Divorce Only Makes a Son-in-Law Stronger

Chapter 91, you forced me to do this!

Fuck!

This bastard is getting more and more shameless! Evidence, evidence... that's the only trick he knows! He just denies everything to the bitter end!

"Lin Fan, you clearly snatched that money from my father! What right do you have to deny it?" Su Gang trembled all over, so furious his nose looked crooked.

Su Mengqing's eyes brimmed with tears, her voice choking with rage as she yelled, "Is this your true self? I must have been blind to marry you!"

"I must have been blind when I married you, too," Lin Fan fell silent for a moment, a self-mocking smirk playing on his lips. "Cut the crap and show me the evidence. Don't keep everyone waiting!"

"You! You...!" Tears streamed down Su Mengqing's face. Her fingernails dug so deep into her palms that they oozed crimson.

It was obviously you, Lin Fan, who took the over five hundred million. How can you have the audacity to lie so brazenly! This hatred... it's enough to kill!

"Lin Fan! Are you even a man? You don't even have the guts to admit what you've done. No wonder your mother died so young!" Zhang Meili scrambled up from the ground, her plump face twisted like that of a malevolent demon.

The only way to save the Su Family now is to get money from Lin Fan!

"Don't you forget, you and Mengqing divorced by agreement! You chose to leave with nothing, so your money should belong to Mengqing!" she shrieked.

"Why should I give her any money? When I left your Su Family, I only took a few changes of clothes. Wasn't that enough?" Lin Fan almost laughed out of sheer frustration. "Besides, even if I did take Old Su's five hundred-plus million, what does that have to do with you?"

He spoke coldly, "Old Su is the one who scammed the money. Every grievance has a source, and every debt has a debtor. If you've got the guts, go find him!"

BOOM!

Zhang Meili staggered backward, gasping for breath. Su Gang gritted his teeth so hard they audibly clicked. As for Su Mengqing, the veins on her fair neck bulged furiously.

No wonder he’s so fearless. He already thought of this excuse!

"Everyone, please listen to me. I am Luo Da, the president of Haicheng Commercial Bank, and I can personally vouch for Mr. Lin Fan. His money is absolutely clean!"

Just then, the dazed President Luo snapped back to reality. He immediately walked over to Lin Fan and spoke loudly for all to hear.

"He really does look like President Luo. I’ve seen him at the bank before!"

"For such an important figure to vouch for Lin Fan, it must be true!"

"Lin Fan’s right. The one who scammed us was that old bastard Su Guang. We should be going after Su Mengqing!"

Upon hearing this, the crowd exchanged glances and began murmuring among themselves. Then, all eyes once again focused on Su Mengqing and her parents.

"President Luo, what is the meaning of this? Why are you vouching for Lin Fan?" Su Mengqing took a deep breath, forcing herself to appear calm as she stared venomously at President Luo.

"Mr. Lin Fan is one of our bank’s most esteemed VIP clients. Why shouldn’t I vouch for him?" President Luo retorted coldly, his own anger stirring as his expression darkened.

"Ha! You all see? He’s clearly in cahoots with Lin Fan, deliberately helping him cover his tracks!" Su Gang sneered with obnoxious sarcasm, as if he had seen through everything.

"That’s right! You’ve never dealt with Lin Fan before, but now you’re so eager to suck up to him. Who would believe you aren’t colluding?" Zhang Meili added loudly, nodding emphatically.

"You people are being completely unreasonable!" President Luo’s face contorted with anger. Considering his own status, he simply flicked his sleeve, turned his head, and refused to spare the trio another glance.

A crisp voice suddenly rang out from the alley’s entrance. "If you think President Luo’s endorsement isn’t enough, then add me—Yuan Youwei!"

The next moment, Yuan Youwei appeared with Mrs. Xue, striding quickly toward them. She was specially dressed for the occasion today, her long black hair pinned up, a folder

held in her arms. Beneath her black business suit, her long legs, sheathed in black stockings and high heels, were perfectly straight and irresistibly provocative. From a distance, she was the epitome of an intelligent, capable, and beautiful secretary.

"I am Yuan Youwei, the former vice president of Yuandao Capital, and now I am Director Lin's personal secretary."

With Yuan Youwei's arrival, all eyes fell on her. The men in the crowd, like Su Hua, stared in amazement, their eyes nearly popping out of their heads.

"...When did you become my secretary?" Lin Fan's mouth twitched slightly as he gave the approaching Yuan Youwei a deep look.

I deliberately acted indifferent in Mr. Yuan Sr.'s study last night. To think she apparently didn't care.

"As of right now, Director Lin. I'm gentle, kind, and considerate. Don't you like that?" Yuan Youwei said with a sweet smile before pouting playfully.

Under the incredulous gazes of the onlookers, her face flushed slightly red as she boldly reached out and hooked her arm through Lin Fan's.

What in the world... what is going on? President Luo stared, dumbfounded, and swallowed hard. I always felt their relationship was unusual, but I never imagined they'd be so public about it!

She's so beautiful... the pretty female subordinate beside him thought, lowering her head in shame. I was planning to use my looks to get close to Lin Fan, but compared to someone like Yuan Youwei, who is both high-status and a peerless beauty, I don't stand a chance!

"Yuan Youwei... Could she be the famous Miss Yuan from the Yuan family?"

"Damn... That's the renowned Flower of Haicheng. When did she get together with Lin Fan?"

"My god, no wonder the Yuan family is holding the funeral for Lin Fan's mother. Turns out he's already boarded the Yuan family's luxury cruise ship!"

"If that were me, I'd abandon the Su Family's sinking ship in a heartbeat, too! Who would still care about Su Mengqing?"

Seeing the obvious intimacy between Lin Fan and Yuan Youwei, the Su Family's friends and relatives all had a change of heart, whispering amongst themselves. Some were envious, while others were green with jealousy. Still others were secretly terrified,

regretting their past awful treatment of Lin Fan. The gazes that fell on Su Mengqing and her parents had now changed in nature.

Having come to his senses, Su Hua's expression turned ugly as he rounded on Su Mengqing. "What else do you have to say? Director Lin has Miss Yuan's favor. Do you really think he'd care about a measly five hundred-plus million?"

"That's right! With President Luo and Miss Yuan vouching for him, why would Lin Fan need to get mixed up with an old bastard like your dad?"

"Pay us back! Pay us back right now, or the three of you aren't leaving today!"

The others also came to their senses and began to press in on Su Mengqing's group.

"Su Mengqing, given your company's financial situation, as well as your family's, I have decided to call in the Su Pharmaceutical loan early," President Luo announced, striding forward and addressing her in a heavy tone. "The loan is for over four hundred million, not a cent less. I must see the money today!"

BOOM!

The uproarious voices were like thousands of sharp arrows piercing her heart.

Zhang Meili and Su Gang's faces paled drastically. Gripped by a doomsday-like panic, they trembled uncontrollably like leaves in the wind.

It's over. This time, the Su Family is utterly, completely finished! Overnight, our world has been turned upside down. Not only is the five hundred-plus million gone, but now we're being hounded for debts by the bank and all our so-called friends and family!

"Fine. Just fine. You're all on Lin Fan's side, trying to drive me to my death, aren't you?" Su Mengqing's vision swam with black spots, as if she had stepped off a cliff into an abyss. Her chest heaved violently and her head was buzzing. Seeing Lin Fan and Yuan Youwei's arms linked so tightly, her blood boiled with such fury that she felt she was about to go insane.

"Lin Fan! You forced my hand, so don't blame me for being merciless!" Gritting her teeth and forcing herself to stay calm, Su Mengqing shakily took out her phone and pulled up a picture.

"President Luo, if you want to call in the loan, then go find Lin Fan!" she laughed with venomous spite, even as tears streamed freely down her face, carving paths through her makeup. "Because starting four years ago, Lin Fan has been the legal representative of Su Pharmaceutical! All the blame and all the losses should be borne by him alone!"

Chapter 92. Who is the real trash!

A sudden turn of events silenced the room. Everyone was shocked, staring blankly at the photo on Su Mengqing's phone. It was a corporate legal representative change agreement, and the recipient was none other than Lin Fan!

"So as early as four years ago, you had already planned for me to take the fall for the Su Family?" Lin Fan withdrew his gaze, a bitter taste on his lips.

To hell with your bullshit love! All the sweet memories, everything from the past... it all feels like a heavy shackle, pressing mercilessly on my neck!

He certainly knew what being the corporate legal representative meant. But back when he was madly in love with Su Mengqing, he'd never thought too deeply about it. Lin Fan had all but forgotten about the agreement he'd signed four years ago.

"Are you scared? Hahaha! To think you, Lin Fan, would actually have a day you're afraid!" Su Mengqing laughed maniacally through her tears.

If she hadn't been backed into a corner, she never would have brought this out. But this is all your own fault, Lin Fan! You want to see me, Su Mengqing, utterly ruined? Fine! If I'm going down, I'm taking you with me!

"Hmph, you deserve this, Lin Fan! It's a good thing I was thinking ahead and had you sign this before the wedding." Zhang Meili's face twisted into a smug, malicious smile. "Now that the Su Family is ruined, do you think you can get away clean? You're the legal representative! You have to bear all the company's responsibilities!"

"That's right! Not only do you have to repay the company's loans, but you also have to cover all the losses!" Su Gang chortled, his face alight with vindictive glee.

"Mengqing, don't hesitate! Sell off the remaining shares and let Lin Fan shoulder this whole mess alone!" Zhang Meili turned and urged Su Mengqing.

Today, Su Pharmaceutical had become a hot potato. Anyone who took it over would be skinned alive. It was already insolvent, so why bother struggling to keep it afloat? Even though the company was Mr. Su Sr.'s life's work and had once brought the Su family great success and glory, now was the time to dump it. It would be a delight to see Lin Fan trapped by it!

"...Lin Fan, you've won. You've finally gotten your hands on Su Pharmaceutical." After a long silence, Su Mengqing choked back her sobs and lifted her tear-streaked face. She stared coldly at Lin Fan and said, word by word, "I truly can't accept this. But since you've pushed me this far, don't think you'll get off easy either!"

"Su Mengqing, is this your final decision?" Lin Fan laughed, shaking his head. "Four years ago, with my mother's encouragement and help, you gritted your teeth and took over the nearly bankrupt Su Pharmaceutical.

"I never thought that after four years, you'd still be so weak and insecure!"

His gaze turned completely icy.

You want me to take the fall? To clean up your family's mess? Fine. I'll show you what it really means when they say a strong person never complains about their circumstances!

"Youwei, acquire all of Su Mengqing's shares in Su Pharmaceutical!" Lin Fan said in a low voice, turning to Yuan Youwei.

"Alright, Director Lin!" Yuan Youwei flashed a charming smile and, without hesitation, opened the tablet she carried and began to work. She believed Lin Fan wasn't being foolish. This man has proven time and again that he truly possesses the ability to turn decay into a miracle!

"Director Lin, Miss Yuan, you must be calm... Once you take this on, you really won't be able to get rid of it!" President Luo grew anxious, whispering his advice to the pair.

"It doesn't matter. I want Su Mengqing to know how Su Pharmaceutical was truly brought back from the brink of death four years ago." Lin Fan nodded and turned to look at Su Mengqing. "You always refused to acknowledge my mother's help, so I'll let you see with your own eyes who the real useless piece of trash is!"

BOOM!

Su Mengqing's derisive smile froze on her face, her hand gripping the hem of her clothes tightly. She had thought that showing him the change agreement would make him suffer immensely. But why was he so confident? Why did he accept it so easily? Could it be? Can you, Lin Fan, really save Su Pharmaceutical? For a moment, Su Mengqing felt an inexplicable twinge of regret, followed by a looming sense of panic, as if she were about to lose everything.

"You two aren't cooking up some nasty scheme again, are you?" Zhang Meili eyed Lin Fan and Yuan Youwei with suspicion. "Don't even think about pulling any tricks! You're the ones who said you'd acquire the shares. It has to be at today's stock price, not a penny less!"

"Lin Fan, in front of all these people, you can't go back on your word!" Su Gang chimed in hastily.

The mother and son exchanged a look, a flicker of joy in their eyes. They both assumed Lin Fan had been blinded by rage, which was why he'd agreed so readily.

Just then, Su Hua stepped forward with a sycophantic smile. "Um, Director Lin, we'd also like to sell our shares in Su Pharmaceutical. Could you buy ours as well? You're a man of great wealth. This little bit of money is nothing to you, right?"

"We have no choice, we have to survive! We can't let the Su family drag us down to our graves!" another relative pleaded.

Seeing this, the other Su family relatives and friends also came forward, their faces plastered with fawning smiles. Su Pharmaceutical's stock price had plummeted. The shares in their hands were no different from scrap paper; they couldn't even sell them on the exchange.

If we can sell them to Lin Fan now, it's better than nothing. Even a mosquito's leg is still meat!

"Aren't you afraid Lin Fan will take over Su Pharmaceutical and drive the stock price back up?" Before Lin Fan could reply, Su Mengqing interjected with a mocking sneer.

"That's right, you shouldn't follow our family's lead. What would you do if we ended up screwing you over again?" Zhang Meili jeered sarcastically.

"No way, you have that little faith in Lin Fan? He has President Luo and Miss Yuan backing him, you know!" Su Gang was ecstatic, laughing with unconcealed glee.

"Shut your mouths! If it wasn't for your family, would we be in this mess?"

"Look at Director Lin, then look at yourselves! Pathetic!"

"Director Lin, please don't take it to heart! Just think of it as an act of mercy. Please, help us!"

Hearing this, Su Hua and the others flushed red with fury. Yet, none of them gave up on their plan to sell their shares to Lin Fan.

"Actually, they have a point. You've already been bled dry. What if I manage to raise the stock price and you lose out again now?" Lin Fan said calmly, his expression placid. "But if you want to sell, I'll buy them all. As many as you have."

"This..." Su Hua and the others exchanged glances, remaining silent. It was obvious they didn't believe Lin Fan could do it.

"If you want to trade your stocks, come to me," Yuan Youwei said with a faint smile, glancing at Su Mengqing. "Director Su, a pleasure doing business with you."

"Heh, you should worry about surviving that four-billion bet first!" Su Mengqing took a deep breath, stepped forward, and took the tablet to log into her stock account. After

selling all her shares in one go, she felt completely hollow inside, standing to the side with a vacant expression. Four years of hard work and effort had vanished in an instant, turning to nothing.

I made Lin Fan take over this mess. So why can't I feel happy?

"Mine too!"

"Thank you, Director Lin! Thank you, Miss Yuan!"

Su Hua and the others scrambled forward, each one selling off all the Su Pharmaceutical shares in their accounts. They were afraid that if they waited a second longer, Lin Fan would come to his senses and go back on his word.

"Sis, did the money come through? Our family is finally free of this burden!"

A moment later, a chorus of vibrations filled the air as phones buzzed with bank transfer notifications. Su Mengqing stared blankly at her screen, saying nothing. Su Gang, however, couldn't wait. He snatched the phone away and gawked at the numbers with glee. Zhang Meili peered over as well, finally letting the smirk she'd been suppressing spread across her face. The mother and son looked at each other, grinning from ear to ear.

Lin Fan is a real moron! Did he think he could do whatever he wanted just because he had over a billion in his account? Where did he get the gall and arrogance to claim he could bring Su Pharmaceutical back from the dead?

"Hahaha! Lin Fan, oh, Lin Fan, calling you stupid is an understatement. You're just a rich fool!" Turning his head, Su Gang could no longer hold back and began to ridicule Lin Fan loudly.

"You damn mutt, you finally did something useful! I'd like to see what you can possibly do with Su Pharmaceutical now that you have it!" Zhang Meili planted her hands on her hips, her bruised and swollen face beaming with triumph.

Ignoring the strange looks from everyone around them, the mother and son roared with laughter, as overjoyed as if it were New Year's. Meanwhile, Su Hua and the others, though silent, also gave Lin Fan strange looks. After all, no one was an idiot. They all knew perfectly well that buying up Su Pharmaceutical's stock at a time like this was the same as throwing money down the drain.

"If my little brother Lin Fan has taken over Su Pharmaceutical, then of course our five families will give him our full support!"

The next moment, a resonant voice boomed from the alley's entrance. Following the voice, Director Shen of Yunhai Group appeared, striding in confidently with a group of distinguished-looking men and women.

"Little Brother Lin, did Su Mengqing dump this whole mess on you?" Director Shen walked up to Lin Fan, and with just a quick glance at the tablet screen in Yuan Youwei's hands, he instantly understood everything.

His expression flickered, and he patted Lin Fan on the shoulder. "Brother, I trust your character. If you're the one in charge of Su Pharmaceutical, our five families are willing to help you out and renew our contracts!"

As soon as he said this, the entire area fell deathly silent.

The color drained from everyone's faces.

Then, as if cold water had been dropped into a pan of boiling oil, the crowd erupted into chaos.

Chapter 93, It's all self-inflicted!

"Director Shen, what... what do you mean?"

At the sight, Zhang Meili and Su Gang's smiles froze, their expressions turning incredibly grim. Veins bulged on Su Mengqing's pale neck, and her vision swam with rage. With eyes full of resentment and fury, she sharply questioned Director Shen.

"What do I mean? Can't you tell?" Director Shen smiled, glancing lazily behind him. "If you, Su Mengqing, had clenched your teeth and held on, I might have held you in higher regard."

He shook his head vigorously, his gaze turning scornful and disdainful. "But you actually planned to dump this mess on my friend Lin Fan and have him take the fall for all of it? Su Mengqing, you truly have no shame!"

"Why? Why would you do this? I begged you not to terminate the contract; I even offered to cut the price in half!" Su Mengqing was on the verge of madness, her teeth grinding together with a harsh grating sound.

"Because I damn well feel like it. What are you going to do about it?" Director Shen laughed heartily, pulling Lin Fan over to introduce him to the bigwigs from Yuncheng Pharmaceutical, not sparing Su Mengqing another glance.

He had come to inspect their exhibition booth for the procurement conference in two days and was also a little curious about Lin Fan's situation. He'd had an old acquaintance, Master Song, lead him to the clinic, only to unexpectedly stumble upon Lin Fan being forced to take over Su Pharmaceutical.

"Madmen! They're all madmen!" Zhang Meili's plump face turned grim, and she could no longer muster a smile.

Su Gang gripped the armrests of his wheelchair so tightly his knuckles turned white, his face burning with humiliation. They had humbled themselves, begging Director Shen and his associates for mercy, but it had been useless. In the end, those very people had proactively renewed their contract with Lin Fan instead. Just like that, Su Pharmaceutical's sales channels were revitalized, and the massive breach-of-contract penalty was waived.

"Director Lin, since your company has renewed its contracts with Director Shen's group and your operational status has improved, I have decided on behalf of our bank to extend the repayment period for your loan!"

At that moment, President Luo shot a cold glance toward the Su family before turning to Lin Fan with a warm smile.

GASP!

Su Hua and the others standing to the side were completely stupefied. Zhang Meili and Su Gang were frozen in shock.

What the hell is going on? Damn it, their double standards are infuriating! A moment ago, they were aggressively hounding the Su family to repay the loan. Now they turn to Lin Fan, and suddenly everything is negotiable? Now Su Pharmaceutical has sales channels, and the loan doesn't have to be repaid immediately. The two great mountains crushing the company... resolved just like that? It seems... Lin Fan might actually be able to bring Su Pharmaceutical back from the dead!

"President Luo, you... you're utterly shameless!" Su Mengqing clenched her fists, her whole body shaking with rage. Consumed by fury, she wanted nothing more than to rush forward and choke President Luo to death.

"Heh. I do as I please. What can you do about it?" President Luo retorted with a smile, standing nonchalantly beside Lin Fan.

"Furthermore, Yuandao Capital is prepared to inject five billion into Director Lin's company to improve its operational state!"

Before Su Mengqing could react, Yuan Youwei turned to her with a sweet smile. "Mrs. Xue, release this news immediately. I want to dominate today's local headlines!"

"Of course, Miss. I'll have someone handle it right away," Mrs. Xue replied, shooting Su Mengqing a cold, sneering look.

She'd long been disgusted by Su Mengqing's actions. The more at ease Lin Fan was now, the more vindicated she felt!

"Good. Thank you all for your generous support. I, Lin Fan, will take it to heart," Lin Fan said with a nod, a wave of warmth spreading through him.

This world isn't entirely filled with ungrateful scoundrels after all. There are still people like Yuan Youwei and Director Shen.

"No! You can't do this! What right do you have to help Lin Fan? Have you all gone mad?"

Under everyone's strange gazes, Su Mengqing's face flushed and paled in turns. She had completely lost it.

In the blink of an eye, all the problems that plagued Su Pharmaceutical were effortlessly resolved by Lin Fan? Then... what did that make her, the CEO? Didn't that mean she was, just as Lin Fan had said... a completely useless piece of trash?!

Humiliation, frustration, resentment... Su Mengqing's trembling grew more violent.

PFFT!

Blood rushed to her chest, stars danced before her eyes, and her head buzzed. Finally unable to withstand the blow, she violently sprayed a mist of blood from her mouth. All the life drained out of her, and she collapsed like a willow catkin in the wind.

"Mengqing!"

"Sis!"

Zhang Meili and Su Gang were terrified. They scrambled forward to support the ashen-faced Su Mengqing.

"Su Mengqing! Don't you fucking pretend to be sick! We're not done here!" The next moment, Su Hua's expression soured as he strode forward and snatched Su Mengqing's phone. "Your family has money now! You need to compensate us for our losses and for the money you swindled from us!"

"That's right! You must compensate us! Not one cent less!"

The others, as if waking from a dream, also swarmed forward, surrounding Su Mengqing and her two companions again.

"What's this about? You, Su Mengqing, are called Haicheng's new pharmaceutical queen, and yet you're a swindler?" Director Shen's eyes widened as he let out a disdainful sneer.

The other big shots from Yuncheng who had accompanied him exchanged glances and shook their heads with knowing smiles.

"...Fine. I'll pay. I'll pay you all back!" Su Mengqing cried out amidst the clamor of curses. The stares directed at her felt like daggers in her back, making her skin crawl. She completely broke down, clenching her fists, a strange mix of laughter and tears on her face.

It's over. The Su family is utterly ruined, and it's all my fault. The family business is gone. My title as Haicheng's new pharmaceutical queen has become a complete joke!

"Mengqing, don't! If you pay them all back, our family will be completely finished!"

"Sis! You can't give them the money! I don't want to be a pauper again!" Zhang Meili shrieked, hopping frantically from foot to foot.

Su Gang's face was a mask of agony, and he was on the verge of tears.

"Lin Fan! Give our company back! Yes, that's it! And the shares Mengqing sold!" Zhang Meili spun around and demanded of Lin Fan.

The response she received was a roar of laughter from Yuan Youwei, Director Shen, and the others.

"Weren't you the ones who forced Su Pharmaceutical on me and told me not to back out?" Lin Fan asked, finding the situation absurd.

He was finally seeing what it meant to have no shame whatsoever.

"So what if I did? Can't I regret it? Do you have a conscience? Didn't you see Mengqing was so angry she vomited blood because of you?!" Zhang Meili's face was beet red as she continued to press her demands shamelessly.

"Mom, stop it. Please, just stop... This is all my fault... heh..." Su Mengqing said with a bitter laugh, wiping the blood from her lips as she stopped her mother.

At this point, the situation was hopeless. Continuing this scene would only make them a bigger laughingstock and bring more disgrace.

"Ah! Why is my life so miserable! Why did I have to end up with your father and you two losers!" Zhang Meili stared blankly for a second, then collapsed onto the ground, wailing and pounding the pavement.

"Sis, don't! Please don't! If the money is gone, our family will be right back where we started four years ago!" Su Gang cried, shaking his head desperately at Su Mengqing.

"Fuck off! Stop playing the victim!" one of the relatives shouted. "You want pity? Who's going to pity us?"

"Exactly! Being related to your family is the worst luck imaginable!"

Seeing this display, Su Hua and the others grew even more infuriated, their faces burning with shame and anger. They were too ashamed to even look Lin Fan and his group in the eye.

A moment ago, Lin Fan had tried to reason with them, but nobody listened. Now it looked like he really might send Su Pharmaceutical's stock price soaring! We've lost out! Damn it, we've lost out big time! It's all because of Su Mengqing and her damn family. They'll be the death of us!

"Fuck this! This pittance isn't nearly enough to cover our losses!"

"To the Su family villa! Let's take everything that's valuable!"

After transferring all the money from Su Mengqing's account and doing a quick calculation, Su Hua grew even more enraged as he stared at the investment agreement in his hands. The others who had also signed investment agreements the night before began shouting angrily as well.

Ignoring the horrified expressions on the faces of Su Mengqing and her family, the whole group stormed out of the alley, making a beeline for the Su family villa in the eastern part of the city.

"Lin Fan! Lin Fan, you just wait! You won't die a good death!" Zhang Meili and Su Gang screamed, stomping their feet in a panicked fury. They then supported the ashen-faced Su Mengqing and hurried to get home.

"Oh, right! Where did that damn girl Yang Tingting go?" Upon reaching the mouth of the alley, Zhang Meili slapped her forehead as the thought struck her.

"Mom, forget Yang Tingting! Our car is gone!" Su Gang pointed at the empty parking space, letting out a hysterical wail.

W-what? Even the car was stolen! It's over. Everything is really over now! If we're late getting back, Su Hua and his cronies will have picked the house clean!

THUMP!

Zhang Meili convulsed and her eyes rolled back into her head. Overcome with rage, she collapsed to the ground, foaming at the mouth.

Chapter 94, collapsed, completely collapsed!

"Mom, Mom, what's wrong with you?!"

"Sis, hurry and get Mom to the hospital!"

Seeing Zhang Meili collapse, Su Gang panicked.

Su Mengqing let out a cry and quickly knelt, struggling to cradle Zhang Meili in her arms. She called out to her for a moment, but her mother didn't wake up.

The siblings looked at each other, helpless and despairing. They both hung their heads, utterly dejected.

"Director Shen, Director Shen, please, help us! Take my mom to the hospital!"

Just then, Director Shen and his men strode out of the alley, looking extremely pleased.

Like a drowning person grasping at the last straw, Su Mengqing immediately looked up and pleaded, "Director Shen, I was wrong! I deserve to be punished. Just please, I'm begging you, save my mom!"

SLAP!

Su Gang gritted his teeth, raised his hand, and slapped himself harshly across the face. "Please," he begged, his voice low and submissive.

"This..."

Seeing this, Director Shen and the others exchanged uncertain glances, hesitating.

"Director Shen, don't get involved," Old Song, who had followed them, warned coldly. "The Su family is a pile of filth. Anyone who touches them gets smeared with bad luck!"

"Master Song, you worked at the factory for four years! How can you just stand by and watch someone die?" Su Gang shouted, shocked and furious.

"Master Song, our Su family treated you well! Why are you doing this? Why?!" Su Mengqing broke down, questioning him through her sobs.

"Why? You have the nerve to ask me why?" Old Song was so angry he laughed, shaking his head. "Su Mengqing, when Su Gang was the factory director, he forced us to work overtime every day, then deliberately found fault with us to dock our pay!

"I told you about it, but your mother accused me of snitching and nearly cut my salary! And you? What did you do? You just kept pushing me to develop new drugs and cut costs! You didn't care about anything else!"

BOOM!

His resonant words echoed on the spot.

Su Gang's face flushed red, choked into silence.

Su Mengqing trembled, her mind going blank.

So this is the impression I made on everyone? This awful? I was wrong. Everything was wrong. All my past confidence, my achievements, and my pride... I see it now. It was all just one big joke!

"Su Mengqing, you deserve everything that's happening to you," Director Shen said, his expression complex. He shook his head with a sigh, led his men to their cars, and sped away, leaving them in a cloud of dust.

"Sis, don't cry! If worse comes to worst, we'll start over from scratch!" Watching the cars roar away, Su Gang's eyes turned red as he shouted fiercely, "Grandpa started from nothing, too! I believe you can do it!"

"...Stop talking. We need to figure out how to get Mom to the hospital," Su Mengqing said, wiping her tears. She struggled to heave Zhang Meili's heavy body onto her back. Clenching her teeth, she staggered forward.

One step, two steps, three steps... Every step was an exhausting, arduous effort, as if she were carrying a mountain on her shoulders.

Finally, on a street far from the alley, the siblings managed to hail a taxi and took Zhang Meili to a nearby hospital.

"The patient shows signs of a stroke. She must be admitted immediately. Please go pay the admission fees."

After a brief examination, Zhang Meili was moved to the inpatient ward. The nurse handed a payment slip to Su Mengqing.

"Sis, don't look at me. I don't have any money..." Su Gang avoided her gaze, looking away guiltily.

"...At a time like this, you're still unwilling to pay?" Su Mengqing clenched the payment slip, her body trembling.

After a moment of silence, a thought struck her. She hurriedly opened her small shoulder bag and pulled out an ordinary bank card. It was Lin Fan’s salary card from the factory, which she had always kept. There wasn’t much money on it, maybe a few tens of thousands.

Sourness, bitterness, resentment... The feelings flooded her as she gripped the card so tightly it threatened to snap. If she had any other choice, she would never use this money. It felt like taking a humiliating handout from Lin Fan. Who could have imagined that in this moment of utter destitution, she would need Lin Fan’s money to save her own mother’s life?

"Sis, isn’t that Lin Fan’s salary card? What are you waiting for? Hurry up and pay the hospital deposit!" Su Gang blurted out, recognizing the card. "Does it bother you? What are you afraid of? Lin Fan left with nothing, so the money on this card has been yours for a long time!"

He’s right. Lin Fan owes me this. Why shouldn’t I use it?

Coming to her senses, Su Mengqing gritted her teeth and nodded firmly. Tapping her high heels, she immediately trotted downstairs to pay the fees.

After paying for the admission and the deposit, the card was nearly empty.

Su Mengqing returned to the ward with a heavy heart and stared blankly at her mother. She then took out her phone and dialed Yang Tingting’s number.

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is busy. Please try again later..."

The same cold, mechanical response came three times in a row.

"Damn it! That bitch must have seen that our family was in trouble and took off with the car!" Su Gang roared, pounding the armrests of his wheelchair in a rage.

"Forget it. People make their own choices... Su Gang, you stay here. I have to go home and check on things." Su Mengqing took a deep breath, stood up, and left the ward.

The white BMW was a new replacement from last year, a top-of-the-line model. Even on the secondhand market, it would be worth several hundred thousand. Yang Tingting had deliberately blocked her number. She clearly had no intention of returning.

Silently, she tried to comfort herself. Luckily, there’s still plenty of gold and jewelry at home. Mom also has some personal savings. At least, even without Su Pharmaceutical, we can still live a prosperous life.

With that thought, Su Mengqing took a taxi back to the Su family villa.

She was stunned. The villa's front gate was gone, leaving only a bare, gaping doorframe. Her heart plummeted as she rushed inside frantically, and her vision went dark.

It was all gone. Everything was gone.

The entire villa had been stripped bare. Even appliances like the air conditioners and refrigerators had been pried away. The wooden floors were torn up, and the mirrors in the bathrooms were gone. The expensive, high-end decor, which had cost millions, had been smashed to smithereens. It was a ghastly sight.

THUD!

Su Mengqing collapsed to the floor. A moment later, she jolted as if waking from a nightmare and scrambled to her feet.

She ran to Zhang Meili's bedroom, intending to find her mother's bankbooks.

"This... this... Mom! How could you be so foolish?!"

The bedroom was just as empty, with nothing but debris scattered across the floor. Su Mengqing snatched up a wealth management fund slip from the bank, and her pupils dilated.

She began to cry, her sobs tearing through her as her face filled with despair. Her mother had secretly, without telling her, invested all of their money into a large-scale wealth management fund. But that very fund had collapsed at the end of last year; the founder had already absconded overseas with all the funds.

In the past, their family could have absorbed such a loss. But now, it was the final straw that broke Su Mengqing's back.

"Director Su, this villa, and the two cars in the garage, are all registered under the name of Su Pharmaceutical."

Just then, a sharp knock echoed from the entryway behind her.

Su Mengqing turned her head stiffly and met Yuan Youwei's eyes, which held a mocking smile.

"What are you doing here? Get out! All of you, get out! This is my home!" Su Mengqing shrieked, scrambling to her feet in a frenzy.

"Heh. From now on, it isn't," Yuan Youwei said, holding up a folder for Su Mengqing to see. "Clever of the Su family, I'll give you that, using the company's accounts to buy the house and cars, putting all your personal assets under the company's name." Her red lips curled into a smirk, as if she were looking at an idiot. "But now, Director Lin owns the

company. Naturally, these assets must be reclaimed. They have nothing to do with the Su family anymore."

BOOM!

Su Mengqing’s pupils trembled violently, and her face went as white as a sheet.

She remembered now. When they bought the house and car, they had followed Yang Tingting’s advice to do exactly this. She and her mother had even praised her for being so clever!

But now, it has turned into a time bomb planted long ago! Gone. Everything is completely and utterly gone. The company, the house, the cars, the savings... The Su family has truly collapsed. Utterly and completely ruined!

Chapter 95. Go ask Lin Fan?

"Director Su, please vacate the premises immediately. We need to inventory and seal this property."

Yuan Youwei’s expression turned grim as she unceremoniously issued the eviction order. Behind her, Mrs. Xue directed a group of property management staff to begin posting seizure notices around the property.

After Su Mengqing’s family had left, Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue had said their goodbyes to Lin Fan and come over to deal with the assets. After all, the Su family was completely finished. There was no telling if they might do something desperate, like secretly liquidate everything and flee.

"I... I’m just gathering my personal belongings. That should be allowed, right?"

Su Mengqing fell silent for a moment before clenching her teeth and entering her room. Despite her extreme reluctance, she had no choice but to accept this reality.

She froze. The room was empty. Not only were there no spare clothes, but even the wardrobe had been carried away.

"Heh, I have to say, your family is certainly thorough," Yuan Youwei, who had followed her inside, said with a half-smile, shaking her head.

It was obvious Su Hua and the others had done this. They must have smashed the interior decorations just to vent their anger.

"Yuan Youwei, what are you gloating for? Do you really think you and Lin Fan can be happy together?" Su Mengqing clenched her fists so tightly her nails dug into her palms.

Even that piercing pain was nothing compared to the grief and humiliation she felt at that moment.

"That's not something Director Su needs to worry about," Yuan Youwei said, her red lips curling into a meaningful smile. "In fact, I should be thanking you."

"Thanking me?" A hint of madness filled Su Mengqing's eyes as she let out a tragic, desperate laugh. "Yuan Youwei, are you trying to say that I did you a favor by kicking Lin Fan to the curb?"

"Isn't that the truth?" Yuan Youwei replied with a placid, faint smile. "To think you'd be willing to let go of a man like him. I can't tell if you're blind or if you and Lin Fan simply weren't fated to be together."

"Heh, you think Lin Fan is a good person? He clearly had the power to change everything. His mother could have obviously made the Su family even better." Su Mengqing's eyes grew bloodshot, her voice rising to a high-pitched shriek. "But what did that mother and son do? They kept it a secret from me! They waited until she was on her deathbed to even think about revealing it? I'm telling you, the Su family is in this mess because of Lin Fan and his mother! They..."

SLAP!

The furious tirade came to an abrupt halt. Su Mengqing covered the fresh, red handprint on her cheek, her face a mask of disbelief.

"Su Mengqing, this slap was on behalf of Ms. Lin Suxin," Yuan Youwei said coldly, retracting her hand. "You are far too self-righteous and heartless."

"Even now, instead of reflecting on your own mistakes, you insist on blaming everything on Lin Fan and his mother? You thought you were Haicheng's new Queen of Medicine, that Lin Fan wasn't good enough for you, so you slowly grew to despise him. But the truth is, you're the one who's a worthless good-for-nothing!"

BOOM!

Su Mengqing's eyelids twitched violently, and veins bulged on her forehead. The cold words were like sharp blades, viciously piercing her heart.

"No, I'm not a good-for-nothing! I, Su Mengqing, am the key to Su Pharmaceutical's rise!" she shrieked hysterically, stomping her foot as her whole body trembled uncontrollably.

"Not a good-for-nothing?" Yuan Youwei scoffed, shaking her head in disdain. "Look at yourself. It's been barely a week since you left Lin Fan, and you've already squandered a vast family fortune and even given up your ancestral business! Yes, you can blame your mother, you can blame Yang Tingting, you can blame your father and your brother."

Her gaze turned cold. "But you were supposed to be the backbone of the Su family! They certainly made mistakes, but why couldn't you fix them in time? So tell me, if you're not a good-for-nothing, what are you? You knew how important Lin Fan's mother was, but you were too proud to swallow your pride and admit you needed her help. You've earned the predicament you're in today. It was an inevitable conclusion!"

Recalling her first meeting with Lin Fan, Yuan Youwei couldn't help but feel a pang of heartache and a surge of anger. Such an incredibly talented man, yet the Su family had driven him to absolute destitution, leaving him penniless. He couldn't even afford to properly handle his own mother's funeral and was forced to hole up in a shabby mourning hall, silently burning paper offerings all by himself.

"Su Mengqing! I can tell you this much: four years ago, you and the entire Su family just got ridiculously lucky!" Yuan Youwei was utterly furious now, her voice turning icy. "Lin Fan choosing you was a gift from the heavens, but not only did you fail to cherish it, you left him covered in scars!"

"No, that's not true! You're talking nonsense! Shut up!" Su Mengqing broke down, clutching her head as she stumbled backward, desperately denying everything. But the treacherous tears that streamed down her face exposed her inner turmoil completely.

"Miss, why waste your breath on trash like her? Let's just throw her out," Mrs. Xue said, walking over with the staff and giving Su Mengqing a cold glance. "What if your scolding actually wakes her up? What if she runs back to Lin Fan, begging to remarry him? Then what?"

"Her? Su Mengqing?" Yuan Youwei laughed, her beautiful eyes brimming with confidence. "Who would want a loser who bankrupted her family? Lin Fan isn't an idiot."

She was suddenly reminded of her grandfather's advice from the previous night. Her beautiful face flushed red, and a competitive fire lit up in her heart. I never really considered Su Mengqing a rival. But, if I'm up against Princess Adele of Sha Country... it seems I really need to hurry up and sleep with Lin Fan! The thought made her cheeks burn, and she inwardly chided herself, yet a sweet smile played on her alluring lips.

Just then, Su Mengqing seemed to compose herself. She glared at Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue with bloodshot eyes. "Yuan Youwei, don't be so smug! One day, I will take back everything that belongs to me!" she yelled, before turning and rushing out the door, terrified that her humiliating tears would start to fall again.

After leaving the Su family's villa, Su Mengqing hailed a taxi to the hospital. Staring at the passing scenery outside the window, she gnashed her teeth and muttered to herself. Grandfather, was I really wrong? I've searched my heart, and I know I never wronged Lin Fan. So why have I ended up like this? The events of the past four years flashed before her eyes like scenes in a revolving lantern. Could it really be because I'm just that useless?

She pulled her gaze away from the window and closed her eyes, feeling a wave of exhaustion unlike any she had ever known.

Upon reaching the hospital, Su Mengqing pushed open the door to the ward. Before she could even catch her breath, Su Gang urgently questioned her from his wheelchair. "Sis, what happened at home? Did they take everything?"

"Mengqing, my head is killing me... Please tell me nothing happened at home..." Zhang Meili moaned weakly from the hospital bed, looking over.

"Mom, Su Gang... our family is finished. It's all over... Su Hua and the others took everything." Su Mengqing hung her head, her voice hoarse as she ground out the words.

What? They took everything? How are we supposed to live now?

"Sis, be more specific! What happened? What about our last two cars? Don't tell me they smashed those too?" Su Gang wailed, pounding on the armrests of his wheelchair.

Zhang Meili struggled to turn her head, her sickly eyes wide with alarm.

"The cars... and the house... they're all registered in the company's name..." Su Mengqing raised her swollen, red eyes and steeled her heart to continue. "A little while ago, Yuan Youwei came with her people and seized the villa and the cars... Mom, Su Gang, we have nothing left! We don't even have a home anymore!"

BOOM!

At her words, mother and son turned pale, completely stunned. The atmosphere in the hospital room became oppressive to the extreme, and no one spoke a word, plunging the room into a dead silence.

After a moment, Zhang Meili struggled to raise a hand, pointing at Su Mengqing with a twitching face. "Su Mengqing... you... come here."

SLAP!

As Su Mengqing stepped closer, Zhang Meili's eyes blazed with fury. Using every last bit of her strength, she viciously slapped her daughter across the face.

"You useless thing! You're a worthless creature! How could you let that damned pair take everything? The house and the cars, too!" Zhang Meili wailed, her heavy body shaking uncontrollably. "I don't care what you have to do! Go beg Lin Fan! Make him give it all back!"

After letting out that piercing shriek, Zhang Meili convulsed violently. Foam frothed at the corners of her mouth, her eyes rolled back into her head, and she passed out.

Ignoring the stinging pain on her cheek, Su Mengqing and Su Gang frantically called for a doctor. After a quick examination, the doctor explained with a grave expression, "This is not good. The patient has fainted again. I suspect a cerebral hemorrhage. We need to arrange for surgery immediately!"

"Sis, hurry up and find Lin Fan! He's going to be the death of Mom!" Su Gang grew frantic, desperately pushing Su Mengqing toward the door. "Go beg him! Tell him to get to the hospital right now to apologize and admit he was wrong!"

Chapter 96, The Last Chance

"W-what? You want me to go beg Lin Fan? And have him come here to apologize to our mother, Zhang Meili?" Su Mengqing's heart clenched, and her vision suddenly went dark. "Su Gang, have you lost your mind? Why on earth should I go beg Lin Fan!"

Not to mention the humiliation... Even if I really did go beg him, would he agree? Going there now would be asking for disgrace!

"What choice do we have? Are we supposed to just stand by and watch as we lose everything? Watch Mom die from anger?" Su Gang's eyes were bloodshot, his voice laced with ferocity. "This is your fault, all your fault. If you hadn't gotten involved with Lin Fan back then, would things have turned out this way? Su Mengqing, you made this mess, so you have to be the one to clean it up!"

At these words, Su Mengqing gripped the bed railing so tightly she nearly exploded with rage. "Su Gang! Search your conscience! Who was I doing it for when I agreed to Lin Fan's pursuit? Wasn't it for this family? To repay the favor we owed his mother for lending us money!"

"Hah! Su Mengqing, don't be so ridiculous. Did I ever ask you to repay any favors?" Su Gang's face flushed, and he flew into a rage from the embarrassment. "At the end of the day, it's just because you're all useless! Otherwise, when I was captured, hung in a basement, and beaten half to death, why couldn't you even scrounge up a few tens of thousands?!"

SLAP!

Unable to take it anymore, Su Mengqing slapped Su Gang hard across the face.

"Hit me! Go on, keep hitting me!" Su Gang shoved his face forward, shouting menacingly. "You're useless, Su Mengqing! All you know how to do is take your anger out on me!"

"You... Are you trying to anger me to death, too?!" Su Mengqing choked out through a stream of tears, sinking helplessly to the floor.

"The operating room is ready. The patient’s family needs to sign the consent form." Just then, a nurse walked over with a surgical consent form and handed it to Su Gang.

"I’m not signing it. Ask her," Su Gang said, pointing at the squatting Su Mengqing. "It’s her fault Mom’s in this state!"

One second, two seconds, three... a full minute passed. Seeing the nurse’s growing impatience, Su Mengqing fiercely wiped away her tears, stood up, and spoke. "...Fine. I’ll sign. I’ll go beg Lin Fan. Are you happy now?"

She then quickly signed her name on the form.

A moment later, Zhang Meili was wheeled into the operating room. Su Gang tore his gaze away from the closed doors and urged Su Mengqing impatiently, "Hurry up and go! If Mom wakes up and Lin Fan isn’t here to apologize, she’ll probably pass out from anger all over again!"

"Su Gang, you stay here with Mom. You have to wait for me to get back." Taking a deep breath, Su Mengqing clenched her jaw, her mind made up.

Yuan Youwei was right. I’m the backbone of the Su Family. No matter how suffocated I feel or how humiliated I am by Lin Fan, I have to pull myself together and support this family!

"Just go. As if I’d abandon Mom," Su Gang waved his hand impatiently, as if shooing away a buzzing fly. However, a strange glint flashed deep in his eyes.

"Call me the second Mom wakes up!" Su Mengqing bit her red lip hard.

She gave the closed operating room doors one last, long look before turning and hurrying away.

「At that moment, in Southern City’s Suxin Clinic.」

After seeing off Director Shen and the others, Lin Fan had been waiting in the clinic for Yuan Youwei to return. Instead, Doctor Jiang, whom he hadn’t seen in days, showed up. The old man stood opposite Lin Fan, his face beaming, as he excitedly explained his reason for visiting. "Master, after I left, I worked hard to find the two medicinal herbs you asked for, and I finally have a lead!"

"I heard from an old friend that about two years ago, a Green Phoenix Vine was given away by Wang Tianchuan of Haicheng!"

"Given away? To whom?" Lin Fan asked, startled.

The Green Phoenix Vine! The second rare medicine I so desperately need! I never thought it would be connected to the Wang family! It seems my earlier hunch was right. Mr. Wang Sr. loves collecting rare plants and herbs; his medicinal garden must have plenty of valuable things. He might even still have a Green Phoenix Vine!

"This... I wasn't able to find that out." Doctor Jiang's face turned slightly red as he shook his head with an embarrassed chuckle.

"No matter. You've worked hard," Lin Fan nodded, fulfilling his promise. "From this moment on, you are my nominal disciple."

"Thank you, Master!" Doctor Jiang's face lit up with joy, and he instinctively straightened his back. "I'm willing to go to the Wang family and inquire on your behalf! Although I'm not a Haicheng native, I have some clout in the medical circles of the Southwest provinces," he added with a self-satisfied chuckle.

"Alright, let's go together."

Lin Fan was getting restless too. He pulled out his phone to send Yuan Youwei a text, then left with Doctor Jiang, heading straight for the Wang family's old mansion in North City.

Not long after, the two arrived at the gate of the Wang family's old mansion. Before Lin Fan could state his purpose, an impatient caretaker waved him away.

"Lin Fan? What are you doing here again? The old master won't see you. Scram!"

"Hmph! You blind watchdog! You don't even recognize me, Jiang Wanqiu?" Doctor Jiang strode forward and jabbed a finger toward the caretaker's nose, cursing.

"Oh, it's you. That pathetic 'miracle doctor' who came begging for medicine and was flatly rejected by the old master?" the caretaker retorted with his nose in the air, snorting dismissively.

"You! How dare you look down on me! The reputation of Jiang Wanqiu is not for a watchdog like you to slander!" Doctor Jiang's face flushed crimson, and he nearly exploded with rage. Feeling he had lost face in front of Lin Fan, he steeled himself and was about to force his way in.

"That won't be necessary." Just then, Lin Fan frowned slightly and stopped Doctor Jiang.

He turned to the caretaker, who was standing with his arms crossed, and said flatly, "Just go and inform Mr. Wang Sr. that I'm here to give him one last chance."

The caretaker's expression changed at his words. Even the fuming Doctor Jiang was stunned.

Is he crazy? He’s the one here to ask for a favor, but he’s acting like he’s bestowing great mercy on the Wang family? Incredible. The nerve on this guy.

"Fine. You just wait. I’d like to see what tricks you have up your sleeve," the caretaker scoffed, so angered he was almost laughing. He immediately hurried into the inner courtyard to inform the old master.

A short while later, he returned with a sour look on his face. "Come in. The old master has agreed to see you," he said gruffly.

"It’s good that Mr. Wang Sr. is sensible. He would have regretted it for the rest of his life if he’d refused to see me." Lin Fan nodded and strode forward, ignoring the strange looks from the Wang family members inside.

Doctor Jiang’s mouth twitched, and he felt too embarrassed to even look up. The caretaker nearly stumbled, his face twisted in anger.

I’ve seen shameless people, but never anyone like this. Doesn’t everyone know the old master conspired with the big shots of Haicheng Pharmaceutical to set Lin Fan up? But who can he blame but himself for being so stupid? He just gave away nine priceless prescriptions for nothing! And now he comes running back. He must be here to cry and beg them to go easy on him!

Chapter 97. Who says I am here to beg?

"Mr. Wang Sr., you truly are a visionary. Lin Fan actually came to beg for mercy!"

At this moment, inside the living room of the old mansion, the nine pharmaceutical magnates of Haicheng were gathered, talking and laughing in high spirits. Having secured a promise from Iguchi Watanabe the previous night, they all felt on the verge of soaring success. As for why there was still no word from the Yuan family, the crowd wasn’t particularly concerned. After all, with the support of the Black Tiger Hall and a hundred skilled martial artists from Sakura Country brought by Iguchi Watanabe, taking down the Yuan family estate would be effortless.

"Hmph, this fool is surprisingly lucky. How did he not die at Master Feng’s hands?" Mr. Wang Sr., sitting in the head seat, hummed softly, his eyes squinting into a meaningful smile. "Now that Yuan Youwei is finished, Lin Fan has no one to back him. He’s probably here seeking my protection. But he still can’t swallow his pride, even saying something like ’giving my Wang family one last chance’?"

Saying this, Mr. Wang Sr. turned his head. He looked at a refined and handsome young man to his right, his demeanor becoming exceedingly amicable. "Young Master Wen, you’ve worked hard, representing the Imperial Capital’s Wen family to preside over the Haicheng Pharmaceutical Ordering Conference."

"It’s nothing. Being able to cooperate so closely with all of you is an honor for the Wen family," the young man nodded, a flicker in his eyes.

His name was Wen Zheyang, a young master from the Wen family, one of the ten great medicinal families of the Imperial Capital. Years ago, the Wen family had been just an insignificant clan in the Southwest provinces. Then, after a sudden rise to fortune, they skyrocketed in prominence, moving the entire clan to the Imperial Capital and establishing a powerful reputation.

"You could say Haicheng is my homeland. We’re all familiar with each other, so there’s no need for such formality," Wen Zheyang chuckled. "Moreover, our Wen family has already reached an agreement with the Iguchi Pharmaceutical Group. We will prioritize supplying high-grade traditional Chinese medicine from the northern market to Sakura Country. From now on, we’re all on the same side. Mr. Iguchi Watanabe and I have already arranged to meet here in Haicheng; he should be contacting me soon."

At these words, everyone in the hall exchanged glances, their faces breaking into wide smiles.

"As I understand it, Young Master Wen and Yuan Youwei still have an engagement, don’t they?" Mr. Wang Sr. said with a smile. "If Mr. Iguchi Watanabe were to learn of this connection, he probably wouldn’t make things difficult for Miss Yuan."

"That’s just ancient history, not worth mentioning," Wen Zheyang’s expression tensed for a moment before he smiled with an air of indifference. "Back when my father was young, he and Yuan Tianguang were on good terms and made some remarks in jest. Who would have thought the Yuan family actually took them seriously?"

A corner of his mouth twitched. "The so-called ’Beauty of Haicheng’ is fit only to be my plaything. If Yuan Youwei has any sense, she should give up the engagement on her own instead of waiting for me to ask her personally."

Hearing this, the others also snickered and shook their heads.

"But from what I can see, Lin Fan and Yuan Youwei seem quite close. Perhaps they’ve already... hehe," Mr. Wang Sr. deliberately trailed off, smiling without saying more.

"Then I’d really like to see what gives this Lin Fan the audacity to touch my, Wen Zheyang’s, woman," Wen Zheyang said with a faint smile. Yet the cold glint that flashed through his eyes completely betrayed his true feelings.

Just then, a steward entered, bowed, and announced, "Mr. Wang Sr., Lin Fan and the others have arrived," catching everyone’s attention.

"Bring them in!" Mr. Wang Sr.’s smile vanished as he waved his hand coldly.

A moment later, Lin Fan and Doctor Jiang were led in. Ignoring everyone else, Lin Fan walked straight to Mr. Wang Sr.

"Mr. Wang Sr., I heard that you once gave away a Green Phoenix Vine?" he asked directly. "If you tell me where that Green Phoenix Vine is, or provide me with another one, I will give you the formula for the Divine Dragon Detox Powder, free of charge."

The room fell into a dead silence, which was then shattered by a roar of uproarious laughter. The nine pharmaceutical magnates grinned, looking at him as if he were an idiot.

"Lin Fan, you were lucky to escape Master Feng's grasp with your life last night, and you still dare to swagger around out in the open?" Mr. Wang Sr. burst out laughing, shaking his head in disbelief. "You really do have a death wish, now setting your sights on the Green Phoenix Vine?"

BANG!

His expression suddenly turned grim as he slammed his hand down hard on the coffee table.

"Such audacious gall! The formula for the Divine Dragon Detox Powder is an heirloom of my Wang family. What makes you think we need you to offer it? For that remark alone, even if I had a Green Phoenix Vine—which I don't—you wouldn't get so much as a single leaf!"

As he finished speaking, the laughter in the hall grew even more unrestrained, and everyone stared at Lin Fan with mocking eyes.

"So, you all plan to steal the nine formulas I gave you?" Lin Fan was silent for a moment, then also offered a small smile. "Fine. I gave you one last chance. You're the ones who didn't take it."

"What? Are you missing a screw? Those formulas are clearly ours!"

"Hahaha, this is killing me! It took this blockhead until now to figure it out?"

"Our families have already registered the patents for the medicines! We've been working overtime the last couple of days on mass production, preparing to make a big splash at the ordering conference! What are you going to do about it? You dare to take on all nine of us?!"

Sounds of laughter, jeering, and taunting echoed through the great hall in a continuous wave.

Standing off to the side, Doctor Jiang’s face was flushed with shame. He wished he could find a crack in the floor to disappear into. He had thought Lin Fan was here to display his might. But this was it? He was being laughed at like a complete fool! If he had known it would turn out like this, he never would have come. Not only had the boast fallen flat, but he was being dragged down into the humiliation as well!

"So, you’re Lin Fan?" Wen Zheyang spoke up. "Friend, when asking for a favor, you should have the right attitude instead of being so stubborn."

The next moment, before the indifferent Lin Fan could turn to leave, Wen Zheyang stood up. He walked over and sized him up from head to toe. "I’m truly curious. Yuan Youwei is, after all, the daughter of Haicheng’s top family. How could she possibly fancy a thing like you?"

Wen Zheyang’s lips curled, a trace of contempt in his eyes. "Just some country bumpkin with no class."

"And what kind of thing are you?" Lin Fan stared at Wen Zheyang’s handsome face, his brows furrowing slightly. This person looks vaguely familiar... I must have seen him in passing back in the Imperial Capital.

"Besides, who told you I came here to beg?" Lin Fan turned his head, his gaze sweeping over the mocking faces of Mr. Wang Sr. and the others. "You’re all about to be disappointed. Last night, I wasn’t lucky to survive. I spared Master Feng’s life."

These people knew Master Feng would go to the clinic? It seems they’re colluding with Iguchi Watanabe as well.

At this thought, Lin Fan couldn’t be bothered to hold back any longer. He continued in a calm tone, "Also, that fellow, Iguchi Watanabe... I’ve already killed him."

The hall fell silent in an instant.

Then, the laughter erupted again, even louder this time, almost deafening.

"Hahaha, the bragging is getting more and more ridiculous!"

"You dare touch Mr. Iguchi Watanabe? Do you have any idea of your own limitations?"

The crowd sneered nonstop, as if they had just heard the biggest joke in the world.

"Lin Fan, I must say, you have the toughest mouth I’ve ever seen," Wen Zheyang also laughed, but his eyes were ice-cold. "What gives you the right to make such outrageous claims? Even my Wen family from the Imperial Capital treats Mr. Iguchi Watanabe with the utmost respect. Do you not even know how to spell the word ’death’?"

"The Wen family from the Imperial Capital?" Lin Fan's expression shifted. He finally remembered this guy. "Aren't you that Wen... something-yang... who was kneeling outside the bar, crying and begging for a guy named Da Bingzi to spare his life?"

Recalling that night, Lin Fan almost laughed. The Imperial Capital was crawling with powerful families, and the Wen family barely made the list. In the true circles of the top elite, they were nothing. That year, Lin Fan had been on a low-key vacation back in the Imperial Capital and had been invited out to a bar by a childhood friend. Then, some drunkard went on a rampage and smashed a Bugatti Veyron parked outside, which belonged to his friend's underling. Lin Fan and his friends didn't even need to intervene. The underling, Da Bingzi, just went out and said a few words, which scared the man sober and sent him to his knees, begging for mercy.

"What Da Bingzi, Er Bingzi... I don't fucking... don't..." As Wen Zheyang spoke, his face suddenly changed. He seemed to have remembered something, and his pupils trembled violently.

He stared at Lin Fan as if he were seeing a ghost.

"Who... who in the world are you?" Wen Zheyang was both shocked and furious, his expression as ugly as if he had swallowed a dead fly.

He had always considered that incident the greatest humiliation of his life, a secret buried deep in his heart that no one was ever allowed to mention. And now, Lin Fan had exposed it right to his face.

Chapter 98. The past cannot be reversed

"Young Master Wen, what's going on?"

Seeing the uneasy look on Wen Zheyang's face, the crowd members glanced at each other, their laughter gradually subsiding. Mr. Wang Sr. even hurried to his feet, not forgetting to give Lin Fan a fierce glare.

"It's nothing. He... he's talking nonsense. I don't understand a word!" Wen Zheyang's cheeks were burning.

Naturally, he didn't dare publicize such a shameful incident and could only grit his teeth and suppress the rage in his heart.

Humph, so what if you saw it with your own eyes, Lin Fan? As long as you don't have evidence, I can just deny it forever!

"Really? Because I seem to recall you being stripped naked by Da Binzi and forced to streak through the streets for several laps," Lin Fan said, his strange gaze sweeping up

and down Wen Zheyang. His eyes finally settled on the man's crotch. "If I'm not mistaken, you have a red birthmark the size of a pigeon's egg on your left butt cheek."

Wen Zheyang gasped, his breath catching in his throat as his face instantly turned beet-red.

Damn it, this bastard really did see it! He even pinpointed the location of the birthmark with unbelievable accuracy!

"Kid, if you disrespect me again, you'll pay with your life!" Wen Zheyang hissed, his voice a low growl that barely concealed his panic. He pointed a threatening finger at Lin Fan, his eyes flashing a warning.

Noticing that everyone's eyes couldn't help but drift toward his left buttock, Wen Zheyang became so furious that he spun around and bellowed, "What the fuck are you looking at?! Do you want me to drop my pants and show you?!"

"No, no, no, Young Master Wen, you've misunderstood! Of course we believe you unconditionally!"

"Yes, that's right! It's obviously Lin Fan spouting nonsense! With your distinguished status, Young Master Wen, an ant like him would never have had the chance to meet you before!"

The faces of the pharmaceutical tycoons stiffened at the scolding, but none of them dared to talk back. Instead, they had to force smiles and do their utmost to placate him, terrified of earning his resentment.

"Are you still looking? Who are you? You came with Lin Fan, so you must be bad news!" Wen Zheyang glared at Doctor Jiang with hostility.

"Uh... I wasn't looking. I was just wondering if I locked the door at home. I got a bit distracted, hehe..." Doctor Jiang shuddered, his forced laugh looking more pained than a sob.

He was still trying to explain sheepishly when Lin Fan took a sudden step forward.

"Little Jiang," Lin Fan said. "I'll let you have a good, long look."

RIP!

Before anyone could react, Lin Fan moved as fast as the wind, viciously tearing Wen Zheyang's white trousers to shreds. And sure enough, there on the left butt cheek was a red birthmark the size of a pigeon's egg.

With this sudden development, the hall fell deathly silent. Mr. Wang Sr. and the others were completely and utterly dumbfounded. Doctor Jiang was trembling all over, his eyes nearly popping out of their sockets.

My God, isn't this a bit too arrogant and domineering? The man is a noble scion from the Imperial Capital, and you, Lin Fan, didn't even leave him his underwear! To make matters worse, there really is a birthmark there! Could it be... it's all true?

For a moment, everyone's heart skipped a beat as they all instinctively turned to stare at Wen Zheyang.

"Lin Fan! You... you're fucking looking for death!"

Wen Zheyang's face cycled through shades of green and white before twisting into a hysterical, ferocious grimace. He was on the verge of going insane. Being publicly humiliated by Lin Fan was one thing, but to have his ass exposed along with the undeniable proof was another!

"What are you so agitated about? I was just trying to help you prove your innocence," Lin Fan remarked with a slight frown. "Too bad you failed the test... Tsk, it is quite pale, though."

"Fuck you and your 'pale'!"

Wen Zheyang completely lost it. Covering his rear with one hand, he pointed at Lin Fan with the other and began screaming curses. "You have to die! You have to die today! Wang Meng, kill him for me! I'll take full responsibility for whatever happens!" he roared, turning his head to shout toward the doorway.

"Young Master Wen, don't be rash! Lin Fan is a martial arts expert; ordinary men can't handle him!" Mr. Wang Sr. yelped, jumping in fright. He frantically shot Wen Zheyang a look, whispering his urgent plea.

Even an expert like Master Feng, a Hua Jing Grandmaster, couldn't kill Lin Fan. If he gets a mind to kill us now, there's no guarantee he won't massacre everyone here in a fit of rage!

"Heh, I, Wang Meng, would like to see who dares touch my boss!"

The next moment, a hulking figure strode in from the doorway. His muscles bulged under a black leather vest, and he stood like an iron tower. He had a harsh buzz cut and a square, fleshy face set in a fierce expression.

"Kid, learn your lesson for your next life. Not everyone is someone you can afford to provoke."

Wang Meng came to a stop before Lin Fan and reached out with a large, calloused hand, his five fingers spreading to grab for Lin Fan's neck. He was once a special forces soldier on the front lines of the Northern War Zone but was dishonorably discharged for deserting in battle. He later roamed the underworld of the Imperial Capital before being recruited by the Wen family for a hefty sum to become their chief bodyguard. This time, he had accompanied Wen Zheyang to Haicheng with the sole duty of ensuring his safety.

"I think... I've seen you before, too."

SMACK!

Lin Fan's brow furrowed silently as a gust of wind stirred. No one saw him move. All they saw was the imposing, tower-like figure sent flying backward, spitting blood.

THUMP!

Wang Meng had come in fast, but he left even faster. In the blink of an eye, he was slammed back outside the doorway, violently vomiting fresh blood.

The dead silence in the vast reception hall was broken only by the sound of shocked gasps. He was so fierce, so strong! No wonder he could single-handedly wipe out the Black Tiger Hall's lair. With skills like these, he could slaughter everyone here.

Cold sweat beaded on the foreheads of Mr. Wang Sr. and the others, and their expressions grew wary and fearful. Doctor Jiang, however, stared with wide eyes, his back straightening with pride.

See that? With me and Master Lin Fan together, who can possibly stand in our way?!

"You... what are you doing? Don't come over here!" Wen Zheyang shrieked, his face paling as he saw Lin Fan's expression shift and begin walking toward the door.

However, Lin Fan didn't spare him a single glance. He walked straight to the ashen-faced Wang Meng.

"Were you a deserter on the front lines of the Northern War Zone?" Lin Fan asked coldly, his eyes lowered.

Gasping, Wang Meng stared back, his expression changing instantly as his eyes filled with a deep-seated fear. "You... how do you know?!"

He sent me flying with a single slap. That proves he's at least a peak Hua Jing Grandmaster. Otherwise, as a Late Ming Jin master myself, there's no way I could have even taken one move from him!

Inside the hall, Wen Zheyang's eyelids twitched. He was about to lose his mind.

Who the hell is this guy? How does he know every damn thing about Wang Meng's background?!

"From now on, stay far away from me when you see me. I don't like deserters."

For a brief moment, Lin Fan was lost in a memory. The past, all of it, could never be reclaimed. Ever since he had vanished without a trace seven years ago, living under a new identity... wasn't he, in a way, a "deserter" himself?

"You, you are...!! No, impossible! That person is already dead!"

The next moment, Wang Meng, who had been scrutinizing Lin Fan's face, suddenly paled in horror. He pointed a trembling finger at Lin Fan and shrieked. He looked as if he had seen a ghost, scrambling and crawling backward, unable to stop himself from retreating.

"That's right. That person is already dead," Lin Fan nodded, his gaze withdrawing as a wave of listlessness washed over him. "My name is Lin Fan."

He turned his head to face Mr. Wang Sr. and the others. "At the ordering conference in two days, my conditions will be doubled."

"Lin Fan! Don't you get too arrogant! Someone will deal with you eventually!"

"What good is being a great fighter? You've offended the Wen family! You... you're a dead man walking!"

Upon hearing this, the expressions of the people in the hall soured. Some clenched their teeth in silent rage, while others couldn't hold back and began shouting furiously.

"How about I just send all of you to your graves with me right now?" A mocking smile played on Lin Fan's lips as he took a step forward.

The hall instantly erupted into chaos. Not only did Mr. Wang Sr. and the others turn deathly pale and stagger back, but even the Wang family bodyguards who had rushed to the scene swallowed hard, not daring to step forward and intervene.

"Mr. Wang Sr., Su Mengqing is outside! She says she wants to see Lin Fan!" a steward cried, rushing to Mr. Wang Sr.'s side while stealing fearful glances at Lin Fan. "And I just received news that Yuandao Capital has announced its intention to invest five billion in Su Pharmaceutical! The Su family's stock price has already started to rise!"

What? Yuandao Capital was suddenly investing in the Su family?

The assembled pharmaceutical magnates were all stunned. Mr. Wang Sr. stood slack-jawed, his expression shifting rapidly before erupting into wild elation.

"Hahaha, it worked! Yuan Ruohai must have succeeded!" Mr. Wang Sr. roared with laughter, clapping his hands together as his face beamed with delight.

Yuan Youwei used to hold sway over half of Yuandao Capital. The fact that they were now making this unprecedented investment in Su Mengqing said it all.

"Lin Fan, your good days are over! The Yuan family is backing Su Mengqing, and they must be doing it just to spite you!" Mr. Wang Sr. declared with conviction, a wave of relief washing over him. "Quick, invite Director Su in! From now on, she's one of us! Hahaha!"

Chapter 99: Why do you need to apologize?

"...What are you so ridiculously happy about?"

Seeing this, Lin Fan was baffled.

"I already sent Yuan Ruohai overseas, and Su Mengqing even forced Su Pharmaceutical on me."

He scanned Mr. Wang Sr. and the others, their faces brimming with glee, and slowly shook his head.

"Your information is too outdated. You'd better look out for yourselves."

"Heh... Lin Fan, keep boasting. As if you could really order around Second Master Yuan."

Mr. Wang Sr. chuckled heartily, his expression one of utter confidence.

"Young Master Wen, that's Su Mengqing—Director Su. She's Lin Fan's ex-wife, the beautiful CEO of Su Pharmaceutical!" Turning his head, Mr. Wang Sr. explained to the confused Wen Zheyang. "Those two are like fire and water, completely at odds. The Su family wants him dead. How could they possibly hand a perfectly good company over to Lin Fan?"

"I think the kid is just scared witless and spouting nonsense now, hahaha!"

At these words, the surrounding pharmaceutical magnates also burst into loud guffaws.

"Young Master Wen, Lin Fan used to mooch off the Su family, then he tried to cozy up to Yuan Youwei."

"Too bad for him, fate had other plans. First, the Su family kicked him out, and now Yuan Youwei has been toppled!"

"Hahaha, looking at it that way, Lin Fan, you really are a jinx!"

One after another, they all took turns mocking Lin Fan.

Wen Zheyang froze, temporarily suppressing the urge to change his pants. How could he possibly miss such a great show? He was dying to see how Lin Fan would face his ex-wife, Su Mengqing!

Nearby, Wang Meng still looked uncertain as his family members helped him away to get his injuries treated.

He couldn't shake the feeling that this man claiming to be Lin Fan resembled an old acquaintance. But that person had been officially declared dead by the Da Xia Military seven years ago! The news had shaken the entire Imperial Capital at the time. Even the 300,000-strong Hulin Guard on the front lines in the North was thrown into an uproar, nearly causing a mutiny!

"Whether you want to see Su Mengqing or not has nothing to do with me."

Just then, Lin Fan nodded to Doctor Jiang, preparing to leave with him.

I don't know how Su Mengqing found me. But for her to come back this quickly... this definitely isn't good news.

"Lin Fan, are you scared to face Director Su? Afraid she'll expose you for what you really are?" Wen Zheyang suppressed his anger and scoffed at Lin Fan with a wide, mocking smirk.

"Why don't you worry about yourself first before poking your nose into other people's business?" Lin Fan glanced at him. "Is it refreshing walking around bare-assed?"

"You—don't get cocky! Just wait until Mr. Iguchi Watanabe contacts me, then I'll deal with you!"

Wen Zheyang's cold smirk froze on his face, his composure nearly cracking again.

"If that little brat from the Sakura Country wants to contact you, he'll have to do it in a dream."

Lin Fan couldn't be bothered to waste any more time and immediately turned to leave. However, in the eyes of Mr. Wang Sr. and the others, this just looked like he was consumed by guilt and trying to flee in disgrace. They exchanged looks, their smiles brimming with smugness.

"Lin Fan! Stop! You... let me finish!"

The next moment, a steward from the Wang family arrived, leading a wan-looking Su Mengqing over. Their paths crossed, but Lin Fan didn't spare her a glance, continuing on his way as if she were a complete stranger.

THUD!

"Lin Fan, you angered my mother so much she had a stroke! She's in the hospital undergoing emergency surgery right now!"

Seeing that Lin Fan was ignoring her, Su Mengqing grew desperate. She bit her lip fiercely and dropped to her knees before Lin Fan's retreating figure.

"I'm begging you, please! Just go to the hospital to see my mother and apologize to her!" Su Mengqing held back tears of humiliation, her voice choking as she cried out.

The sudden turn of events silenced the entire scene. The smiles on the faces of Mr. Wang Sr. and the others froze; they were all completely dumbstruck. Wen Zheyang's eyes widened in shock, and he nearly bit his tongue.

Damn it, didn't you all say Lin Fan was screwed? Weren't you waiting to see Su Mengqing put him in his place? So why the hell did she kneel to him the moment she showed up?!

"Young Master Wen, this... this must be because Director Su is desperate to save her mother! It's an act of filial piety, forcing her to endure this humiliation to beg Lin Fan!"

Under Wen Zheyang's puzzled gaze, the pharmaceutical magnates who had just been speaking so confidently were all red-faced with embarrassment. Mr. Wang Sr.'s own face was burning as he hastily tried to come up with an explanation.

"Director Su, why are you kneeling to him? Isn't the Yuan family about to invest five billion in Su Pharmaceutical?" he said, striding forward and shooting desperate glances at Su Mengqing. "Get up, quickly! You don't need to be afraid of this scumbag anymore. We're all on the same side now."

"Mr. Wang Sr., Su Pharmaceutical... it's in Lin Fan's hands now..." Su Mengqing said, the veins on her pale neck bulging as her face filled with grief and despair. "I've lost everything! All I want now is for him to go to the hospital and calm my mother down!"

What? Su Pharmaceutical is really his now?

Hearing this, Mr. Wang Sr. was stunned, and his expression changed drastically. The pharmaceutical magnates behind him were also filled with shocked disbelief.

Could it be... that the five-billion-yuan investment wasn't Yuan Ruohai's decision? The only other explanation is that it was Yuan Youwei's doing!

As this terrifying suspicion arose in their minds, everyone’s heart sank.

What does this mean? If Yuan Youwei is still in control of Yuandao Capital, it can only mean one thing... Yuan Ruohai has failed!

"Su Mengqing, are you fucking insane?"

Lin Fan, who had stopped and turned around, finally spoke, his face dark. "Didn’t you say at the clinic that if you ever came looking for me again, that would make you, Su Mengqing, cheap and shameless?"

"Yes! So what if I’m cheap! I, Su Mengqing, am shameless!" Su Mengqing shouted, her fists clenched tightly. "As long as you go to the hospital and apologize to my mom, you can curse me however you want!"

"Why should I go apologize to your mom? I’m busy. Don’t bother me with such trifling matters," Lin Fan said with a frown. "Besides, what does it matter to me if she lives or dies? Would she be out of danger the second I arrived?"

His cold, merciless words echoed through the area.

Su Mengqing’s expression froze, and her body trembled. She felt as if a heavy hammer had just smashed into her chest. The feeling was suffocating, crushing. It was a despair so profound it left her helpless, and an uncontrollable rage exploded through her entire being.

"Lin Fan! How can you be so cold-blooded, so heartless?!" Su Mengqing finally broke down, screaming through her tears. "Even if the Su family treated you poorly, even if you still resent us, you called her ’Mom’ for four whole years! Shouldn’t you set aside your grudges at a life-or-death moment like this and fulfill an old woman’s wish?"

She gritted her teeth and struggled to her feet, her body shaking violently. "You won’t even pretend?!"

"That’s right. Lin Fan shouldn’t go. He should let your mother, Zhang Meili, die from anger!" a crisp voice called out from the end of the corridor, interrupting Su Mengqing.

Everyone’s head snapped toward the sound, their expressions changing drastically.

"Su Mengqing, you begged me to tell you where Lin Fan was, claiming you wanted to apologize to him," Yuan Youwei said, striding forward with Mrs. Xue. She was dressed like a secretary, her smile mocking and her eyes filled with an icy chill.

"Is this your so-called apology? Guilt-tripping him and aggressively making demands?" Yuan Youwei came to a halt in front of Su Mengqing and laughed with anger. "Have you forgotten how you treated Lin Fan when he begged you to visit Ms. Lin Suxin in the

hospital for her last moments? He’s just giving you a taste of your own medicine, and you can’t take it? Have you no shame?!"

Chapter 100: What shame do you have left!

With the arrival of Yuan Youwei and Lin Fan, Mr. Wang Sr. and the others were utterly dumbfounded.

It’s over. Yuan Ruohai failed! That useless bum! How could he fail with help from both the Black Tiger Hall and Iguchi Watanabe?

Instantly, they all exchanged glances, their faces turning utterly grim.

"She... who is she?" Wen Zheyang asked, his eyes fixed on Yuan Youwei’s sultry physique, a look of sheer astonishment on his face.

He didn’t recognize her. Although they had been betrothed since childhood, they had only met once as children. As the Wen family grew more prosperous and broke into the ranks of the Imperial Capital’s top ten families, his family stopped mentioning the marriage, feeling it was beneath them. Wen Zheyang, naturally, paid no attention to the Hai City Yuan family. Even when he heard Yuan Youwei being praised as the "Flower of Haicheng," he had merely laughed it off.

"Young Master Wen, she is your fiancée, the second young miss of the Yuan family, Yuan Youwei!" Mr. Wang Sr. blurted out, unable to hold back any longer. He stopped Su Mengqing, who was on the verge of erupting from humiliation and fury, and turned to question Yuan Youwei harshly. "Yuan Youwei, where is your second uncle, Yuan Ruohai?!"

"Mr. Wang Sr., what you really want to ask is why my Yuan family survived last night unscathed, isn’t it?" Yuan Youwei said, shifting her gaze from Su Mengqing. She gave Mr. Wang Sr. a deep, knowing look. "Speaking of which, it’s all thanks to my dear Fanfan. That piece-of-shit Master Feng, those so-called Sakura Country Warrior masters... in front of him, they’re no better than clay chickens and pottery dogs."

Yuan Youwei smiled sweetly. Ignoring the strange looks from the crowd, she boldly hooked her arm through Lin Fan’s. Then, catching him off guard, she rose onto the tips of her high heels and planted a loud SMOOCH on his cheek.

Holy shit! Lin Fan shuddered.

Wen Zheyang shuddered as well.

Su Mengqing clenched her jaw so tightly it audibly cracked. That shameless pair! What a rotten, shameless pair!

"...That nickname is sickening. I don't like it," Lin Fan said, his face burning hot as he tried to pull his arm away. He was inexplicably reminded of a cringey internet celebrity, and a chill ran down his spine.

"I don't care. I'm going to call you that," Yuan Youwei retorted, her own face flushed. She summoned her courage and met Lin Fan's gaze, her beautiful, watery eyes filled with tender affection and enchanting charm. To assert her claim in front of Su Mengqing, she ignored Lin Fan's struggles and pulled his arm even tighter against her chest.

"Yuan Youwei, do you know who I am?"

The next moment, Wen Zheyang, unable to bear it any longer, strode forward and jabbed a finger at Yuan Youwei's nose.

I really miscalculated. If I'd known my fiancée was such a devastating, sultry beauty, I would have come to Haicheng much sooner to keep anyone else from getting their hands on her! That kiss she had just given Lin Fan felt like a steel knife twisting in his gut.

"I am Wen Zheyang of the Imperial Capital's Wen family, and I have a marriage contract with you!" Wen Zheyang bellowed before she could respond, his face contorted with rage, spittle flying from his mouth. "Is this the kind of upbringing your Yuan family provides? You accuse others of being shameless, yet how dare you cheat on me behind my back?"

"So you're Wen Zheyang?" Yuan Youwei paused, looking him up and down with open curiosity. "No way, are butt-exposing pants really the new trend in the Imperial Capital?"

When she saw the large hole in his trousers, she was momentarily stunned before breaking into a snicker, deliberately teasing him.

"You—stop changing the subject! You enjoy messing around with trash like Lin Fan, is that it? Are you not afraid of the Wen family's wrath?!"

Instantly, Wen Zheyang's handsome face flushed scarlet, turning the color of a monkey's rear. He frantically tried to cover his backside with his hand, wishing he could charge forward and strangle Lin Fan on the spot. It was bad enough that he made a fool of himself meeting his fiancée for the first time as an adult, but to be publicly cuckolded by Lin Fan on top of it all? If word of this spread back to the Imperial Capital, he, the third young master of the prestigious Wen family, would become a complete laughingstock.

"Wen Zheyang, isn't it your family that's been wanting to cancel this engagement for years? You've treated my Yuan family with nothing but disdain, always assuming we were just trying to climb the social ladder, haven't you?" Yuan Youwei, far from being angered, took the opportunity to press herself closer to Lin Fan, leaning her entire delicate body against his and taking full advantage of the situation. "I recall my grandfather made a special trip to the Imperial Capital a few years ago to visit your grandfather. And what happened?"

The memory of past slights made her gaze turn cold. "Your grandfather didn’t even let mine through the door! All because some important person was visiting your family that day!"

"Hmph, so what?" Wen Zheyang retorted, rolling his eyes with an expression of pure entitlement. "How could someone like Yuan Tianguang possibly compare to a distinguished guest of my Wen family? If your grandfather had disturbed them, ten of his lives wouldn’t have been enough to pay for it!"

"Since you despise each other, just call off the marriage," Lin Fan interjected, frowning slightly as he addressed Wen Zheyang. "The Wen family may look down on the Yuan family, but the Yuan family certainly isn’t desperate for your approval."

Although he had already forced the Yuan family to divest from all of Human Tower’s enterprises, hearing Wen Zheyang belittle them so openly still left a sour taste in Lin Fan’s mouth. After all, one should consider the master before beating their dog. As for the Wen family? In Lin Fan’s eyes, they weren’t worth a damn fart.

"Lin Fan, what business is this of yours?! I’m speaking to my fiancée! Who the hell are you to butt in?" Wen Zheyang’s face twisted in fury as he barked at him.

"And what if I decide to force my way in?" A mocking smile played on Lin Fan’s lips. He abruptly turned his head and planted a firm SMOOCH on Yuan Youwei’s cheek.

Holy shit! Holy shit!

Mr. Wang Sr. and his cohort, who were already dumbfounded, collectively jumped in shock. Mrs. Xue, who had been silent all this time, was stunned. Behind Lin Fan, Doctor Jiang’s eyes shone with pure admiration.

Incredible. Absolutely incredible. Kissing a man’s fiancée right in front of him? He clearly holds Wen Zheyang and the entire Wen family of the Imperial Capital in complete contempt!

"Lin Fan! You! You will die a horrible death! I will never, ever let you two be together! Even if I never marry, I will never call off this engagement!" Wen Zheyang shrieked, the corners of his eyes twitching as he bordered on insanity. He had been publicly cuckolded twice in less than two minutes. The rage was enough to kill a man.

"Suit yourself. You can refuse now, but I’ll make the Wen family come begging the Yuan family to annul the engagement later," Lin Fan said with a shake of his head, done with wasting time. He prepared to lead the blushing and delighted Yuan Youwei away.

"Lin Fan! Why are you doing this to me? I admit I was cold to you before, but I never did anything to truly wrong you!"

The next moment, Su Mengqing lunged forward, blocking Lin Fan and his group of four. Her face was a mask of rage, the veins on her smooth forehead bulging frighteningly. "Fine! You forced my hand! You pushed me to this dead end! If I, Su Mengqing, can't be happy, then you, Lin Fan, can forget about it too!"

RRRRIP!

With trembling hands, Su Mengqing pulled a piece of paper from her small purse. Right in front of Lin Fan, she tore it to shreds and threw the pieces at his feet.

It was the divorce agreement she had signed in a fit of pique a week ago.

She had carried it with her all this time, waiting for the day Lin Fan would come crawling back, begging for a reconciliation. Then, she would have thrown this very document in his face. But in just a few short days, everything had changed. Now, this divorce agreement had become her last, desperate thread connecting her to him.

"I'm not getting this divorce! I regret it! Not unless you give me half of all your assets and go to the hospital to kneel and apologize to my mother!"

A deathly silence fell.

"...Su Mengqing, do you have any shame at all?" After a long moment, Lin Fan lifted his gaze from the scraps of paper on the floor. Her bold signature on them was so familiar, yet so jarring. He looked at her with a cold, expressionless face.

This woman had finally reached this point. From a proud, aloof CEO, she had degenerated into an unreasonable, ranting shrew.

"I have nothing left! Why would I need dignity?" Su Mengqing shrieked, laughing hysterically through a flood of tears, looking utterly unhinged. She pointed a trembling finger at Lin Fan and Yuan Youwei. "You want me to step aside and bless you two shameless lovers? In your dreams!"