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However, Li Yan's expression did not change. He sat down on the couch and took a glass of wine poured by the server. He took a slow sip, his actions doing nothing to indicate any anomalies.

When the other three people thought that the question would remain unanswered, Li Yan suddenly spoke with his deep voice, "Is it strange to have a woman by my side?"

Erm...

As incredulous as he sounded, it was nonetheless uncharacteristic for him.

Was it not odd to have this man of iron self-restraint, this man who never took a second glance at women saying that he had a woman by his side now?

Was this not inexorably scary?

Li Yan glanced at the three of them as his face clouded over, "What are these expressions on your faces?"

The three of them immediately turned their faces aside and tried their best to recollect themselves.

Su Chen gave a light cough, "It's not strange at all. Sure enough, the feng shui in our country is better. You never once had a woman with you in your ten years abroad, and you now have one when you're back!"

Lu Jingzhi nodded, "We thought that Ling Xi was bluffing."

Ling Xi snorted, "I never bluff!"

Even Ling Xi was shocked by the reply. After all, he was also uncertain about the identity of that beautiful brave young woman. He only said that Li Yan had a woman by his side to keep the other two in suspense, but surprisingly, he had hit the mark.

No wonder the big brother did not have a woman around him for so many years. It turned out that he liked women with fiery tempers. That arrogant and feisty temperament indeed stood out from the masses!

Li Yan lightly tapped the wine glass with his finger, lackadaisically proceeding. "Alright, let's talk about business!"

The other three people turned serious. Su Chen started to talk first, "Big brother, the news of you returning to Beijing has a huge impact in the business world. LSA Group holds huge power, and it's eyeing covetously at the market now. Recently, the companies all around, including Qiao Group and Yu Group are stirring up a commotion."

"Yu Group?" Li Yan smirked, "My uncle really raised a capable woman who is doing such a great job with the family business!"

The corners of Lu Jingzhi's lips curved into a smile, "Yu Tingyun is also considered to be an extraordinary character. She is the major shareholder of both Qiao and Yu Group. In these few years, these two companies are also slowly merging into one!"

Ling Xi snorted disdainfully, "Regardless of how brilliant she is, she is still just a woman. She only has one daughter who joined Qiao Group not long ago. She came to discuss a collaboration with Ling Group, and she's practically a bimbo! If Qiao Group and Yu Group are passed on to her, both companies will soon go bankrupt!"

Su Chen stole a glance at Li Yan before he casually said, "Isn't there a second young mistress in the Qiao family?"

Ling Xi seemed to be thinking otherwise. "Second young mistress? Oh, that illegitimate daughter? The rightful first young mistress is already a mess, how is it possible for the illegitimate daughter to gain a

foothold? It's already a surprise that Yu Tingyun allowed the illegitimate daughter into the Qiao family. As for inheriting the Qiao family's assets, that's another matter entirely!"

As Ling Xi dove into his analysis he did not notice Li Yan's expression slowly turning gloomy.

On the side, Su Chen and Lu Jingzhi exchanged a glance. Both of them felt that Ling Xi's blabbering mouth had gotten him into trouble again.

Li Yan's finger was tapping against the couch's armrest and his voice was ice cold when he spoke, "I said let's discuss business. Is this business?"

Ling Xi was at a loss. He had simply said something, why did the iceberg suddenly change his expression?

Most importantly, Su Chen and Lu Jingzhi seemed like they were rejoicing in his misfortune when they stared at him, as if he had gotten himself into trouble.

Soon after, Li Yan once again spoke with a nonchalant tone, "Ling Xi, since you're so bored and fond of gossiping about the family affairs of others, you can handle those few batches of goods in Africa before you return."

He had once again addressed Ling Xi by his full name!

Ling Xi was stunned, "Big brother, I'm sorry!"

This punishment was far too severe!

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At that very moment, someone pushed the door open. A sexily dressed woman stood at the entrance. She looked into the room and made a show of saying, "I'm sorry, I entered the wrong room."

But this woman then acted to the contrary of her words. She took a step forward and said with a smile on her face, “Ah, it’s the young masters. I’m really sorry for bothering you. I’m the daughter of Huang Group, and I’ve once met all of you at a dinner party. May I...”

The woman had a knowing smirk — it was obvious that she had not entered this room by mistake.

The men who were sitting here were all famous young masters in Beijing. Regardless of their identities and statuses, or their family backgrounds, they were all part of the Beijing elite.

With much difficulty, she got news that these young masters were gathering at Brilliant Dark Night tonight. Of course she would not let this opportunity slip.

The atmosphere in the room had just only plummeted because of Li Yan’s change of attitude and the blow that Ling Xi received.

Ling Xi was ablaze with anger when he put down the wine glass and glanced at the woman. He snapped, “Do you have a death wish?”

The woman was left speechless.

The woman was shocked, but she still braced herself to take a step forward. Ling Xi’s expression immediately changed, and he started laughing evilly, “Do you believe that if you take another step forward, you will never walk again?”

Right at that moment, a bodyguard rushed in and dragged the woman away, “I was complacent. I’ll take the punishment, young master.”

Ling Xi waved, “If there’s a next time, you’ll lose your job!”

Ling Xi only looked at Li Yan with a smile after the annoying woman disappeared, “Big brother, you were joking just now, right?”

Li Yan glanced at him before he stood up and walked out, "Watch your mouth in the future. I'm leaving."

Ling Xi let out a sigh of relief. Li Yan had just left when Ling Xi furrowed his brows in confusion. He looked at Lu Jingzhi and Su Chen, "What's the matter? Why was big brother so angry? Didn't I just make a few comments on the Qiao family's matters? Although his cousin and niece belong to the Qiao family, I don't think he'll get angry on their behalf.

Lu Jingzhi raised his eyebrow and kindly reminded him, "You didn't only mention both of them, you also mentioned the Qiao family's second young mistress."

"What's wrong with that bastard girl?"

Su Chen had a mysterious look on his face, "I advise you to not use the term 'bastard girl' in the future. Otherwise, you won't even realize it after getting yourself knee-deep in shit."

Ling Xi was at a loss. Lu Jingzhi and Su Chen seemed like they had left him out of a certain loop, and it made him extremely furious.

It was not strange for Ling Xi to know so little. Ling Xi was the youngest among the four of them, but he was the earliest one who went abroad.

Ling Xi went abroad three years earlier than Li Yan, and it was within those three years when a second young mistress appeared in the Qiao family.

Although the Li family was related to the Qiao family, the relationship between the two families was not like how it was on the surface. Li Yan had always acted indifferent toward the Qiao family members, but Qiao Mu was the only exception.

Lu Jingzhi and Su Chen had never seen Li Yan being so kind to a person.

Li Yan would order Lu Jingzhi to buy a lot of lollipops from a specialty store just because the second young mistress of the Qiao family ate a lollipop. At that time, Li Yan had given Lu Jingzhi a bad headache.

Lu Jingzhi wondered why the First Young Master Li was a pedophile. Why did he only set his heart on a ten year old child instead of any other human being?!

But thankfully, that phase only went on for three years.

After that, Li Yan went abroad and he was occupied with his career and the expansion of the company's influence overseas. So he no longer kept in contact with Qiao Mu.

At that time, Lu Jingzhi and Su Chen felt that Li Yan was just a quick fling, and Qiao Mu was nothing special.

Just now, Su Chen mentioned the second young mistress of the Qiao family on purpose to see Li Yan's response. But his response had been most surprising.