

It was just a meal, so Qin Ming did not mind his words. Since Yang Qiangjian was determined to buy them the meal, Qin Ming was alright with it. After all, this was his restaurant, which means Yang Qiangjian would be paying him.

Moreover, Qin Zhiguo had worked for many years for Yang Qiangjian. Treating his long-time subordinate to a luxurious meal was a natural thing for Yang Qiangjian.

Yang Qiangjian ordered quite a lot, including signature dishes, dishes made with imported ingredients, and the famed Mao Tai. The total value of dishes he ordered amounted to more than 40 thousand.

He could feel his wallet getting visibly lighter, but when he listened to the live band and admired the decor of the room, he felt like a king. Thus, he ignored the price of the lunch and smugly said, “Look, it isn’t that expensive. 40 thousand, and the table is full of dishes. The restaurant charges fairly.”

Qin Zhiguo praised, “Yang is generous.”

Yang Qiangjian continued in his smug tone, “Of course. Zhiguo, as long as you follow me, you’ll get a portion of what I get. If Qin Ming works for Wei, he’ll be treated well, too.”

Qin Ming ignored the man’s words as he continued eating.

Suddenly, he frowned and said to Song Ying. “There’s too much seafood. My mom’s health isn’t that good. Tell the kitchen to send a pot of Dahongpao from Wuyi Mountains so that my mom can have a hot drink.”

Soon, a tea server entered the room to serve tea. The server then gave a tea-brewing performance that dazzled the audience in the room, winning her many praises.

Yang Wei said, “Dad, Mom, nowadays not many know how to brew tea well. Look at that server. She’s a professional. The China Grand Hotel has received awards for its tea ceremony, and this is one of the services they provide. Not even Guang City’s important figures get to enjoy this service.”

Feng Yanbing exclaimed, “Is that so? It’s as if we’re the royal family! I’ll have to gloat to my friends when we’re back home. They’ll definitely be jealous of me.”

Even Qin Zhiguo, who did not enjoy tea, breathed in its scent and complimented, “This tea smells good. What tea is it?”

The server replied, “It’s a premium variety of oolong tea called Dahongpao, from Wuyi Mountains. This can’t be bought even if one has the money. This is what our restaurant uses to serve certain honored guests. Please try it.”

Yang Qiangjian blurted, “Oh my goodness! The value of authentic Dahongpao can’t be measured with money anymore. The tea leaves of its mother plant are no longer on the market. What the market sells are the leaves from plants grafted with the mother plants. While the resulting leaves are considered descendants of the mother plants, they’re still expensive.”

The server smiled. “You are our honored guests. Our Dahongpao is not from the grafted plants.

Although the mother plant is no longer available for harvesting, our boss is capable and he gets a little every year. These tea leaves are from the 350-year-old mother plant. We only serve them to our most honored guests.”

When Feng Yanbing heard that they were referred to as the honored guests, pride swelled in her heart. *The honored guests must be my family. Who else could it be? It definitely can't be that poor family sitting opposite us.*

This was the first time Yang Wei had a meal in such an expensive place. He, too, felt proud. “It’s expensive, but it’s a luxury.”

Yang Qiangjian gleefully said, “I’ll have a meal with my business partners here tomorrow. It only makes sense to talk business in a place like this.”

Looking at the tea in front of her, Wang Xiu worriedly asked, “Son, I heard that Dahongpao is expensive. How much is this cup worth?”

Qin Ming smiled at her. “It’s priceless. This tea will warm you up. It’ll be good for your health.

Mom, making sure that you are healthy is priceless to me. Drink.”

Her son’s words made Wang Xiu smile. She took a sip from the cup and experienced the sweetness lingering in her mouth. Her body warmed up instantly and she felt energized. “This tea tastes amazing. Ming, can I bring some home?”

“Sure,” Qin Ming replied, “Mom, didn’t you hear that it’s a gift from the restaurant? You can take all of it.”

Wang Xiu immediately reached out to smack Qin Ming as she laughed, “You silly boy. It’s such an expensive tea. It can’t be free. What I meant was that if I can bring home the leftover tea leaves from the pot.”

Qin Ming insisted, “Mom, it’s really free. I’ll ask the restaurant to put it in a box for you to bring home.”

Upon listening to his words, Song Ying instantly arranged for it. Soon, the manager brought a small box to her. Despite the small size of the

box, the tea leaves inside would cost at least four to five million if they were sold.

When Feng Yanbing saw it, she started asking for the tea leaves, too. However, the restaurant's manager caught the look in Song Ying's eyes and instantly told Feng Yanbing that there was no more. Feng Yanbing was upset, but she was embarrassed to ask for Wang Xiu's.

The lunch continued in a relatively pleasant atmosphere, mainly because Yang Qiangjian and Qin Zhiguo kept chatting with each other. The rest just focused on their food and spoke to their own families.

When the bill came, Feng Yanbing saw that her husband had to pay more than 40 thousand. That was equivalent to two months of their auto parts factory's profits.

She was displeased. Qin Ming and his family ate and drank quite a lot. Furthermore, they even received an expensive box of Dahongpao. That box should've been mine. Why aren't they paying a single cent for lunch?

She scoffed, “Tsk. Some misers don’t even know to appreciate a free lunch. Shameless. I can’t believe that they even took the tea leaves from me.”

“Uncle Yang, we have other plans, so we’ll be leaving first.”

Qin Ming knew that Feng Yanbing was a petty woman full of complaints. Not wanting to waste more time on her, he started dragging his parents out of the restaurant. On the way out, he even shoved Feng Yanbing aside.

Feng Yanbing growled, “Qin Ming, you brat. You really don’t know how to respect your elders. No wonder your life is a disaster.”

After paying, Yang Qiangjian said, “Let’s go. We’ve spent quite a lot today, so we’ll have to save on our accommodation tonight. Let’s book a cheaper hotel. Where’s Qin Ming and his family?”

Feng Yanbing huffed, “They probably went back to his dormitory. It’s summer break now, so the

family must be staying over in his dorm to save on accommodation costs. They're poor; they won't want to spend on hotels."

Yang Wei muttered, "Dad, I've booked a house at a high-end residential area near the university. Stay there while you're here."

Yang Qiangjian asked, "High-end residential area? It must cost a lot every month."

Yang Wei responded proudly, "It's only around 4 thousand. I'm living with Xiaoya, so I can't possibly stay in the dormitory as Qin Ming, right? That'll be inconvenient."

Yang Qiangjian frowned. *This son of mine is really a big spender.* Ever since Yang Wei entered university, his monthly allowance had jumped from 5 thousand to 10 thousand, and then to 20 thousand. Yang Qiangjian would not be surprised if his son requested to increase his allowance to 30 thousand next semester. Poor Yang Qiangjian would end up with no pension if this continued.

On the other hand, Feng Yanbing thought nothing

of it. “Of course. Qin Ming can’t compare to our son. Even his demeanor is worlds apart from our son’s.”

As Yang Qiangjian loved his son, he agreed with it. The family drove to Green Island, which was located beside the university. The environment here was quiet, and the land spacious. Trees were abundant, and there were many facilities for residents.

Yang Qiangjian parked his car outside a commercial building.

Feng Yanbing looked at the greenery and breathed in the fresh air, feeling satisfied. “My son has good taste. How much are the houses here?”

Yang Wei answered, “More than 40 thousand per square meter. Each house would cost at least five to six million. Mom, I’m going to buy a house here in the future.”

Feng Yanbing nodded. “Of course. Our son will definitely lead a good life in the future. He won’t

be like those two brothers of the Qin family: one is single, and the other can't keep his girlfriend. They aren't meant to earn big bucks. How embarrassing.”

Yang Qiangjian murmured, “Don't talk about them in that way. Qin Ming will be working for Wei in the future. That's good, too. He'll be taking over his father's job. His family is honest. His father is the best guard at our warehouse. We never lost anything.”

Feng Yanbing raised her head high and agreed, “That's true. They are an honest family. That's why they have the right to work for us. That's all they're worthy of. Wei, why is the back fenced up? There's a pool; is it not open for public use?”

Yang Wei turned behind and said in a jealous tone, “That's part of the common area for villas. They have private pools, ball courts, and gardens, but there are only three to four villas. Each villa cost tens of millions.”

Feng Yanbing narrowed her eyes as she remarked incredulously, “Am I imagining things? Why are

Qin Ming and his family entering the villa?”

Yang Qiangjian asked, “Do you think the villas are for rent? How can it be Qin Ming and his family? What’s wrong with your eyes? How can they have the money? How much money can Qin Zhiguo have? I’m the one paying him every month. How will I not know how much they have?”

Yang Wei laughed, “Mom, is your eyesight so bad? How’s that possible?”

Feng Yanbing pointed to the front and insisted, “It’s real. Look. That’s the chicken cage. My eyesight’s fine. I’m right.”

Yang Qiangjian and his son frowned as they looked in the direction she pointed.

Damn. It really is Qin Ming and his family. They’re carrying their luggage into the villa.

The Yang family looked at each other, wondering what was going on. *How can this be?*

After lunch, Qin Ming brought his parents to the villa Mu Hairan had bought him.

Originally, he wanted to bring his parents to Yun Shan Villas, but Chang Huan's men were watching that house and Qin Ming did not want to put his parents in danger. Even he had to be extremely cautious when entering and leaving that house.

After that, he thought of letting his parents stay in his commercial house that was over a hundred square meters. However, he then realized that Qin Chaoyang had asked his secretary, Li, to move into the house. His older brother had told him that Li was a fresh graduate and it would be difficult for her to rent a house as a single woman. That house was close to the worksite. On top of that, Li would not need to pay rent, and she could benefit from the meals prepared by He Menggu.

Qin Ming noticed that his older brother was eager to help Li. As Li seemed like a kind girl, Qin Ming decided to let Qin Chaoyang do as he pleased. That was why Qin Ming ended up bringing his parents to the villa Mu Hairan gifted

him.

However, Qin Ming still had not yet received the title deed for the villa. He feared that something would happen to sour his parents' moods.

When Qin Zhiguo and Wang Xiu came down from the car, they were stunned by the scene. The main entrance was marked by two large copper doors, with a stone lion by each door. The house also came with a beautiful garden.

Which billionaire's house is this?

Wang Xiu and Qin Zhiguo were floored by the magnificent villa. They had only seen houses like these in the movies, and they could not peel their eyes off it when they're finally looking at the real thing.

Qin Zhiguo licked his lips and asked, "Qin Ming, is this your boss's house? Are you here to make a report? I'll wait out here with your mother. Go ahead and meet your boss."

Qin Ming replied, "No. Dad, you'll be staying in

here tonight. Come in. I'll explain this to you later.”

Qin Ming was too tired to explain anymore. He was going to look for a simple excuse for this. After all, no one else was going to come to this villa.

He walked in front of them to open the door, but the door opened before he reached the handle.

*Creak!*A person jumped out from the inside, and Song Ying rushed forward, thinking that there was an assassin.

However, Qin Ming hurriedly raised his hand to stop Song Ying. He had recognized who that person was. It was Mu Sichun.

“Qin Ming!” Mu Sichun hooked her arm around Qin Ming’s neck and hugged him. “I knew it. If you’re not home, then you must be here.”

The force of Mu Sichun’s pounce was mighty, and Qin Ming was forced to take a few steps back. He had to spin her around before they could

stabilize themselves.

Qin Ming asked, “Mu Sichun, why are you here?”

Mu Sichun huffed, “My sister told me to keep an eye on you. While she’s working in Jing City, you’re not allowed to have an affair nor meet with other girls.”

Qin Ming rolled his eyes. *Have I not already cut ties with the Mu family? Did Mu Hao not announce it to the public? What the hell is he doing? Must he force me to look for him? Why does Mu Sichun look like she has no idea about it?*

“I-” Just as Qin Ming was about to say something, his mother had stepped forward and looked at Mu Sichun in shock.

Then, her shock turned into joy as she thought, *This girl looks pretty. She looks presentable. Indeed, city girls are different. She’s fair and tidy, and her clothes are pretty, too. She has such long legs and a youthful face. Moreover, her breasts are quite large. I’m sure she’ll h*

ave enough milk for her baby. Her hips are wide enough to give birth easily as well.”

Wang Xiu was born and raised on a farm. As she was constantly compared against the Yang family, she was not confident of herself. She hoped that Qin Ming would be able to escape a difficult life like hers and marry a city girl. Living and working in the city was a much more decent life than laboring away in a small town.

That was why she was joyous when Qin Ming was in a relationship with Li Meng. She had even come to the city to take a look at her. When she went back home, she often proudly told her neighbors that Qin Ming had a city girl for a girlfriend. Needless to say, when she found out that the two had broken up, she panicked.

Now, hearing that Qin Ming had a new girlfriend who was also a city girl, she was reassured.

She noticed the manner by which Mu Sichun came out of the house and hugged Qin Ming. *They won't be so intimate unless they're in a relationship, right?*

Wang Xiu asked, “Qin Ming, is this the one you mentioned?”

Qin Ming knew what his mother was thinking the moment he saw her expression. *She must have thought that Mu Sichun is my girlfriend!*

Qin Ming hurriedly explained, “Mom, she’s not.”

Wang Xiu was disappointed. *But what if my son’s lying to me? If she’s not his girlfriend, why would she jump into his arms? Doesn’t that mean he’s been taken advantage of?*

Wang Xiu turned to the girl and asked curiously, “Miss, what’s your name?”

Mu Sichun looked at them in confusion as she shyly replied in a clear voice, “Hello, Aunt. I’m Mu Sichun.”

Then, she leaned toward Qin Ming and whispered, “Qin Ming, who are they?”

Qin Ming rubbed his temples and replied, “They are my parents. Mu Sichun, why are you here?”

Noticing his upset, she quietly handed him a red book. It was the title deed.

She pouted and mumbled, “To give you this.”

Qin Ming glanced at the document. Mu Sichun was indeed here to hand him the certificate for the title deed, which meant that he was now the rightful owner of the villa.

Wang Xiu smacked Qin Ming and grumbled, “Qin Ming, why are you so fierce to the girl? You scared her. If she’s not your girlfriend, who is she?”

The last sentence was whispered into Qin Ming’s ears to prevent Mu Sichun from hearing.

Qin Ming was on the verge of a mental breakdown. *Why have things turned out like this? All I want is for my parents to live well. I don’t want my life to turn out like a TV show.*

Qin Ming answered, “No one, Mom.”

It was only when Mu Sichun heard that they were

Qin Ming's parents that did she recalled never having met them in the first place.

Back then, Qin Ming had a secret wedding with Mu Xiaoqiao. The Mu family did not publicize the wedding, and they did not invite Qin Ming's relatives. All they did was take a wedding photo.

Mu Sichun noticed that they were dressed in cheap clothes. *Qin Ming's family is indeed poor. Well, it doesn't matter, as long as Qin Ming is capable.*

Everyone in the Mu family now loved Qin Ming. Mu Sichun enthusiastically pulled Wang Xiu into the house by her hand.

“You're Qin Ming's mother. You must be here to visit him. Please come in. I'll help you with your luggage.”

Qin Ming turned around to see Qin Zhiguo and his sister still standing at the bottom of the steps. “Come in. Why are you standing there?”

This was the first time she was staying in a villa.

After her initial shock, she gleefully took her luggage and went in.

On the other hand, Qin Zhiguo was still anxious. He asked, “Son, it’s one thing to borrow your boss’s car, secretary, and driver. Now, you even borrowed his house. Is your boss a lonely rich woman?”

Beside them, Song Ying could not help but laugh.

“Haha!” Even the driver, Xu Donghu, could not hold back his chuckles. *It’s tough for the Young Master to keep this up.*

Qin Ming was speechless. *Dad, do you think your son has become a gigolo? I can’t bear being abused by a rich woman.*

Qin Ming shoved the title deed into his father’s hands in frustration and pretended to be angry. “Dad, this house belongs to me. Don’t ask. If you ask, I’ll tell you that I got this house illegally. Report me to the police.”

Qin Zhiguo looked at the title deed. Indeed, Qin

Ming's name was on it, along with another name—Mu Xiaoqiao. He murmured, “Who is Mu Xiaoqiao? Why do you have so many secrets nowadays?”

However, no one was around to answer his questions. Thus, he could only carry his sweet potatoes and snakeskin bag in.

He sensed that Qin Ming had changed a lot. Not only did he become generous and was acquainted with many people who did not seem like simple folks, but he also started becoming impatient. All Qin Zhiguo could do was to keep these questions in his heart. He did not want to upset his son.

In the end, Qin Zhiguo picked up his shoes before entering the house. He looked up at the crystal chandelier, agate stone wall, dodo fossil, expensive paintings, and an encased red diamond necklace.

These belonged to a rich man's house. Qin Zhiguo's footsteps gradually slowed down, and he eventually stopped at a corner.

Qin Ming asked, “Dad, put your things in your room first. Why aren’t you coming over? Wait. Why did you take off your shoes?”

Qin Zhiguo pointed at the luxurious red carpet on the floor.

“I’m afraid of dirtying it. As for the chicken... I think I should leave it outside. They’ll shit everywhere. I’ll kill it and make chicken soup for you tonight. It won’t dirty the outside that much then.”

Qin Ming walked over and unlocked the cage. When the chickens were free, they clucked and ran everywhere.

Qin Ming dragged his father to one of the master’s bedrooms.

“Dad, you’ll sleep with Mom here. Take a shower first. I have some things to attend to.”

Qin Ming subsequently rushed off to look for Mu Sichun. The girl had been talking with his mother for quite a while now. He feared that she might

create more misunderstandings, and that would be a disaster.

Furthermore, Nie Haitang was coming over tonight!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“My dear brother-in-law!”

Qin Ming had just stepped out of the room when he saw Mu Sichun smiling at him. Her cheerful smile melted his heart, and he no longer wanted to be mad at her.

He tiredly mumbled, “Stop calling me that.”

Mu Sichun pouted then whined, “What do I call you if not that? Ming? Qin? Right. Your mom seems to like me a lot. She thought I was my sister, and she thought I was your wife. I told her I wasn’t. Hehe! She even gave me a red packet.”

Qin Ming’s heart skipped a beat. “You told my mom everything?”

Mu Sichun raised her hand and made a peace sign at him. Cheekily, she said, “That’s right. My grandpa gave this house to you. You didn’t get it from working as a gigolo.”

It seemed like Qin Zhiguo’s words were heard by the girl. Qin Ming felt his strength had fled him, and he felt as if he was going to spit out a

mouthful of blood from anger.

What kind of parents are they? Do they really think I won't be able to buy a house?

Anyway, I'm glad Mu Sichun didn't tell them that I once married into the Mu family.

Mu Sichun held Qin Ming's hands and asked, "Qin Ming, why don't I stay here from now on? Isn't your sister starting university soon? We'll be able to take care of each other. Rest assured, Qin Ming, I'll make sure she won't be bullied in university. The Mu family isn't an easy target in Guang City."

Qin Ming instantly opposed, "No. Go home, or else your mother will think that I kidnapped you again. Rumors are bad for your reputation. Didn't you want to become a star? If someone takes a photo of you living in the same house as I and publishes it when you're famous, your career will be ruined."

Mu Sichun tugged his sleeves and whined, "Don't! Qin Ming! You're my brother-in-law.

Why are you afraid of the rumors? My mother's been really superstitious recently. She's been visiting temples, praying to ancestors, and seeking fortune-tellers. My brother's busy with the company, and I'm on summer break. No one can accompany me to auditions."

Mu Sichun's pitiful and fragile look made Qin Ming's anger dissipate. He really could not find it in him to reprimand her.

Qin Ming could not help but relent. "Fine. I'll keep you company for your interview, alright? But you can't stay here. You have to go home. If someone took a photo of you staying here, your reputation will be ruined. Don't you know a girl's reputation is important? Furthermore, you're in the entertainment industry. Need I say more about this?"

Mu Sichun hooked her arms around Qin Ming's excitedly and leaned her head on him. "Alright, I'll heed your words. Qin Ming's great to me. I'll be going for my audition in two days. I'll call you then. You'll have to accompany me, okay?"

After coaxing Mu Sichun, Qin Ming continued, “Don’t tell my parents about my relationship with your sister. They’ll hate me if they found out I married into your family. Conflict will arise, so... just pretend to be my best friend.”

Mu Sichun hummed in response, then patted her chest and reassured, “No problem. But Qin Ming, can you not talk about how you’ve let me sit on your lap and taken advantage of me?”

Qin Ming realized that she was talking about the car chase back then. It was exciting, but it was embarrassing for Qin Ming, too.

He reached out to grab Mu Sichun. “You brat. Are you trying to stir up trouble?”

“Haha! I only speak the truth. Qin Ming, you’re feeling guilty. That means you did feel something back then. I’m going to tell my sister about this. Don’t forget that I’m your sister-in-law.” Mu Sichun avoided his grasp with a quick twist of her hips. She then walked out of the house. “I’m going for dance training with my friend now. Bye-bye, Qin Ming.”

Qin Ming sent Mu Sichun off. He was not angry with her, nor did he want to hurt her. Instead, he took out his phone in frustration and called Mu Hao.

“Hello? Qin?” Mu Hao greeted enthusiastically.

Qin Ming seethed, “Mr. Mu, have you forgotten what you’ve promised me? Why didn’t you tell Mu Sichun that I’ve already left the Mu family? Don’t tell me that you haven’t told Mu Xiaoqiao, either?”

“Huh? What are you talking about? I’m in England for business now. The signal’s bad here. Huh? Hello?”

The call ended. Qin Ming’s expression was dark. If what were on his hand was an expensive Apple phone, he would have thrown it onto the floor in fury. However, in his hand was a cheap locally-made phone, so he could not.

After all, Nie Haitang’s photos were on this phone.

After sending off Mu Sichun, Qin Susu came over to gossip. She asked, “Ming, is that pretty girl really not your girlfriend? What a pity. I’ll be proud to have a pretty sister-in-law like her.”

Qin Ming huffed, “She’s not. What’s wrong?”

“But she hugged you like this when she saw you.”

At that, his sister bear-hugged Qin Ming like Mu Sichun did earlier. To others, it would seem like a couple’s hug.

That was why Qin Ming always felt that Mu Sichun was like his sister. Both ladies admired and depended on Qin Ming, and they were not uptight when interacting with him.

Qin Ming pushed his sister away. “We’re just on good terms with each other. Your sister-in-law is someone else. She’ll be coming later. She’s even prettier than that girl.”

Qin Susu asked, “Really? Ming, you’re impressive. You’ve found a high-paying job for

Chaoyang, and you bought a villa. Our family can finally be proud. We won't need to lower ourselves when Feng Yanbing is around. Our dad's too honest. He doesn't mind even if he's been bullied.”

Qin Ming smiled. “Don't worry. From now on, our family will live a better life. Study well, so you can be a capable person in the future, too. You can't be like Yang Wei and lose yourself in this world filled with temptation after going to university.”

Hearing his words, Qin Susu's expression turned grim. The last time she was here in Guang City, she was fooled by Li Meng. She fell in love with branded clothes and novelty items, and had nearly gotten Qin Ming into trouble. Even now, she still felt guilty about it.

Qin Susu took out her phone. It was no longer the Apple MAX that Qin Ming had bought for her, but an ordinary locally-made phone that cost two thousand.

Qin Susu said, “Ming, I sold the iPhone and

bought an ordinary phone. You were right. I shouldn't be too materialistic and easily tempted. Girls, in particular, have to stand firm with our principles. I'm glad you reminded me back then."

Qin Ming's heart leaped in joy. He was glad that his sister could understand it. His effort in using Li Meng to teach his sister a lesson had not been wasted. Sometimes, one had to suffer in life to grow up.

I'm no longer with Li Meng, but Li Meng still has her uses. I've used her to teach my sister a lesson, and I've used her to change the impression that the Mu family has of me. Tsk. This girlfriend really loves me too much.

The Qin family then settled into the house. After picking up a call, Qin Zhiguo said to Qin Ming, "Your uncle's family is free tonight. It's been a while since we've met them, so let's have dinner with them tonight. Arrange a place for dinner with your brother. It doesn't need to be expensive, but it'll have to be a presentable place. After all, your uncle has lived in Guang City for so long; he's practically a city man now."

Qin Zhiguo had an older brother named Qin Zhijiang. Qin Zhijiang had left home since young to work in the city. He had managed to settle there, and he married a city girl. Qin Ming saw him twice a year. In the past, he used to be jealous of his uncle's five-room house.

As Qin Zhijiang was a successful example of someone poor who had become a relatively well-off person by working in the city, Wang Xiu wanted Qin Ming to be a city man, just like his uncle.

Qin Ming reassured his father. "Dad, don't worry. I'll make sure it'll be a good place."

After his father's instructions, Wang Xiu asked, "Son, where's your girlfriend? Why isn't she here yet? Don't lie to your mother. If you don't have one, that girl earlier looks fine, too. She looks like a rich girl from the way she was dressed. Moreover, it seems like she is fond of you."

Qin Ming groaned, "Mom, stop it. Chun isn't the one. I've reminded my girlfriend and she's on the way here. She'll reach soon."

Honk! Honk! Right then, a car arrived just outside the villa.

Qin Ming smiled and said, “Mom, look. She’s here.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Qin Ming walked as he proudly said, “Mom, don’t be shocked by her later. My girlfriend’s really pretty. Even movie stars are incomparable to her.”

“I won’t. My son’s amazing, and I’m happy.” Wang Xiu could not help but smile as she followed him out.

By the entrance was Nie Haitang’s car—a Maserati. Qin Ming was jealous because he wanted to drive, too. However, he had yet to get a driver’s license. He thought to himself, *I really must get my license while I’m still on summer break.*

Nie Haitang was in the car, looking at the GPS. She glanced out of the window at the villa fenced within the tall walls. Raising her eyebrows, she mumbled, “It’s here. Since when did Qin Ming get an expensive villa? Did he rent this place?”

At that, she came down from the car. Nie Haitang was wearing a black jacket with a white dress shirt. It was a classic black-and-white match. She was also wearing a black woven skirt, a pair of

black high-heels, and carrying a black purse. With light makeup on, she looked decent and fashionably feminine.

Most importantly, Nie Haitang had her usual eye-catching smile on her face. The cheeriness in it was contagious.

Qin Ming walked over to her and said, “Haitang, drive in.”

When Nie Haitang saw Qin Ming, she excitedly held his hands and laughed, “I don’t dare to. When did you get a villa like this? Why didn’t you tell me about it?”

Qin Ming wrapped his arms around Nie Haitang’s slim waist. At the same time, he grabbed her butt and teased, “It’s a surprise.”

His presence was as sweet as honey to Nie Haitang. She widened her smile and replied, “Alright. Your hands are wandering. Where is your family?”

Qin Ming was about to answer when Wang Xiu

arrived.

However, right then, a Mercedes-Maybach parked behind Nie Haitang's car. It was Nie Zhengming's car.

However, the one who came down from the car was not Nie Zhengming but Zhang Yao, Nie Haitang's mother.

Zhang Yao was wearing designer clothes and expensive jewelry. With a purse by her elbow, she stormed over and pulled the two apart.

“As expected. You're here to look for this penniless jerk again, aren't you?”

Wang Xiu's footsteps stopped when she saw Zhang Yao. *What's going on?*

Right then, Yang Qiangjian and his wife walked over. When they saw Qin Ming and Wang Xiu, they asked, “Wang Xiu, is that you?”

Qin Ming was bewildered. *Why are Uncle Yang and Feng Yanbing here? Aren't they supposed to be staying in a hotel? A*

nd what kind of question is that? It's not as if we haven't met for years.

Wang Xiu answered, "Mr. Yang, why are you here?"

When Feng Yanbing confirmed that it was Wang Xiu, she felt her heart twinge in discomfort. Now, she had to accept the fact that Wang Xiu was living in a villa.

But what's going on? This plain woman is wearing cheap clothes bought from roadside stalls. And she's dirty! She's no match for this luxurious villa.

To show off, Feng Yanbing said, "Wei bought a house here. Obviously, we'll live with our son. Do you have relatives staying here?"

Feng Yanbing refused to believe that Qin Ming owned the house.

Qin Zhiguo had followed them to Guang City, so she was aware of the kind of life the old couple led. Furthermore, their eldest son, Qin Chaoyang,

had only left his hometown for half a month. Although he was now a manager and his pay was good, it was impossible for him to buy a house like this.

Hence, there were only two possibilities left. One possibility was that the house belongs to Qin Ming. Qin Ming had not been home for three years, and there was a slim chance that he had gotten so rich in the city.

Another possibility was that it belonged to a relative. Qin Zhiguo often boasted that his brother had a house in the city and was great in finance. If this were true, Qin Zhiguo and his family were only guests in this house and would have to return to Clearwater Town eventually.

Feng Yanbing could not accept that Wang Xiu, whom she had looked down on and mocked her entire life, would be able to enjoy a life better than hers one day. *I can't afford a villa, so how can Wang Xiu afford it?*

That was why she had crafted her question carefully.

Wang Xiu herself was not sure whose house this was, as Qin Ming had not told her about it.

Abruptly, Nie Haitang hissed. “I said I’m not a child; I’m a grown-up. I don’t need you to stick your nose into my business!”

Zhang Yao seethed, “I’m your mother. If I don’t stick my nose into your business, who will? Do you think I’m going to stand aside and watch my daughter jump off the cliff to be with this Qin Ming? What can a penniless b*stard like him offer you? He can’t give you anything. Darling, you can hate me and blame me for everything now. I won’t have any complaints. When you marry into a rich family, you’ll be grateful for me. You’ll finally know that Mom had been right the entire time. I don’t want you to only regret this when you live a miserable life after marrying him.”

Wang Xiu asked in surprise, “Son, who’s this girl? Is she your girlfriend?”

Qin Ming looked at Zhang Yao, then at Feng Yanbing and Yang Qiangjian. Finally, he looked

at his mother.

Before Qin Ming could say anything, Zhang Yao shouted, “No way. My daughter doesn’t have a broke idiot like you as a boyfriend. You must be Qin Ming’s mother. You should educate your son well and stop him from harassing my daughter every day. Look at your family. Do you think your son is a match for my daughter? Look at how poor your family is. The Nie family is a family of billionaires. Your son will never be a match for my daughter!”

Wang Xiu was speechless upon being treated so rudely. She had been on the farm harvesting sweet potatoes this morning when she was told to come to Guang City in Yang Qiangjian’s car. Hence, she was still in her farming clothes. Her shoes still had soil on them, and her coarse linen clothes had patches in several places.

It was true that Wang Xiu looked shabby, but that was not a reason for her to be cursed at. This was her first time meeting Nie Haitang.

When Feng Yanbing noticed that things were

taking a turn for the worse, she gleefully jumped in, “Wang Xiu, aren’t you shameless? Your son’s been dumped by Li Meng, so you taught him to fool another city girl to become his girlfriend? She drives a luxury car; what good taste he has.”

Upon hearing that, Zhang Yao snarled, “Don’t mention that Li Meng. She was pregnant with Qin Ming’s child back then, but he refused to admit it. Li Meng even came to our house to tell us that our daughter was the third wheel in their relationship. Moreover, she even publicized it on the media. Our family is innocent, and we’re a reputable wealthy family in Guang City. Li Meng only stopped after we paid her 100 thousand, and that was after she ruined my daughter’s reputation.”

Wang Xiu was shocked. She quickly grabbed Qin Ming and asked, “Why didn’t you say anything about Li Meng getting pregnant? That’s the Qin family’s descendant!”

Qin Ming huffed, “Mom, that was fake. Aunt Zhang, calm down.”

Nie Haitang's eyes were brimming with tears. "Mom, please don't talk nonsense. That's not what happened."

Yang Qiangjian added, "Qin Ming, why didn't you focus on studying instead? How could you hurt a girl like that? Look, her mother is here to make complaints. That's why you have to learn from Wei. Wei's girlfriends have always been reliable girls."

Feng Yanbing gloated, "That's right. Wei is living with Xiaoya now, but nothing has happened between them. Moreover, her parents aren't here to make complaints. Wang Xiu, how did you teach your son? Wait. You never did."

Wang Xiu was a farm girl. She was uneducated and did not know how to teach Qin Ming. Feng Yanbing's words had stabbed her where she hurt, and she was instantly furious.

Nie Haitang was anxious. This was Qin Ming's mother, and she had intentionally dressed up to meet her today. However, she had never expected this to happen. *Is Qin Ming's mother going to have a bad impression of me from now on?*

Nie Haitang was irate with her mother. She pointed at the villa and said, “Look at this villa. It belongs to Qin Ming. He’s capable. Yesterday, he even bought us Dubai ice-cream, and he spent 400 thousand on it. Qin Ming isn’t broke.”

Feng Yanbing started paying attention to the conversation, and so did Yang Qiangjian. Both wanted to know who this villa belonged to.

Zhang Yao raised her head to look and huffed, “Do you think I’m stupid? This house belongs to the Mu family. It’s been for rent for more than a year. How much does renting it for a month or two cost? Was it you who gave Qin Ming money to pretend to be rich? Is this your way to gain my approval of him? Qin Ming, how can you teach my daughter to act in this way? She never lied to me in the past.”

“400 thousand for an ice-cream? Was it made of gold? What a stupid lie that is. How can you say that it was not a spell he put on you?”

Nie Haitang was rendered speechless. It was true that the ice-cream had been that expensive. It was the only branch, and it had been a group of people eating the ice-cream.

Feng Yanbing laughed, “Is this girl’s brain alright? How expensive can ice-cream be? Even Haagen-Dazs only cost around a hundred. Were you really eating gold for spending 400 thousand? Wang Xiu, your son is good at boasting. However, he’s quite the filial son. He cheated the girl’s money to rent a villa for the family. You have to enjoy your stay. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

Wang Xiu was crossed. She suddenly turned and entered the house.



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Outside the villa, Feng Yanbing chuckled, “Hahaha! What a great scene that was. It turns out Qin Ming is a kept boy. He’s been taking his girlfriend’s money. I thought he was capable, but it seems like that’s not the case. Don’t buy a hat so big if your head isn’t. Now the girlfriend’s parent is looking for him.”

Zhang Yao grabbed Nie Haitang’s hand. “Listen. Even the neighbors are laughing at him. A useless man will forever be a useless man. No one will want him.”

Yang Qiangjian said, “We’re from his hometown. Miss, what’s going on with Qin Ming in Guang City? How well is he living here?”

Zhang Yao scoffed, “How well can he live here? He’s always trying to bite off more than he can chew. Even his classmates said he’s been delivering parcels, washing plates, and working as a bouncer for three years. He’s in the same club as my daughter, so that’s why he’s trying to get her. Since Qin Ming is from the same hometown as you, let me ask you, how is his family?”

Feng Yanbing puffed up her chest even more. “How well can his family be? His father guards the warehouse and factories for us. He earns around 2.5 thousand every month. Their house is a two-floor brick house. The television they have is the old kind with the convex screen. Their house is the worst in the village. Their oldest child is thirty, but he’s still single because no one wants to marry him. It’s been three years since Qin Ming went home, so I thought he has a good life here. Turns out he’s a kept boy now. Miss, you’re a beauty, but you must be blind. How can you fall in love with a b*stard like him? He’s incomparable to Wei.”

Nie Haitang was fuming. She pointed at the two and berated, “You must be Yang Wei’s parents. What kind of good kid do you think Yang Wei is? He’s been drinking and changing girlfriends non-stop. Also, he’s the one who’s getting dumped. He only knows how to ask for money from his parents. Even Qin Ming’s leg hair is a hundred times more capable than he.”

Yang Qiangjian’s expression darkened as he muttered, “You’re physically pretty, but there’s

no beauty in you. How can you slander without evidence? At the very least, Wei wouldn't pretend to be someone he isn't. He didn't rent a house and lie to his parents that he had bought it. It's obvious what kind of person he is when you hear his lies."

Zhang Yao persuaded her daughter. "Listen. Do you finally know what kind of person Qin Ming is now? It's rare to see brick houses even in villages nowadays. How poor is their family? Didn't you see his mother just now? She's a village woman who works on a farm. Did you see how old she looks? Look at me. I can even be her daughter, and you could be her granddaughter. Is that the future you want? Do you want to farm with Qin Ming every day? Do you want to harvest vegetables? The clothes you wear cost even more than what they can earn in a year."

Yang Qiangjian interrupted, "Hah. Don't worry. You won't need to work on the farm. Qin Ming's dad has been working for me for almost his whole life. His son is like my son. I'll definitely take care of him. When my son takes over my factory, he'll expand the business. When that

happens, it won't be a problem for Qin Ming to be a supervisor.”

Feng Yanbing laughed, “True.”

Zhang Yao rolled her eyes and waved her hands dismissively.

“How much can you earn a year? Don't pretend that you're concerned about us. The Nie family are billionaires, and our businesses are international. Who do you think you are? Scram now, or else I'll make sure you get chased out of Guang City tonight with one phone call.”

When Yang Qiangjian and Feng Yanbing heard that the Nie family was a family of billionaires, they did not dare to even breathe out. They were new in Guang City and did not know anyone at all. The mother and daughter had come in a Mercedes-Maybach and a Maserati; they were the super-rich.

The two were about to leave when a Mercedes-Benz parked outside the villa. Three people came out of the car—Hou Qing, Qi Minghui, and Qi

Miaomiao.

As they came down, Qi Minghui said, “Hou Qing, don’t tell him that I’m the one who brought you here. I only heard this from Young Master’s brother. Young Master wants to keep quiet about this. He doesn’t want too many people to know.”

Hou Qing replied, “I know. Mr. Qi, I’ll tell him that I was coincidentally discussing work with you.”

Qi Miaomiao’s hands were full of gifts as she anxiously said, “Will Young Master’s sister hate me for buying so many cosmetic products and clothes?”

Qi Minghui laughed, “Don’t worry. No woman can withstand the temptation of cosmetic products and branded clothes.”

Yang Qiangjian and his wife were about to leave when his wife stopped him. “Look, these two are obviously Presidents of a big company. They have drivers. Isn’t the watch on the wrist of the younger man the Blancpain classic you wanted?”

It costs more than half a million.”

Yang Qiangjian’s heart skipped a beat when he saw the watch. He had wanted the watch for the longest time. *How cool will it be if I could wear it out for business meetings? Too bad I can’t afford it.*

Yang Qiangjian said, “They must be the owners of the villa.”

Feng Yanbing hummed, “Who knows? Let’s keep watching. Haha! Maybe there’ll be a turn of events again, and Qin Ming’s family will all be chased out of the house. Tsk. That’ll be a great sight to watch. They’re so shameless. We can’t afford the villa, so why should they be able to?”

Zhang Yao, who was about to persuade Nie Haitang to return, saw the three people, too. She panicked, realizing that two were the children of the Qi family while the other man was Guang City’s top businessman, Hou Qing.

Then Qi and Hou families were the two most powerful families in Guang City.

In terms of power, even the Mu family and Cao family, who had a large company and connections with the military and the political world, were incomparable to these two families. The Mus and the Caos were humbled in the presence of the Hous and the Qis.

This was especially true after the Nie Sanitary Ware Group was betrayed by its shareholders. Much of their shares were sold at a high price, and the Yanghe Group bought 41 percent of the Nie Sanitary Ware Group's shares. At the start, Hou Qing had been the one to help the Nie family by retrieving 11 percent of the shares from the He family. Later on, Qi Minghui was the one who had gotten a hold of that 11 percent of the shares and taught Nie Zhengming a lesson.

In other words, these two families were a class higher than the Nie family. Generally, the Nies could not afford to offend them, not to mention these two families were now part-owners of the Nie family business.

Zhang Yao smiled and stepped forward, but she was stopped by Hou Qing's driver-cum-

bodyguard.

Zhang Yao hurriedly said, “Chairman Hou, Mr. Qi, Ms. Qi. What a coincidence. I’m Zhang Yao.”

Hou Qing knew that Zhang Yao was Nie Haitang’s mother. Technically, he should be respectful toward Zhang Yao because of Nie Haitang, but his businessman instincts were telling him otherwise.

Zhang Yao was doing her best to separate Nie Haitang and Qin Ming. It was not news in the upper-class society. All the financial magazines were talking about the rich daughter falling in love with the poor boy.

However, Hou Qing knew that it was because Qin Ming was a young man quietly earning big bucks.

Qin Ming did not like Zhang Yao’s actions, so Hou Qing kept his distance from her.

Qi Minghui had the same idea. In fact, he was not even sure if Qin Ming would be able to get

together with Nie Haitang at the end. After all, the upper-class society was a complicated place. Qin Ming was young, and he was the heir to the company. Many were hoping to become Qin Ming's wife, as that meant that they would become rich and powerful overnight.

It was a tough road for Nie Haitang to become the top billionaire's future wife.

Qi Miaomiao did not even spare a glance at Zhang Yao.

In a placid tone, Hou Qing said, "Mrs. Nie, are you here to look for someone?"

Zhang Yao swiftly nodded, then asked curiously, "Chairman Hou, you're a busy man. Why are you here?"

Hou Qing answered, "Nothing much. I'm here with Mr. Qi to visit an important friend."

They were simple words, but in context, they confused Zhang Yao.

She knew that this villa belonged to the Mu family. The Mu family had many houses, as they were also involved in properties. They had many properties for rent every month. Besides, she had never heard of Old Master Mu staying in this Green Island villa.

Hence, Zhang Yao was sure that Qin Ming was renting it to show off.

Does that mean Hou Qing and Qi Minghui are here to visit Qin Ming? Qin Ming is Hou Qing's important friend? Is that even possible? How can they know each other? They would never have crossed paths; they were worlds apart.

Am I misunderstanding something?

The trio was about to enter when they were stopped by Xu Donghu.

“Chairman Hou, Mr. Qi, please wait here. Let me confirm this with the young master.”

Xu Donghu pressed a button on the intercom, and Qin Ming's voice sounded like he was in a panic.

He asked, “What’s wrong?”

“Chairman Hou, Mr. Qi, and Ms. Qi are here to visit.”

Qin Ming answered, “Let them wait.”

Xu Donghu replied, “Of course.”

He released the button, then turned back to look at the trio. It was obvious that the trio must have heard Qin Ming’s loud voice, so Xu Donghu was not going to repeat his words.

Hence, Hou Qing and the others could not help but wait.

Zhang Yao looked at Hou Qing, Qi Minghui, and Qi Miaomiao, who were all standing quietly. She was in disbelief that Qin Ming had dared to tell them to wait. *This is ridiculous! Everyone is trying to appease them, b-but why isn’t Qin Ming doing the same?*

Can anyone tell me what’s going on here? Zhang Yao could not comprehend what she just witnessed.

In the villa, Wang Xiu was chasing after Qin Ming, trying to hit him with a broom.

“Yes, your mother is a village woman. I’m not educated, and I’m not capable, but I’m an honest person. I’ve never fooled anyone, and I’ve only earned honest money. Even if others look down on me, I can live with my head held high. What about you? You are greedy for money and you want a glamorous life. You left Li Meng for that rich girl, didn’t you? How else could you have sent that amount of money home? You must’ve asked for it from that girl? Aren’t you shameless? You’re a man! If you leave Li Meng because you think she’s poor now, you’ll leave me one day, too. You’ll chase me out of the house, and you won’t take care of me when I grow old. Qin Ming, it’s only been three years, but you’re already blinded by wealth. You’re no longer an honest young man.”

Qin Ming shouted, “Mom, I’m not lying to you. This house is really mine!”

Thump!

Wang Xiu threw the broom at him as she raged, “Nonsense! Even if I’m dumb and incapable, I know houses in the city would cost at least tens of thousands per square meter. Look at the decor in this luxurious house. It’ll cost at least 3 or 4 million for a house like this. Tell me honestly, how did you earn so much?”

Qin Ming murmured in an upset tone, “This house costs at least 6 to 7 million. The decorations in the house are even more expensive than that. Mom, you’re underestimating the value of the house.”

Anger surged in her as she put her hand on her hips and demanded, “Then, tell me. How did you earn 7 million? This is a number our family has never seen before. Even if your dad works for a thousand years, he’ll never earn this much. How did you manage to do it?”

“Um...” Qin Ming had a feeling that he had dug his own grave.

Qin Ming had no choice but to confess, “Okay. Mom, I’ll be honest with you. I’ll stop with the

hiding. After all, it might not be a good idea to hide this from my own family. Early on, I saved a billionaire and took care of him for a month. Later on, he had cancer, and he's dying. For some special reason, he's leaving all his assets for me. The wealth is unimaginable."

Wang Xiu made a noise before tears started streaming down her face. She pointed at Qin Ming and cursed, "Brat, why won't you be truthful with your mother? Why are you trying to lie to me with an excuse as lousy as this? Even a baby won't believe it. You lied that the Dubai ice-cream cost 400 thousand earlier, and now you're lying about inheriting a billionaire's wealth. You're studying economics, not literature. Why don't you write a story if you're so good at lying?"

Qin Ming felt at a loss. *I'm telling you the truth, but you don't believe me.*

Qin Ming awkwardly scratched his head. "Mom, I did, but it failed. The readers weren't interested, so I gave up on it. Delivery earns more than writing."

“Y- You-” Wang Xiu sat down onto the sofa as she patted her chest and heaved in anger.

Qin Susu walked out and swiftly brought a glass of water to her mother. “Ming, won’t you tell the truth now? Mom and Dad won’t say anything even if you rented this place. You’re working and earning money now. It’s normal for you to spend some.”

Wang Xiu seethed, “Why don’t you save the money for your future marriage rather than rent a villa? Useless boy! Susu, your brother has been influenced by the bad people here. He’s using a girl and spending her money. He’s a kept boy. He’s going to end up as a live-in son-in-law eventually!”

Qin Ming said, “I’m not the Nie family’s live-in son-in-law. Mom, stop jumping to conclusions. I have a title deed for this house, and my name’s on it. It’ll prove that I own it. Wait for me. I’ll bring it to you.”

Qin Ming dug everywhere in his house and finally found his title deed. However, it turned

out the two chickens had been sitting on the deed and scratching it. His name was no longer visible; only Mu Xiaoqiao's name remained.

Internally, Qin Ming broke down. "I- Tsk. Mom, this house is really mine. Why won't you believe that your son is earning decently now?"

Qin Ming glanced at Song Ying.

Instantly, Song Ying was stumped. *How am I going to help Qin Ming?*

However, this was just a minor challenge for a brilliant secretary like her. Song Ying took out her tablet and swiftly worked on it.

Less than half a minute later, Qin Ming's phone sounded out, "Your Alipay has received 10 thousand."

Immediately, Wang Xiu and Qin Susu whipped their heads toward Qin Ming's direction. Qin Zhiguo, who had been sleeping in the room, had run out of his room, too. *That was a beautiful voice, they thought, if only I can hear it a few more times.*

In the next second, Qin Ming's phone sounded out again, "Your Alipay has received 50 thousand."

"Your Alipay has received 60 thousand."

"Your Alipay has received 70 thousand."

Qin Ming raised his phone and boasted, "Mom, look. I'm earning more again. Earning is easy. Even in my dreams, I'm receiving money. I can earn millions every month."

To Wang Xiu, the voice on Qin Ming's phone was the same as that on the fishmonger's, but the fishmonger only received a few tens each time. However, Qin Ming's phone was telling him that he was receiving thousands every time. It was terrifying, and she was in disbelief.

Qin Susu asked curiously, "Ming, what are you selling? That's impressive."

Qin Ming answered, "Futures, gold, stocks, and

some other things. Mom, it's easy to earn money nowadays. Millions and billions come and go. This is a project I'm investing in with my boss. In comparison to him, this is just a small sum. I'm not lying to you. I'm not spending someone else's money."

Wang Xiu could barely understand half of his reply. She asked, "Are you paying taxes?"

Qin Ming replied, "Of course. I don't do illegal things."

It was then Wang Xiu started believing his words. A smile appeared on her face. It seemed like her son was indeed doing well for himself now. Then, she asked again, "Why did that girl's mother say those things earlier?"

Qin Ming responded, "Her mother doesn't like us being together. She's trying to separate us."

Wang Xiu queried, "Do you really like that girl? The girl at the beginning with Mu in her name. Isn't she nice as well? I like her."

Qin Ming said determinedly, “No. I only like the one outside.”

Wang Xiu touched her clothes before saying, “Susu, bring me my cleanest clothes.”

Soon, Wang Xiu had changed into clean clothes. The clothes she was wearing were the same as those elderly women who exercised in the park every morning. These were Wang Xiu’s most expensive clothes, with each piece costing fifty. She would not wear them unless she was meeting people she was unfamiliar with.

Wang Xiu said, “I have to make it clear to her. My son’s doing well by himself. He’s not using her daughter’s money.”

“Mom, this isn’t about money. They’re a rich family. This money is nothing to them. What they’re concerned about is that I’m not from a rich family. She wants her daughter to marry into the wealthiest family.”

Wang Xiu froze. Now, she was stumped. “Son, why did you pick such a difficult girlfriend?”

Qin Ming shook his head. “The girlfriend is fine, but her mother is difficult to get through. Mom, stay seated. I’ll talk to her. Don’t worry.”

Wang Xiu stopped Qin Ming and said, “You’ll just make it worse if you go out. Didn’t you notice that she was targeting you? Let me go. Although I’m not that capable, I can still deal with things like this. Stay here. I’ll make sure everything turns out well for you.”

By then, Hou Qing and the rest had been standing by the doorway for more than twenty minutes. However, they still quietly stood there.

It was a terribly hot day, and even the wind was warm. *How important is he to make Hou Qing and Qi Minghui wait in the sun?*

Nie Haitang wanted to enter the house, but she was stopped by Xu Donghu. This was his principle as Qin Ming’s driver and bodyguard. Even the boss’s girlfriend had to follow the rules.

Nie Haitang sighed.

Zhang Yao stepped forward and anxiously asked, “Chairman Hou, are you looking for Qin Ming?”

Hou Qing smiled. Without giving a direct answer, he asked, “Mrs. Nie, don’t you know who lives here?”

His words made Zhang Yao even more puzzled. All Hou Qing did was to return her question to her. *What a witty man.*

Right then, Wang Xiu walked out with Qin Susu’s help, but Qin Ming was nowhere to be seen.



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Qin Ming did not come out. Qin Susu was the only one who had come out with Wang Xiu.

After a simple greeting with Hou Qing, Qi Minghui, and Qi Miaomiao, Wang Xiu invited them into the house as it was hot on the outside.

Hou Qing and the other two shook their heads, gesturing to her that there was no need to do so.

They would not dare to enter without Qin Ming's permission.

Unable to persuade them, Wang Xiu turned to look at Zhang Yao.

“Hello, I'm Qin Ming's mother, Wang Xiu. You said my son's been clinging to your daughter. He has admitted that he likes your daughter.”

Upon hearing her words, Nie Haitang's heart raced. Qin Ming's mother was the one to confess on his behalf, but it still made her heart thump loudly. *Did Qin Ming tell his mother about us?*

She was anxious as she did not know what Wang

Xiu thought about her.

Nie Haitang thought about the slice-of-life domestic shows, and her heart sank. It seemed like the mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law would never be harmonious.

Nie Haitang shook her head. *No. I'm still dating Qin Ming. Hmph. He'll have to propose to me before I start thinking about these things.*

Without waiting for Zhang Yao's reply, Wang Xiu continued, "I apologize for the troubles he has brought to your family. I'm a village woman, and it's true I don't know how to teach my son. But my son has said that he did not take your daughter's money."

Zhang Yao frowned. *What evidence does she have? Who doesn't know that Qin Ming was a penniless idiot? With his capability, he can't possibly earn much. He must be relying on my daughter.*

Wang Xiu continued, "It's true that our family is poor, and our status is incomparable to your

wealthy family. But Qin Ming is an honest man, and we stand with our heads high.”

Zhang Yao was furious. You're just a village woman. How dare you think you're holier than I? Who gave you the courage to do so? Honesty? What's the point of that? Will it make you earn big bucks? Look at your shabby appearance. How shameless. Don't you know that everything is about money?

However, at the corner of her eyes were Hou Qing and Qi Minghui. She was not sure if they were here for Qin Ming, so she did not have the courage to shout out her thoughts.

Qin Ming's identity was suspicious; that stopped her from screaming into Wang Xiu's face.

Wang Xiu said to Nie Haitang, “Dear, your family is the most important thing. Your mother is worried about you, and you have to put yourself in her shoes. Qin Ming's not feeling too well today. It's best that you go home with your mother first so she won't worry.”

Nie Haitang's face paled. *Does that mean I'm being chased off?*

However, Nie Haitang realized that Wang Xiu had slipped her a small piece of paper. She sneakily kept it away and replied, "I understand, Aunt Wang."

Then, Nie Haitang left with Zhang Yao. Before stepping out of the villa's compound, Zhang Yao glanced back at the house, still confused. *So to whom does this house belong?*

Who is the one that Hou Qing and Qi Minghui are visiting? Qin Ming? I won't believe it. How could I be wrong?

When Nie Haitang looked at Wang Xiu's paper slip, a smile broke out on her face when she read the words—*Meet you later.*

Hidden behind a large tree outside the villa were Yang Qiangjian and Feng Yanbing. They were both equally surprised. "What's going on? Why does Wang Xiu seem like she's the owner of the villa? She's arrogant and despicable. A villa like

that is more suitable for people of our status. Who does Wang Xiu think she is?"

Yang Qiangjian said, "Forget it. What's weird about it? Look, that pretty secretary, Qin Ming's colleague, is out. I heard from Zhiguo that that's Qin Ming's boss's secretary. I think the three that came must be here to visit the secretary. Look, the gifts are cosmetic products and women's clothing.

Feng Yanbing watched as Song Ying coldly looked at the three by the door and said something to them. It was obvious that she was impatient as she was waving dismissively.

In the end, Hou Qing and the other two could only put the gifts down and leave.

Feng Yanbing questioned, "Isn't that woman arrogant? She's not allowing them to enter even when they come bearing gifts. Moreover, that billionaire lady who came in the Mercedes-Maybach has been so respectful toward those three."

Yang Qiangjian replied, “She must be the boss’s secretary and lover.”

Still unable to understand his words, she asked again, “But what does that have to do with Qin Ming?”

Yang Qiangjian smugly said, “You idiot. You don’t know this, do you? There was a movie called *I Corrupt All Cops* in which the boss has a ferocious wife but wants a mistress. Fearing that his wife would find out, he instructed his subordinate to pretend to be a couple with his mistress. The subordinate did not dare to lay a finger on her, but he did not dare to oppose his boss, either. All he could do was to keep her by his side as if she was his own mother. When the boss comes to sleep with his lover, his subordinate has to guard the room for him.”

Feng Yanbing nodded. “Darling, it seems like you’re right.”

Yang Qiangjian continued, “That secretary is so pretty, any man would drool for her. Um... Honey, don’t look at me like that. I’m just

objectively analyzing. Say, how is it possible that her boss wouldn't want her in that way? Qin Ming is obviously a cover for the boss's extra-marital relationship by faking a relationship with his lover. Without a doubt, this house must be a gift for the secretary from the boss. Since Qin Ming's parents are coming, he might as well pretend that it's his to show off."

At that, Yang Qiangjian looked at Song Ying. *Look at that body, that face, and the way she carries herself.* He could not help but gulp. When they were at lunch earlier, Yang Qiangjian kept stealing glances at Song Ying. However, he had to make sure no one saw his actions.

Feng Yanbing agreed, "Darling, you're absolutely right. How can the two sons of the Qin family do well for themselves? Hahaha! I get it now. They're doing such shameless things for a living. If Qin Zhiguo finds out about it, he might have a heart attack!"

Yang Qiangjian shook his head. "Never mind. Dirty money is still money. Qin Ming is a bad influence from now on. We'll have to warn Wei

to stay away from him. This boy isn't honest anymore, and he can't guard the warehouse for Wei in the future. Qin Chaoyang is still the best choice. What a pity he can't do calculations."

Feng Yanbing scoffed, "Who wants the brothers? The whole family is useless trash. Qin Chaoyang managed to get his job because of Qin Ming anyway. Why else would he be able to be a manager?"

Yang Qiangjian sighed, "Forget it. Let's go back. We have to buy a meal for Mr. Xiao tonight, too. 60% of our business is with Mr. Xiao. It's an important dinner and we can't make any mistakes, okay?"

Feng Yanbing queried, "Where are we eating?"

Yang Qiangjian answered, "Of course we'll go to the China Grand Hotel. Although it's expensive, the food is good. It's worth the price. Moreover, there's free birds nest and Dahongpao. We're honored guests, remember? When I was paying for the bill this afternoon, I asked if there were any seats for the night. Apparently, someone had

canceled at the very last minute, so I booked the spot.”

Feng Yanbing hummed, “Is that so? I guess I’ll have to prepare well then.”

In the villa, Song Ying took in the gifts that Hou Qing and the other two brought. To Qin Ming, she said, “Young Master, I’ve done what you’ve instructed me to. I told Hou Qing and the two to go home. But they insisted on giving you the gifts.”

Qin Ming took a look at them. “Give them to my sister. Make some preparations. I’ll be eating with my uncle’s family tonight. I’ll be using the same room as we did this afternoon. Ask my brother to come after his work is done. Also, ask the restaurant to reserve a spot in the parking lot for my uncle’s family.”

Song Ying bowed. “Of course, Young Master.”

After instructing Song Ying, Qin Ming hurriedly ran out. It was time for him to chase after his girlfriend.

Nie Haitang drove her car around the residential area for a few rounds before parking it at a nearby mall. She was wary of her mother as if the latter were a robber. Finally, she sneakily walked back to the villa.

Following closely behind her was Zhang Yao.

Nie Haitang was in a panic. If she could not get rid of her mother, she would not be able to meet with Qin Ming.

Abruptly, a hand shot out and pulled Nie Haitang into an alley. The arms wrapped around her and pressed her by the wall.

“Ah!” Nie Haitang shrieked. When she saw that it was Qin Ming, she whined, “You scared me.”

“Haitang? Haitang? Don’t run so quickly!” Zhang Yao’s voice and footsteps were nearing them.

Qin Ming had Nie Haitang pressed against the wall as he covered her with his body. The two looked into each other’s eyes. At that moment, it

was as if they were the only ones in the world. Nie Haitang closed her eyes as Qin Ming leaned in for a kiss.

He could taste her cherry lips, sweet and soft. Qin Ming reached out to wrap his arms around her waist. A woman as perfect as her belonged to him.

Outside of the alley, Zhang Yao was panicking. She was shouting as she glanced around, “Haitang? Have you gone to look for that broke Qin Ming? Mom is doing this for your sake. Stop hiding, will you? Come out! I know many good men who are hundreds of times better than Qin Ming. Mom won’t make your life miserable.”

Qin Ming held onto Nie Haitang tightly. Although her mother was right outside the alley, the two were blocked by an assortment of items. Qin Ming pretended not to hear her cries. *Weren't you trying to make things difficult for me? I'm paying back by taking advantage of your daughter.*

Qin Ming kissed as his hands wandered around

her body. The thin fabric of summer clothing did nothing to stop his large hands.

Zhang Yao's voice slowly became softer as she went away. Qin Ming and Nie Haitang's lips parted with a string of saliva connecting them. It embarrassed Nie Haitang so much that she swiftly swatted the saliva away.

With a bright red face, Nie Haitang hugged Qin Ming excitedly. She laughed, "You big meanie, my mom's still looking for me. We're so sneaky now."

Qin Ming smiled and ran his fingers through her hair. "It's exciting when we have to be sneaky. Haitang, I just realized that I have to convince your family one by one. I was just done with your brother, and now your mother is trying to stir things up."

Nie Haitang shyly leaned on Qin Ming's chest and said, "Of course. Did you think it'll be that easy to take me home? I'm my family's princess."

Qin Ming answered, “Okay, okay. You’ll still be my little princess. But your mother has crossed the line today.”

Nie Haitang was frustrated, too. “She has crossed many lines. She faked my health report last time and fooled me into going overseas. She made me break up with you and forced me to join that wealthy family’s matchmaking event. After we came back, she didn’t apologize to me. She even complained that I came back earlier than she.”

Qin Ming froze. “Was she like this in the past?”

Nie Haitang sighed, “My mom wasn’t like that back then. She loved me a lot, and she’d say yes to whatever I asked for. I don’t know why she’s so opinionated after I’m in a relationship. I don’t know why she’s so against us being together. She’s insisting that I have to marry into another wealthy family.”

Qin Ming hummed, “You get power and money by being in a wealthy family. Don’t you like the money?”

Nie Haitang smiled sweetly. “I know money is important, but it’s not reliable, unlike you.”

Hearing her words, Qin Ming’s heart melted. He lovingly pinched her nose and said, “Alright. If you don’t disappoint me, I won’t disappoint you.”

Nie Haitang’s heart leaped in joy upon hearing Qin Ming’s words. At that moment, she felt like the happiest woman in the world.

The two held hands as they walked back. However, on the way back, they spotted Yang Wei in an intense argument with his new girlfriend.

Yang Wei questioned, “We agreed on 10 thousand for you to pretend to be my girlfriend for a few days. Why is there an increment? Where is your integrity?”

Fang Xiaoya replied, “I’m the one renting that house. You dragged your parents over to show off, but you didn’t tell me about it. Who the hell knows how many days are they going to stay there? Moreover, I’ll have to share a room with

you at night. If I don't charge you higher, you'll be taking advantage of me."

Yang Wei pointed at Fang Xiaoya, seemingly about to hit her. On the other hand, Fang Xiaoya raised her chin and scoffed, "Hit me. If you hit me, your family has to get out of my house, and I will stop pretending to be your girlfriend. A b*stard like you should stop pretending to be such a great person in front of your parents anyway."

Yang Wei sucked in a breath and put his hand back down. "Fine. I'll give you the money. But I'm only left with five thousand. I'll give you the rest after getting more allowance from my dad."

Fang Xiaoya took the money and counted the notes. After checking, she smiled again. "Alright. I'm just doing this to cooperate with you. If I play my part well, your parents will be happy. That way, they'll give you more allowance."

Yang Wei was irate. Someone had posted his courting history on the campus forums. All his unsightly past was exposed to the public. From

then on, the university girls were all disgusted by him. When they saw him, they would turn away. He had become a despicable douchebag overnight.

As he could not find a girlfriend, he could only hire one to fool his parents. To his parents, he was a son with a girlfriend and was renting a place outside the university. That way, his spending would increase, and it'd be easier for him to ask for more allowance.

After witnessing the scene, Nie Haitang scoffed, "He's just a useless man relying on his parents. I can't believe his parents mocked you earlier when they have a son like him."

Qin Ming smiled. "Wei used to be a good kid. Uncle Yang has high hopes for Yang Wei. However, Yang Wei had learned the wrong things after entering university. His attitude and habits are terrible now. If I get the chance, I want to help him return to the path he used to be on."

Nie Haitang asked, "You're helping him even though he treated you like that? Qin Ming, you

shouldn't be so kind. You'll be easily taken advantage of. Some people will never learn their lesson."

Qin Ming laughed, "I'm saying if I get the chance to. He's not giving me any chances."

Qin Ming did not step forward to expose Yang Wei's lies; he simply did not want to waste his time with him. With Nie Haitang by his side, he returned to the villa.

When they reached, Qin Ming realized that his parents were not at home. After asking, Qin Susu told him that his parents could not bear to laze around at home. They had instead gone to check on Qin Chaoyang, asking Qin Ming to only pick them up when it was time for dinner.

Instead of Qin Ming's parents, Qin Susu was the one who met Nie Haitang.

Qin Susu was tense. Nie Haitang was beautiful, nowhere like the ugly duckling she was. Carefully, Qin Susu greeted, "Hello."

Of course, Nie Haitang would not mind Qin Susu's appearance. To her, Qin Susu was like her own sister. She tugged her over and the two started chatting. Women had a lot of common topics, from nail polish to celebrities. The entire time, Qin Ming was unable to interrupt their rapid conversation. Soon, Qin Susu was familiar with Nie Haitang.

In the evening, Qin Ming received a call from his parents. They had already gone to his uncle's house and would follow his uncle's family to the restaurant. They asked Qin Ming to pick up Qin Chaoyang for dinner.

However, when they reached the restaurant, they encountered Yang Qiangjian and his family again. What a small world.

Feng Yanbing glanced at Qin Ming and huffed in disdain, "Huh? Why is it you again? Tsk. I see. This pretty girl is like your ATM. Don't you know that he's using you? How classy."

Nie Haitang had been in a good mood up until she heard those words. Instantly, her smile

fell.

Slap!

Qin Ming had given Feng Yanbing a hard slap.

Feng Yanbing shrieked as she nearly fell to the ground. Qin Ming's slap had not only frightened Feng Yanbing but also everyone else who was present.

Yang Wei roared, "Qin Ming, why are you hitting her?"

Qin Ming snarled, "So what if I did? Aunt Feng, don't assume that it's okay for you to insult my girlfriend just because you're somewhat like my elder. I won't be as nice as now if this happens again."

Yang Qiangjian and his family were fearful and furious.

Anger boiled in her as Feng Yanbing bellowed, "How dare you hit me, Qin Ming? Fine. I'll expose you for all your terrible deeds today. Let

your parents see what kind of son you are!”

Qin Ming froze. *My terrible deeds? What terrible deeds can I have?*



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