng!"

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At the entrance of the brain specialist hospital, Ning Ran got off the car but Feng Minsheng had no intention of leaving. "Ran, why don't I visit your friend with you?"

"No, just leave already! I'm begging you!" Ning Ran said. Ning Ran started walking towards a nearby supermarket as she couldn't visit a patient empty-handed.

But Feng Minsheng kept following Ning Ran from behind, refusing to leave. Ning Ran was really angry this time. She turned around and pointed at Feng Minsheng with a frown, "Feng Minsheng, you just won't leave me alone, will you?!"

"What's gotten into you, Ran?" Feng Minsheng put on an innocent act. "Do you have some ulterior motives for following me around like this?"

Feng Minsheng shrugged, "What ulterior motives could I have? I just like you, that's all." "I don't want you to like me!" "I can't help it, it's beyond my control."

"Don't give me that crap! I'm warning you, stay away from me or we won't even be friends anymore!" Ning Ran said angrily. "Alright, I'll stay away from you."

Ning Ran pointed at Feng Minsheng motioning at him to not follow her, and then walked forward. At the supermarket, she bought some fruits and some milk.

Although Zheng Lunlun wasn't lacking anything, she still had to buy something for him to show her sincerity. After paying for the items, she realized that she bought a bit too much and it was rather heavy.

Feng Minsheng appeared again suddenly, "Here, let me give you a hand." Ning Ran was too kind to hit a nice guy, so she let him help carry the items.

When they reached the entrance of the hospital, Ning Ran took the items over, "Alright, I can take it from here, you can go back now. Stop following me, or I'll call the police on you for harassment!"

"I'll wait for you at the parking lot then. I can send you home later." "No need. I'm telling you again, stop following me or I'll sue you for harassment!"

"Ran....."

"Stop addressing me so affectionately! This is the end of the line, stop following me!"

"Ran, I know you liked me. I always knew." Feng Minsheng suddenly stepped forward and hugged Ning Ran as he said that. Ning Ran pushed him away with all her might, then Feng Minsheng turned around and ran away.

Ning Ran stomped her feet angrily.

Then, she picked up the items she had bought and walked towards the inpatient department. She was about to call Nan Xing and ask which ward Zheng Lunlun was in when she looked up and saw two identical men standing nearby.

They were of a similarly slender built and delicate facial features. They could easily drive all the women at the market crazy with their handsome faces alone.

The people who passed by would stop and marvel at the stunning appearance of the twin brothers. Some were even about to take pictures with their phones, but didn't dare to when they noticed the grumpy expressions on their faces as well as the bodyguards surrounding the twins.

"Now do you believe me?" Nan Chen asked Nan Xing coldly.

Nan Xing gritted his teeth in anger, "Bastard, bastard turtle, lower beings, primitive reptiles......"

Nan Chen frowned, What the hell is this guy calling them? Has he lost his mind from anger?

But one couldn't blame Nan Xing for it. He was born into a wealthy family, after all. Even though he had been mischievous as a kid, he did receive very good education, so he had very limited knowledge on indecent insults.

Thus, he could only insult Feng Minsheng with terms from biological evolution due to his limited vocabulary on vulgarities.

But Nan Xing was so overwhelmed with rage, he had forgotten that single-celled organisms were the lowest class of life forms, not primitive reptiles.

"I'm gonna kill him… I'm gonna kill him a hundred times over……" Nan Xing was filled with hatred.

"That's enough, what good would that do? Now that you've personally seen this woman with him, you should give up by now." Nan Chen scolded.

Nan Xing kept quiet, and had an unforgiving look on his face.

He could not accept that he had lost to another guy.

Ning Ran saw the look on their faces, and had a bad feeling in her heart.

But she had already come all this way, so she walked over anyway.

"You're both here. Which ward is Lunlun in?" Ning Ran tried to act calm.

Nobody responded to her.

Poker Face looked as cold as ever and gave off the message, *Stay away from me!*

Strangely, even Nan Xing who was usually happy-go-lucky all the time had a grumpy look on his face.

"Um... you two look so much alike today, even your facial expressions look the same, hehe..." Ning Ran awkwardly laughed.

Nan Xing and Nan Chen glared at Ning Ran; This woman has the audacity to laugh?

That nearly drove the two men crazy with rage. She actually has the audacity to laugh, despite being the guilty one?

Ning Ran felt a sense of guilt as she saw the hostile faces on both the brothers.

"What's the matter? You guys look so angry, who pissed you guys off?" Ning Ran asked.

The brothers remained silent.

"Come on, don't be like that. Spit it out..... Ahem, sorry, we shouldn't use such vulgar language. We are civilized people, after all." Ning Ran waved her hand.

But the brothers still kept quiet. They just stood there dressed in black and white respectively, like the Black and White Impermanence deities.

The only difference was that those deities were scary, but these two were attractive instead because of how handsome they looked.

Ning Ran had an idea. If these two were to become artists, all the currently popular young blood out there would lose their fame instantly.

"Alright, stop messing around acting cool. Let's go see Lunlun." Ning Ran said.

Nan Xing got even more furious. I'm clearly fuming with rage here, and you say I'm acting cool? Have you ever seen someone acting cool while gritting their teeth like this?

"Ning Ran, you..... you..... you're....." Nan Xing said tremblingly...

He was going to say she was shameless but it felt too hurtful so he was hesitating on whether he should say it.

"I'm what? What's gotten into you two? Your brother isn't talking because he's used to being a mute, but why aren't you talking as well?" Ning Ran said with a frown.

After saying that, she quickly covered her mouth immediately. How could I have said Poker Face was used to being a mute? Someone as petty as him would surely get angry!

Nan Xing looked at Nan Chen and thought, Brother, this woman is insulting you in your face! Aren't you the invincible and dominant CEO? Teach her a lesson, I won't defend her today!

But Nan Chen did not retaliate, which disappointed Nan Xing.

He didn't know how to retaliate as he wasn't good at arguments to begin with.

On top of that, the woman he was facing is his brother's girlfriend. He found it to be even more disgraceful for him to argue with her.

So, he didn't know how to react to Ning Ran's verbal assault and could only take it in silence.

He was the great Sir Chen, after all. He couldn't have people saying he bullied a woman with his brother.

As a result, he had no choice but to remain silent.

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Ning Ran was losing her temper. What is going on with these two acting like mutes? A silent protest? Did they have to resort to such a method against a mere defenseless woman like her?

"Just what do you guys want? If you won't talk, you can just tell me the number of Zheng Lunlun's ward. I'll go by myself." Ning Ran was growing impatient.

Nan Xing looked at Nan Chen as he couldn't decide and had to listen to his brother. Nan Chen kept quiet as he turned and walked inside.

Nan Xing quickly followed him. Ning Ran hurriedly followed them too, but it was difficult for her as she was carrying a lot of items. However, neither Nan Chen nor Nan Xing had the intention to help her carry them.

They took the elevator to the tenth floor. Two bodyguards were seen standing there when the doors opened. They bowed when they saw Nan Chen.

The entire floor was silent, as if there was no other patient here. When they arrived at the door of the ward, Nan Chen was about to push the door open, but suddenly withdrew his hand and turned to look at Ning Ran instead.

Ning Ran looked up innocently, unsure of what the Poker Face wanted to do. Nan Chen waved his hand. Ning Ran still didn't understand. She turned around and saw no one behind her, so she didn't understand what he meant by waving his hand.

"My brother says, you're not allowed to see Lunlun!" Nan Xing said. Ning Ran was stunned; *I'm not allowed to see him?*

"But why? I've bought so many things....." "You are not related to our Nan family. We do not need you visiting our family members." Nan Chen said coldly.

He had finally spoken, but he didn't say anything nice. "Blondie is my friend." Ning Ran argued. "You're not worthy of being his friend." Nan Chen said. That hurt Ning Ran.

But she couldn't just give up like that. She couldn't admit defeat in front of Poker Face, so she had to endure it. "I have always been his friend. You don't have the right to judge if I'm worthy or not. If you won't let me in, then why did you let me carry all this stuff here?"

"You were the one who tagged along." Ning Ran understood now. Poker Face was making fun of her on purpose.

"I'm here to visit my friend. You don't get to decide for him who his friends are. You control everything like a tyrant, but you're just feeling inferior!" The corner of Nan Chen's mouth twitched with anger; *I'm feeling inferior? Me? Nan Chen? Inferior?*

Even Nan Xing was shocked. Someone dared call his brother inferior?

Nan Chen could have the entire Flower City tremble with a mere stomp of his foot! How could he possibly feel inferior?

"You lack empathy, you cruel Poker Face! You're just being cold to act mysterious. You're afraid that people would find out how you lack empathy if they got close! If this isn't inferiority, what is? This is a severe case of inferiority!" Ning Ran raised her voice as she diagnosed Nan Chen with an inferiority complex.

You feel inferior even if you don't admit to it! You feel inferior even though you have what others don't!

You are feeling inferior because I said so!

This odd method of insult was indeed effective.

The expression on Nan Chen's face grew angrier.

He thought to himself, This woman is a crazy one, there is no need to care about her.

But the truth was there was no way he could ignore her, as he realized how much he was offended by what she said.

Ning Ran noticed the change in Nan Chen's expression, and knew her blow was effective.

Of course she knew a person like Nan Chen wouldn't feel inferior. She just wanted to spite him.

It was easy for him to counter any other insults on him, but not so with feeling inferior.

How would one even prove that they weren't feeling inferior? There didn't seem to be any way to prove it.

Nan Chen was the proudest person, so being called inferior made him feel even more uncomfortable.

Ning Ran felt a thrill when she saw how close Nan Chen was to burst with anger.

I like how you look when you hate me so much yet can't do anything about it!

That's what you get for bullying me!

"Get her out of here, as far away as possible!" Nan Chen pointed at Ning Ran angrily, but his words were directed at Nan Xing.

He was pushing the responsibility onto Nan Xing. This woman is too much for me. You get rid of her! I need to calm down!

Nan Xing had a helpless look on his face, *Brother, what are you playing at?* You're the one who started a fight, and now you're having me get rid of her because you couldn't win?

"My brother wants you to leave!" Nan Xing put on a fierce look.

Ning Ran put her things on the floor, "I won't leave. I came to see my friend today. I'm not leaving until I see him!"

"Leave!"

"No!"

"Okay." Nan Xing cowered up instantly.

Nan Chen was stressed out. He didn't expect Nan Xing to be so useless in front of this woman.

But he couldn't do anything himself either, otherwise they'd be ganging up on her.

Nan Chen gestured at the bodyguards near the elevator.

The two bodyguards came running over, "Yes, Sir Chen?"

Nan Chen eyed Ning Ran, and said, "Get rid of this outsider."

With that, he pushed the door open, entered the ward and slammed the door shut behind him.

The two bodyguards looked at each other as they wondered, *What's going on here? Didn't this woman come with them? Why is she an outsider now?*

"Miss, please come with us."

The bodyguards dared not act rashly. They cautiously asked Ning Ran to leave while gesturing at her politely.

"I'm not leaving. I came to see my friend."

"Ran, you should leave. Stop defying my brother. You know how his temper is……" Nan Xing said.

"Piss off! Two grown men bullying a woman? And now you're bringing in two more bodyguards? Have the Nan family no shame?" Ning Ran shouted.

"Young master Xing......" The bodyguards looked at Nan Xing.

Nan Xing waved at them, "Go away, you're excused."

The bodyguards let out a sigh of relief upon hearing that and went back to guarding the elevator.

"Ran, why are you doing this?" Nan Xing said.

"What do you mean why? Can't you see that the Poker Face is bullying me?" Ning Ran yelled angrily.

"What I mean is, why were you hugging that man in front of us?" Nan Xing asked.

"I didn't, he's the one that tried to hug me. I pushed him off, didn't you see that?"

"All we saw was you two hugging. Ran, why are you cheating on me?" Nan Xing got angry as he said that.

No matter how good-tempered a man was, such a thing was unacceptable.

"I didn't! I just went to buy some stuff from the supermarket. He kept following me and helped me carry the stuff here. That was all! Besides, there is nothing between us, so how would that be cheating on you?" Ning Ran said.

"We're getting married soon, so how could we have nothing between us? Never mind, I get it now, my brother was right. Go, Lunlun doesn't need your visit." Nan Xing pushed the door open and went in after saying that.

Ning Ran saw that and stepped forward as she wanted to force her way in.

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Nan Xing saw her come forward and quickly turned around to shut the door. Ning Ran wouldn't let him shut the door as she wouldn't be able to enter if he did. So, the two of them were pushing against the door from both sides.

But Nan Xing was stronger and managed to shut the door from inside. Ning Ran was furious. *These Nan family twins are no men, bullying a woman like this! What do I do now?* Do I go back or continue to knock on the door?

No, I can't let them have their way or they'll do it again! I'm no pushover!

Bang! Bang! Bang! She started banging on the door. The two bodyguards came over once again, "Miss, please keep quiet." "I'm trying to visit the patient, but they won't let me in. What else can I do if I don't knock on the door?" Ning Ran asked rudely.

"That's......" The bodyguards didn't know what to do. Get lost." Ning Ran said. "But miss, we can't leave you alone if you're this noisy." The bodyguards said.

"What, are you going to drag me away? Do you know who I am?" Ning Ran asked. "Yes, we do." The bodyguards nodded.

"That's good, then. There may be some misunderstandings between me and your idiot young master right now, but if we make up, I'll settle the score later on. If you are rude to me, I won't let you go!" The threat was effective. The two bodyguards just glanced at each other and dared not say a word. *Bang! Bang! Bang!* Ning Ran continued banging on the door.

Bang! Bang! Bang! The entire floor was empty and very quiet. As a result, the violent banging on the door sounded especially loud. The people inside were probably unable to stand it any longer.

The door finally opened, and Nan Chen stepped out with an angry look on his face. Ning Ran thought he was going to do something to her, but he just walked straight towards the elevator without saying anything.

Nan Xing came out as well and looked at Ning Ran, "Stop it already, go on in." Ning Ran let out a sigh of relief as she emerged victorious.

She picked up the items from the supermarket and walked into the ward. "I'm here to see you, Blondie." Ning Ran called out. "Hahaha....." Zheng Lunlun laughed happily.

Ning Ran put down her things and turned to look at Zheng Lunlun on the bed. He had become fatter and his face had become fleshier, but he still looked as pretty as ever.

"Do you recognize me?" Ning Ran reached out to pat Zheng Lunlun on the face. "Mhmm!" Zheng Lunlun nodded happily; his eyes filled with joy. "You really recognize me?" Ning Ran was still doubtful.

In the forest, Zheng Lunlun's brain had been damaged by the poison so badly that he called Ning Ran mama and Nan Chen papa. "Mhmm!" Zheng Lunlun nodded again.

"Who am I then? You're not going to call me Mama again, are you?" Ning Ran eyed him suspiciously. "Ding Mi!" Zheng Lunlun called out cheerfully.

"Oh my, you really do recognize me! My Blondie is back! That's great!" Ning Ran's eyes teared up with joy as she was really happy for Zheng Lunlun.

The kind of relationship she had with Zheng Lunlun was difficult for others to understand. Zheng Lunlun had helped her through her most difficult times, and she still owed him a few hundred thousand.

That bond they forged during difficult times was one that could not be easily described with words, and only they understood how precious it was. Zheng Lunlun got up and hugged Ning Ran.

"Be a good boy and don't go crazy like that again, alright? Imagine how many girls would be so upset if a pretty child like you were to go crazy!" Ning Ran patted Zheng Lunlun on the back. "Mhmm!" Zheng Lunlun answered. Ning Ran started unpacking the things she bought, "I know what you like to eat, so I got you these. Do you want to eat them now?"

"No." Zheng Lunlun said. "I'll peel an apple for you then. You know what? I was so mad earlier! Your uncles wouldn't let me come in to see you and kept me locked outside! But, you know how my temper is.

Who in the world could possibly stand in my way, right? So I kept banging on the door and they couldn't stand it anymore, so they had to let me in. They could never understand our revolutionary friendship! Forget about them!" Ning Ran went on and on, but realized that Zheng Lunlun was rather quiet.

Zheng Lunlun had not said more than ten words ever since she came in. This wasn't like him at all, as he had always been a chatterbox. "What's wrong with you? Why aren't you talking?" Ning Ran looked at Zheng Lunlun.

Zheng Lunlun laughed, "Nothing."

"That's not right, you're talking a lot less than usual. Are you trying to act quiet like your uncle Poker Face? Don't be like him! That behavior of his is very annoying. If you become like him, I won't talk to you anymore!" Ning Ran threatened.

"Nothing." Zheng Lunlun repeated.

Ning Ran walked over and grasped Zheng Lunlun's chin, "Still denying it? You haven't said more than three words in every sentence ever since I came in! What has gotten into you? You wouldn't stop talking whenever you saw me before, so why you are so quiet now?"

Zheng Lunlun looked pitiful with his chin being held by Ning Ran, "Really...... nothing......"

Then his face turned red from his ear to his neck. "My goodness, what are you being shy about? I'm not molesting you or anything, what's going on? In fact, in terms of seniority, I'm like an aunt to you! We're like seniors and juniors, so why is your face so red?" Ning Ran exclaimed.

Zheng Lunlun's face turned even redder, "I'm not..... not..... shy!" "Listen to yourself! You're stuttering so badly and you still say you're not shy? Is your brain still damaged or what? Why are you acting like this?"

Zheng Lunlun took a deep breath with a helpless expression on his face. "I'll be...... honest with you...... I......."

Someone knocked on the door. It was the doctor making his rounds. The doctor nodded as he saw Ning Ran. Ning Ran nodded back in response.

"How are you feeling today?" The doctor asked Zheng Lunlun. Zheng Lunlun just nodded without speaking. "You have to talk, otherwise your stuttering will only get worse if you're afraid to speak." The doctor said.

Ning Ran was shocked. So the reason why Zheng Lunlun didn't talk was because he was stuttering?

How could this be? Didn't he just suffer from some brain damage? Why is he stuttering as well?

No wonder he was so quiet the whole time! Ning Ran felt her heart ache upon hearing this. What a shame it would be for such a beautiful child and famous star to suffer from stuttering!

Zheng Lunlun nodded helplessly.

"You must be the young mistress of the Nan family, right? You have to get him to speak more often. His condition is a sequela of the poisoning. We have contacted the best specialists in the country. They will arrive tomorrow and start carrying out his treatment. During this period of time, the companionship of family and relatives is very important. You must help him relieve his stress and feel confident about speaking. If he won't even speak, then his condition will only worsen, and even the best specialists wouldn't be able to cure him." The doctor said.

Ning Ran nodded, "I understand. I'll encourage him to talk more. He used to be a real chatterbox back then, so it's hard to imagine him being like this now. I'll do my best to help him with this."

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After the doctor left, Zheng Lunlun gave Ning Ran an embarrassed look, "You mustn't…… laugh at me!" "Of course, I wouldn't laugh at you! There is no need to. You're just sick, it isn't your fault." Ning Ran said gently.

"Then take..... take me out for hotpot!" Ning Ran was shocked. She had thought that he was going to tell her a secret of some sort, but he asked her to take him out for hotpot instead. What does this have to do with hotpot? Would a spicy meal be able to solve the stuttering problem?

"That's......" Zheng Lunlun saw the look on her face, "I knew...... knew you would...... dislike me!" Ning Ran let out a long sigh in exhaustion.

When Zheng Lunlun spoke, she would look at him. Whenever he got stuck on a word, she felt like she was stuck on it too. She wished she could just yank the words out of his throat.

If she felt this exhausted just by listening to him, then he must be feeling even worse trying to speak. She now understood why Zheng Lunlun didn't want to talk much earlier. Because each time he spoke, it felt like a long and grueling journey that only ended when the words came out.

Going through such a journey once or twice was fine, but how many would he have to go through with the amount of words he had to say each day? Anyone would be exhausted like that!

"I thought you didn't like hotpot?" Ning Ran asked with a frown. "I like it now." Zheng Lunlun replied. "So, you suddenly want to have hotpot?"

"Yes." "Has your stuttering stopped?" Ning Ran asked, surprised. "I stutter if..... if I say..... more than three..... three words." Zheng Lunlun said bitterly. Ning Ran bit her lip, So that's how it is! No wonder he never said more than three words!

"You're mocking me!" Zheng Lunlun said angrily as he noticed Ning Ran was holding in her laughter by biting on her lip.

Ning Ran quickly waved at him, "No, I'm really not! We're brothers, your pain is my pain! Why would I laugh at you? I was just thinking how good you must be at talking if you had to limit all your responses to three words!"

"Isn't that still..... still mocking me?!" Zheng Lunlun got angrier as his stuttering happened again when he said more than three words at a time.

His face that was prettier than a girl's was now red all the way down to the neck. It pained her to see him like this. "I'm really not mocking you! But, why didn't you go get hotpot on your own?"

"Uncle wouldn't let!" It took Ning Ran a moment to realize that he meant to say Nan Chen wouldn't let him. "You mean he wouldn't let you go out or have hotpot?" Ning Ran asked.

"Both!" "Okay, keep your future speeches limited to three words at a time. That way, it'll be easier on both of us. But, why wouldn't he let you go out? You seem fit to be discharged by now."

"Uncle wouldn't let." He repeated. Communicating with a three word limit was indeed difficult, and Ning Ran could only force her brain to work harder in order to understand him.

Zheng Lunlun was a famous star, so if Nan Chen wouldn't let him out, it must be for Zheng Lunlun's own protection. If the journalists or fans found out that Zheng Lunlun was stuttering, his commercial value would surely plummet to a new low. Fans cannot tolerate their idols being flawed. Even smoking a cigarette in public would cause an uproar, let alone a stuttering problem.

The more famous a star was, the greater they would suffer from backlash. Once they do, it would not only ruin their career as a star, but could also lead to other unforeseen disasters.

So, the safest option was to not let Zheng Lunlun meet anyone.

That included Ning Ran as well. But because she got aggressive, they had no choice but to let her in.

But now, Zheng Lunlun was asking her to take him out for a hotpot.

Nan Chen had tried so hard to protect Zheng Lunlun. If anything were to happen to him while she brought him out like that, wouldn't that Poker Face strangle her to death?

"Do you agree?" Zheng Lunlun could barely wait.

Ning Ran shook her head, "No, we'll listen to Poker Face for now. We can go out after you've recovered."

Zheng Lunlun was disappointed at first. Then, he got angry, "Get out!"

Ning Ran was stunned. What's wrong with him? Why is he suddenly acting up like this?

"What's the matter with you? I didn't say I won't go out with you, it's your uncle that won't let you out because of your condition....."

"You're not my..... not my friend! You're not cool!" Zheng Lunlun was agitated.

Ning Ran said innocently, "Of course I'm your friend! Our revolutionary friendship is forever! Once you've recovered, I'll treat you to the best hotpot in Flower City! Not one, but three, no, a month of it!"

Ning Ran imagined how scary they would look with their tongues covered in blisters from eating hotpot for an entire month.

"I don't believe!" Zheng Lunlun went back to using three-word-sentences to avoid stuttering.

"What's not to believe? I'll have hotpot with you once you get better, alright? Be a good boy now."

Ning Ran was about to touch Zheng Lunlun's head, but he refused to let her.

"Go away!"

Zheng Lunlun was emotionally unstable, which was perfectly understandable. Anyone would find it difficult to accept suddenly becoming a stuttering mess when they were a chatterbox before.

"Don't be like that, Blondie." Ning Ran said helplessly.

"Pay me back!"

This caught Ning Ran off guard and left her stunned.

Oh my, I almost forgot I still owe this guy a few hundred thousand!

Ning Ran laughed nervously, "Come on, we're brothers, don't be like that. Our friendship will last forever and ever....."

"Pay me back!" Zheng Lunlun interrupted Ning Ran as he suddenly stood up and held his hand out in front of her face.

Great, now he's not letting me go and forcing me to pay on the spot!

I can't afford to offend this guy!

"Hehe." Ning Ran gently moved Zheng Lunlun's hand out of the way with a smile, "Seriously, don't be like that. Let's talk about this......"

"Eat hot pot!"

Although it was only three words, his meaning was clear. Either pay up or take me out for hotpot, pick one of the two!

"About that, hold..... hold on!" Ning Ran realized that she was also stuttering under Zheng Lunlun's pressuring.

She got her phone out and called Nan Xing.

If she was going to do this, she would need at least one of them to support her, and that person was Nan Xing.

If she could get Nan Xing to support her, she could have him bear all the responsibility in case Poker Face found out and got angry about it.

That way, she would be able to satisfy Zheng Lunlun and avoid the awkwardness of him collecting her debt as well as avoid being scolded by Poker Face at the same time.

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Nan Xing had stayed and waited in the hospital parking lot. After Nan Chen had left, he stayed behind. He had to get to the bottom of why Ning Ran was mixed up with that man! The phone rang, and Nan Xing immediately answered as soon as he saw the number, "What is it?"

He wanted to be fierce towards Ning Ran but couldn't bring himself to do it in the end. After all, that woman had given birth to two of the Nan family's children and had raised them all by herself throughout those years, so he couldn't bring himself to be fierce with her.

"Lunlun wants us to take him out for hotpot, do you know a good place for it?"

She didn't even ask for his approval and let him choose the venue right away. If he was the one who picked the restaurant, he would be the one to bear full responsibility if Nan Chen were to blame someone for it.

Nan Xing was confused when he heard that. Didn't they all agree on not letting him out of the hospital? And now they were going out for hotpot? Who would be responsible if something went wrong?

"You promised him?" Nan Xing asked with a frown. "I thought you were the one who promised him?" Ning Ran asked. "I didn't! Who said I did?" Nan Xing was getting anxious.

"Oh, so he lied to me then. I had agreed to take him because I heard you had agreed to. That's why I'm calling you to ask for a good place for a hotpot now."

"No, he cannot go out! My brother said he mustn't show up outdoors as it was too risky." Nan Xing said.

"I get it now; you just listen to your brother and say whatever he says. No ideas, no opinions, no soul, nothing at all. If I had to describe you with one word, it'd be a puppet." Ning Ran said.

Nan Xing couldn't stand hearing that, "What are you saying? Am I that kind of person?"

"What kind of person are you then? You say you have your own opinions but you need your brother's approval just to take your nephew out for hotpot? Would you eat dirt if your brother tells you to as well?" Ning Ran asked.

Nan Xing nearly smashed his phone in anger, but he held himself back.

"My brother is doing this for Lunlun's own good. He's a public figure, so it's risky for him to go out like that. If someone finds out about his current condition, his career as a star could be over."

"The Nan family is so wealthy. Even if Lunlun doesn't become a star, you could still give him a job that would feed him, right? You say it's for his own good, but in the end, you're just thinking about yourselves." As Ning Ran said that, she paused and felt that she needed to increase the intensity a little.

"So, do you guys treat Lunlun as a star to make profits or as family? If you truly see him as family, then you should satisfy this little wish of his!" Ning Ran had said all that for both Nan Xing and Zheng Lunlun to hear.

As long as she could make Zheng Lunlun happy, she could reduce the pressure from him asking for his money back.

It would also be easier to handle the pressure from Poker Face later on with Zheng Lunlun's help.

Zheng Lunlun nodded in approval when he heard what Ning Ran said.

Nan Xing gave it some thought and felt what she said made sense.

Zheng Lunlun was able to survive such a terrifying incident, after all. Does it really matter that much how well his career goes?

Even if Zheng Lunlun didn't work for the rest of his life, he wouldn't have to worry about a thing as the Nan family was wealthy enough to support him anyway. So, why worry so much?

"Alright, then we'll take him out. But don't let my brother know about this."

Ning Ran was delighted to hear that, "Of course, we'll just carry it out in secret!"

Zheng Lunlun jumped in joy when he heard that he could leave the hospital.

He started to rummage through his box looking for a change of clothes.

Being a pretty boy, of course he would have to dress up nicely before heading out.

"I'll wait outside. I'll come back in after you're done changing." Ning Ran stepped out of the ward and shut the door behind her.

At the same time, Nan Xing came out of the elevator. Ning Ran pulled him aside and pointed at the bodyguards standing next to the elevator, "What do we do about those guys?"

"We don't have to. Who would dare stop me from leaving?" Nan Xing had a nonchalant look on his face.

"Are you stupid? I'm talking about getting Lunlun out. They may not stop you, but they could report to Poker Face about it! What would you do then?" Ning Ran exclaimed.

"Oh, you're right. What do you think we should do?"

"That's what I'm asking you. They're your family's bodyguards, how would I know what to do with them?"

"I have no ideas."

"How about we give them some money and have them go eat somewhere?" Ning Ran suggested.

"I never bring cash with me, so I don't have any money for them."

Ning Ran frowned, "You're really stupid. You could just tell them to eat anywhere and put it on your tab. I'm sure the restaurant would allow it seeing as you're the young master of the Nan family?"

"You're right! That's brilliant!"

Nan Xing was utterly impressed by Ning Ran. He felt that she was the only person in the world who could stand up to his brother.

Nan Xing walked over and the bodyguards immediately bowed, "Young Master Xing!"

"You did a good job, go treat yourselves to a nice meal."

"We have someone delivering food later." The bodyguard said.

"I'm treating you to a nice meal right now. Go to Yushifang on South Street, there's a big meal waiting for you there."

The bodyguards looked at each other. Yushifang was such a high-end restaurant that people of their level could not afford to have a single meal even if they used up an entire month's salary.

And now they can go eat there? Is this what people would consider a free lunch? And they are the lucky ones to receive it?

"Young Master Xing, Sir Chen had specifically instructed us not to leave our post until the next shift arrives." The bodyguards said. "Do you not want to eat there? Or are you disrespecting me?" Nan Xing looked crossed.

"Young Master Xing, that's not what we meant....."

"Just go eat, and give them my name. Eat as much as you like, I'll send my regards later." Nan Xing said.

The bodyguards exchanged glances again, "But if Sir Chen finds out....."

"My brother won't find out. Rewarding hard-working employees is something that my brother often does as well, so don't worry about it. Just go." Nan Xing waved his hand.

"Then, we'll be leaving now?"

"Go on."

The bodyguards got into the elevator and cried out in joy immediately. Being able to skip work and enjoy a nice meal was something they may never come across again in their lives!

Zheng Lunlun had finished getting dressed. He had been wearing the hospital garments up till now, so he felt great being able to wear his own clothes again.

He cried out in joy as soon as he stepped out of the ward.

"Thanks Fourth Uncle!" Zheng Lunlun thanked Nan Xing.

"Don't thank me, thank her. It was her idea." Nan Xing pointed at Ning Ran.

Ning Ran thought to herself, *Hold on, we haven't even made it out and this guy's already prepared to avoid the responsibility?* Looks like he's no pushover either!

"No, thank your uncle Nan Xing for his generosity. He was the one who chose the place."

"Thank you both." Zheng Lunlun said.

As long as he kept his responses within three words, no one would know about his stuttering.

"But you need to don a disguise. Put on a mask and a hat. You are a huge star now; we can't have people recognizing you. If someone recognizes you, your uncle Nan Xing won't be able to bear the responsibility." Ning Ran shifted the responsibility back to Nan Xing.