Ling Wei gazed at him dejectedly. "A-Are you going to be this heartless?"

Nevertheless, Jiang Mohan couldn't be bothered to reply to her and strode out of the room.

"Jiang Mohan!" Ling Wei shrieked with all her might. "Are you really going to leave me to die here?"

The man continued to ignore her yells.

He wasn't going to save her. As a matter of fact, he hadn't the slightest intention to do so.

Nan Cheng stood at the door and sighed. He knew Jiang Mohan wouldn't save Ling Wei as she was a murderer who had killed Zong Yanxi.

Even if she cried and begged for forgiveness, Jiang Mohan would never help her.

"Nan Cheng!" Ling Wei cried out anxiously. Nan Cheng was her last resort. "Save me."

"We have been colleagues for such a long time, Nan Cheng. We are friends, right? Will you stand aside and look on as I suffer?"

Nan Cheng stopped in his tracks and spoke after a while. "You need to bear responsibility for what you've done, Ling Wei. No one can save you."

With that, he caught up with Jiang Mohan and left.

The weather was glorious that day. The sun was shining, but none of them could feel the warmth.

Instead, it felt strangely cold.

Nan Cheng entered the car and started the engine. "Are we going back to the office?"

Jiang Mohan nodded.

Hence, Nan Cheng reversed out of the car park and headed back to the office.

They had almost reached when Nan Cheng spotted a crowd at the entrance.

"President Jiang," Nan Cheng called. "Look at the entrance."

Jiang Mohan had spotted the crowd, too.

"What is going on? They seem like reporters." Nan Cheng stopped the car. "Let me find out what is wrong."

Jiang Mohan was certain the reporters were there for him.

He ordered, "Drive to the entrance."

Let's see who has the guts to cause a commotion in front of my company.

Nan Cheng hesitated. "Why don't you avoid them? What if-"

"Let's go." As Jiang Mohan had made up his mind, Nan Cheng had to abide by his order.

He drove to the entrance and stopped.

Someone in the crowd shouted. "Hey! This is Jiang Mohan's car!"

Soon after that, his car was surrounded.

Nan Cheng then quickly got off the car and demanded, "What are you doing?"

"Is it true that President Jiang abused his parents and treated his brother harshly?"

The reporters thrust their microphones right at him.

Hearing their absurd questions, Nan Cheng's brows snapped together in confusion. What the heck is going on?

As Jiang Mohan wound down his window, a reporter came to him and asked, "President Jiang, is it true that you refused to provide for your parents?"

Jiang Mohan's sharp gaze landed on the reporter, who immediately shut up.

He alighted the car and saw Jiang Youqian, his half-brother. The latter was gazing at him smugly.

"Jiang Mohan, please tell everyone how you treated your parents. If you dare to, that is." Jiang Yougian came over.

Jiang Mohan walked out. However, his presence was so intimidating that everyone stood aside to let him pass.

Perhaps everyone just wanted to watch the family feud drama. After all, it wasn't every day you'd get to see this in public.

"Dad is bedridden. I heard after you visited him, his condition worsened. Why? Did you anger him?" Jiang Youqian met his gaze confidently.

"I can give up my share of the Jiang family, but you can't do that to Dad." Jiang Youqian wasn't successful and didn't even have a proper job, but he was a filial son.

He hadn't been home for some time. When he arrived home yesterday, he got to know that Jiang Mohan, who never enjoyed going back home, had made a trip home earlier.

Jiang Jun's condition had worsened, and his mother told him it was because of Jiang Mohan.

Scoffing, Jiang Mohan said, "Your share?"

What does the Jiang family have?

With Jiang Jun running the company, it's pure luck the company still exists!

Besides, why are you mentioning the Jiang family now?

He announced icily, "You'd better leave with the people you gathered here now!"

With that, he spun around and stormed toward his company.

"Jiang Mohan!" Jiang Youqian yelled. "I'm your brother, right? We're related!"

He caught up to his brother. "I just want you to treat Dad well. You have everything now! Are you going to abandon your parents after getting rich? Don't forget that you're nothing without Dad!"

Jiang Youqian's words triggered Jiang Mohan, who turned and grabbed his collar. "If I have a choice, I won't choose him to be my father. You're here to ruin my reputation. Are you doing this for money? If it is, forget it! I won't give you any!"

With that, he roared, "Nan Cheng!"

Nan Cheng ran to him right away.

Jiang Mohan flung his brother away and ordered, "Contact the asylum. There's a madman here."

Nan Cheng paused before whispering, "Would you reconsider your decision? If this gets out, people will say you're a merciless-"

Despite that, Jiang Mohan was unfazed. "I don't care what they say of me."

Nan Cheng fell silent.

Jiang Youqian gripped his fists tightly. "Jiang Mohan, are you sure you won't regret it? Are you happy after amassing all your wealth?"

Jiang Mohan's steps faltered slightly, but he strode forward without stopping.

Refusing to give up, Jiang Youqian caught up to him and stood in his way. "Why didn't you answer me? Are you avoiding it?"

"Don't infuriate me," threatened Jiang Mohan as his gaze shone with hatred icily. "If it wasn't for your mother who wrecked my family, would I end up in this state?"

That had Jiang Youqian at a loss for words.

Indeed, when his mother got together with Jiang Jun, the latter was still married. His mother was, in reality, a homewrecker.

"But it happened many years ago-"

"So? Is she no longer wrong because it happened many years ago?" Jiang Mohan narrowed his eyes mockingly.

"Even if they were wrong, they brought you up, right?" Jiang Youqian tried to convince him. "If you insist on hating them, you'll never be happy. To take revenge, you even used your wife. She ended up getting a divorce and committed suicide. Are you happy now?"

The moment Jiang Youqian spoke about Zong Yanxi, Jiang Mohan's expression darkened. The last strand of self-restraint holding him together broke with a twang after that.

"I don't want you to regret-"

"Get lost!" Jiang Mohan yelled as he shoved him away and entered the building.

Jiang Youqian wanted to go after his brother, but Nan Cheng stopped him. "That's enough!"

Flinging Nan Cheng away, Jiang Youqian yelled, "He did everything just to take revenge. What would he be left with? One day, he'll regret everything!"

He swung around and left. The reporters he had gathered earlier were still at the entrance, so the entire debacle was recorded. One could imagine what they would write to grab attention.

Jiang Youqian couldn't believe that Jiang Mohan was unbothered about his reputation.

"Can we interview your parents?" a reporter questioned.

Ignoring them, Jiang Youqian squeezed through the crowd to leave. Right then, an ambulance with the logo of B City Mental Health Center stopped by the road.

Seeing that, Jiang Youqian froze instantly.

Did Jiang Mohan call the mental health center for real?

Is he crazy?

As expected, the obedient Nan Cheng had carried out Jiang Mohan's orders.

Just then, two men in white coats got off the ambulance. "Who's the madman?"

The reporters were stunned.

At that moment, Nan Cheng walked up and pointed to Jiang Youqian. "He is. He came to Hengkang Group and spouted nonsense to ruin President Jiang's reputation."

Nan Cheng was trying to revive Jiang Mohan's reputation.

Meanwhile, Jiang Youqian glared at him. "You're the madman!"

"Now, now, there's no need to be so ill-tempered. Treat your condition lest you act recklessly again. Remember to listen to the doctors and get well soon. Don't worry. President Jiang will foot your medical bill. You're his brother, after all. He'll make sure you get taken care of."

Jiang Youqian roared furiously. "Shut the f*ck up!"

"Ah, look at how violent you are. Indeed, you're a madman." Nan Cheng retorted calmly.

Upon that, Jiang Youqian was at a loss for words.

"Revenge had blinded Jiang Mohan. Are you blinded as well?"

"Who told you I'm blinded? I'm clear-headed. As a matter of fact, I'm perfectly fine." Nan Cheng said as he gazed at Jiang Youqian calmly.

Jiang Youqian managed between clenched teeth. "If you're loyal and want the best for Jiang Mohan, you should advise him to forget about taking revenge so he can lead a normal life-"

"How would you know that he's unhappy by avenging on those who had hurt him back then?" Nan Cheng cut him off abruptly.

He turned to the doctors and said, "Please take him with you. He has caused a lot of trouble here. I hope you can treat him soon."

"You must be crazy!" Jiang Youqian glared at Nan Cheng before fleeing the scene.

"Go get him." The doctor went after him at once.

Jiang Youqian glanced back while running and cussed, "Damn it!"

Are they seriously trying to catch me?

For god's sake, I'm not a freaking madman!

Before Nan Cheng entered the building, he told the reporters, "That madman spoke nonsense to ruin President Jiang's reputation. If you believe his words, I have nothing to say. But if you write false articles, you'll be receiving a letter from our lawyer soon."

He took his leave right after saying that.

As for the reporters, they fell silent.

If we write what we saw and heard, we're believing the madman?

But he doesn't even look like he's crazy!

That's an obvious threat!

Nan Cheng entered the building and reprimanded the security personnel.

"If that happens again, just chase them away and call me. Don't let them cause a commotion here. This is not a market."

"We tried to chase them away, but they refused to budge. That man claimed to be President Jiang's brother, so we dare not do anything."

"I don't care who he is. No one can kick up a fuss here. Remember, Hengkang Group pays you to protect this building, and President Jiang is the owner of Hengkang Group."

"Yes, we'll keep that in mind." Two rows of security personnel replied unanimously.

Nan Cheng then dismissed them with a wave. "You can leave now. This can't happen again."

"Yes."

After all that, Nan Cheng got on the elevator and headed to his office.

Jiang Mohan would be in a foul mood by now. Nan Cheng wanted to talk to him, but the secretary told him President Jiang had simply refused to see anyone at that moment.

Nan Cheng dared not disobey his employer. He recalled what Jiang Mohan ordered earlier and proceeded to make a phone call while leaving the building.

I'm going to get someone to tidy the villa up.

Meanwhile, Gu Xian had already decided to meet Guan Jing. He was so nervous that he asked for Zong Yanxi's help to pick out his outfit hours before the dinner.

Seeing how anxious he was, Zong Yanxi grumbled. "You're not going on a blind date. Why do you need to dress up?"

Yet, Gu Xian couldn't stop himself from being nervous. He was, after all, going to meet someone who could be his birth father formally for the first time.

Therefore, he felt the need to dress formally.

"Help me out," Gu Xian said, looking at the ceiling.

Looking at his solemn expression, Zong Yanxi stopped teasing him. She then smoothened his tie and collar. "Done."

"Really?"

"Yes," she assured him.

Zong Yanxi's phone suddenly buzzed in her pocket.

She then whipped out her phone. Beside her, Gu Xian inquired nervously, "Who is it?"

Could it be Guan Jing?

"It's my brother," said Zong Yanxi as she left to answer the call.

Zhuang Jiawen's voice sounded over the phone. "When will you finish dealing with your matter?"

"What's with the sudden question?" Zong Yanxi returned.

"I'm getting married on October 16th. Won't you attend my wedding?" Zhuang Jiawen demanded sternly.

"Oh, I nearly forgot about it," Zong Yanxi exclaimed.

"Mom and Dad will return to the country. Don't tell me you're going to avoid seeing them? Please take care of whatever that you're doing soon," said Zhuang Jiawen solemnly.

"Got it."

"Xinyao and I will be visiting Dad and Mom at Thailand tomorrow. Do you have anything to tell them?"

"Send me a photo of them," she said.

Actually, Zhuang Jiawen wanted her to come along with him. "Fine. Settle it ASAP. You've been in hiding for over a year. There's not much time left."

"Yes, I know." Zong Yanxi looked down.

It's quite hard to make Jiang Mohan lose everything in such a short time, though.

After hanging up, Zong Yanxi put her phone in her pocket. She had no idea Gu Xian had sneaked up to eavesdrop on her conversation. The man knew Zong Yanxi needed help, so he parted his lips and spoke, "Do you need my help?" He was standing so close to her that when she turned around suddenly, the tip of her nose grazed across his cheek.

Both were stunned in their spots.

At that moment, Zong Yanxi was the first to react by jumping back. "Why are you standing so close behind me?" she demanded angrily.

Gu Xian touched his cheek and answered truthfully. "To eavesdrop on your conversation."

Zong Yanxi was speechless at his answer.

"Where are your manners? Didn't your parents teach you not to eavesdrop on a phone conversation? Do you know how rude that is?"

"I grew up without a father, so no one taught me manners."

Gu Xian turned away unhappily, upset by Zong Yanxi's retort.

"I'm sorry," apologized Zong Yanxi.

She didn't mean to be so harsh.

Gu Xian waved it off. "Anyway, you should figure out how to take care of your problems the soonest possible."

Zong Yanxi pursed her lips before heading to the door. "I need to go to Hengkang."

"Now?" Gu Xian glanced at his watch. "It's already 2 p.m."

"The sun is still up." Zong Yanxi closed the door behind her.

She went downstairs, where Tian Qifeng was waiting in the car. When he spotted her, he got out of the car and opened the door for her.

Following that, she got into the car and ordered, "Head to the hotel."

I need to take the proposal.

The proposal was already finished. However, she dragged it on for a month so Jiang Mohan wouldn't get suspicious. Because if everything went on that smoothly, he might suspect something was wrong.

The acquisition was a trap ever since the beginning. Xinhai Investment was the backer of Superior Investment Bank, which was founded by Zong Jinghao.

The only thing was that not everyone knew that it belonged to Wanyue.

It wasn't easy to acquire a good investment company as the internal survey data should be clear and accurate.

Previously, Jiang Mohan had surveyed the data meticulously every day for six months.

According to his survey results, Xinhai Investment was doing well.

Yet, to acquire an investment company, one would need ample funds.

Jiang Mohan couldn't handle this alone, so he had to get a partner. However, by getting himself a partner, he wouldn't have to invest a lot of funds and lower his risks.

They had a thorough plan, but something might go wrong. After all, it was a gigantic amount. One careless mistake might cause their acquisition to fail, and their initial investment would be gone if that happened.

Her plan was to lure Jiang Mohan by providing him the data of Xinhai Investment's real profit. He would have access to the real data because he wouldn't be easily fooled. She was planning to trap Jiang Mohan at the later stages.

During the first round of acquisition, Hengkang would pour its funds into it. After that, Xinhai Investment would declare bankruptcy and transfer its existing businesses to another company.

In the end, Hengkang would get a shell company worth nothing.

By then, Jiang Mohan would lose everything he had invested.

Zong Ruixi had come up with the plan herself. When she was in discussion with Rui Mei, she offered Rui Mei a collaboration with Xinhai Investment so the prior would get to enter the domestic market.

But to think of it, Rui Mei agreed too quickly, and it didn't really make sense at all.

She knew Wanyue had invested in many projects, but she didn't know her father had come up with this plan ages ago.

Now, she wasn't going to insist on taking revenge alone. As long as she could seize back what she was robbed of, it was fine to get help from her father.

Besides, Zhuang Jiawen was right. She had been in hiding for too long. Her parents were worried about her for the past year, so she had to return in one piece.

At that thought, she touched her own face. She used to resemble her father a lot. Back then, she wanted to take revenge on Jiang Mohan without involving her father and received plastic surgery.

Besides adjusting her features, she also did her nose and jaw to change her looks.

After taking her revenge on Jiang Mohan, she'd restore her face before meeting her parents.

Her parents had given birth to her, so she couldn't change her looks as she liked.

"Ms. Zong, we're here," said Tian Qifeng as he stopped outside the hotel.

The moment he spoke, Zong Yanxi snapped back to reality. "Wait for me in the car."

She pushed the door open and returned to her room for the proposal.

Soon, she exited the hotel with the proposal and told Tian Qifeng to fetch her to Hengkang Group.

The time had come, and she had to bring up the proposal now.

Tian Qifeng glanced at her through the rearview mirror. "If you need help, just let us know."

"Not at the moment," said Zong Yanxi.

This is already in my plan.

Tian Qifeng grunted in acknowledgment and focused on driving.

About twenty minutes later, the car came to a stop outside Hengkang Group's building.

"I'll wait for you right here. Call me if you need help," Tian Qifeng reminded her.

He was her bodyguard, so he'd need to be responsible if something happened to her.

"Got it." After Zong Yanxi gave him a nod, she entered the building with the file in her hands.

Since this wasn't her first time here, the receptionist knew Zong Yanxi was a representative of the company which was in talks of a partnership with Hengkang. Hence, the receptionist didn't stop Zong Yanxi. All she did was call the secretary's desk to inform them about Zong Yanxi's arrival.

But when Zong Yanxi arrived at Jiang Mohan's office, the secretary stopped her. "Ms. Lin, I'm sorry. President Jiang isn't seeing anyone today."

"I'm here to discuss work," said Zong Yanxi.

The secretary explained, "I'm afraid you can't do so today. Why don't you come tomorrow?"

"Inform him now. Otherwise, I'll barge in," insisted Zong Yanxi.

He was urging me previously. Now, he refuses to see me. What is this?

The secretary was stumped. "Today, someone came and caused a commotion in our company. President Jiang is in a foul mood and refuses to see anyone today. I'm just carrying out his orders. Please don't put me on the spot, Ms. Lin."

At her words, Zong Yanxi raised a brow. "Who is that bold to cause a commotion at Hengkang Group?"

"I'm sorry, but this is President Jiang's private matter. I'm in no place to comment on that," said the secretary.

"Fine. Just inform him I'm here, or I'll barge in now."

I must see him today.

She took out her phone and sent Tian Qifeng a text, asking him to find out what happened at Hengkang today.

The secretary had no idea Zong Yanxi would be this persistent. She failed to persuade the latter to leave and dared not offend her, so she made the call.

After a few rings, Jiang Mohan picked up and answered the call with his deep voice.

"President Jiang, Ms. Lin is here. She insisted to discuss work with you in person. She said she'll barge in if I don't inform you-"

"Let her in," the man replied and hung up.

The secretary looked at Zong Yanxi. "Ms. Lin, you can enter now."

At her words, Zong Yanxi swiveled around and strode into the man's office.

When she pushed the door open, she noticed Jiang Mohan was sitting in front of his desk. Much to her surprise, his complexion was slightly pale. He only had a white shirt on with the collar unbuttoned.

Zong Yanxi walked in and asked formally, "President Jiang, are you sick?"

Jiang Mohan stared at her wordlessly. When he received his secretary's call, he was surprised she'd come out of a sudden.

Unlike his usual self, his gaze was no longer icy. Instead, it shone with anticipation.

Jiang Youqian was right. I have everything, but I'm not happy.

Especially after I lost Zong Yanxi.

His world was dark and cold again like it used to be before he married Zong Yanxi, without an inkling of warmth. He had been trying to get that feeling back to no avail.

Now, the only person who made him feel the same way was Lin Ruixi.

Hence, he wanted her to replace Zong Yanxi in his life.

"If I'm sick, will you be concerned about me?"

"Of course. We're partners, after all. If something happens to you, my efforts will be in vain."

Zong Yanxi pulled out the chair and sat down.

Leaning back, Jiang Mohan commented, "Ms. Lin, you don't sound sincere."

Zong Yanxi glanced at him with a smile. "Do you know what being sincere is?"

Back then, I loved you wholeheartedly. Did you appreciate it?

Jiang Mohan grabbed the handle of his chair abruptly as he gazed at her solemnly. "Ms. Lin, I can sense your hostility. Do you have a grudge against me?"

"President Jiang, are you joking?" Zong Yanxi placed her file on the table. "We're partners and friends. Why would I have a grudge against you?"

She then pushed the file toward him and changed the topic. "You were urging me for this. Here's the proposal. Please read it."

Jiang Mohan didn't seem like he was going to read it. Instead, he insisted on resuming the conversation from before. "Ms. Lin, you seem to be avoiding that topic. Are you afraid of something?"

"I have no idea what you're talking about. Go on, let's take a look at the proposal. It's time to work," said Zong Yanxi calmly while meeting his gaze. "I think you're the one acting strange today."

Buzz buzz.

Her phone rang.

She whipped out her phone to read the text sent by Tian Qifeng. After reading the incident which happened at Hengkang's entrance today, her eyebrows raised. Jiang Mohan, you seem to lead a glamorous life, but you've never had romantic or familial love.

"Oh? Is that so? Pray tell, Ms. Lin." Jiang Mohan was still looking at her.

"I heard you're an indifferent man. Well, you seem particularly enthusiastic today. Have you taken a fancy to me?" Zong Yanxi chuckled. "I'd like to remind you that I have a boyfriend."

At her answer, Jiang Mohan was plunged into frustration. He forced a smile and said, "Thank you, Ms. Lin, you can leave now. I'll read the proposal later."

Zong Yanxi rose to her feet. "Alright then. If you have any comments, do contact me anytime, and I'll make the changes as needed."

She left after saying his piece.

Jiang Mohan sat still for a long time after she left before picking up the file.

When he came to the last page of the file, his phone rang.

"President Jiang, I've sent you an email. We saw this person at Xinhai Investment," said the man on the other end of the line.

Jiang Mohan clicked on the new email he had just received. A photo of someone he knew appeared. Guan Jing.

He knew who Guan Jing was.

Narrowing his gaze, he thought, Why would Guan Jing appear at Xinhai Investment?

Soon, something occurred to him.

His gaze landed on the proposal Zong Yanxi had just delivered to him. I gave her a month, but she finished it in just a few days without any loopholes. Is she extremely capable, or is this part of a bigger scheme?

Come to think of it... The latter makes more sense.

After all, Guan Jing is Zong Jinghao's trusted right-hand man.

Why would he appear at Xinhai Investment, a company that I'm going to acquire soon? About Ling Wei...

He soon figured everything out.

Ling Wei's arrest must be Guan Jing's doing. Otherwise, her crimes wouldn't be exposed so suddenly.

Besides, she was dealt with effectively.

The USB drive which I received earlier, too.

It seems like a jumbled mess, but it was in fact, a clue.

Guan Jing is back to avenge Zong Yanxi?

Am I going to be his next target after Ling Wei?

Is Xinhai Investment a trap?

I can understand Guan Jing's actions as he's working for that man. But what about Lin Ruixi?

Who is she?

Is she really Zong Yanxi?

Suddenly, his heart started thumping furiously. If I am correct, Lin Ruixi should be Zong Yanxi.

There are too many connections. Her mother's surname is Lin.

It also explains why Guan Jing was there.

Is she... still alive?

Trying hard to suppress his excitement, he urged, "Anything else?"

"He was inside for around an hour. I can't be sure what their discussion was about since I couldn't get near to them," reported the man.

Previously, Jiang Mohan had sent the man to investigate Xinhai Investment. The investigation had been underway all the while as this would be a huge investment for him.

"Got it. You can stop the investigation now." He was sure the acquisition was a trap.

Everything now made sense to him, but he had no evidence to prove Lin Ruixi's real identity.

Standing up, he decided to clarify things.

When he exited the building, Zong Yanxi was no longer there. Standing next to the busy road, he took out his phone to give Lin Ruixi a call.

Very soon, the call was connected.

"Hello?"

"Ms. Lin, I need to talk to you about the proposal. Please come to my office now."

Zong Yanxi glanced at her watch. It was already 6 p.m., and she had a dinner appointment with Guan Jing. That dinner was supposed to be when Gu Xian and Guan Jing would meet for the first time. Thus, there was no way she could be late for this.

"President Jiang, I'll be there tomorrow morning-"

"No. I must see you now." He added, "The proposal you gave me has a loophole. I require an explanation from you now!"

He was adamant and hung up right after saying that.