Divorce Only Makes a Son-in-Law Stronger

Chapter 111, they all deserve it!

"Come, let me give everyone a grand introduction. These are Director Su's right and left arms."

Seeing Su Mengqing's ashen face, Yuan Youwei knew she had given up her defiant act. A surge of vindication washed over her, and her red lips curved into a smile as she walked toward Su Gang and Yang Tingting.

"This one here is Su Mengqing's own little brother, Su Gang, a hopeless gambling addict. He'd rather steal his own mother's medical funds than miss a chance to roll into an underground casino in his wheelchair and dominate the tables."

She stared at Su Gang's mangled, blood-soaked legs with disgust and shook her head. "Unfortunately, his luck ran out. In a gambling frenzy, he borrowed from the casino's loan sharks. When he couldn't repay them, his legs were broken and he was thrown out onto the street."

Turning her head, Yuan Youwei looked at Yang Tingting, who was disheveled with her clothes in disarray, looking like a beggar. "This one is even more pathetic. She was always so full of herself, thinking she was some rare talent, and fed Director Su an endless stream of terrible advice. A few days ago, thinking the Su family was completely finished, she stole Su Mengqing's luxury car, planning to cash it out with black-market dealers and skip town. Instead, she fell into a wolf's den and was held captive and humiliated for two days and nights. She lost her money and her dignity, and very nearly her life."

As her words landed, a violent uproar erupted inside and outside the hall.

"What an eye-opener today has been! How can Haicheng have so many rotten people?"

"Birds of a feather flock together!"

"Ugh, that's disgusting! How could I have been stupid enough to support Su Mengqing just now?"

The crowd buzzed, their gazes toward Su Gang and Yang Tingting filled with revulsion. By extension, the looks they cast at Su Mengqing transformed into pure hatred and anger.

This woman was too full of herself, too good at playing the victim. She almost had everyone fooled!

"Sis, just admit it! It's our family that wronged Lin Fan and Aunt Suxin!"

"Yes, Director Su, at this point, no matter how much you deny it or how desperately you argue, it's useless," Yang Tingting sobbed.

Under the weight of countless strange looks, Su Gang and Yang Tingting trembled, their faces etched with misery. They crawled and scrambled over to Su Mengqing's feet, looking up and pleading, hoping to appease Yuan Youwei and Lin Fan and be let off the hook.

"Sis, if Miss Yuan hadn't saved me and Tingting, we'd already be dead out there! She's a good person; we can't keep dragging her name through the mud!" Su Gang said hoarsely, his face contorted in a pained expression.

"Director Su, stop struggling! This is all karma! We brought this on ourselves!" Yang Tingting cried, wiping at her face and leaving clean streaks on her dirty cheeks.

"Oh, don't say that. I'm no saint," Yuan Youwei interjected with a smile before Su Mengqing could speak, shaking her head. "I brought you two back because you colluded to cook the books and embezzled a significant amount of money from Su Pharmaceutical's accounts. Now that I am Director Lin's personal assistant, it is my duty to help him recover all the company's losses. Not only will you two have to pay back the money, but you will also have to face criminal charges and go to jail!"

BOOM!

Su Gang's body trembled, and his pants were instantly soaked.

Yang Tingting froze for a moment, then bowed her head deeply and broke into heart-wrenching sobs.

It's over. It's completely over. Where would they find the money to repay it? They had stolen tens of millions; they were going to rot in prison!

"Sis, quick, help us beg Director Lin! I don't want to go to jail! I don't want to lose my freedom!"

"Director Su, you're the only one who can help us now! Say something for us, please, beg for mercy!"

The two of them panicked completely, screaming desperately at Su Mengqing.

"You two dogs! Why did you even bother coming back? Why didn't you just die out there?!"

After a tense silence that stretched for a full ten seconds, Su Mengqing, her face numb, finally closed her eyes, biting her lip so hard that a trickle of blood ran from the corner of her mouth. "Su Gang, do you have any idea that you abandoned Mom alone at the hospital? She's had a stroke. She's paralyzed now and can't even get out of bed. You betrayed me and dragged me into a living hell, and now you want me to go beg Lin Fan on your behalf?"

Her eyes snapped open, blazing with madness and fury, and she began kicking furiously at them!

"Sis! Are you insane?!"

"Su Mengqing, I've had enough of you! Who the hell do you think you are now, hitting and cursing me whenever you feel like it?!"

Su Gang and Yang Tingting, shocked and enraged, howled in pain as she kicked them. Throwing caution to the wind, they each grabbed one of her legs and dragged her to the floor. The three of them began to scuffle wildly, tangled together on the ground like rabid dogs fighting over a scrap of food.

"What a disgrace! What an absolute disgrace!" Wen Zheyang and Iguchi Tama exchanged looks, their expressions grim.

Behind them, however, the pharmaceutical representatives from the North gloated at the spectacle, clapping and laughing.

Meanwhile, Mr. Wang Sr.'s face had turned ashen as he inwardly cursed Su Mengqing for being a spineless failure.

So many people openly sided with you and supported you, yet you still let Lin Fan crush you so completely? Useless. Absolutely useless!

At Mr. Wang Sr.'s command, several venue security guards stepped forward and pulled the three panting figures apart. They collapsed to the ground, glaring at each other with murderous intent.

"Everyone, listen to me! Everything Miss Yuan just said is true! I can testify!" Su Gang suddenly yelled to the surrounding crowd, craning his neck.

"Yes, I can testify too! Su Mengqing is an extremely cold-blooded, selfish monster!" Yang Tingting added, nodding furiously as she spoke with righteous indignation.

"Why? Why are you doing this to me? Wasn't I good enough to you? Why?!" Su Mengqing's face went deathly pale, and tears of humiliation streamed down her cheeks. She never imagined that the people closest to her would be the ones to push her off the cliff.

"Hmph, you have the nerve to ask why? All four of us stole the medicine together, but you and Mom deliberately pinned all the blame on me!" Su Gang shouted, his face consumed by resentment. "Back at the Wang family's old house, you just stood there and watched as I was nearly whipped to death! Do you still consider me family? Since you don't care if I live or die, why should I care about you?!"

His words struck Su Mengqing with such force that her eye twitched, and she almost fainted.

Mother Zhang Meili had always doted on Su Gang. And I was even more indulgent and protective of my own brother, to the point where I would blatantly lie and lash out at Lin Fan for his well-intentioned warnings. And this is how he repays me?

"And me!" Yang Tingting screeched, her eyes red and swollen as she pointed a trembling finger at Su Mengqing. "I slaved away for you, Su Mengqing, and how did you treat me? You'd slap me without a second thought, hitting me like you wanted me dead! You never once treated me like a human being! I did so much for your Su family. Don't I deserve to secure a way out for myself? It was just a car! It's what I, Yang Tingting, deserved!"

The curses and accusations echoed endlessly through the hall. Su Mengqing's pale lips trembled; she was on the verge of a complete breakdown.

"Su Mengqing, didn't you demand justice from me?"

Lin Fan, who had been silent for a long time, slowly walked over. He looked at her, his face devoid of expression, and shook his head. "Well, here is your justice. Are you satisfied now? Let me tell you, what's happened to you and the Su family today is exactly what you deserve. The heavens are just, and this outcome is truly a joy to behold!"

BOOM!

Su Mengqing's entire body shuddered as if she had been struck by lightning. Lin Fan's words were a steel dagger, piercing straight through her heart. The pain was raw and bleeding.

"Fine! Fine! Fine! You all just want to drive me to my death, don't you?" she shrieked. "I, Su Mengqing, am worthless! I'm a waste! I deserve to be driven to a dead end by all of you!"

She staggered to her feet, the veins on her pale neck bulging as she teetered on the edge of insanity. Tears streamed down her face as she let out a tragic, broken laugh. The entire world before her seemed to be swaying, about to crumble and collapse.

"Wait! Even if you're going to die, take off our company's janitorial uniform first and give it back to the team leader!" a stout woman in a matching uniform suddenly shouted, unable to hold back any longer.

"That’s right, take it off! We’re not your colleagues! We don’t want to be disgraced along with you!"

"It was only because Aunt Xu has a kind heart that she hired a piece of work like you as a temp! You’re nothing but a jinx who brings ruin to yourself and everyone around you!"

The other janitors chimed in, pointing at Su Mengqing and denouncing her.

"Aunt Xu, are you going to turn on me too? You watched me grow up!" Su Mengqing cried out, her spirit completely broken.

"Su Mengqing, you’ve nearly gotten me killed! You... you..." Aunt Xu gritted her teeth, then turned her back with a long sigh. "Sigh. Just take off the uniform and go."

Even now, Su Mengqing still thinks it’s everyone else’s fault. I really was a fool for meddling, sticking my nose where it didn’t belong. It was my own soft heart that made me want to help someone like her!

"Fine! I’ll take it off! I’ll take it off and give it back to you all!"

Seeing that every gaze around her was cold, filled with revulsion and contempt, Su Mengqing’s tears fell like rain. She had no face left to stay. Covering her face, she bolted and ran toward the restrooms of the exhibition hall.

Chapter 112, there’s no old love to talk about!

"Miss Yuan, we have truly mended our ways and severed all ties with that wretch, Su Mengqing."

Seeing Su Mengqing disappear into the inner hall, Su Gang and Yang Tingting exchanged glances, both secretly sighing in relief. He turned, struggling to drag his two broken legs as he crawled to Yuan Youwei’s feet, his face plastered with a pleading smile.

"We were wrong. We won’t contact Su Mengqing anymore. Please, show us mercy and spare us?"

"Yes, yes, yes, we were wrong! From now on, we’ll be good people!" Yang Tingting also scrambled forward, bobbing her head up and down like a chicken pecking at grain.

"A debt of tens of millions, and you think you can just say sorry and wipe the slate clean?" Yuan Youwei asked, her smile not quite reaching her eyes.

"Uh, well... I'll pay! Once I have the money, I will definitely pay it back!" Su Gang's smile was uglier than his tears. "I can work for Director Lin and remain as the President's Assistant at Su Pharmaceutical!"

Yang Tingting quickly tucked a stray strand of hair behind her ear, attempting to look charming. But her bruised, swollen, and dirty appearance only earned disgusted looks from the onlookers, making them feel sick.

"Forget it. Just send them to the authorities for now. Let them be handled as the law sees fit." Yuan Youwei was actually amused by the spectacle. She couldn't be bothered with these two any longer and gave Mrs. Xue a nod.

"No, no, don't!" Su Gang's face drained of color, and he trembled with fear. He desperately crawled over to Lin Fan's feet. "Brother-in-law, for the sake of us once being family, please spare me this one time!" He banged his head on the floor, begging for mercy.

"Brother Fan, save me!" Yang Tingting collapsed to the ground, crying out to Lin Fan. "Back when I was neighbors with your mom, we got along so well! I nearly considered asking her to be my godmother!"

"If you had ever been even slightly polite to my mother, there might have been a chance I would have spared you," Lin Fan stated, shaking his head with a cold, expressionless face. "But you thought you'd made it big and looked down on her, not even bothering with the pretense of courtesy."

"Did you ever offer her incense, burn paper money, or visit her grave to pay your respects?"

"And now you want me to consider our old ties? What the fuck kind of old ties do I have with you!"

His thunderous words resonated through the room.

Su Gang stuttered, rendered completely speechless. Yang Tingting, ashen-faced, trembled and hung her head so low she wished she could bury it in her lap.

"Take them away. Don't let this trash dirty the venue!" Yuan Youwei's eyes turned to ice, her patience completely gone.

At her command, two Yuan family bodyguards strode forward. Each grabbed one of the weeping pair and dragged Su Gang and Yang Tingting away.

The farce had finally come to an end.

Inside and outside the hall, everyone wore complex expressions, momentarily unsure of what to say. Those who had previously spoken out in support of Su Mengqing now felt their faces burn with shame, too embarrassed to meet anyone's gaze.

"Well, we have Mr. Wang Sr. and Mr. Huang to thank for this," Mr. Yuan Sr. said, stepping forward with a wide smile and giving the two men a thumbs-up. "If not for your repeated insistence on upholding justice, the rumors against Lin Fan would never have been so thoroughly dispelled. So righteous! So fair and just!"

"Hmph! Old Yuan, spare us your sarcastic remarks. This isn't over yet. We'll see!" Mr. Wang Sr., his face grim, flung his sleeves in anger and led his contingent toward the new drug launch area in the center of the venue.

"Old Yuan, stop with your barbed comments! I was just speaking up for justice!" Huang Jiacheng's face alternated between pale and livid. After forcing out the words through gritted teeth, he dejectedly followed after Mr. Wang Sr. and the others.

Seeing this, the onlookers lost interest and began to disperse in small groups.

"Grandfather, it looks like their two families are planning to join forces..." Yuan Youwei murmured as she walked over, her gaze shifting away from the departing men, a hint of worry in her eyes.

"Let's just take it one step at a time," Mr. Yuan Sr. replied with a nod. He gave Lin Fan an encouraging look before heading toward the podium to take his seat for the opening ceremony.

"Impressive. Truly impressive. Mr. Lin, I've now truly witnessed your methods."

Just then, Iguchi Tama, who had been watching coldly from the sidelines, approached with a visibly upset Wen Zheyang. Her expression remained frigid as she clapped her hands slowly and came to a stop in front of Lin Fan.

"You speak the language of Xia Country quite well. Have you practiced?" Lin Fan's brow furrowed slightly as a sharp glint flashed in his eyes.

"If you're here about Iguchi Watanabe, I'm more than happy to see this through to the end."

"Heh heh, my brother's matter isn't urgent. We can settle our accounts slowly after the pharmaceutical procurement conference begins." Iguchi Tama's eyes flashed with a fierce light, but she quickly suppressed it and turned to leave.

"Lin Fan, you'd better worry about yourself first. You won't get a single penny from that four-billion-dollar order!" Wen Zheyang shot him a warning glare, his sinister threat hanging in the air as he followed Iguchi Tama away.

"Do they already know that Iguchi Watanabe is dead?" Yuan Youwei asked Lin Fan nervously in a low voice.

"On this matter, the Yuan family will not stand idly by," Mr. Yuan Sr. added, his brows furrowed in concentration as he squinted his cloudy old eyes.

"It's as I've said before," Lin Fan replied, his face a mask of calm. "Anyone who dares come to Xia Country and cause trouble, I'll kill them one by one."

His words, though spoken calmly, were laden with such murderous intent that Yuan Youwei and the others' hearts clenched. They exchanged glances, yet inexplicably felt a surge of confidence and resolve.

In the time that followed, everyone rushed to the central area of the venue to watch the opening ceremony. Lin Fan, however, led Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue to the Yuandao Pharmaceuticals booth at the very edge of the convention hall.

This area was remote, populated only by the booths of a few small pharmaceutical companies scattered here and there, giving it a desolate and deserted feel. It was, without a doubt, the fringe of the venue. Furthermore, the staff of Yuandao Pharmaceuticals were nowhere to be seen. It was likely because Yuan Ruoshan had given prior instructions for no one to show up for promotions or demonstrations.

"There's really no one here at all. Yuan Ruoshan has gone too far!" Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue exchanged looks, their expressions souring. Although they had been mentally prepared, it was still incredibly frustrating to see it in person.

Lin Fan didn't seem to mind. He silently took out the wooden medicine boxes from the black plastic bag and began arranging them on the display counter.

Just then, Doctor Jiang came bounding over, beaming at Lin Fan. "Master, I'm here to help, hehe!"

"Alright. Get me some sticky notes and a pen," Lin Fan said without looking up, continuing to arrange the nine medicine boxes in a neat row.

"No problem! I'll go get them right away!" Doctor Jiang scampered off. In no time at all, he returned with a stack of sticky notes and a pen.

"Master, what incredible things have you prepared this time?" he asked, full of fawning praise as he stared at the containers. "These medicine boxes look extraordinary! They're guaranteed to make a huge splash!"

"There are no medicines," Lin Fan replied, shaking his head. He picked up the pen and began to scrawl on the sticky notes. "They're just empty boxes."

He then attached each note to its corresponding wooden medicine box.

Chapter 113, a ten billion exhibition booth?

"Ah... Empty? They’re empty?" Doctor Jiang was stunned for a moment and was about to ask for details. But when his eyes fell on the sticky notes, they shot wide open as if he’d seen a ghost.

Written on them, clear as day, were phrases like "Wang family, 4 billion," "Fang family, 2 billion," and so on. A rough estimate put the total at over ten billion.

Hiss. Doctor Jiang came to his senses with a sharp intake of breath, so shocked he almost bit his tongue. Has he gone mad? Does Lin Fan really think he can use nine empty medicine boxes to earn over ten billion from the nine major pharmaceutical companies in Haicheng?!

"Heh heh. So these past few days, you haven’t been worrying about which products Yuandao Pharmaceuticals would exhibit. You’ve been plotting this instead, have you?"

Just then, Yuan Ruoshan, who hadn’t been seen for several days, strolled over with two female assistants. He glanced at the nine medicine boxes on the display and couldn’t help but burst into laughter. The gaze from behind his gold-rimmed glasses was that of a man looking at an idiot.

"Director Yuan, he’s planning to create a ten-billion-dollar booth!" one of the assistants chirped.

"Teehee, with a little trick like this, he thinks he can shoot for the stars, push our Director Yuan aside, and take charge of Yuandao Pharmaceuticals?"

His two buxom, curvy assistants also covered their mouths, laughing coquettishly while making snide remarks.

"You should get your assets ready. I’ll be sending my people to take over everything, so try not to panic when the time comes," Lin Fan said, his expression impassive and completely unmoved.

"Yuan Ruoshan, if you lose, you’ll have nothing left," Yuan Youwei said with a smile, exchanging a glance with Mrs. Xue. Her gaze then shifted to the two female assistants. "As for you two, you’ll have to scram along with him!"

"Fine, I’ll be waiting. 1.4 billion in cash, practically free money. Who wouldn’t want that?" Yuan Ruoshan sneered, wrapping an arm around each of his assistants. He then strode away confidently with the two giggling women, clearly having paid no mind to Lin Fan’s words.

"Um, Master, I'm going to go watch the opening ceremony performance first. I'll be back later to support you, hehe..." Doctor Jiang gave a sheepish smile, made his excuse, and took the opportunity to slip away. He had no choice; who told Lin Fan to play such an outrageous game? If he stayed any longer, people would think he was a fool, too.

"If you're afraid of being embarrassed, you can stay away from me as well," Lin Fan said without acknowledging Doctor Jiang's departure. He casually pulled over a chair and sat down behind the display booth. Seeing Mrs. Xue hesitating, as if wanting to say something, he added flatly, his expression indifferent.

"If it weren't for my lady, I wouldn't bother acting like a fool with you!" Mrs. Xue's cold, beautiful face flushed red, and she ground her teeth in irritation. If she weren't certain she could beat Lin Fan, she would have loved nothing more than to smash his punchable face in.

"Mrs. Xue, after everything we've been through with Lin Fan, haven't you realized by now that he's always been reliable?" Yuan Youwei said, pulling up another chair to sit beside Lin Fan, her beautiful eyes filled with confidence.

"Miss, he originally said he was going to get four billion, but... but now it's more than doubled!" Mrs. Xue stomped her foot in frustration, pointing at the nine plain wooden medicine boxes on the display. "Who but a complete lunatic would spend a fortune to buy these things!"

"The terms doubled because those nine companies didn't know what was good for them. I already gave them a chance," Lin Fan said lightly. He tilted his head slightly, glancing toward the restrooms not far behind them before falling silent.

At that moment, just inside the entrance to the women's restroom, Su Mengqing was clutching a janitor's uniform, peeking out from behind the door. She hadn't brought a change of clothes and was only wearing a small, white, form-fitting tank top and knee-length hot pants underneath. She hesitated, too embarrassed to walk out dressed like that. She just wanted to hide there and wait until the exhibition ended for the day, then slip out when the crowds thinned.

Suddenly, an abrasive voice came from behind her. "Su Mengqing, why haven't you scrammed yet? Do you want security to come and throw you out?"

Su Mengqing turned to see her plump coworker from the janitorial staff. "Why should I leave?" she retorted. "Even though I only shined shoes for half a day, Aunt Xu still has to pay me!"

"Are you kidding me?" The plump woman laughed in exasperation and rolled her eyes dramatically at Su Mengqing. "You nearly got our entire team fired, and you still have the nerve to ask for your wages? Look at you, with your delicate skin and nice figure... If you're really that desperate for money, why don't you go sell yourself?"

"Hmph, you wish you could sell yourself, but you don't have what it takes!" Su Mengqing retorted loudly, her eyes red with rage.

"Hmph. I'm nothing like you, you're just a pretty face with nothing inside. My husband loves me, and my mother and brother have a wonderfully happy family life. Not like some people who've been abandoned by friends and family and are now completely alone!" The plump woman clearly knew how to win an argument. She wasn't annoyed at all; instead, she walked away with a smug grin.

Su Mengqing was left standing rigidly in place, trembling all over. It took her a long time to steady her breathing.

"Fine, fine, fine... So now everyone looks down on me, Su Mengqing. Even a janitor dares to mock me," she murmured to herself, her face a mask of pain. Her eyes, however, were fixed on the Yuandao Pharmaceuticals booth just a few meters away.

No one could have expected that Lin Fan's booth would be right outside the restrooms. If she left now, she would inevitably run into him and suffer another round of ridicule. Fine, she'd just stay here, then. She would watch with her own eyes as that bastard made a complete fool of himself, unable to sell a single thing! A ten-billion-dollar booth? What a joke! It's just Lin Fan's delusion. And those two wretches, Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue, are just as foolish for going along with it. It's enough to make you die laughing!

Thinking these malicious thoughts brought her a sense of satisfaction. Su Mengqing gradually calmed down, her eyes full of venom as she glared at Lin Fan's back.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we now invite the nine major pharmaceutical companies of Haicheng to present their new medicinal achievements!"

Just then, the host's resonant voice boomed from the central area of the convention hall. It was immediately followed by thunderous applause and cheers that echoed throughout the venue.

Mr. Wang Sr. and the others rose from their seats, turning to wave with smiles at the massive crowd. Beaming with success, they walked onto the stage one after another. Each of them then held up their company's new flagship drug, showcasing it for the audience below.

"I am honored to witness the birth of our nine companies' new drugs with all of you on this momentous day!" Mr. Wang Sr. said into the microphone, his face glowing with joy. "These nine new drugs have all been improved from our own ancestral secret formulas, and they will surely benefit the people! Moreover, I stake my reputation as the president of the Haicheng Pharmaceutical Association to guarantee that these new drugs are fast-acting and highly effective, with excellent quality and affordable prices. They will be our companies' signature products from now on!"

As soon as he finished speaking, the entire venue erupted in excitement. Many medical experts and veteran traditional medicine physicians who were also on stage came forward to endorse the nine new drugs.

"Our Wen family from the Imperial Capital also sees great potential in these nine new drugs and has decided to pursue in-depth collaboration," Wen Zheyang, impeccably dressed, announced as he stepped onto the stage.

"On behalf of the Iguchi Pharmaceutical Group from Sakura Country, I solemnly declare that as long as these nine drugs pass our quality standards, we will import them on a large scale and promote them to the international pharmaceutical market," Iguchi Tama announced, standing up to address the crowd.

At that moment, the atmosphere in the venue reached its peak. Cheers rose and fell in continuous, overwhelming waves.

The representatives from Haicheng's other pharmaceutical companies could only watch with expressions of envy, jealousy, and resentment. Meanwhile, the distribution channel agents and representatives from major pharmacy chains who had rushed over upon hearing the news had eyes burning with fervent excitement. They secretly resolved to get their hands on these nine new drugs, determined not to be left behind.

With so many medical experts, as well as the Wen family and the president of the Iguchi Pharmaceutical Group, endorsing them, who would possibly doubt how well these drugs would sell? If they were a step too slow, they might not even get a taste. They would miss a golden opportunity to strike it rich.

"Everyone, please be patient. To publicly demonstrate the effects of our drugs, our nine companies have chosen three to represent us for a live test: the Wang family's Divine Dragon Detox Powder, the Fang family's Heavenly Glow Moisturizer, and the Meng family's Moonlight Lung Soothing Cream!" Seeing the intense reaction from the audience, which far exceeded his expectations, Mr. Wang Sr. exchanged a jubilant smile with the others on stage.

"Furthermore," he continued, getting caught up in the excitement, "on the spur of the moment, I've decided that the heads of our three companies will personally test the drugs to show our sincerity!"

What? The heads of the three major pharmaceutical companies were going to test the drugs themselves? This was absolutely unprecedented! It showed an incredible level of confidence in their own products. Instantly, a roar of excitement erupted both on and off the stage.

"Now, it is time to witness a miracle!" Mr. Wang Sr. declared with a grand wave of his hand, completely ignoring the desperate looks from his company's designated drug tester. "Bring everything we prepared up here!"

Chapter 114, Lin Fan, why aren’t you kneeling yet!

"Whether or not we succeed all comes down to this."

At that moment, in a corner of the conference hall, Mrs. Xue stood behind their display booth, staring intently at the live stream on her phone with a nervous expression. She was too far from the press conference stage to see the scene clearly, but fortunately, many news outlets were broadcasting live, so she could watch it online.

On the screen, a group of people walked onto the stage, their faces glowing with excitement. They carried various items and came to a stop before Mr. Wang Sr. and the others. The Fang family had prepared a simple basin of clear water, while the Meng family, ever creative, had a plate of chili powder. The Wang family, however, was holding a small iron cage veiled with black gauze. It looked quite mysterious, drawing curious glances from the audience both on and off the stage.

"Lin Fan, I’ve always had a question... How were you so sure they would test the medicine today according to your plan?" Mrs. Xue asked, turning to Lin Fan with suspicion.

Yuan Youwei also looked over, her eyes full of curiosity. After all, if they used the newest batch for the on-site test, its efficacy wouldn’t have deteriorated significantly. In that case, Lin Fan’s entire plan would be ruined.

"I wasn’t entirely sure," Lin Fan said calmly, shaking his head. "After those nine families got the prescription, the first batch of medicine they made would have undoubtedly used the best ingredients and the most meticulous process. Moreover, they would have immediately found people for clinical trials... If it were you, which batch would you choose?"

At his words, the color drained from Mrs. Xue and Yuan Youwei’s faces, and they clenched their fists nervously. Good heavens, this is a complete gamble! And here you were, acting so confident, as if you had them right where you wanted them!

"But, what if...!" Mrs. Xue was flustered, so angry she wanted to curse. Seeing Lin Fan’s unflappable demeanor only infuriated her more.

"There are no ’what ifs.’ Even if they successfully hold their new product launch, they’ll discover the quality issues later and will still have to come begging me," Lin Fan remained indifferent, turning to give Yuan Youwei a reassuring glance.

"...Right, Lin Fan is correct. It’s only a matter of time. Mrs. Xue, there’s no need to worry so much," Yuan Youwei said, managing a weak smile to comfort her.

"Miss, but if that happens, our booth will become a complete joke!" Mrs. Xue's face went pale with rage, and she stamped her foot. The two of them weren't worried at all. It made her feel like she was panicking for nothing while they remained calm. The emperor isn't worried, but the eunuchs are frantic!

"Lin Fan doesn't care because he's thick-skinned, but Miss, your image and the Yuan family's reputation will be severely damaged! It might even get exposed online!"

"That's right! You scheming people deserve to be exposed!"

Before Yuan Youwei could respond, a harsh voice cut in from the restroom entrance a few meters away. Su Mengqing strode toward them, clutching a janitor's uniform in one hand and her phone in the other. A venomous, cold smile played on her lips, her eyes glinting with the triumphant glee of someone who had seen through everything.

"Su Mengqing! What... What did you hear? You were hiding by the restroom, eavesdropping!" Mrs. Xue was stunned for a moment before her expression changed drastically.

Yuan Youwei shot to her feet, her face grim. They had thought the area was deserted and never imagined someone might be in the restroom. And of all people, it had to be Su Mengqing, who despised Lin Fan and had overheard their entire secret conversation!

"Su Mengqing, what do you think you're doing?" Yuan Youwei asked coolly, her gaze flicking to Su Mengqing's phone. "If you pretend you heard nothing, I can make an exception and let Su Gang and Yang Tingting off the hook."

This was the most critical moment of Lin Fan's plan. If Su Mengqing exposed them to Mr. Wang Sr., it would all be for nothing. Their hearts sank as Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue exchanged a nervous glance.

"Heh, those two ungrateful wretches don't care if I live or die, so why should I care about them!" Su Mengqing spat resentfully, her eyes shifting to the live stream on the phone at the booth. Onstage, the hosts were inviting audience members up to test the medicine. The crowd was laughing and bustling, creating a lively scene.

"Lin Fan! You never expected this, did you? That you would fall into my hands?" Su Mengqing sneered, looking up at Lin Fan with a face full of hatred.

"Su Mengqing, do you think you have me cornered and can do whatever you want with me?" Lin Fan asked, his expression placid as he shook his head at her resentful, bloodshot eyes. He had noticed someone eavesdropping by the restroom much earlier and had guessed it was likely Su Mengqing, but he hadn't paid it any mind. "If you think you can use this to control me, then go right ahead."

"Heh, keep pretending! Just keep putting on a show for me!" Su Mengqing's lips curled into a disdainful sneer. "Let me tell you something. I've already written a text to Mr. Wang Sr. One press of the send button, and your vicious little plan will go up in smoke! Does that make you angry? Then beg me. Kneel down, kowtow, and beg me to be merciful and spare you!"

Her gaze shifted to Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue. "And if you think you're so shameless you have nothing to lose, can you really watch these two become laughingstocks right alongside you?"

After her loud threat, Su Mengqing lifted her chin, her eyes filled with cold pride. "Kneel, Lin Fan! Your time is running out!"

At these words, Yuan Youwei's composure finally shattered. She shot Mrs. Xue a look. With a grim expression, Mrs. Xue's eyes narrowed as she prepared to rush forward and snatch the phone.

"Don't even think about it! One step closer and I'll press it!" Su Mengqing cried out, retreating warily as she sensed their intent.

"Su Mengqing, if you dare to ruin Lin Fan's plan, you will face consequences you cannot afford!" Yuan Youwei was furious, her beautiful face turning to ice. Her heart was a whirlwind of anger and anxiety.

"What consequences could possibly be worse than my current situation? You're all driving me to my death! What do I have left to fear?" Su Mengqing laughed with venom, but her eyes remained fixed firmly on Lin Fan. She had personally witnessed his skills, which were as mysterious as they were unpredictable. If Lin Fan made a sudden move, she knew she wouldn't have time to react.

Hearing this, Yuan Youwei's face darkened, and she didn't know what to do. She could only exchange a glance with Mrs. Xue before they both turned to the still-indifferent Lin Fan.

One second, two seconds, three seconds passed... The atmosphere grew increasingly tense and oppressive.

"Lin Fan, what are you waiting for? Hurry up and kneel! Beg for mercy!" Su Mengqing was also getting anxious and couldn't stop herself from urging him harshly. If this dragged on any longer, the official drug test at the press conference would begin.

"I'm waiting for you to send that text to Mr. Wang Sr. and rat me out. If you don't send it soon, you'll run out of time," Lin Fan replied, his expression utterly calm. His indifferent gaze was like he was looking at an idiot.

"Fine! Then don’t blame me for being ruthless! You brought this upon yourself!" Su Mengqing’s breath hitched, so choked with rage she felt her lungs might burst. His detached response felt like punching cotton—utterly futile. It was infuriating, leaving her feeling deeply aggrieved and indignant. What are you playing at, Lin Fan? Do you really think I don’t have the guts to do it?!

In a fit of rage, her fingers began to tremble. As Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue watched with horrified expressions, she viciously slammed her finger down on the send button.

BEEP—!

Almost at the same instant, on the distant product launch stage, Mr. Wang Sr. instinctively pulled out his buzzing phone.

"Su Mengqing? What’s this all about, texting me now... Hmph." Mr. Wang Sr. looked slightly annoyed as he glanced at the screen, preparing to put his phone away.

"Mr. Wang Sr., Lin Fan tampered with the medicine! There’s a quality issue with your new product! Cancel the press conference immediately!"

However, the corner of his eye caught the message’s content. Mr. Wang Sr. froze, his heart sinking. Su Mengqing and Lin Fan have completely fallen out; she has no reason to lie to me. What if she really did discover something?!

"Mr. Wang Sr., what’s wrong?" The Family Heads of the Fang and Meng families, standing beside him, sensed something was amiss. They leaned in and asked quietly.

"It’s nothing. Let’s continue. Heh," Mr. Wang Sr. said with a wave of his hand after a brief hesitation. What a joke. How could we possibly stop the press conference at this stage? But... I can’t shake this feeling of unease. To be safe, it’s better to be cautious.

"Change the medicine," he gritted his teeth and instructed in a low voice. "Use the finished products from the first batch our three families produced. The demonstration effect should be better."

"Alright, let’s switch to the best batch we made." The other two exchanged a look and nodded in tacit agreement.

The first production batch used the best ingredients and the most meticulous manufacturing process. Although using it for the test sample wasn’t representative of the product’s average quality and verged on exaggeration, the demonstration effect would undoubtedly be immediate. It was guaranteed to stun everyone in the audience.

Chapter 115. Be too smart by half and end up with egg on your face.

"Come on, everyone! There are still three precious trial spots left!"

Mr. Wang Sr. whispered something to the host, then turned to signal the Wang family members in the audience. Understanding his cue, one of them quickly left the venue and went backstage to retrieve the medicine.

Today, the top nine pharmaceutical companies were jointly hosting a new drug launch event and had originally planned to give the first batch of premium finished medicines as gifts to the VIPs. Who could have imagined they would come in so handy now?

While the smiling host desperately whipped up the atmosphere to buy time, the Family Heads of the Fang and Meng families also secretly sent their own people backstage.

"I am Yuan Ruoshan, the Vice President of Yuandao Pharmaceuticals, and I am willing to test the medicine for the Wang family!"

Just then, Yuan Ruoshan adjusted his gold-rimmed glasses, rose from the VIP seats, and strode onto the stage.

"My goodness, it’s the Vice President of Yuandao Pharmaceuticals!"

"For such an important figure to be willing to test the Wang family’s Divine Dragon Detox Powder, that shows just how highly he regards this new drug!"

A considerable buzz immediately arose from the audience. Hearing this, Yuan Ruoshan’s face flushed with pride, and he subconsciously straightened his back.

"Ah, Ruoshan, thank you for your trouble," Mr. Wang Sr. said, his face breaking into a wide smile as he nodded in agreement.

"Young Master Wen, why don't you come try our family's Moonlight Lung Soothing Cream?" the Meng Family Head quickly chimed in, putting on a broad smile as he invited Wen Zheyang, who was seated nearby.

"Miss Iguchi, our Heavenly Glow Moisturizer is incredibly effective! With your natural beauty, you would be the absolute best person to endorse it!" the Fang Family Head added, growing excited. He then scampered down from the stage and approached Iguchi Tama, bowing and scraping.

"Alright," Iguchi Tama agreed, nodding before joining the Fang Family Head on stage.

Instantly, the entire venue erupted in thunderous applause, accompanied by waves of frenzied shouts and cheers.

The leaders of three major pharmaceutical companies, three other influential figures, and three lucky audience members chosen from the crowd—a total of nine people were testing the drugs together, a powerful display of their utter confidence and sincerity!

"Alright, let us now officially enter the trial phase!"

Seeing someone approaching the stage with the new medicine, the host understood his cue and waved his hand with a theatrical flourish.

WHOOSH!

The black veil covering the Wang family's small iron cage was abruptly ripped away, revealing its true form.

GASP!

A collective gasp swept through the crowd, both on and off the stage.

Inside the iron cage, coiled menacingly, was a brown-and-white venomous snake with a head like a branding iron.

"This is the Five-Pace Snake, known scientifically as Deinagkistrodon acutus. Among the venomous snakes in our Xia Country, its toxicity ranks in the top ten," Mr. Wang Sr. announced, taking the microphone with a rather smug smile.

As the saying goes, nothing ventured, nothing gained. If you aren't harsh on yourself, how can you perfectly demonstrate the power of the Divine Dragon Detox Powder? If all three million units of the new drug become an instant hit today and sell out, the Wang family will swiftly dominate the pharmaceutical market across the entire country!

"As everyone knows, while the Silver Ring Snake ranks first in venom potency, a single bite only injects about 4.6 milligrams of venom. The Five-Pace Snake, however, can release 214 milligrams in an extremely short time—that's over forty times more! From a lethality standpoint, the Five-Pace Snake is the true king of snakes in our Xia Country!"

Seeing the audience members go pale with shock and terror, Mr. Wang Sr. felt an even greater sense of satisfaction, a gleeful smile spreading across his face. This was exactly the effect he wanted. Only a test against the king of snakes could convince the public of the Divine Dragon Detox Powder's incredible power!

"Mr. Wang Sr., you mustn't! A person of your esteemed status can't possibly risk using such a venomous creature for a test!" the host exclaimed with theatrical exaggeration, jogging over to play his part by trying to dissuade him.

"It's fine. I have immense confidence in our family's ancestral formula. A mere 'king of snakes' is no match for the Divine Dragon Detox Powder!" Mr. Wang Sr. declared passionately. With the grand air of a martyr about to meet a heroic death, he waved his hand majestically. "Open the cage! Let it bite me first!"

Gasp! Holy crap, is he actually serious? Who in their right mind would dare to try that? It's like an old lady hanging herself because she's tired of living!

At this, both Yuan Ruoshan, who stood behind Mr. Wang Sr., and the "lucky audience member" chosen by the Wang family turned green. The latter, his eyes filled with panic, clenched his jaw, stepped forward, and announced he was forfeiting. Amid a chorus of jeers, he slunk off the stage in disgrace.

Only Yuan Ruoshan remained, frozen in place, his face a mask of shock and overwhelming regret.

"Ah, Ruoshan, if you're scared, don't force yourself," Mr. Wang Sr. said in a pleasant tone without turning his head. He rolled up his sleeve, showing his bare wrist to the audience to prove he had no protection.

Anyone could tell the old man was deliberately provoking him.

Sure enough, the corner of Yuan Ruoshan's eye twitched, and he managed to squeeze out a stiff smile. "If you dare to test it yourself, sir, then what do I have to be afraid of? I have complete faith in the Wang family's Divine Dragon Detox Powder!" Yuan Ruoshan declared loudly, steeling himself.

Then, out of the blue, he pointed toward the restrooms at the edge of the venue.

"I will serve as living proof! I will use my actions to show certain people that you can't cut corners in the pharmaceutical industry! For someone to rise to the top of a major pharmaceutical company through nepotism is not only childish but a desecration of the patients' lives!

"What's more, they are so shameless that they try to grandstand with nine shoddy medicine boxes, plastering exaggerated, multi-billion-dollar price tags on them just to grab attention!"

What? They dared to show up at such a grand event with just nine shoddy medicine boxes? That's utterly shameless, a self-inflicted humiliation! They don't learn anything useful; instead, they choose to imitate those online clickbait bloggers and resort to such crooked schemes!

An uproar swept through the crowd, followed by bursts of roaring laughter.

"People like that are a malignant tumor on the pharmaceutical industry!"

"Who the hell would be crazy enough to spend billions on medicine boxes?"

"This is hilarious! After the product launch is over, I have to go over there and see what kind of masterminds came up with this brilliant idea, hahaha!"

Some shouted in anger, while others scoffed and shook their heads. Many more, their curiosity piqued, wore mocking expressions as they planned to go watch the joke unfold.

"Miss, we have to go now! They've surely switched out the trial products by now... If we don't leave, we'll become the laughingstock of all Haicheng!"

In a desolate corner of the venue, Mrs. Xue looked up from her phone, her expression turning ugly. Noticing that many people from the main event were turning to look in their direction, her eyes filled with urgency. She wished she could drag Yuan Youwei out of there immediately.

"This, this..." Yuan Youwei hesitated, unable to stop herself from looking expectantly at Lin Fan.

If they withdrew from the procurement conference now, they would lose the forty-billion-dollar bet, but at least they could save face. If they stayed, they would just become a spectacle for Yuan Ruoshan to gloat over.

"Hahaha, Lin Fan, are you regretting it now?"

Before Lin Fan could reply, Su Mengqing, who was standing by the restroom door, burst into a venomous laugh.

It’s just as I thought. After I sent the text, the people on stage deliberately delayed the drug trial. It’s clear Mr. Wang Sr. became suspicious and, growing cautious, had someone bring a new batch of medicine! Excellent. Truly excellent. Finally, that bastard Lin Fan will get a taste of the pain that comes with angering me, Su Mengqing!

Chapter 116, Su Mengqing, I want to thank you

"What do I have to regret?" Lin Fan replied, his expression blank as he finally stood up from his seat.

Man proposes, God disposes. Even if the plan didn’t work immediately, it would only mean letting those nine families have their moment of glory. On the contrary, the more successful the press conference was, the more anxious and unsettled they would be when they eventually discovered the problems with their products!

"Heh, keep being stubborn. Why don’t you just sit there and wait for everyone to come and gawk at your delusional fantasy!" Su Mengqing completely relaxed, a triumphant glint in her eyes. However, the fact that Lin Fan wasn’t panicking left her feeling somewhat dissatisfied.

"Master, perhaps we should leave now?"

Just then, Doctor Jiang walked over with an awkward smile, furtively glancing around as if afraid of attracting attention. "I just passed by backstage and heard some people say that Mr. Wang Sr. wasn’t satisfied with the efficacy of the medicines on stage. So he had them replaced with the premium version that was originally intended as souvenirs... They’re definitely going to be the stars of the show now. Who would be foolish enough to come over and buy our empty medicine boxes?"

Doctor Jiang glanced at the nine dark medicine boxes on their display stand and shook his head incessantly.

He failed to notice that as he finished speaking, Lin Fan's eyes shot open in surprise. Beside him, Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue trembled slightly, a flicker of pure ecstasy flashing in their eyes!

"Lin Fan, did you hear that? They actually took my advice and foiled your plan!" Su Mengqing sneered, her expression growing increasingly smug and excited. "Are you angry now? Do you regret not begging me for help earlier? Well, I'm telling you, it's too late! It's all too late!"

She gloated, her eyes fixed on Lin Fan and his companions, trying to spot any sign of disappointment or rage on their faces.

One second, two seconds, three seconds... a full ten seconds passed.

After a moment of stunned silence, Lin Fan let out a chuckle.

Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue exchanged a look and burst out laughing so hard that tears streamed down their faces!

What the fuck! Has the shock driven all three of them insane? How can they still be laughing at a time like this?!

Seeing this, Doctor Jiang's face turned green. His eyes darted about as he desperately tried to think of an excuse to slip away. No matter how much I want to curry favor with Lin Fan, I can't bear the humiliation of being made a laughingstock along with them!

"Lin Fan, what are you laughing at? Hmph! Are you trying to use laughter to hide your anger?" Su Mengqing grumbled, frowning deeply in dissatisfaction. I've already ruined his grand plan, yet he's still acting as if nothing happened? Fine! I'd like to see how long you can keep that smile on your face, Lin Fan!

"This is excellent news." Lin Fan's smile faded as he walked over to Doctor Jiang and patted him on the shoulder.

"Ah...?" Doctor Jiang was completely baffled. He forced a smile that looked worse than a grimace, assuming Lin Fan was being sarcastic.

"Su Mengqing, I have you to thank," Lin Fan said, turning to face her. "If it weren't for your text message, my plan might have actually failed."

"Hmph! You really think I can't see through your petty tricks?" Su Mengqing was stunned for a moment, then secretly gritted her teeth. I know he must be furious, but the bastard is putting on such a convincing act! He almost looks... relieved. How infuriating! So infuriating!

"Su Mengqing, you've stumbled your way into doing a good deed," Yuan Youwei added, looking over with a smiling nod. "I guarantee that Mr. Wang Sr. will personally come over to thank you later!"

Mrs. Xue nodded in agreement, the smile on her lips completely unrestrained.

"You... all of you... No! Don't! Mr. Wang Sr., don't do it!" Seeing their reactions, Su Mengqing froze once more. The scorn in her eyes slowly gave way to suspicion, which then abruptly morphed into sheer panic.

Something is wrong. Very wrong. Their reactions don't seem like an act... Could it be? Did my text message actually backfire?

The realization struck her like a physical blow. Su Mengqing's entire body trembled, and her vision swam. If that's the case, didn't I just harm Mr. Wang Sr. and play right into Lin Fan's hands? When this all comes out, I'll have no way to defend myself!

"Stop! Hurry up and stop! Don't test the medicine!" Su Mengqing's face went deathly pale, and cold sweat beaded on her forehead. She no longer cared about Lin Fan or the others and scrambled towards the press conference like a madwoman.

"Mr. Wang Sr., stop! You have to stop right now!" she screamed.

Under the astonished gazes of the crowd, Su Mengqing, gasping for breath, darted to the front of the stage, only to be blocked by two security guards.

"Isn’t that Su Mengqing? She still has the nerve to be here?"

"Who knows? It seems her relationship with Mr. Wang Sr. isn’t so simple."

"Damn, you don’t think the old geezer is trying to rob the cradle, do you?"

The audience immediately burst into murmurs, pointing fingers. The gazes they cast on Su Mengqing and Mr. Wang Sr. turned peculiar.

"Su Mengqing, what do you think you’re doing? Get out of here! Don’t cause trouble!"

"Hmph! The press conference for our nine families’ new product is no place for you to make a scene!"

At the disruption, the Fang Family Head and the Meng Family Head, who were preparing to test the products themselves, both scowled. The other family heads standing nearby also looked on with cold displeasure.

"Mr. Wang Sr., I sent you that text as a well-intentioned warning, but I fell for Lin Fan’s treacherous scheme!" she cried out desperately. "You mustn’t use that so-called premium version! That’s the one with the real problem!" Ignoring the odd looks from the crowd, she yelled her warning to Mr. Wang Sr. on the stage.

"Hmph! What text? What nonsense are you spouting? I have no idea what you’re talking about!" Mr. Wang Sr.’s smile stiffened, and he snorted angrily with a flick of his sleeve.

What a joke! Now she wants me to stop the demonstration? If I let her keep disrupting things whenever she pleases, can we even call this a press conference anymore?

Furious, Mr. Wang Sr. pointed at Su Mengqing, his face grim as he rebuked her. "If you dare cause any more trouble, don’t think I’ll go easy on you for old times’ sake! I’ll have security throw you out!"

"No, don’t… Please, don’t…"

THUMP!

Su Mengqing was pushed and shoved by the two security guards, driven from the conference area. She stumbled and collapsed limply to the ground, where she could only sob in helpless despair, watching as the people on stage began the demonstration.

"Everyone, please look! This is our Fang family’s Heavenly Glow Moisturizer. It possesses powerful concealing and whitening properties!" the Fang Family Head announced, his smile returning as he held up a bottle of the premium Heavenly Glow Moisturizer for the crowd to see.

He, Iguchi Tama, and the lucky audience member then washed and dried their faces with water from a basin. Then, he scooped some of the snow-white cream from the bottle and applied it evenly to their faces.

"If you’ll all just wait a moment, you will witness the heaven-defying effects of this potent whitening product!" the Fang Family Head declared, beaming, as he and Iguchi Tama stepped aside to wait for the moisturizer to take effect.

"Ladies and gentlemen, observe! This is our Meng family’s Moonlight Lung Soothing Cream!" the Meng Family Head began. "It effectively soothes the lungs, stops coughs, and breaks up phlegm. With long-term use, it can even clear various pollutants from the lungs and help you expel stubborn, deep-seated phlegm!"

Next, the Meng Family Head stepped forward with Wen Zheyang and another lucky audience member. Each holding a bottle of Moonlight Lung Soothing Cream, the three of them tentatively ate a spoonful of chili powder.

Violent coughing fits seized them, leaving the three choked and red-faced as if they were about to cough up a lung. Without needing to be told, they quickly gulped down large mouthfuls of the Moonlight Lung Soothing

Cream. Their coughing gradually subsided, and they exchanged looks of pleasant surprise.

"And now, let us witness the magnificent product from Tianchuan Pharmaceuticals: the Divine Dragon Detox Powder!" the host announced excitedly. Seeing that the demonstrations for the Fang and Meng family products were a resounding success and had captured the entire audience's attention, he gestured dramatically toward Mr. Wang Sr. and Yuan Ruoshan.

WHOOSH!

An intense spotlight beam enveloped the two men, making them the center of attention.

"Everyone, please witness the power of the Divine Dragon Detox Powder!" Feeling the tense gazes from on and off the stage, Mr. Wang Sr. gritted his teeth and plunged his hand into the small iron cage.

HISSS!

Instantly, the starved Five-Pace Snake reared its triangular head and viciously sank its fangs into Mr. Wang Sr.'s wrist!

"Heh heh, don't worry, everyone. It doesn't hurt, not one bit. As long as I take the Divine Dragon Detox Powder, it will be fine," Mr. Wang Sr. said, though his face had gone pale as he quickly pulled his hand back. Around the two bright red fang marks on his wrist, the skin immediately began to swell and turn a sickly yellow, a clear change in color.

This was proof enough that it was no stage play; he had truly risked his life by getting bitten by a king among venomous snakes.

Chapter 117, everything has gone wrong!

"Ruoshan, come. From now on, my Wang family will be your backer!"

The entire venue, both on and off the stage, fell silent as a grave. Everyone was thoroughly shocked, and their gazes turned to Mr. Wang Sr. with deep respect.

Amidst thunderous applause, Mr. Wang Sr. hurriedly accepted a packet of Divine Dragon Detox Powder. He mixed half with water to drink and evenly applied the other half to the painful area. Turning his head, he forced a relaxed smile at Yuan Ruoshan, whose cheeks were twitching uncontrollably.

"I, I... I'm sorry, Mr. Wang Sr., I... I've been afraid of snakes since I was a child!" Yuan Ruoshan's face alternated between pale and green. He finally gritted his teeth and shook his head, refusing with all his might.

The offer was incredibly tempting, but that was a Five-Pace Snake—a highly lethal and ferocious creature!

Gamble my life for my future? I, Yuan Ruoshan, haven't fallen that low!

"Ruoshan, didn't you want to give a personal testimonial? If you back down now, you won't be a true son of the Yuan family."

Just then, from the front row of the VIP seats, Mr. Yuan Sr., who had been observing coldly, suddenly called out. The old man was smiling, looking so amiable and harmless that he seemed to be simply giving kind advice to a junior.

"...Mr. Yuan Sr. must know something," Lin Fan muttered as the corner of his mouth twitched, staring at the live stream on his phone from the Yuandao Pharmaceuticals booth. "He's intentionally setting Yuan Ruoshan up, right?"

Yuan Youwei smiled without a word.

It was Mrs. Xue who spoke, grinding her teeth in hatred. "He deserves it! That bastard Yuan Ruoshan bites the hand that feeds him. He deserves to be bitten to death by a Five-Pace Snake!

"Remember that night Iguchi Watanabe brought Chen Heihu to cause trouble at the manor? Yuan Ruoshan actually tried to force Mr. Yuan Sr. to sacrifice himself to save their pathetic lives! Now he's digging his own grave trying to curry favor with the Wang family. He deserves to jump into this pit of fire!"

Lin Fan nodded in agreement and kept his eyes on the live stream.

"That's right, Ruoshan. Your old man has spoken. How can you back down?"

On stage, Mr. Wang Sr. was also getting a little angry.

Yuan Ruoshan is backing out now? Isn't he publicly showing that he doesn't trust our Wang family's Divine Dragon Detox Powder? On top of that, Old Man Yuan is clearly enjoying this!

At this thought, Mr. Wang Sr.'s expression darkened slightly. He signaled two Wang family members with his eyes. Ignoring Yuan Ruoshan's desperate head-shaking, the two men strode forward. They each grabbed one of his shoulders and forcefully shoved his arm into the small iron cage!

"No, don't! I don't want to be bitten! I-I'm afraid of dying!" Yuan Ruoshan almost burst into tears, shouting and struggling desperately. He looked just like a pig being forced onto the slaughtering block.

This comical scene instantly drew roars of laughter from the audience, who all assumed it was just an amusing performance arranged by the Wang family.

"What are you afraid of? I was already bitten, and I'm perfectly..."

SPLAT!

Mr. Wang Sr.'s face went dark. He turned his back to the laughing crowd and scolded Yuan Ruoshan under his breath, but in the next moment, his

expression contorted and his pupils widened in shock. He involuntarily spewed a mouthful of black, viscous blood all over Yuan Ruoshan!

"Ah, no, I don't want to... MMPH! MMPH!"

The sudden disaster stunned the two Wang family members. Yuan Ruoshan was terrified out of his wits, and his struggles became even more frantic and pitiful.

Is this some kind of joke? Can't they see Mr. Wang Sr. is having a reaction and vomiting blood? That so-called Divine Dragon Detox Powder didn't work at all! I'm really going to be bitten to death on the spot!

Alas, before Yuan Ruoshan could finish shouting, one of the Wang family members quickly clamped a hand firmly over his mouth.

"Let the snake bite him!" Mr. Wang Sr. fought the urge to vomit again, swallowing the foul, metallic taste in his throat.

Something had gone wrong. Terribly wrong! Could it be true? Did Lin Fan really tamper with the medicine, just as Su Mengqing said?

An increasingly unbearable pain spread through his body. A chill ran down Mr. Wang Sr.'s spine as his vision went dark, his heart pounding in terror. He was in too deep to back out now. He absolutely could not let the truth be revealed! Otherwise, the reputation of the Wang family's Tianchuan Pharmaceuticals would be utterly destroyed!

He secretly wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth and, ignoring Yuan Ruoshan's fate, shot his men a look.

The two Wang family members, their foreheads dripping with cold sweat, immediately understood. With a sudden shove, they thrust the wailing Yuan Ruoshan forward!

Instantly, the Five-Pace Snake in the small iron cage reared its branded head and sank its fangs viciously into Yuan Ruoshan's wrist!

At the sight, a collective gasp swept through the crowd. Everyone looked at Yuan Ruoshan with pity. Only Mr. Yuan Sr., who knew the truth, was still chuckling and shaking his head mockingly.

"It’s over! I’m going to die! I’m being poisoned to death! Someone, get me to a hospital, quick!"

THUMP!

As if a great weight had been lifted from them, the two Wang family members let go. Yuan Ruoshan immediately collapsed to the ground, sobbing uncontrollably.

"Get up! No crying! Even if you die, you have to last until this press conference is over!" Mr. Wang Sr.’s steps were unsteady, and his old face had taken on a faint, dark hue. On his wrist, blisters were beginning to form around the snake bite. To keep others from noticing, the old man quickly pulled down his sleeve to hide it all. He then had someone hand Yuan Ruoshan a glass of water and another packet of Divine Dragon Detox Powder.

"Mr. Wang Sr., you… you’ve completely ruined me!" Wiping away his tears, Yuan Ruoshan gritted his teeth, struggled to his feet, and took the glass and the powder. He did the same, taking half internally and applying the other half to the wound. He knew perfectly well the stuff was useless, but at this point, he had no choice. Even if it was an act, he had to see it through!

"Hahaha, as everyone can see, our Wang family’s Divine Dragon Detox Powder is completely effective! It has powerfully suppressed the venom of the king of snakes!" Mr. Wang Sr. took the microphone and pulled over Yuan Ruoshan, whose smile was uglier than a grimace. The two of them stepped forward together to demonstrate the "effects" to the crowd below.

"Incredible! Absolutely incredible! I want to order 100,000 packets!"

"Me too! Me too!"

"Mr. Wang Sr., I want to sign a long-term cooperation agreement with your Tianchuan Pharmaceuticals!"

In an instant, many of the distributors and pharmacy representatives in the audience went wild, shouting with excitement.

"And don't forget the new medicines from our Fang family, Meng family, and all the others!" Seeing the reaction, Mr. Wang Sr. grinned from ear to ear. Standing beside him, the Fang Family Head, Meng Family Head, and the others, their eyes burning with excitement, also quickly laughed and addressed the crowd.

The new product launch was a resounding success! It was a gift from the heavens! They were going to be rich, fabulously rich. Their nine Haicheng pharmaceutical giants would break out of the Southwest provinces and charge into the vast national and international markets!

"Everyone, please look! Hasn't my old face become as white and radiant as snow?" To demonstrate the heaven-defying effects of the Heavenly Glow Moisturizer, the Fang Family Head happily strode to the edge of the stage and pushed his old face right into the camera lens.

"Ah! It hurts! My face hurts so much!"

The next moment, Iguchi Tama and the lucky female audience member who had followed him onto the stage exchanged horrified glances. They saw each other's faces rapidly swell up, turning red and then black before the skin broke and began to ooze pus!

Iguchi Tama's pupils shrank. She immediately spun around and rushed to the basin of clear water, desperately splashing it on her face. But as the water touched her skin, the searing pain didn't lessen in the slightest. Instead, it intensified, feeling like thousands of gnawing ants!

"AAAAH! It's killing me! I'm going to be disfigured! The Fang family are swindlers! You're selling fake medicine!" The female audience member was already in tears, clutching her face as she rolled on the ground in agony.

And the Fang Family Head, still in front of the camera, was a grotesque sight. His face was a horrifying mask of ruptured skin, like a ghastly demon!

"No! Impossible! Absolutely impossible!"

Instantly, gasps of horror erupted from on and off the stage, accompanied by sharp intakes of breath. Everyone stared, mouths agape, as if they had seen a ghost. The Fang Family Head, enduring the excruciating pain, tried desperately to deny it.

THUD!

But the next moment, with a terrible scream, he could bear it no longer and pitched forward, tumbling off the stage!

"Cough, cough, cough... I feel so sick... so awful!"

As this sudden turn of events unfolded, panic began to ripple through the venue. But just then, Wen Zheyang and the two others who had taken the Meng family's Moonlight Lung Soothing Cream suddenly froze, then doubled over, coughing violently!

SPLAT! SPLAT!

Their coughing grew more and more severe, as if they were trying to hack up their own lungs. Their faces turned a frightening shade of crimson. Then, they began to spew up large, black clots of blood. Their vitality rapidly drained away, and one after another, they collapsed to the ground!

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

At this sight, screams echoed from the audience as chaos erupted!

Mr. Wang Sr. stumbled backward, his face ashen.

It’s over… It’s all over. It’s just like Su Mengqing said. Lin Fan tampered with all of these new medicines!

SPLAT! SPLAT!

Feeling a wrenching pain in his heart, Mr. Wang Sr. could no longer hold back. He threw his head back and vomited streams of black, toxic blood!

"Ah! H-he… he’s taken five steps! He’s going to die! Someone get me to a hospital for the antivenom, quick!" Yuan Ruoshan, who had been standing nearby in a stupor, began to tremble uncontrollably, crying out in terror. In his mind, anyone bitten by a Five-Pace Snake could only take five steps before dying. So, despite his overwhelming fear, he could only stand frozen in place, wailing in helpless despair.

"Lin Fan! Lin Fan, may you die a horrible death!"

Sprawled on the stage, Mr. Wang Sr. let out a miserable scream. As he watched the audience scramble to their feet and flee the scene, his trembling finger pointed toward the Yuandao Pharmaceuticals booth at the edge of the venue. "Quick! Carry me over there! Only Lin Fan can save me!"

"Old Patriarch, you have to hold on!" The surrounding Wang family members, their faces pale with shock, scrambled onto the stage and clumsily carried Mr. Wang Sr. away.

"Quick, everyone, to Lin Fan! That bastard must have a way to cure us!" Seeing this, the Fang Family Head and the Meng Family Head immediately shouted to the people around them.

In an instant, everyone began surging toward the Yuandao Pharmaceuticals booth.

"And her! Drag her along, too!" As they passed the paralyzed Su Mengqing, Mr. Wang Sr., still vomiting blood, roared furiously.

"Why are you grabbing me?! This has nothing to do with me! I tried to warn you, but you wouldn't listen!" Su Mengqing struggled frantically, trying to get up and run.

But the moment she moved, an iron grip seized her by her long hair, dragging her backward toward Lin Fan and the others.

Chapter 118, a word worth a hundred million!

"Oh my god, they're all charging over here!"

Seeing the press conference descend into chaos, as raucous as a wet market, countless figures began striding over. They were clearly up to no good.

Doctor Jiang, who had been gleefully watching the live broadcast on his phone, felt his smile freeze on his face. He let out a terrified shriek, ready to turn tail and run.

"What's the panic? They're here to beg for my help." Lin Fan gave him a sidelong glance, signaling him to remain calm.

"Speaking of which, if it weren't for Su Mengqing's 'good deed,' your plan would have failed long ago," Mrs. Xue remarked with a sigh, unable to suppress a smile of schadenfreude.

"This is fate. They've done nothing but evil and deserve to be taught a harsh lesson!" Yuan Youwei gracefully sat back down beside Lin Fan. Smiling, she propped her cheeks with her hands and stared at him intently.

"Get ready to collect payment. Half of these funds will go to Yuan Tao's woodworking shop as startup capital and dividends for producing the medicine boxes." Lin Fan felt a bit overwhelmed by her intense gaze and quickly changed the subject.

"Collect payment? What payment? Lin Fan, just look at what a mess you've made!"

Just then, Mr. Wang Sr. was carried over. His old face was pitch-black, and his lips had swollen to resemble black fungus, a terrifying sight. His miserable state needed no explanation; it was clearly a sign of potent poison taking effect.

"Lin Fan, hand over the antidote at once, or you won't be able to withstand the fury of our nine families!"

"How dare you secretly tamper with the prescriptions! Do you want to become the public enemy of the entire Haicheng pharmaceutical industry?"

The Fang Family Head clutched his face, his whole body trembling in pain. Nearby, the Meng Family Head was being supported as he spat blood, shouting and pointing a trembling finger at Lin Fan. Behind them, Wen Zheyang and Iguchi Tama also looked extremely unwell, their expressions so fierce they looked like they wanted to eat someone alive.

"What nonsense are you spouting? Didn't you all claim these new medicines were developed from your own families' ancestral formulas?" Before Lin Fan could respond, Yuan Youwei calmly lowered her hands. She scanned the angry faces with a faint, mocking smile and countered.

"That's right. If there's a problem with the medicine, why have you all come running to Lin Fan?"

"What's going on? Could the formulas for these medicines actually belong to Lin Fan?"

"Wait... that's impossible, right? These are the top nine pharmaceutical giants in Haicheng. Why would they care about anything of Lin Fan's?"

The onlookers who had followed the crowd over exchanged bewildered glances, all looking completely baffled.

"Yuan Youwei, stop playing dumb! As if you don't know exactly what Lin Fan did!" Under the weight of so many strange looks, Mr. Wang Sr.'s face burned with humiliation as he continued to spit up black, viscous blood. The Fang and Meng Family Heads were red-faced, their fists clenching so hard their knuckles cracked.

There was nothing they could do. Who could they blame but themselves for their own greed? For being so impatient to rush the new medicines into production the moment they got the formulas, all for a quick profit?

"Mr. Wang Sr., you share the blame for this! Weren't you the one who said the formulas were fine?"

"That's right! You have to compensate us for all our losses!" Unable to vent their anger on Lin Fan, the two of them turned all their fury on Mr. Wang Sr.

The heads of the other pharmaceutical companies also looked grim, secretly giving orders to their subordinates. "Go back and lock down our inventory! Not a single box of the new medicine gets out!"

"Hurry and tell the factory to shut down the new medicine's production line immediately!"

They had no choice but to swallow this bitter loss. If they couldn't get a satisfactory solution from Lin Fan, their only option was to slowly analyze the problem themselves later.

"Have you all lost your minds? Did I force you to rush the production of the new medicines?" Mr. Wang Sr.'s face was contorted with anger as he glared fiercely at the Fang and Meng Family Heads.

"B-but you're the one who personally told us the formulas were flawless! That's the only reason we dared to start mass production..." the Fang Family Head said, gasping for breath, his eyes full of resentment.

The Meng Family Head clutched his chest in agony, feeling as if he were about to cough up a lung.

"This isn't the time to argue about that! Lin Fan, you must know what the problem is. Did you plan this from the very beginning?" Mr. Wang Sr. roared, turning to stare intently at Lin Fan.

"Your nine families' ancestral formulas? What right or ability do I, Lin Fan, possibly have to tamper with them?" Lin Fan countered coldly, his brows slightly furrowed.

As he spoke, many in the crowd subconsciously nodded. He was right. He had been sitting at the edge of the venue the whole time and hadn't even participated in the press conference. How could he have possibly tampered with anything?

"You, you...! Hmph, enough with the nonsense! What do you want? Name your price!" Mr. Wang Sr. gritted his teeth, almost choking on his own rage. He took several deep, shuddering breaths to force himself to calm down.

"I already told you my price. You're the ones who didn't know how to cherish the opportunity," Lin Fan said, his gaze slowly sweeping over the crowd before finally landing on the nine black medicine boxes on the display stand. "You want a solution? Simple. Buy these medicine boxes back at the listed price!"

BOOM!

At his words, the expression on everyone's face changed dramatically.

What kind of joke was this? Buy those worthless boxes back at that price? Lin Fan must be completely insane for money! Who would be stupid enough to spend billions on that junk?

"Impossible! Don't be delusional! We will never submit to your blackmail!" Mr. Wang Sr.'s body trembled with fury as he shook his head vehemently.

The Fang and Meng Family Heads wore grim expressions but said nothing. The other six pharmaceutical magnates also gritted their teeth, silently cursing Lin Fan for being a scoundrel.

"Gentlemen, don't listen to this bastard's lies! My Wen family also has many highly skilled traditional medicine experts who can surely help you!" Wen Zheyang shouted to Mr. Wang Sr. and the others, swallowing back the blood that had risen in his throat.

"My Sakura Country Pharmaceutical Society also has many masters of Chinese medicine! We can definitely provide you with assistance!" Iguchi Tama added, constantly wiping the purulent discharge from her face with a wet wipe, her eyes glinting with anger and sharp intent.

"Good. Since the Wen family and Miss Iguchi are willing to help you, then please leave." Seeing that Mr. Wang Sr. and the others looked quite moved, Lin Fan's lips curled into a mocking sneer as he shook his head. "I won't force anyone. I'll give you five seconds to consider."

"After five seconds, I don't want to hear any more useless chatter."

"Whoever dares to say another word, the price on the boxes will increase by one hundred million!"

His resolute words echoed through the hall.

HISS!

One hundred million for a single word? Where did Lin Fan get this audacity? He's mad! Completely and utterly mad!

The surrounding crowd drew in sharp breaths, stunned into wide-eyed disbelief. Some people snorted with laughter, while others rolled their eyes or shook their heads as if looking at an idiot. However, the laughter and ridicule began to die down when everyone noticed that Mr. Wang Sr. and the others hadn't uttered a single word in rebuttal. They were clearly terrified of something.

In an instant, the snickering and jeering faded into a dead silence.

It was obvious the nine pharmaceutical companies were actually considering Lin Fan's terms!

How is that possible? This... how could this be?

For a moment, everyone could only stare at each other, their eyes filled with utter confusion and disbelief.

"Lin Fan, do you really think your little tricks are enough to control them? You're delusional!" Su Mengqing, who had been thrown to the floor, sneered hatefully at Lin Fan, lifting her head to expose the bulging veins on her neck.

THUD!

She collapsed back to the ground.

"You talk too much." Lin Fan's eyes glinted as he picked up a marker. "We'll count that as nine words."

He swiftly added a new stroke to the price tag on each of the medicine boxes. In just a few seconds, the total price of the nine boxes shot up by another nine hundred million!

Madness. This was utter, complete madness.

SLAP!

"Su Mengqing, who gave you the right to spout nonsense here? Shut your damn mouth!" the Meng Family Head roared, pushing through his pain to rush forward and slap Su Mengqing viciously across the face.

Damn you, bitch! Can't you see none of us from the nine families dares to say a word? You just had to open your big mouth and cost each of our nine families another hundred million!

Chapter 119. The cost of freeload on me, Lin Fan!

"Meng! You... you... what gives you the right to hit me?! I was trying to be kind! I sent Mr. Wang Sr. a message warning you not to fall for Lin Fan's trap, but you refused to listen!"

Su Mengqing was stunned by the slap. She staggered to her feet, grinding her teeth with an audible crack as tears of humiliation welled in her swollen, red eyes.

Turning her head, she stared fiercely at Mr. Wang Sr. and demanded, "Mr. Wang Sr., search your conscience! Tell everyone, loud and clear, did I send you a text message or not?"

Under the scrutinizing gaze of the crowd, Mr. Wang Sr.'s cheek twitched. "...No," he denied vehemently, shaking his head. "I didn't receive any message at all."

I absolutely cannot admit it. I can't admit it, not even if it kills me! If the Fang and Meng Families found out, all hell would break loose.

"Hmph, you lying bitch!" the Fang Family Head snarled, his face contorted with hatred as he stepped forward. "You were the one at the entrance slandering Lin Fan, claiming he ruined your Su Family."

SLAP!

He raised his hand and struck Su Mengqing across the face.

"Ptooey! I'd say the Su Family's downfall is all your own damn fault!" Still not satisfied, he spat a thick wad of phlegm right in her face.

BOOM.

Su Mengqing's eyes went vacant. She staggered backward from the force of the blow and completely broke down.

What kind of world is this? I tried to warn them out of kindness, and this is what I get in return? Curses and slander?

"Liars! You're all liars! You're just like Lin Fan—a bunch of shameless, despicable hypocrites!"

Su Mengqing collapsed onto the floor, feeling as if her world had come crashing down. Her shoulders heaved with sobs, overwhelmed with the injustice of it all.

If I had known they were such vicious people, I never would have stuck my nose where it didn't belong and sent that stupid text! Now look at what happened. Not only did I inadvertently help Lin Fan, but they've turned on me, accusing me of being a liar and a gossip!

A wave of shame and indignation washed over her. Burying her head between her knees, she began to cry even more loudly and piteously.

"You deserve it!" Mrs. Xue spat, her expression full of contempt. "You weren't being kind at all. You clearly tried to threaten Lin Fan, and it just backfired!"

"This is karma," Yuan Youwei said, shaking her head. "And yet, Su Mengqing, you still haven't learned your lesson and continue to stir up trouble." She looked at Lin Fan with a flicker of pity, a surge of relief washing over her.

If Su Mengqing had actually succeeded, who would have pitied Lin Fan? The three of us would have been the ones turned into laughingstocks.

"Mr. Wang Sr., don't panic! I had someone bring the antivenom for the Five-Pace Snake!"

Just then, Yuan Ruoshan, who was being carried in, shouted excitedly.

What? The antivenom is here? Good, that’s great! I’m saved!

Hearing this, a red-faced Mr. Wang Sr. tore his gaze away from Su Mengqing. His body shuddered, and his eyes lit up. He hastily took the syringe of antivenom that was handed to him and plunged it into his own body.

HISS!

With the injection administered, the old man let out a long sigh of relief. His listless expression immediately brightened.

"Hahaha! Lin Fan, I’m not going to die now! I don’t need to give in to your threats!" Turning his head, Mr. Wang Sr. laughed heartily, looking utterly pleased with himself.

Yuan Ruoshan sneered triumphantly, "I bet you didn’t see that coming, Lin Fan. Even though you tampered with the Divine Dragon Detox Powder, I still found a way to foil your little scheme!" His eyes, behind their gold-rimmed glasses, were filled with derision.

"Is that so?" Lin Fan shook his head. "The snake venom might be neutralized, but there’s another poison in your bodies." He picked up the marker again and added two more strokes to each of the medicine boxes. "I can’t be bothered to count the exact number of characters. Let’s just say it’s eighteen for the couple of sentences you two just spouted."

Everyone gasped. This guy actually did what he said he would! He really just added two hundred million to the price of each box! Two careless sentences, and now they had to pay an extra 1.8 billion!

The Fang and Meng Family Heads glared at Mr. Wang Sr. and Yuan Ruoshan, looking like they wanted to strangle the two of them on the spot.

Why should our families have to pay the price for your big mouths? Damn them! I hate them so much I could kill them!

"Hiss... Something’s wrong! There’s another poison in my system! Quick, get me the Bailing Detox Pills!"

Under the puzzled gazes of the crowd, Mr. Wang Sr.’s smile froze. He frantically pressed his fingers to his wrist to check his own pulse.

One second, two, three... The old man sucked in a sharp breath, his eyes narrowing. Lin Fan wasn’t lying. My pulse is a complete mess! That proves the antivenom only suppressed the snake’s venom. It’s doing nothing for the other poison in my body!

Panicking, Mr. Wang Sr. grabbed a bottle of his family’s Bailing Detox Pills and downed a large handful.

"Leave some for me! Save some for me!" Yuan Ruoshan, no longer smiling, panicked as well. Enduring the pain, he snatched the half-full bottle from Mr. Wang Sr. and threw his head back, swallowing the rest of the pills.

The two men looked at each other, still filled with doubt and fear, but the pain in their bodies didn't lessen. In fact, it grew even more intense!

THUD! THUD!

Mr. Wang Sr. and Yuan Ruoshan swayed on their feet before crashing to the ground. Clutching their stomachs, they rolled in agony, screaming like pigs being slaughtered.

The sudden turn of events sent a shockwave of commotion through the hall.

It had failed! The famous Bailing Detox Pills from Tianchuan Pharmaceuticals had failed right in front of everyone!

"Lin Fan, have you no conscience?! Save them, quickly!" someone in the crowd couldn't help but shout in a high-pitched voice. "If something happens to Mr. Wang Sr. and Yuan Ruoshan, it will be all your fault!"

"Why should I save them?" Lin Fan asked with a wry smile, shaking his head as he picked up his marker once more. "They both took the Wang family's Divine Dragon Detox Powder, which created a new poison in their bodies. If you want to freeload off me, Lin Fan, you have to be prepared to pay the price!"

"Stop! Don't add any more! We were wrong! We admit it! We shouldn't have been so greedy, we shouldn't have spouted such blatant lies, and we especially shouldn't have tried to freeload off your formula, Mr. Lin!"

THUD! THUD!

The Fang and Meng Family Heads were terrified, their foreheads slick with cold sweat. They scrambled forward and fell to their knees at Lin Fan's feet, lunging to desperately block his marker, their expressions more pained than if they were crying.

The Fang Family Head turned, his face twisted in a snarl, and roared at the crowd, "Who was that running their mouth just now? Drag them out here! Beat them! Beat them senseless for me!"

Instantly, two voluptuous, garishly dressed women were grabbed by their collars and thrown forward. They were Yuan Ruoshan's two beautiful secretaries.

"Did we say something wrong? Why are you picking on women?!" one of them screamed defiantly, her neck arched despite her obvious fear.

"Can’t you big shots handle a single word of truth?" the other chimed in.

"Talk? Talk my ass!" the Meng Family Head’s lips trembled with rage. "You sure enjoyed hearing yourselves talk, didn’t you?! It’s not like the one hundred million per word is coming out of your pockets, so you don’t give a damn, do you?!"

After his tirade, he charged forward and began kicking them ferociously.

"Aah! Stop kicking! Stop! Director Yuan, save us! Help! We were only doing what you told us to do! How can you just stand there and do nothing?!"

"Not my face! I just got fillers! Ah, ah... AHHHHH!!"

Several other pharmaceutical tycoons rushed over, joining the two Family Heads in the vicious beating. In moments, the two beautiful secretaries were screaming, their faces a mess of bruises and cuts. They cried out desperately to Yuan Ruoshan, who was only a few steps away.

But Yuan Ruoshan could barely save himself, let alone others. He was in such agony that foam was bubbling at his lips, and his eyes were rolling back into his head. He was about to pass out from the poison.

Under the furious assault, the two beautiful secretaries were beaten unconscious. Then they were grabbed by their collars and unceremoniously dragged out of the hall.

"Lin Fan—no, no! Director Lin! Mr. Lin! The Fang Family... we’ll buy the medicine box!"

The atmosphere in the hall grew even more bizarre and oppressive. The onlookers were utterly bewildered, unable to comprehend how Lin Fan held such absolute power over these mighty Haicheng pharmaceutical tycoons.

Amid a sea of complex, stunned gazes, the Fang Family Head forced a smile onto his face and approached the Yuandao Pharmaceuticals display stand. Gritting his teeth, he motioned for his subordinate to step forward and prepare payment for his family’s box of medicine.

Chapter 120: What’s wrong with changing your mind?

"Why wait so long? Were you trying to give me a few hundred million more?" A mocking smile touched Lin Fan’s lips as he nodded at Yuan Youwei.

"Of course, Director Lin!" Yuan Youwei obediently rose, fully embracing her role as a secretary. She began to process the large, on-site transfer from the Fang family.

DING!

A moment later, her phone buzzed with the notification of a bank transfer. "Director Lin, the 2.3 billion from the Fang family has arrived." Yuan Youwei's eyes sparkled. After carefully reading the text message one more time, she reported to Lin Fan with a radiant smile.

What? 2.3 billion?! Holy crap, the Fang family actually paid the price listed on that shabby box!

The venue fell silent for a moment before erupting into a massive uproar. Everyone was stunned, their eyes wide enough to pop from their sockets. Even Doctor Jiang, who had been hiding at the edge of the crowd to avoid embarrassment, gasped in shock.

Incredible. Truly incredible. He really is my master!

"Master, let me handle it! There's no need to trouble the Mistress with such a trivial matter!" Unable to restrain himself, Doctor Jiang strode forward with his chest puffed out. He addressed Lin Fan and Yuan Youwei with a beaming smile, completely ignoring the disdainful glares from the crowd.

"Fine. You can handle the money," Lin Fan said with a slight twitch of his lips, readily agreeing.

"Anyone else who wants to buy a medicine box, hurry up! If you're late, my master might raise the price again!" Doctor Jiang shouted toward the hesitating Meng Family Head and the others, his face flushed with excitement.

Lying on the ground and convulsing in agony, Mr. Wang Sr. was the first to break. "I... the Wang family concedes! Pay him! Pay him now!" he cried, his voice a hoarse croak. "Director Lin, can you please save me first?" He had no other choice. Despite his own extraordinary medical expertise, he couldn't begin to identify the vicious poison coursing through his veins. If this dragged on any longer, he would die right there from the sheer pain.

"Yes, yes! Director Lin, you save him first. Saving a life is what's most important, hehe..." Seeing this, the Meng Family Head and the others exchanged knowing, sheepish glances.

If Lin Fan can really cure Mr. Wang Sr., it will prove he has the ability to handle this. Otherwise, if we spend billions just to buy a broken box, won't we lose the shirts off our backs?!

"Very well. I'll let you witness the true power of the Divine Dragon Detox Powder," Lin Fan said with a slight frown, producing a newly refined bottle. He left the display stand and crouched before Mr. Wang Sr., pouring some of the shimmering white powder into the older man's mouth.

One second, two seconds... five seconds passed as everyone craned their necks to watch.

Mr. Wang Sr.'s throat convulsed as he struggled to swallow the powder. A moment later, his eyes shot wide open, and he took a few deep, shuddering breaths. The pain had clearly subsided, and his composure returned!

This miraculous sight sparked a buzz of discussion. While some gasped in astonishment, others were completely bewildered. A few even whispered their suspicions, only to be immediately shouted down by their neighbors.

"Hiss... Is it really that miraculous?"

"What's going on? How does Lin Fan have Divine Dragon Detox Powder too?"

"Could this be an act?"

"Are you kidding? Who could possibly hire the president of the Medical Association to be a stooge? Didn't you see he was in so much pain he practically wet himself?"

"Master, Mistress! The 4.3 billion from the Wang family has arrived!" Doctor Jiang scurried over, holding Yuan Youwei's phone like a precious treasure for Lin Fan to see.

"Good. Continue," Lin Fan nodded.

Yuan Youwei, who had followed, blushed faintly, the corners of her lips curling into a smile. She was clearly delighted by Doctor Jiang's repeated use of the title "Mistress."

Just then, Yuan Ruoshan, who was foaming at the mouth and rolling on the ground in pain, looked pleadingly at Yuan Youwei. "Youwei, save me! Please, save me! I... I'm your uncle!" he begged in a weak voice, on the verge of fainting from the agony.

"Do you concede the bet?" Yuan Youwei asked before pausing, her gaze shifting to Lin Fan.

Before Lin Fan could even respond, Yuan Ruoshan cried out, "I concede! I concede! Quick, save me with Lin Fan's Divine Dragon Detox Powder!" His eyes were brimming with tears of pain as he nodded frantically, like a chicken pecking at grain.

"Give them the medicine. Apply it to external wounds and have them ingest it for internal poison," Lin Fan said with a wave of his hand, passing the Divine Dragon Detox Powder to Doctor Jiang.

"Form a line! Anyone who dares to cause a commotion can just go roll themselves to a hospital!" Doctor Jiang's eyebrows danced with glee as he happily accepted the medicine bottle. He then cleared his throat and struck an imposing posture.

"Me first! Me first!" Yuan Ruoshan scrambled and stumbled over, collapsing at Doctor Jiang's feet in a pathetic display.

"..."

Seeing this, Wen Zheyang and Iguchi Tama exchanged a look, their expressions turning ugly. They wanted to tough it out and go to the hospital, refusing to accept Lin Fan's charity, but they were terrified their conditions would worsen. Utterly helpless, they could only grit their teeth and join the long line forming behind the Fang and Meng Family Heads.

A moment later, Yuan Ruoshan and the others had all received a dose of the Divine Dragon Detox Powder, applying it or ingesting it as Lin Fan had instructed.

"Divine Medicine! It's truly a divine detoxification medicine!"

"The pain is gone! I don't feel any pain at all! My face feels cool and refreshed. It's so much better!"

"Thank you, Director Lin! Thank you for your immense kindness!"

The festering wounds on the faces of the Fang Family Head and his two companions were immediately halted by the powder, the swelling visibly receding. As for Wen Zheyang's group, after they each spat out a clump of pitch-black blood, their breathing evened out and some color returned to their faces.

Yuan Ruoshan wiped the filth from his mouth with his sleeve. He shot to his feet, feeling the changes in his body with a mixture of shock and delight. Then, a triumphant, smug laugh escaped him, his eyes glinting with ridicule from behind his gold-rimmed glasses. "Hahaha! Lin Fan, you're the one who chose to save me. I certainly didn't force you!"

"Yuan Ruoshan, what do you mean by that? Are you going back on your word?" Yuan Youwei's expression hardened as she questioned him coldly.

"And why shouldn't I? Our bet was to secure a four-billion-dollar pharmaceutical order at the conference!" Yuan Ruoshan sneered, pointing a finger at the remaining medicine boxes on the display stand. "Look at what you sold—shabby boxes! It's obvious you set up Mr. Wang Sr. and the others and didn't play by the rules. So what if I go back on my word?"

Hearing this, both Mrs. Xue and Doctor Jiang paled with fury. The surrounding crowd was completely dumbfounded.

Damn, can a person be this shameless? One second he's crying and begging for Lin Fan to save him, and the next he turns around and pulls this stunt?

"I think Director Yuan makes a perfectly valid point. He was on the brink of death just now, coerced by you, Lin Fan. He had no choice but to compromise," Wen Zheyang declared, stepping forward with Iguchi Tama to stand beside Yuan Ruoshan.

"Could you people be any more shameless? If it weren't for Lin Fan's Divine Dragon Detox Powder, would you even be able to speak so loudly?" Mrs. Xue demanded, her expression grim with anger.

"Who the hell do you think you are to speak here?" Wen Zheyang's face flushed red as he huffed and turned away. Iguchi Tama remained silent, but a sharp, murderous glint flashed in his eyes.

"Forget it. Just consider it my medicine fed to a dog," Lin Fan said, stepping forward with a frown to stop Mrs. Xue, who looked ready to attack. He turned his head to Mr. Wang Sr. and the others. "And what do you all have to say?"

The next moment, the Fang Family Head, who had already opened his medicine box and was inspecting it, suddenly looked up. "Lin Fan, wait a minute. Why is this medicine box empty?" he shouted, his face a mask of shock and rage.

What? The box is empty? My god, they spent billions just to buy a broken box!

BOOM!

This revelation sent the entire crowd into an uproar.

Mr. Wang Sr.'s face changed drastically. He scrambled to open the box his family had purchased. His body trembled, and his eye twitched violently.

Empty. It was completely empty inside.

"Lin Fan, how dare you trick me?!" Mr. Wang Sr. staggered, practically exploding with rage as he let out a hysterical roar.

At the edge of the crowd, Su Mengqing, still lying on the ground, burst into miserable laughter, her face a mask of profound hatred and bitterness. "Hahaha, it serves you right! All of you deserve this!"