

Married at First Sight - Married at First Sight

Chapter 5157 - 5170

15-18 minutes

Translation effect: Here's some of the names to substitute on the characters, so you don't get confused.

Zheng Hua – Holden

Feng Yue – Clarissa

Feng Family - Farrel family

Feng Ruo – Shiloh

Lan Ruoruo – Romina

Zhan Wei – Merissa

chapter 5157

A little while later, Zhan Yan made coffee for his third brother.

He poured two cups, one for himself.

“Third brother, the coffee’s here.”

Zhan Yue hummed in response, gesturing for him to place it on the coffee table, and said to him, “I have to get to work. I need to pick up your eighth sister-in-law from work at noon. Go back and manage your company well. If you don’t understand something, just ask.” ”

Don’t dive headfirst into it; the business world can drown you at any time.”

“Third brother, I understand. After this experience, I won’t dare to be careless again.”

Zhan Yan’s downfall this time was also related to his somewhat arrogant attitude. He always thought he was very capable and that he was no less than his brothers.

Reality taught him a lesson; he was indeed too lazy.

“Ninth Brother, do you have someone you like?”

“No, I’m still young, not thinking about it. You all get married after thirty, and I’ll consider marriage after thirty too. Right now, I’ll focus on my career and making money.”

“I don’t want to always be seen as the Ninth Young Master of the Zhan family. I want to be Zhan Yan, someone who climbs up on his own merits, not someone who relies on family protection.”

Zhan Yue smiled. “It’s good to be young. You can still have a few more years to enjoy yourself.”

“Maybe I’ll meet someone I like in a couple of years. If I do, I can get married early like Sixth Brother.”

Zhan Yan wasn’t against marriage.

He was just young, not in a hurry, letting things take their course.

If fate came to him, he would open the door; if not, he wouldn’t move.

“Third Brother, you go ahead and get busy. I’ll go back to work after I finish my coffee. Remember about the money, Third Brother? Payday is in a couple of days.”

“Don’t worry, the money Third Brother promised to lend you will definitely arrive.”

Zhan Yue picked up his coffee, got up, and went back to his desk to start his workday.

After drinking his coffee, Lao Jiu quietly left. The next day, he received the money his third brother had lent him, finally relieving him of worries about being owed wages.

Time flew by, and the students began their winter break, the year drawing to a close.

Before the New Year, Zeng Xiaoya’s grandparents, parents, and brothers all returned

home. However, they could only stay for three or four days before returning to work, intending to use the holiday to arrange Zeng Xiaoya’s marriage.

Upon learning of their prospective in-laws' return, the Zhan family, along with Zhan Yue and the prepared betrothal gifts, arrived at the Zeng family's residence in a grand procession.

The hall on the second floor of the Zeng family's house was packed with people and piled high with the betrothal gifts from the Zhan family.

The gold and silver jewelry were so abundant that even the worldly-wise Zeng family members were dazzled, along with numerous property deeds and car keys.

There was also a great deal of cash.

The Zeng family members stared at the pile of betrothal gifts, none of them uttering a word.

They remained silent, and the Third Madam grew anxious, hurriedly asking Mrs. Zeng, "In-laws, is our dowry insufficient? Is there anything we're missing? We'll go back and prepare immediately; we certainly won't let Xiaoya suffer."

"What others have, Xiaoya should have too; what others don't have, Xiaoya should have as well,"

the old lady said to Mrs. Zeng. "Yes, what's missing? Just ask, and we'll find a way to raise the funds."

"No, no, that's not it,"

Mrs. Zeng quickly replied. "We just felt the dowry was a bit too much."

The Third Madam breathed a sigh of relief.

So, the dowry was too generous! She was terrified, thinking something was missing.

She smiled and said, "It's not much. I prepared the same value for all my daughters-in-law when they married; I didn't favor anyone. It was all the same." "

What the Eighth Prince paid for himself, that's his. I don't know how much he has."

Anyway, as the mother-in-law, she treated everyone equally; no matter which daughter-in-law married, she prepared the same dowry. Mrs. Zeng and her mother-in-law exchanged a glance.

They had expected the bride price from the Zhan family to be substantial, but they hadn't anticipated such a large sum.

The value of this bride price was equivalent to the entire Zeng family's fortune.

No wonder they were the richest family; they were incredibly generous.

However, the Zhan family's generosity also stemmed from their appreciation of Xiaoya's performance.

The Zeng family was already quite satisfied with Zhan Yue, and now they were even more reassured, believing that Xiaoya would be happy marrying into the Zhan family.

Zeng Xiaoya quietly nudged the man beside her and whispered, "How much dowry have you prepared for me? It's too much."

"Not much, you deserve it. I contributed 100 million myself, and my mother, grandmother, and aunt added some. I think the total dowry should be several hundred million."

"Our wedding home will still be the same big villa I live in. I also bought you two villas with front and back yards; those two villas together are worth 100 million, plus two new cars."

"That's more than 100 million,"

Zeng Xiaoya said softly. "Don't empty your family fortune."

"You have a younger brother."

"I'm using my own money, not the family's. My brother has his own career and can earn enough to support himself. My family will also prepare enough for his wife. Don't worry."

"The family won't empty their coffers for me,"

Zhan Yue reassured Zeng Xiaoya, not wanting her to feel pressured.

"When my mom was helping us prepare, I gave her 100 million yuan to help her buy jewelry. Those villas and cars weren't included in that 100 million."

Zeng Xiaoya: "..."

She felt that the 100 million yuan he mentioned was about the same as her 10,000.

“Xiaoya, you don’t need to feel guilty. When my brothers got married, the dowries they gave my wives were about the same as ours. The elders in the family treat everyone equally; the only difference is the amount of money we personally contributed.”

“I don’t have as much wealth as my brothers, I’m sorry to have troubled you.” Zhan Yue felt his personal wealth was less than his brothers’, so the dowry he offered for Xiaoya was less than theirs, which he felt was unfair to her.

He vowed to continue working hard and saving money so that after the wedding, Xiaoya would never lose out to her sisters-in-law.

Zeng Xiaoya: “...I’m not unfair anymore, I’m shocked by your generosity.”

She thought a dowry of tens of millions would be a lot, but she didn’t expect the Zhan family to offer hundreds of millions.

With the wedding banquet, their wedding would cost a fortune.

Zeng Xiaoya wasn’t poor, and neither was her family, but compared to the wealthy Zhan family, Zeng Xiaoya felt her family was still poor.

It’s said that poverty limits imagination, and it’s true; without that money, you can’t reach that level, and therefore can’t imagine it.

Zhan Yue held her hand, his eyes gentle and full of affection as he looked at her. “Xiaoya, you deserve everything I have. Don’t worry, after we get married, I will continue to work hard to earn money and never let you lose to my sisters-in-law.”

“I won’t let you suffer any injustice. In this life, I will love you, cherish you, pamper you, and hold you in the palm of my hand. No one can compare to you.” Even

after they have children, she will always be his number one priority.

After all, she is the one who will accompany him for the rest of his life.

Zeng Xiaoya looked at him, her face full of emotion.

She felt his sincerity and his heartfelt sincerity.

Meeting Zhan Yue in this life was a blessing she had earned in her past life.

She was so fortunate.

Zeng Xiaoya leaned closer to him, resting her head on his shoulder.

Zhan Yue embraced her.

They leaned on each other, hand in hand, to spend the rest of their lives together. Twenty years later.

H City, X Province.

Several black sedans drove along a winding mountain road, up a flat-topped hill, and finally stopped at the end of the road, in front of the Long family's old residence.

The security guards on duty at the gate saw the cars and quickly opened the gate. They came out of the guardhouse and stood at the entrance, saluting the occupants of the lead Maybach as it drove in.

The car quickly entered the residence and stopped in front of the main courtyard.

The bodyguard's car opened first, and several bodyguards in black uniforms quickly got out and stood in front of the Maybach, waiting for the man inside to get out.

Long Tuo got out of the car, his face tense, looking very angry.

"Dad."

A girl ran quickly out of the house. Upon seeing Long Tuo, the smile on her face slowly faded, and she asked cautiously, "Dad, how did it go? Did you see the president of Longteng Group?"

Long Tuo looked at his daughter for a while and said, "Come inside and talk. Is your grandfather home?"

"Yes, Grandpa is practicing calligraphy and waiting for news from Dad."

Long Tuo stepped into the house. His only daughter, Long Ruoyu, did not immediately follow him but asked a bodyguard, "Did Dad take you to Longteng Group and see their president?"

The bodyguard respectfully replied, "Miss, no, he only saw the special assistant to the general manager of Longteng Group. He couldn't even see Vice President Zhou, let alone their boss."

Long Ruoyu frowned. "My dad went there in person and still couldn't see him? The boss of Longteng Group is really arrogant. In our H City, who dares to disrespect my dad? Our Long family has been operating here for a hundred years. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that our family is like local tyrants." The bodyguard remained silent.

Longteng Group had only been established in H City for six years, starting as a small company. However, its owner, Ye Longting, was a shrewd businessman. In just six years, he built Longteng Group into a conglomerate that could rival the Long Group,

seriously threatening the Long Group's position in the business world.

The most mysterious figure was Ye Longting himself. No one in H City had ever seen his face or knew what he looked like. Whenever he met with clients or discussed business, he always wore black sunglasses and a large black mask, completely concealing his face. Only

his sharp black eyes were visible, always piercing and cold, seemingly able to see through people's hearts.

The long-established families in H City, with over a century of history and well-developed intelligence departments, were usually first-rate at gathering information. However, they encountered a dead end with Longteng Group, unable to uncover Ye Longting's background even after years of investigation.

Furthermore, Longteng Group had a deep partnership with Qianxun Group in A City, a partnership that even the Long Group couldn't establish with Qianxun Group. It wasn't that Qianxun Group didn't want to connect; it was that Qianxun Group didn't want to cooperate with the Long Group.

Over twenty years ago, Long Ruoyu's grandfather, then acting head of the Long family, led her father, Long Tuo, to the Qianxun Group. They intended to discuss cooperation and a marriage alliance, with Long Tuo marrying Ouyang Ting, the second daughter of the Ouyang family.

However, Ouyang Ya, the head of the Ouyang family, firmly refused. Although the Ouyang family was predominantly female, their daughters were all incredibly capable, not only preserving the family business but also propelling it to new heights.

Even Long Ruoyu's grandfather dared not act like an elder in front of Ouyang Ya, as he was merely the acting head of the Long family, not the true patriarch.

The Long family still lacked a true patriarch because the family seal, token, and totem had been lost thirty years ago.

In reality, it was a case of Long Ruoyu's grandfather leading a group of collateral relatives to overthrow the direct line, attempting to seize power, but failing to find the seal, token, and family totem. The Long family, after all, only recognized those three items. Without those three things, even if the direct line is wiped out, one can only be an acting patriarch, unable to truly control the Long family. Moreover, the fruits of their labor over two or three decades could potentially benefit others.

Years ago, a young child from the direct line of the Long family escaped with the nanny. The acting patriarch sent people everywhere to search, eventually pinpointing Long Ting, the adopted son of Mu Qing, the eldest daughter-in-law of the Jun family in City A, G Province.

But that was just speculation; they hadn't seen Long Ting in person and couldn't be certain he was the last surviving member of the direct line.

They tried countless times to inquire about him, even indirectly trying to meet him through Hai Tong's nephew, Zhou Yang, but all attempts failed.

The Long family could no longer find any news about Long Ting. They heard he was no longer at Fengchen Manor, his whereabouts unknown. He was a ticking time bomb for the Long family, ready to explode at any moment and obliterate them all.

Long Ruoyu said fiercely, "If my father were the true head of the family, he wouldn't even care about ten Longteng Groups."

Their family currently lacks control over the true core of power within the Long family. Even after serving as acting head for twenty or thirty years, they still don't earn respect.

Just like twenty years ago, when her grandfather took her father to seek an audience with Ouyang Ya, the president of Qianxun Group, because her grandfather wasn't the true head, even Ouyang Ya, a woman, dared to look down on him.

Turning around, Long Ruoyu went inside.

Long Tuo entered and saw his father practicing calligraphy in a corner of the hall, while his mother ground ink beside him.

In his youth, his father had many mistresses, including several illegitimate daughters.

In his old age, it was still his mother, Mrs. Long, who stayed by his side.

Now that he was the acting head of the Long family, and his siblings held important positions in the Long Group, his mother could finally hold her head high and no longer have to suffer at the hands of mistresses.

His father had also returned to his family; after all, he could only rely on his own son. Long Tuo walked over and first stood aside watching his father write.

Only after his father finished writing did he respectfully greet him, "Dad, Mom."

Mr. Long was eighty years old this year, his face full of frowns and his hair completely white. Thirty years had passed since he wiped out the direct line, and he still hadn't been able to become the head of the family. For these thirty years, he had been searching for that brat constantly, but unfortunately, he hadn't found him.

That brat was now in his early thirties. When the direct line was wiped out, that brat was only a little over a year old; thirty years later, he was thirty-one or thirty-two.

He couldn't sleep well without finding that brat, and his hair was already completely white in his early sixties.

"How was it? Did you see the president of Longteng Group?"

Long Tuo helped his father turn and walk towards the sofa, while Long Ruoyu, who came in behind, went to help her grandmother.

After his father sat down, Long Tuo replied, "I didn't see him. As usual, only a vice president received us; we didn't see their president."

Mr. Long pondered for a moment and said, "A-Tuo, have you ever suspected that the boss of Longteng Group is that kid from back then?"

"Dad, it shouldn't be. His surname is Ye."

Ye Longting.

Mr. Long was silent for a moment before saying, "The head of the Jun family is surnamed Ye; he took his mother's surname. I suspect that Ye Longting's real name is Longting."

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19-24 minutes

Long Tuo said, "Dad, we suspect Ye Longting is that brat, but we haven't seen him in person, and we can't find out his background, so we can't accuse him."

"We need to see him in person and find out his background to be sure. If it's not him, taking action rashly will only create a powerful enemy for our Long family."

Mr. Long was silent for a moment before saying, "We haven't been able to find out his true background in the territory our family has operated in for a hundred years. This person must be someone important."

"Logically speaking, even the Jun family and the Zhan family combined don't have that much power."

"Could it be that Ye Longting isn't that brat?"

Mr. Long hoped that Ye Longting wasn't the same kid from back then; otherwise, everything his family had built over three generations would be taken away by someone else, becoming someone else's prize.

Even though they had worked hard to build their own company over the past thirty years, they still had to do business with the Long Group.

They couldn't hollow out the Long Group because there were still many core veterans within it, people who had inherited their positions generation after generation. They were the true elites of the Long family, but only the true head of the family could mobilize them.

With them watching the Long Group, they couldn't possibly drain the Long family's coffers or transfer their assets. As acting patriarchs, their every move was being closely monitored.

Half of the clan members were those who followed Mr. Long in wiping out the direct line thirty years ago, while the other half did nothing but sit and watch.

Their attempt to seize the patriarch's position failed, and their patience was wearing thin. They worried that the real patriarch would return to take over and settle scores with their enemies.

They constantly urged Mr. Long's family to find that child quickly and eliminate him completely.

Thirty years had passed without success. Now, the child was over thirty; if he had matured, how easy would it be to eliminate him completely?

The Jun and Zhan families were not to be trifled with.

If they harmed the Jun family, the Zhan family wouldn't stand idly by. Moreover, those two families had close ties with many powerful clans; one wrong move could have far-reaching consequences. They couldn't afford to be enemies with so many powerful families.

In H City, the Long family is a local tyrant, but outside of that city, they have to be more restrained. Even in their provincial capital, let alone on someone else's turf, they can't be arrogant in front of the Ouyang family.

"Ruoyu." Mr. Long looked at his eldest granddaughter, who was young, beautiful, and quite capable.

She was a very useful pawn.

"Grandpa,"

Long Ruoyu responded.

"Go apply for a job at Longteng Group and see if you can get a job there."

"Grandpa, I tried, but I didn't pass the interview."

Knowing that her family had always wanted to find out who was in charge of Longteng Group, Long Ruoyu applied for a job at Longteng Group right after graduation, but she didn't pass the interview.

She didn't know if the other party knew her true identity, or if she wasn't capable enough.

"Then go and keep watch at the entrance of Longteng Group. As soon as you see Ye Longting's car come out, stop his car."

Long Tuo said, "Dad, this method won't work. Ye Longting is always accompanied by bodyguards. His bodyguard team is all cold and aloof, but they are extremely skilled. Even our family's best fighter is no match for his bodyguards."

He didn't know where Ye Longting found such skilled bodyguards.

"Ye Longting's martial arts skills are unfathomable, and he also uses hidden weapons. These weapons are always poisoned, not to kill, but to cause rashes all over your body from the intense itching."

"This man is also incredibly healthy; he's never been to the hospital. Trying to get close to him in daily life is like climbing to heaven."

The more powerful Ye Longting was, the more afraid they became—afraid that Ye Longting was actually Longting,

returning to seek revenge. Long Ruoyu said, "Dad, isn't there a business reception next Saturday? Ye Longting should be attending. Dad, take me with you. I'll try to get close to him and get rid of his black mask."

Long Tuo nodded, "Okay, whether you can get close to him or not, act like you admire him, pursue him, and pester him whenever you get the chance."

"He's young and unmarried, it's normal for him to have admirers."

Long Ruoyu nodded.

She had long been interested in Ye Longting and really wanted to know what his face looked like under the black mask.

Meanwhile, at the Ouyang family home in City A.

Zhan Yuan and his wife were waiting at the villa entrance. When they saw their son's familiar car appear in their sight, their faces were full of smiles.

The car approached, and Zhan Chi stopped. He had just unlocked the car, and before he could even get out, his parents had already walked over with smiles and opened the car door.

Not his car door, but the back door.

Then he heard his mother's gentle voice, one he'd never heard before, say, "Beibei, are you tired after such a long flight?"

"Your sixth uncle has already prepared your favorite dishes. Come on, let's go inside."

Ouyang Ya smiled and took Beibei's hand.

"Sixth Uncle, Sixth Aunt,"

Beibei greeted with a smile, affectionately linking her arm with Ouyang Ya's.

Zhan Yuan grinned from ear to ear, following behind his wife and niece, saying as they walked, "Beibei, your sixth aunt was so happy to know you were coming. She personally cleaned your room."

"It's the same room you stayed in when you came here for vacation before. Nothing in the room has been changed; it's all the stuff you used to have."

"Your sixth aunt even changed the curtains and got a bigger bed, saying the old bed was a bit small, since you were still small back then."
"I told Uncle Liu to cook early again, saying you must be hungry after flying all that way."

"You have to go to work today, so your Aunt Liu isn't going back to the company. I'm having your Uncle Jun take care of you and he'll stay home to wait for you. He was going to pick you up from the airport, but your brother said he'd pick you up instead, and told us to just wait at home."

"Are you tired? How long are you staying this time? Summers in Dongguan are very hot, so why don't you stay here with Uncle Liu for a summer vacation?"

"I'll have a good time for a few months, then I can look for a job later. Our family isn't short of money."

Beibei just graduated from university this year and is on summer vacation. She misses her uncle and aunt, so she told her parents and family that she wanted to stay with Uncle Liu for a few days. Her family naturally didn't object.

Even though she's the apple of everyone's eye, once she grows up, whatever she wants to do, her family will support her and won't worry about her safety. She started learning martial arts at the age of four, and both her parents are very skilled.

Her brothers are also good at both academics and martial arts. She says she can't let her parents and brothers down, so she's been learning martial arts very seriously.

Then, just like her mother, she learned martial arts, and even the old bodyguard, Ah Qi, said that the young lady's kung fu was better than his.

Ouyang Ya asked, "Beibei, aren't you planning to pursue further studies? You're already looking for a job?"

"I want to continue my studies, but I want to play for a while and then go back to work. I'll go back to school when it starts."

"Why take a holiday job? It's only a short holiday. Have fun and don't go to work. We'll talk about it when you're actually in the workforce."

Zhan Yuan objected to his niece taking a holiday job.

"Your great-grandmother is watching from heaven. If she knew how hard you're working, she'd be heartbroken."

The old lady of the Zhan family lived to be 101 years old and passed away peacefully nine years ago.

Her long life and lack of illness were considered a happy death, but for the Zhan family, her passing was like the sky falling. The whole family grieved for a long time before recovering. Beibei said, "My great-grandmother would be happy to know my decision. She'd praise me for growing up, becoming sensible, and having a plan for everything I do."

"Before coming here, I visited my great-grandmother

's cemetery and talked to her a lot." Beibei had a very deep bond with her great-grandmother. Before starting kindergarten, she spent every day with her great-grandmother; she was the

apple of her great-grandmother's eye. Her great-grandmother said she had been eagerly awaiting her arrival, and of all her great-grandchildren, she loved her the most.

When her great-grandmother passed away, Beibei was thirteen, just starting junior high school. It was nine years ago, in the eleventh month of the lunar calendar. The weather in Dongguan was a bit cold; it was a Saturday, she remembered it clearly.

When she came home from school, her great-grandmother was very happy. She saw that her great-grandmother seemed perfectly fine, eating and sleeping well.

That night, Beibei insisted on sleeping

with her great-grandmother. Lying on her great-grandmother's bed, she talked with her for a long time, telling her all the funny things that happened at school. Her great-grandmother was very supportive, laughing non-stop at every funny story.

Great-grandmother also told her to make more friends and not to study too hard, that her grades were already very good, and that she should take care of her health and think about Great-grandmother.

She hugged Great-grandmother's arm and acted coquettishly, saying that she thought about Great-grandmother every day and asked if Great-grandmother thought about her at home.

I remember my great-grandmother saying kindly, "Beibei is my eyes, my darling. I think about Beibei every single day, every single moment. I have so many great-grandchildren, but Beibei is the one I love the most."

"I love Great-Grandma the most too! Great-Grandma, you must live another ten or twenty years to watch me grow up and get married!"

the old lady laughed. "Grandma also wants to live another ten or twenty years to watch my Beibei grow up, get married, and have children, but that's such a long way off. You're only thirteen, just starting junior high."

"Grandma is over a hundred years old. I'm content and satisfied with living this long. When I close my eyes one day, I'll have no regrets."

She's seen all nine of her grandchildren get married and have children. Now, her ninth grandchild's first child is six years old, and her other grandchildren have also had second children. She has over a dozen great-grandchildren.

The old lady is truly content. She's over a hundred years old and hasn't suffered any illness. Her children and grandchildren are filial, and her eldest great-grandchild is already an adult.

How many people have such good fortune?

The old lady seems to have a very detached attitude towards life and death at her age. "I still hope Great-Grandma will live forever,"

the old lady chuckled. "If Great-Grandma lived forever, wouldn't she become an old monster? Beibei, birth, aging, sickness, and death are the natural order of things. If Great-Grandma passes away one day, don't be sad. Great-Grandma will go to find your Great-Grandpa."

"We will be watching over you from heaven."

"Great-Grandma, I don't like hearing these things. I just want Great-Grandma to stay with us forever. Great-Grandma is the best Great-Grandma in the world."

The old lady gently stroked her beloved great-granddaughter's hair. "Beibei, your hair is too long. Let's cut it a little shorter. Growing this long hair requires a lot of your nutrients."

"Okay, I'll tell Mom tomorrow to ask the hairdresser to come and cut my hair and give me a new hairstyle."

The old lady hummed in agreement and then said, "Beibei, go to sleep. Great-Grandma will watch you sleep, just like when you were little. Great-Grandma will stay by your side and watch you fall asleep. When you sleep, you look like a lovely angel. Great-Grandma loves watching your sleeping face."

Beibei snuggled closer to her great-grandmother and obediently hummed in agreement.

She closed her eyes and slowly drifted off to sleep.

With her great-grandmother by her side, she felt incredibly safe.

But then, in the middle of the night, she dreamt of her great-grandmother. Her great-grandmother said she was leaving to go find her great-grandfather, telling her not to be sad, that her great-grandmother would always love her.

In the dream, she inexplicably burst into tears, crying out, "Great-grandmother, don't go!"

Then, she woke up with a start, her face covered in tears.

The dream frightened her; she quickly touched the side beside her and found her great-grandmother. She breathed a sigh of relief, telling herself it was just a dream. Her great-grandmother was still with her, and hadn't gone to find her great-grandfather yet. "Great-Grandma,"

Beibei called out.

Great-Grandma was old, but she usually woke up quickly if Beibei called twice.

Thinking Great-Grandma was sleeping soundly, Beibei called twice more, but Great-Grandma didn't respond or get up as usual.

Beibei panicked, sat up abruptly, turned on the bedside lamp, and gently nudged Great-Grandma beside her, calling out, "Great-Grandma, Great-Grandma."

Great-Grandma remained unresponsive.

Beibei panicked; her hands trembled as she checked Great-Grandma's nose—no breath.

Her face paled instantly. She frantically rolled off the bed and ran, scrambling out of Great-Grandma's room, shouting in the living room, "Dad, Mom, come down quickly! I can't wake Great-Grandma!"

Her cries were like a thunderclap, waking the Youyou Manor shrouded in night.

Her parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents were the first to come downstairs. They were just as panicked as she was, rushing into her great-grandmother's room. Her father checked her breath, his face turned pale, his legs gave way, and he knelt before her bed.

She heard him say, "Grandma's gone..."

Then, her uncles, aunts, and all her other uncles and aunts arrived.

Her eighth aunt, a doctor, arrived; her great-grandmother's body was still warm, but after examining her, the doctor said that her great-grandmother was gone.

She no longer had a great-grandmother.

Her great-grandmother had passed away peacefully in her sleep, without any pain, her expression serene.

Beibei cried uncontrollably, blaming herself for sleeping too soundly, for not even knowing her great-grandmother had left.

All the relatives and friends came to say goodbye to her great-grandmother. Although everyone comforted them, saying that their great-grandmother passed away at the age of 101, a very long life, free from illness and suffering, dying peacefully in her sleep—a happy death—and told them not to be too sad

, how could they not be heartbroken?

Beibei saw her parents and aunts so grief-stricken; no one could accept that their great-grandmother had suddenly left them. Although they knew she was very old and that she would eventually leave them,

they still couldn't accept it.

They were used to seeing their great-grandmother's kind smile every time they returned to the old house.

Beibei saw her father's vulnerable side for the first time. He leaned on her mother's shoulder, tears welling in his eyes, his voice choked with sobs, saying, "Tongtong, I don't have a grandma anymore..."

Her mother wept uncontrollably. Her father had lost his grandma. She had lost

her great-grandmother. Her father said that when he returned to the old house, he would never see his great-grandmother's smiling face again, and when he faced difficulties, he would no longer be able to confide in her or receive her guidance. Their great-grandmother had left them just like that. Nine years passed in the blink of an eye. Uncle Jiu's second child is already over five years old this year. This is her youngest cousin, and the only great-grandchild that Great-Grandma never saw born. She misses Great-Grandma so much. Before coming to Uncle Liu's place, Beibei visited Great-Grandma's cemetery, talked to her a lot, and told her that she was going to come to Uncle Liu's place for a vacation. "Next time Uncle Liu goes back to Dongguan, he must visit your great-grandmother. Uncle Liu doesn't go back often, and your great-grandmother must be upset with him,"

Beibei said. "No, Great-grandmother wouldn't blame any of us. She loves each and every one of us."

Great-grandmother truly was the best great-grandmother in the world.

Why didn't God let Great-grandmother live another ten or twenty years?

Beibei knew she was being greedy.

Great-grandmother's age was already something many people could only dream of.

Ouyang Ya smiled and said, "That's right, Grandma loved us the most. Beibei, isn't Little Nineteen asking to come with you?"

Ouyang Ya changed the subject.

It had been nine years since the old lady left them, but whenever she was mentioned, their spirits would still drop.

Since Beibei had come all this way, Ouyang Ya didn't want everyone to be down, so she turned the conversation to the ninth brother's second child, the nineteenth child in the Zhan family.

Little Nineteen was only five years old. As the youngest child, the whole family doted on him, but he had always liked to stick close to Beibei, his only older sister.

Whenever Beibei comes home, he always grabs his little pillow, drags his little blanket, and squeezes into Beibei's room, crying and fussing to sleep with his sister.

If Beibei goes out and he finds out, he'll also cry and throw a tantrum, rolling on the floor to follow her.

Without him, he can really make the whole family's head spin with his crying, to the point that Zhan Yan wishes he could put the little guy back in his mother's womb.

Every time he complains about the little guy's constant crying, his wife will make snide remarks, saying that he's the one who coaxed her into having a second child, that the first and second children are ten years apart, and that the ninth child got married at twenty-nine and became a father for the first time at thirty. His eldest son is the eleventh among his siblings and is fifteen years old this year. When his

eldest son was ten, the couple had their second child. He was almost forty when the second child was born, and his wife, two years younger, was thirty-eight.

During her second pregnancy, his wife suffered severe morning sickness, even until delivery; it was incredibly painful.

Because the pregnancy was different from when she was pregnant with their first child, the couple were overjoyed, thinking it would be a daughter.

However, it turned out to be another son. The ninth wife didn't even want to look at her husband. She said it was because he dreamt that his grandmother brought him a baby girl, and that if they had a second child, they would definitely have a daughter.

The ninth wife also wanted a daughter, which was why she agreed to have a second child. After all that vomiting, she got a boy. How could she not be disappointed? She blamed her husband, saying his dream was inaccurate.

She suspected he had a mistaken dream, and that his grandmother had probably brought him a boy, which he hadn't seen clearly and thought was a girl.

In Beibei's generation, the Zhan family's population flourished even more. She had eighteen brothers, bringing the total to nineteen. Of

Zachary's brothers, only Zhan Haoyu and Qiao Han didn't have a second child because their first pregnancy resulted in twins; the couple feared another pair of twins and resolutely refused.

The others all had second children, and without exception, both were sons.

Zeng Xiaoya, a doctor, had even undergone some self-care before trying for a second child, hoping for a daughter. However, the Zhan family's genes for male offspring were too strong, and after failing to conceive a daughter, Zeng Xiaoya gave up hope.

Zhan Xi, also known as Beibei, remained the Zhan family's precious darling. As their only daughter, she was doted on by all her brothers. Even her

younger cousins would give way to her, as she was their only sister.

Hai Tong's friends, Shen Xiaojun's second child was also a boy, while Shang Xiaofei and Junran's second child was a girl, which made Junran extremely proud.

Junran's daughter is the second girl in the younger generation of the Jun family.

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17-22 minutes

Having an extra girl compared to the Zhan family made the Zhan family men extremely envious.

"Little Nineteen didn't know I was coming. His kindergarten hasn't let out for summer vacation yet. It should officially start next week, right? I asked Uncle Nine, but he said he wasn't sure. Aunt Nine said it officially starts next week."

"Officially starts next week, so he probably won't have to go after this weekend."

The three entered the house. Ouyang Ya pulled Beibei to sit on the sofa, while Zhan Yuan poured his niece a glass of warm water.

"Sixth Uncle, I can do it myself."

Beibei was embarrassed; she was the younger generation, and Sixth Uncle was the elder, so it was an elder who poured her water.

Zhan Yuan smiled and said, "You've been on such a long flight, you must be exhausted. How could I let you do this? Sit down, have a glass of water first, and we'll eat soon."

"Where's Zhan Chi? What's Zhan Chi doing outside?"

Zhan Yuan noticed that his eldest son hadn't come in yet and turned to call out towards the door.

"Zhan Chi, come in! Your sister's hungry, dinner's ready. Don't keep us waiting."

Two minutes later, Zhan Chi dragged four suitcases and several large bags around his neck, struggling to enter the house. He complained as he went, "Dad, Mom, am I still your biological son?"

“Didn’t you see Bei Bei brought so much luggage? You didn’t even help carry it. You just took Bei Bei and left, and then you scolded me for not coming in with you. I should at least help my sister bring her things in.”

Zhan Yuan was taken aback for a moment, then said, “Couldn’t you have asked the servants to help? You insisted on carrying all that stuff in by yourself. What, trying to get credit?”

“Let me tell you, your sister rarely comes here. You can’t take her out to play every day. Give your mother and me a chance to take your sister out for a few days.”

When Bei Bei saw her cousin helping her bring all her things in, she immediately put down her water glass, got up to help, and said, “These are all gifts my parents prepared for Uncle Liu. They asked me to bring them over.” She’d rather travel light than carry so much stuff if her elders hadn’t asked her to.

Uncle Liu’s place had everything, but every time they came, her parents would prepare a lot of things for them to bring.

“Beibei, sit down. You don’t need to carry anything; let Uncle Liu do it.”

Ouyang Ya held Beibei down, preventing her from lifting a finger. She glanced at Zhan Yuan, who immediately went over and took the travel bags from his son, saying with concern, “Beibei, you

must be exhausted carrying so much stuff by yourself.” Zhan Chi retorted, “Dad, I’m the one who’s exhausted from carrying all this stuff in by myself! Your concerned look is only for me!”

Seeing the emotion on his father’s face, Zhan Chi thought his father was worried about him.

He was being overly sentimental.

His father treated him like a beast of burden.

His father was worried about Beibei.

Zhan Yuan said to his son, “You’re tall and strong, with thick skin and a tough build. How could you get tired carrying such a small amount? If you are tired, it means your kung fu isn’t good enough. Practice more in your spare time.”

Zhan Chi: “...”

With his sister here, they, as sons, all have to step aside.

At this moment, for his parents, their niece is the most desirable.

Sons are all worthless, like a freebie given away with a phone top-up. Zhan Chi muttered under his breath, “I’ve been practicing martial arts since I was four, for over ten years. Isn’t that enough?”

“Dad’s clearly biased. The moment my sister arrived, he only has eyes for her, not for me, his son.”

Zhan Yuan turned and glared at his son, saying, “After dinner, go back to the company. I gave you the day off so you could pick up your sister from the airport.”

“Dad, since you’ve given me the day off, let me take a whole day. I haven’t chatted with Bei Bei in ages. Besides, I’m still a low-level employee at the company; it’s fine if I don’t go to work for a day.”

He was only eighteen months older than Bei Bei. Bei Bei was twenty-two this year, while he was not yet twenty-four, ranking fifth among his brothers, only three years younger than his eldest brother, Zhan Muchen.

He was still studying, but working while studying. His father said that the Zhan family’s children could start making their mark in the business world after they turned twenty.

When his great-grandmother was alive, his father and the other uncles and elders were always accompanied by her to various business events, letting everyone know that a young master of the Zhan family was starting to get involved in business.

After he turned twenty, his parents attended more business banquets, aiming to give him exposure.

As the fifth young master of the Zhan family, having lived in City A of X Province for a long time, he was unknown to the upper echelons of Dongguan’s society. His parents brought him to events where he met only local business tycoons and celebrities.

His father had already established a company and business there, and his mother, besides helping manage the Qianxun Group, also had her own company. He and his younger brother would inherit their parents’ businesses.

He didn't think about the Ouyang family's business; his mother had told him it belonged to the Ouyang family, his uncle.

The Ouyang family was wealthy, but his parents' combined wealth was comparable to the Qianxun Group.

Zhan Chi wanted to work harder for a few more years and have his own business. His father had said that the men of the Zhan family, besides assisting their eldest brother in managing the family business, should also have their own businesses.

After accumulating experience, he would start his own business.

However, his parents said they would only offer moral support; the start-up capital and how to run the company were entirely up to him. He had saved all the pocket money he received since childhood, including the New Year's red envelope money; it was enough to start a business.

Zhan Yuan wanted to say a few more words to his son, but Bei Bei overheard their conversation and quickly said to Zhan Yuan, "Sixth Uncle, since Fifth Brother is on vacation, let him take the whole day off. My brother and I haven't had a proper chat in a long time."

Zhan Yuan smiled, "Alright, then let your Fifth Brother keep you company."

After putting Bei Bei's luggage away, Ouyang Ya instructed the servants to invite her uncles and aunts over for dinner.

Her father had already left them, even before Zhan Yuan's grandmother; his health had always been poor.

Now she only had her mother left, who had gone on a trip with some old friends and hadn't returned yet.

The elders living in the Ouyang family mansion were her uncles and aunts.

The servants immediately went to invite Ouyang Ya's uncles and aunts over for dinner.

Knowing that Beibei was coming, Zhan Yuan specially prepared many of his niece's favorite dishes. He had always been responsible for the family's three meals a day because his wife only liked his cooking.

His two sons had learned to cook from him since they were young, but unfortunately, they hadn't inherited his talent. While most people would praise their cooking, the notoriously picky Ouyang Ya couldn't stomach it.

Ouyang Ya's uncle and aunt knew that Beibei was the apple of their niece's in-laws' eye, so they always brought her gifts when they came for meals. It wasn't their first meeting, but every time Beibei visited, the Ouyang family elders treated her with great hospitality.

The Ouyang family was predominantly female; the Ouyang brothers were still unmarried, and it was uncertain whether their marriages could change the family's situation.

Ouyang Ya was also very worried about her brother's marriage prospects. In his early thirties, he didn't even have a girlfriend. When pressured, he said he'd consider it again at thirty-five, much to the frustration of his sisters. After the meal, Beibei was surrounded by everyone, who showered her with concern.

At this moment, the butler approached Ouyang Ya, bowed slightly, and respectfully said, "Miss, Mr. Ye from Longteng Group has arrived."

Ouyang Ya smiled and said, "He's certainly well-informed. Quickly, please invite him in."

The butler replied, "Mr. Ye's car is parked at the door; he's already inside."

Ye Longting was a frequent visitor to the Ouyang family. The servants knew him well and understood his close relationship with his master. Although they had never seen Ye Longting's face, it didn't prevent them from respecting him.

Soon, Ye Longting appeared in everyone's sight.

"Uncle Zhan, Aunt Zhan,"

Ye Longting, also known as Longting, greeted Zhan Yuan and his wife with a smile as he entered, then greeted the elders of the Ouyang family. Finally, his gaze fell on Beibei, his eyes crinkling with a smile.

"I even had someone wait at the airport, but they didn't even pick up Beibei. Zhan Chi beat me to it."

Beibei immediately nudged her cousin, Zhan Chi, to make room for Long Ting.

“Brother Ting, come sit down.”

Beibei patted the seat next to her.

Zhan Chi muttered to her, “When he comes, even I, as his older brother, have to stand aside.”

He wasn’t complaining, just muttering a few words.

Actually, even if his sister hadn’t said anything, he would have given up his seat for Long Ting anyway. Long Ting was everyone’s idol, and also the older brother they’d known since childhood, who had always taken care of them. Long Ting didn’t stand on ceremony and went straight to sit down next to Bei Bei, handing her the gift he was holding.

“Long time no see. I prepared a gift for you, I hope you like it.”

Bei Bei glanced at the box and guessed it was jewelry. She smiled somewhat helplessly, “Brother Ting, you only ever give the same kind of gift. How can that be? If you give the same thing every day when you meet a girl you like, how will you ever win her over?”

Long Ting laughed, “I really didn’t know what to give. The gift I gave your sister Yan was the same.”

He was over thirty-one but not yet thirty-two. At his age, he was considered an older single man, so being pressured to get married was inevitable.

He wasn’t in a hurry to get married. He wouldn’t consider such a major life event until he avenged his great grudge. He

was also afraid of implicating the woman.

He had high standards; he wouldn’t look at ordinary heiresses, especially since he had an exceptionally outstanding younger sister.

The new president of Fengchen Group wasn’t Jun Sheng, the eldest son of the Jun family, nor Ye Yao, the eldest son of Ye Junbo, but Jun Yan.

From a young age, she was more composed than her brothers, possessing the demeanor of an elder sister. Throughout her formative years, even though her brothers were exceptionally talented, they could never surpass her.

With her around, her brothers always paled in comparison.

Ye Junbo and his wife were reluctant to see their only daughter work so hard, but Junyan loved business and could command respect from the company's veteran employees. Unable to dissuade her, they had no choice but to let her take over the Fengchen Group,

becoming its new president. Ouyang Ya laughed, "It's a good thing your two younger sisters and Beibei don't mind that you always give them the same gifts."

The Jun family has two daughters this generation; Jun Ran and Shang Xiaofei's second child is a girl named Jun Xiao, Jun from Jun Ran's name and Xiao from Xiaofei's name.

Long Ting always gives the same gifts to his three most beloved younger sisters, and it's always the same thing, without fail, just like how Duncan used to give Yangyang windmills every day.

Long Ting was a little embarrassed; he genuinely didn't know what to give.

Girls usually like jewelry or skincare products, right?

He didn't know much about skincare products, so he always gave his three sisters the same jewelry.

Whether it was Jun Yan, Jun Xiao, or Beibei, he always gave them the same style, finding it convenient. The jewelry he gave wasn't cheap either; even if his sisters didn't wear it, it would still have value as a keepsake.

"My cousin didn't come?"

Beibei asked Zhou Yang.

"Your cousin just flew back to Dongguan before you arrived. He's not only the vice president of my company, but also the vice president of the Lu Group."

After Zhou Yang came of age, he studied while doing business with Duncan.

After Long Ting came of age, Mu Qing's mother told him about his background, revealing the deep-seated hatred he carried. Long Ting then began his path of revenge.

He didn't directly seek revenge against Mr. Long and his associates, but instead went to H City and established the Longteng Group. He spent several years making the Longteng Group rival the Long Group, and then borrowed his adoptive father's surname, adopting the alias Ye Longting.

He didn't show his true face, always appearing in public wearing a mask. Even if someone managed to remove his mask, he was still wearing a carefully crafted human face. His master told him that if he wanted revenge, he first needed to gather enough evidence to prove that Mr. Long and his group had killed his parents and family.

Even if outsiders knew that Mr. Long and his group had killed his family, this was a society governed by law, and he needed sufficient evidence to bring his enemies to justice.

The law would punish them. He reminded him not to be too eager for revenge, but to protect himself first and not to ruin his future for revenge.

He told him to gradually understand the current situation of the Long family, and more importantly, to achieve results that would earn people's respect. Only then, after he had taken revenge and taken over the Long family, would everyone be convinced.

Although he carried the family head's seal, token, and family totem, he had disappeared for thirty years. Even if he could become the head of the Long family with those three things, he wouldn't be able to convince everyone.

Perhaps the tragedy of his parents would repeat itself in his life.

His master also used Aunt Liberty's takeover of the Feng family as an example, telling him not to rush and to take it slowly.

With so many people supporting him, he believed that one day he would successfully avenge himself and bring all the villains who participated in the murder of his parents and family to justice.

He could reclaim everything belonging to the Long family and maintain its stability.

Long Ting established the Longteng Group, using both soft and hard tactics to bring Zhou Yang to his position as vice president, giving Zhou Yang a share of the company.

While he surpassed Zhou Yang in other aspects, Yangyang had much to teach him in business. The fact that the Longteng Group had become a major conglomerate in H City in just a few years, threatening even the Long family, was partly due to Yangyang's efforts.

Long Ting felt that Yangyang was born to do business, just like his sister Junyan, a natural money-maker with a knack for making money.

To prevent Mr. Long from finding anything, the Longteng Group had no business dealings with the Jun and Zhan families, but it did have business dealings with the Qianxun Group. Qianxun Group is the leading company in City A of X Province. Everyone wants to cooperate with Qianxun. Years ago, Mr. Long, along with his eldest son Long Tuo, came to discuss cooperation, but Ouyang Ya refused, saying that Mr. Long couldn't truly replace the Long Group.

Because Mr. Long was only the acting head of the family, he couldn't make many decisions on his own; everyone's consent was required.

Ouyang Ya felt Mr. Long didn't have enough power and thought cooperating with the Long Group was too troublesome, so she refused.

Of course, it was also because she thought Mr. Long was too ruthless and saw through his ambition to use marriage to swallow up the Ouyang family's businesses.

Long Tuo even wanted to pursue Tingting; everyone knew what he was up to.

Fortunately, the Ouyang family's daughters weren't love-struck; they were all very clear-headed and wouldn't easily accept a suitor.

Beibei said regretfully, "After growing up, everyone is busy; we only see each other a few times a year."

Her eldest cousin was indeed very busy.

Her uncle still held the title of head of the Lu Group, but in reality, the company was entirely managed by her eldest cousin.

"That's right, we only see each other a few times a year. Knowing you were coming, I dropped everything to have a meal with you. I have to go back soon."

“Brother Ting, don’t just focus on business, you also need to find us a sister-in-law! Everyone wants a sister-in-law.”

Bei Bei teased Long Ting with a smile, “Aunt Mu often calls my mother, worried about Brother Ting’s marriage. She says Brother Ting is already in his thirties and still not dating or getting married.”

Long Ting took off his sunglasses and mask. He was a regular at the Ouyang family’s house, and they knew his true identity. Here, he didn’t need to wear a mask and sunglasses, but the face he showed wasn’t his real face.

The Ouyang family was used to it. Long Ting wasn’t just Cheng Lingling’s apprentice; he was actually the grand-apprentice of those old guys. They’d taught him everything they knew, and Long Ting’s disguise skills surpassed even his second aunt, Ning Yuchen’s.

Ning Yuchen often lamented, “The younger generation surpasses the older, the older generation is swept away on the beach.

” “I don’t want to consider it for now. I have all of you excellent sisters, so well-educated and picky. I really don’t even look at ordinary girls.”

“What about Ninth Sister? Doesn’t Brother Ting like Ninth Sister?”

Bei Bei suddenly asked.

Long Ting’s smile faltered, and after a moment of silence, he said, “Her... your brother Ting has no interest in love right now, Bei Bei, you’re still young, you don’t understand.”

“I’m almost twenty-two, not young anymore, how could I not understand? Ninth Sister is so amazing, her heart and eyes are only for you, if you can’t even see her, then I’m afraid no one in the whole world can catch your eye.”

Long Ting chuckled and lightly tapped her pretty nose, “Bei Bei, I came here especially to have a meal with you, to see you, and to give you a gift, please don’t urge me to get married on behalf of your Aunt Mu, okay?”

Ouyang Ya said, “Long Ting, it’s no wonder Bei Bei is urging you, you should really consider it, Chu Jiu is indeed a good person, and you’ve had an eighteen-year friendship.”

“You two are inseparable, she’s a perfect match for you in every way.”

Long Ting said helplessly, “Aunt Ya, Chu Jiu is just my bodyguard, she was picked up by my master to accompany me in my studies, martial arts, and medicine, between her and me...”

He didn’t finish his sentence.