

“But well, he’s from the countryside. And now, he’s a live-in son-in-law. No wonder he has an inferiority complex and is afraid to show his face in public.”

Wang Yu had already heard about Ye Fan from his wife. That fellow came from the countryside and his family consisted of just his mother and himself. Both of them lived in poverty.

“But that can’t go on for long. When you get back home, go ask him if he’s interested in a security guard position at my company. If he’s wants, I can pay him three thousand per month. The job comes with board and lodging.” Wang Yu said lightly.

Lin Qian joined in the conversation and tried to persuade Qiu Mu-Cheng as well. “That’s right, Mu-Cheng. If you want the job, then don’t miss this opportunity. Many old folks are queuing up for this position, you know?”

Both husband and wife tag-teamed Qiu Mu-Cheng with their talk that oozed with charitable concern, as if the job offer was an unimaginably great gift they were bestowing on Ye Fan.

Qiu Mu-Cheng's complexion took a turn for the worse. Still, she maintained decorum and promised to talk to her husband about the job offer. But who knew just how much her heart was aching, even as she kept a smile on her face?

No one could have comprehended Qiu Mu-Cheng's state of mind at that moment. During her college years, she had been dazzling and without equal. During her reign as the beauty queen of Jiangdong University, her academic results had also been excellent. Back then, Lin Qian had been nothing but a foil for Qiu Mu-Cheng's brilliance.

But who could have known, with the passing of time, Qiu Mu-Cheng would become a target of charity? To a proud and aloof person like Qiu Mu-Cheng, such a thing was difficult to stomach.

All of a sudden, her nose felt sore and tears started to swim around in her eyes. Qiu Mu-Cheng suddenly regretted coming to the auction. Perhaps, she did not belong in upper-crust society.

She was just an ordinary girl now, not the school beauty who had held everyone's

attention.

Suddenly, the proud lady surreptitiously bowed her head. When the dim lights rained upon her, they cast a huge shadow on the floor.

Ye Fan, who had been sitting behind the party of three, was finding it difficult to watch the humiliation of his wife.

“So when Mu-Cheng called me earlier, she was planning to invite me to this auction. This woman. She’s usually indifferent toward me but, when it matters, she remembers me.” Ye Fan was a little touched when he thought about the call he had received earlier.

“But this is difficult for her. She’s suffering again because of me.”

Ye Fan sighed and clenched his hands tightly.

“Mu-Cheng, don’t worry. Tonight, I will make you the brightest star at Shanshui Memorial Garden.”

Ye Fan stared silently at the captivating lady illuminated by the dim lights, and his

eyes flickered with an inexplicable determination.

.....

“Mu-Cheng, don’t you think that’s funny?”

“That idiot was dressed like a country bumpkin, and then he tried to withdraw all the money in the bank with a card that had insufficient balance. What a moron.”

“That was so funny.”

“Nowadays, some poor people are like that. They think about money all the time and then they get obsessed with it. So even when they have no money, they go around pretending to be rich. In the end, they are only making fools of themselves. I think that guy should be in police custody right now?”

The party of three in front of Ye Fan tried to make conversation as time continued to pass by. But, Lin Qian was the one doing most of the talking. For example, she talked about her recent trip to Australia, the cruise holiday she had taken in the Maldives last month and the latest Apple iPhone she had just bought. She also

complimented Qiu Mu-Cheng's dress. It was a luxury brand, so she wanted to know how many months' worth of salary did Qiu Mu-Cheng spend on the dress? And finally, the conversation returned to the topic of the "poor man" at the bank.

Behind them, Ye Fan's eyes twitched furiously as he listened in on their talk.

"Damn. No wonder I find them so familiar. So they were the couple I met at Hongqi Bank earlier?"

"Well, they do say enemies often cross each other's path~"

Ye Fan still remembered what had happened at the bank during the day. It was this Wang Yu who had mocked him. After the turn of events, he had wanted to settle score with them. But they had already left the bank by then. So this was where they were.

"Great. We will settle both old and new grievances slowly." Ye Fan smiled coldly.

Wah~

Suddenly, a dazzling beam from a

spotlight lit up the stage at the front. Immediately after, a sexy lady in a business dress appeared under the light.

It looked like the auction was about to start, and the noise in the hall settled down.

“Ladies and gentlemen, good evening. I am very honored to be the MC for tonight’s auction. This event is organized by Yunhai Auction House. All proceeds from this auction will go to children living in the mountainous areas. At that time, the amounts of your ‘donations’ will be made public and open for your scrutiny!”

The auctioneer’s clear voice resounded through the hall and, after a few simple opening lines, the first auction item was brought in front of the attendees.

It was a custom-made hydrofoil. The starting bid was ten thousand.

“Fifteen thousand!”

“Twenty thousand~”

Soon, the hall was filled with the voices of the wealthy elites as they bidded against

each other.

“The fifth auction item is a white jade hairpin that was once owned by European royalty. The starting bid is thirty thousand~”

And then a piece of flawless jade hairpin was brought up to the stage. All at once, the excited shrieks of numerous female attendees rang out within the hall. As Lin Qian stared at the piece of jewellery with wide-open eyes, she tugged at Wang Yu’s arm and tried to wheedle him into buying her the hairpin.

“Darling, this white jade hairpin is so pretty~”

“Alright, I will get it for you!” Wang Yu declared imperiously and raised his auction placard.

“Forty thousand!”

“Forty-five thousand!” But very soon, another wealthy bidder with a female companion offered a higher bid.

Jewellery pieces like the jade hairpin were popular with the ladies after all.

“Fifty thousand!”

Wang Yu did not shy away from his mission and, soon, he raised his bid to sixty thousand.

The competing voices of the bidders faded away abruptly.

“Qian-Qian, see? If it’s me, then no one can compete against me. Don’t worry. Anything you like, I will get it for you.” Wang Yu smiled smugly and deliberately looked sideways at Qiu Mu-Cheng. As if he was hoping to see her envious and worshipful gaze. After all, the third daughter of the Qiu family was a great beauty. Even though she had a husband, that man was just a useless piece of trash. If his generosity today could persuade Qiu Mu-Cheng to throw herself at him, then he would not mind supporting her as his mistress. He was even willing to divorce Lin Qian, if that meant that he could have Qiu Mu-Cheng.

But in the end, he was left disappointed.

Qiu Mu-Cheng’s eyes remained unclouded, and she continued to watch the auction quietly.

“Wah, darling, you are the best!”

“I love you so much~”

On the other hand, Lin Qian looked at him in adoration and happily kissed Wang Yu on the forehead. Then she turned to look at Qiu Mu-Cheng and said mockingly, “Mu-Cheng, why are you just looking? Aren’t you going to bid on anything? This is a charity auction. You are not just buying something. You are also doing a good deed. That’s way more meaningful than spending a few months’ income on some stupid dress.”

As she ridiculed Qiu Mu-Cheng, Lin Qian stared jealously at the refined beauty in front of her.

Admittedly, Qiu Mu-Cheng’s title as the beauty queen of Jiangdong University had been well-deserved. Many years had passed since their graduation and she still looked as beautiful as ever. The passage of time had been kind to her and, under its settling influence, she had gained a certain mature charm.

Chapter 23 The Jubilant Lin Qian



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

The form-fitting purple gown Qiu Mu-Cheng was wearing tonight complimented her looks and gave her a noble bearing. A hint of aloofness could be seen on her matchlessly beautiful face. Under the hemline, legs that had the unblemished complexion of cream-colored jade stretched out seductively. Finally, the pair of silver-white high heels on her feet served to accentuate her sexiness and beguiling charm as a mature woman. That was the reason why Qiu Mu-Cheng had attracted everyone's attention during her entrance.

But, her moment in the limelight made Lin Qian unhappy. To prepare for the auction, she had invested a great deal of time and thought into dressing up. And she had thought that she would be the focus of everyone's attention. But, Qiu Mu-Cheng had shown up and stolen her spot in the limelight. Lin Qian could also sense her own husband stealing glances at her former school friend.

That intensified her jealousy toward Qiu Mu-Cheng.

During their university years, Qiu Mu-Cheng had always surpassed her in every

way. Now that they were both members of adult society, Lin Qian was naturally unwilling to continue her role as a foil. And so she was determined to make Qiu Mu-Cheng look bad.

“Mu-Cheng, as a human being, it’s more important to have a beautiful heart than a beautiful appearance. Look at you. So what if you are dressed to the nines? You are just satisfying your own vanity.”

“And you should understand your own financial situation. You scrimped and saved for months just to buy a branded dress. Was it necessary? You are just living beyond your means. Isn’t it better to save up the money and donate to charity, like what I am doing? Isn’t it better to spend that money on building infrastructures in the mountainous areas?”

Her words sounded heartfelt, and she spoke with the air of a life guru, as if she was imparting words of wisdom to Qiu Mu-Cheng. It was a shame that nobody could see the ugliness lurking in Lin Qian’s heart.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was a thin-skinned person so, after Lin Qian’s sarcastic remarks, her

face turned even redder. But Lin Qian did not give Qiu Mu-Cheng the opportunity to retort and continued talking: "Oh, that's right. I nearly forgot. None of the items here are suitable for you anyway."

"Take this white jade hairpin for example. It used to belong to European royalty and it's a status symbol. I guess it's only suitable for upper-society ladies like myself?"

"But don't worry, Mu-Cheng. We are such close friends, so I will wear it later and let you admire it from up close."

Lin Qian smiled smugly and looked as proud as a princess. As if she was already wearing the jade hairpin on her head.

"Sixty thousand. Any higher bid than what this gentleman has offered?"

"If there is no higher bid, then this hairpin will go to..."

The auctioneer's voice resounded through the hall.

And Lin Qian could no longer bear the suspense. So before the auctioneer could

strike the gavel against the sound block, Lin Qian had already rushed onto the stage and grabbed the exquisite box containing the hairpin.

“Seventy thousand!”

But, at that moment, a soft voice rang out from among the crowd.

“Mm?” Wang Yu frowned, turned to look at the masked man sitting behind him, and then continued bidding, “Seventy five thousand!”

“One hundred thousand.” The masked man kept his composure and calmly raised his bid.

“Whoa, he raised his bid by thirty thousand! Awesome!”

All at once, the hall went quiet.

Wang Yu had a terrible expression on his face. His wife was already holding on to the hairpin and, if someone else won the bid, it would be so embarrassing for them.

“One hundred and five thousand.”

Wang Yu raised his bid again, and then he turned around to talk to the masked man."Hey bro, do me a favor, will you? My wife really likes this hairpin. So..."

"Hundred and fifty thousand."

The masked man did not even look in Wang Yu's direction. His indifferent voice felt like a slap in the face; one that left Wang Yu blushing painfully.

Huh?

Do you a favor?

Who the hell do you think you are?

How dare you show off in front of me? I am not going to show you any mercy!

"One hundred and fifty-five..."

"Two hundred thousand."

Before Wang Yu could raise his bid, Ye Fan had already raised his by another fifty thousand.

"Two..." Wang Yu tried to raise his bid again.

“Two hundred and fifty thousand.” Ye Fan nonchalantly showed off his wealth again. That was another slap to Wang Yu’s face.

“Three hundred thousand!”

As Wang Yu was still reeling in a daze, Ye Fan interjected with yet another offer. And this time, he did not even give Wang Yu the chance to begin his bid. With an indomitable momentum, Ye Fan bulldozed over his competitors and intimidated everyone in the hall.

What~

What~What was going~

The hall went deathly quiet.

“Da~Damn!”

Who would have thought that the masked man would be so forceful.

He actually bidded against himself!

Even the auctioneer was astounded.

Such a bidder would either be an idiot or a tycoon.

The former would be really idiotic, but the latter would be really rich! After all, in the eyes of a tycoon, several dozen thousand was just petty cash. If it was gone, it was gone.

Under Ye Fan's succession of aggressive bids, Wang Yu was completely overwhelmed and he had to surrender and discontinue bidding.

"Qian-Qian, this jade hairpin is only worth several dozen thousand. If this idiot wants it, let him have it." Although Wang Yu appeared to be unconcerned, the expression on his face was terrible to behold.

"No way? I really want this hairpin." Lin Qian refused to release her grip on the box.

"Come on, be good and listen to me. Give him the hairpin. I will get you something better." Wang Yu tried his best to suppress his anger as he consoled his wife.

Finally, Lin Qian nodded her head reluctantly and said, "Okay, you promised. You will buy me something better."

But just as Lin Qian was about to hand over the hairpin to the masked man, he shook his head and said, "A noble object like this should be paired with a noble lady."

"Please give this hairpin to the lady beside you. The peerless beauty in the purple dress."

"In this entire room, only this angelic beauty is fit for this noble accessory."

His slightly husky voice resounded through the hall.

All at once, the venue went quiet.

And Qiu Mu-Cheng stood there, rooted to the spot, in a daze. Disbelief filled her eyes as she asked, "For... For me?"

When Lin Qian heard this, she could only stare with wide-open eyes, as if she had been struck by thunder.

"For... For her?"

"What's wrong with you? Her husband is just a useless piece of trash. How is she noble? Is she as noble as I am? Why not

give it to me?" Lin Qian strengthened her grip on the box again. And this time, she was determined not to let go.

The auctioneer could not bear to watch the farce any longer, so she urged Lin Qian to surrender. "Miss, this hairpin is no longer yours. Please listen to this gentleman and hand it over to that noble lady."

But, despite what the auctioneer said, Lin Qian refused to release her grip on the box. She was determined not to hand over the hairpin to Qiu Mu-Cheng. Finally, the auctioneer had to remove the box forcibly from her and hand it over to Qiu Mu-Cheng.

"A jade hairpin for a beauty, and a precious sword belongs to the hero."

"Noble lady, please accept this gift from that gentleman."

"Just as this gentleman said, you are the only lady in this hall who is fit to wear this hairpin!"

As the auctioneer's clear voice rang out through the hall, multi-colored spotlights swung over to focus on Qiu Mu-Cheng. As

she sat there, she became the focus of everyone's attention and the envy of numerous ladies.

Lin Qian, on the other hand, was seething in rage.

Just a moment ago, she had been bragging to her former university friend that she was the only one fit to own the hairpin. But now, Qiu Mu-Cheng was wearing the royal hairpin.

The truth unfolding before Lin Qian felt like a tight slap to her face. And it hurt.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“Whoa~”

“I really envy that lady!”

“Mama, when I grow up, I want to be as pretty as that lady. And everyone will focus their attention on me like I am a star.”

Everyone in the hall was looking at the lady in the purple dress. Under the multi-colored spotlights, the peerless beauty looked so dazzling and eye-catching.

Her beauty was such that it aroused envy among the ladies in attendance, and admiration among the gentlemen.

Of course, the ladies didn't just envy her for the jade hairpin that was worth three-hundred thousand, but her glory too and her eye-catching radiance.

Which woman would not want to hear praises from others?

Which woman would not want to be a star and take the spotlight?

Which woman would not want to be dazzling and have everyone focus their attention on her?

But, among all the women present, only Qiu Mu-Cheng managed to do all that.

Ye Fan's extravagance and his gifting of the jade hairpin to Qiu Mu-Cheng, had placed her center stage at this event.

And Qiu Mu-Cheng was in a dazed state, her eyes filled with shock. This was too sudden. One moment ago, she had been wallowing in self-abasement and curling up within herself like a Cinderella. She had thought that she was just an insignificant speck among this gathering of elites. But, unbelievably, she was now taking center stage and the object of everyone's envy.

As she basked in the astonished and envious gazes of the audience, for a brief moment, she could feel herself floating on air. She liked the feeling of standing under the spotlight and receiving envy from the crowd. It intoxicated her and made her lose herself.

Right then, she finally understood why so many people wanted to rise to the top and stand above others. Because standing at the top, as an object of admiration, was truly a blissful experience.

At this moment, Qiu Mu-Cheng nearly cried. If only the wonderful experience she was having tonight was a gift from Ye Fan. She truly wished that was true. Because if it was, then she could enjoy this honor without feeling burdened.

She was Ye Fan's woman. So she had the right to reign alongside him and enjoy the infinite glory.

But in the end, Qiu Mu-Cheng shook her head and smiled self-deprecatingly. She knew very well that this honor did not belong to her. She had already decided. After the auction, she would personally return the hairpin to the masked gentleman.

Human are creatures of vanity, and Qiu Mu-Cheng was no exception. But, unlike many women, she had her own principles and there were lines she would not cross.

Hmph~

Isn't it just a stupid hairpin?

Look at how smug you are. How could you let yourself be won over by some trinket that's worth only several dozen thousand.

You are so cheap.

Just you wait. My husband will get me something better in a while. Let's see if you can still be smug then?

Lin Qian stared Qiu Mu-Cheng coldly and acted as if she didn't care. But on the inside, she was seething in rage and her eyes were bloodshot with fury.

The auctioneer had forcibly removed the jade hairpin from her and handed it over to Qiu Mu-Cheng. That incident had been very embarrassing for her. Now, a number of people in the crowd were looking at her with contempt and mockery in their eyes.

"Darling, I don't care. You have to avenge my honor."

"I was really embarrassed just now~"

Lin Qian wrapped herself around Wang Yu like an octopus, and started behaving in a cutesy manner. That proved to be too much for him to bear, and Wang Yu surreptitiously pinched his wife's butt. Then he told her, "Don't worry, darling. It's just a stupid hairpin. Worth only a few dozen thousand. Such a cheap trinket is

not suitable for a person of your status. I will get you the best gifts.”

“Wah~ Darling, you are so good to me. I love you so much~”

Lin Qian kissed Wang Yu excitedly on the face. Then she raised her chin and looked smugly at Qiu Mu-Cheng. As if she was saying, Did you hear? My husband is going to buy me something better.

Qiu Mu-Cheng ignored her. But when Lin Qian went back to her seat, she smiled and said, “Mu-Cheng, since you like that hairpin so much, I will let you have it. It’s only worth a few dozen thousand. I have plenty of jewelries like that at home. I don’t need another one. If you want, I can even give you a piece as well.”

“But, Mu-Cheng. To be honest, I feel sorry for you. You used to be the beauty queen of Jiangdong University, but look at you now. Beside that dress, you don’t have anything of value on you. The only expensive item you have is a charitable donation from some stranger. And when you go to work, you have to squeeze onto the bus with the low-class people.”

"Ai~we women. If you marry the wrong person, your life gets ruined. To be honest, I feel bad for you. I will do my best to help. If your husband comes to our company to work as a security guard, I will tell my husband to pay him an extra few hundred every month."

Lin Qian kept sighing and shaking her head, as if she was really concerned about Qiu Mu-Cheng.

Ye Fan, who was eavesdropping on their conversation, was beside himself with rage.

That bitch. She is definitely humiliating Mu-Cheng on purpose.

You really think there is no one to pamper Mu-Cheng?

Ye Fan's hands were clenched tight in anger. At first, he had merely wanted to teach Lin Qian and Wang Yu a little lesson. After all, Lin Qian was Mu-Cheng's former school friend, so he had to consider his wife's feelings. He had actually decided not to go after them.

But who would have thought that Lin Qian

would be such a vicious woman.

This is intolerable! If he let this go, then that would only encourage them!

“Just you wait. I am going to mess you up so bad today!”

His own wife had been so severely humiliated. Any man would not be able to tolerate such an insult, and Ye Fan was no exception.

Meanwhile, the auction was still in progress. The items appearing toward the end were going to be more and more expensive.

“The next item is something that is not really popular with the gentlemen. But to all the ladies present, it’s something that will stir your heart.”

“Yes, our next auction item is something that’s regarded by women as important as life itself! A pair of high heels!”

The auctioneer’s clear voice rang out through the hall. And when the male attendees heard this, they shook their heads and laughed. They figured it was

just embellishment on her part.

The auctioneer had already expected this reaction, so she just smiled and said, "Gentlemen, please do not laugh. Just like how we women do not understand your obsession with cars, you men do not understand our passion for high heels. Maybe, you will never understand what high heels mean to a woman of sophistication?"

"Having a pair of beautiful face is just as important as having a pair of beautiful high heels."

"And the pair I have over here is known as the 'Noble Queen' among high heels. It's one of the 'red-soled shoes' designed by the top French designer, Christian Louboutin."

"You will never know how mesmerizing a woman is, when she's wearing a pair of red-soled shoes. The red soles is like a layer of lipstick applied on the shoes, and makes you unconsciously want to kiss it. The toebox open up to reveal your naked toes, which makes the sex appeal and charm of the wearer simply indescribable."

"I am sure you all have heard about President Obama's second inauguration ball, which took place many years ago. Well, at that ball, the First Lady, Michelle Obama, wore a pair of red-soled shoes to match her red evening gown. And although I can't say the confident look in her eyes could conquer the whole world, but at least it did conquer the most powerful man on Earth."

"Slim naked feet and bright red soles. They combine to exude a high-class elegance. A woman can spend her whole life trying and never be able to overcome the temptation of this pair of high heels."

No wonder she could hold down the position of auctioneer at a top-ranking auction house. Her words had completely enthralled the ladies present.

"Darling, I want this~"

"Please buy it for me?"

"High heels are as important as life to us women!"

A ruckus erupted below the stage. The noise mainly consisted of the pleadings

and wheedlings of the female attendees, as they badgered their male companions for the pair of red-soled shoes.

Lin Qian was no exception. She acted coquettishly in front of Wang Yu, and tried to cajole him into buying the pair of high heels.

“If you don’t get it for me, you will not be able to touch me for the rest of your life!”

Lin Qian threatened her husband in an angry voice. But what could Wang Yu do but agree to her demand? For the sake of his sex life, he had to do so.

“Darling, don’t worry. Whatever the cost may be, I will definitely get this pair of high heels for you!”

The pair of red-soled shoes was exuding a mesmerizing and noble aura as it stood on the stage and, as Qiu Mu-Cheng stared, her fascination with the auction item was obvious in her eyes.

Yes, just as the auctioneer had said. The imagery of slim naked feet and bright red soles combined to exude a high-class elegance. No woman could resist the

temptation of the high heels.

For the first time, Qiu Mu-Cheng felt her heart stir.

She held her phone and looked at the balance in her account.

She made up her mind. She was going to be wilful just this once.

“Just this once!”

Qiu Mu-Cheng mumbled to herself, as if she had just resolved herself to do something monumental.

“Alright, the bidding starts now. The starting bid is Five hundred and twenty-one thousand, three hundred and fourteen!”

What?

More than five hundred and twenty thousand?

Damn!

When they heard the starting bid, many male attendees had a terrible pallor on

their faces.

Yunzhou was just a fourth-tier city after all. Not many people in the city would be willing to spend five hundred thousand on a pair of high heels.

As for Qiu Mu-Cheng, after she had heard the starting bid, her face paled and she quietly turned off her phone. At that moment, her heart was assailed by a sense of grief and powerlessness.

"Mu-Cheng, why did you turn off your phone?"

"Didn't you just say you would be wilful just this once? What's wrong? Price too steep for you?"

Lin Qian had noticed Qiu Mu-Cheng's movement and as she inwardly ridicule her former university friend, she felt really smug. The look she gave Qiu Mu-Cheng was filled with disdain.

A poor woman like her should not have attended a high-society function like this one. She was just making a fool of herself!

Chapter 25 The Stirrings of Qiu Mu-Cheng's Heart



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

"No, thanks. I already have plenty of high heels at home. I don't need another one." Qiu Mu-Cheng replied with a smile, but her words lacked conviction.

"Is that so? Well, I guess even if you add up the costs of all the shoes you own, the number is still not even close to a fraction of what this pair of red-soled shoes is worth." Lin Qian smiled inwardly in disdain, and her eyes were filled with a strong sense of superiority.

Qiu Mu-Cheng, Qiu Mu-Cheng. So what if you were an outstanding student at school?

Here and now, you are beneath me.

You can only blame yourself for marrying a useless piece of trash.

Lin Qian raised her chin high. The whole time, she had been putting on airs and assuming the role of an upper-society lady in front of Qiu Mu-Cheng. It was obvious that Lin Qian despised her former university friend.

"Five hundred and thirty thousand!"

Soon, the bidding started again.

“Five hundred and forty thousand~”

One after another, the attendees made their bids. And the price of the pair of high heels rose gradually along with the bidding.

But, the majority of the bidders were from the younger generation, mostly the good-for-nothings from the rich families. And they were hoping to use the pair of high heels to win the affection of their female companions. As for the older bidders, they were more mature and sedate. Very few of them bid. Even when they did, they would stop once they saw that the price of the item had risen above the acceptable price range.

And that was why, after a short while of bidding, only two bidders stayed in the competition.

One of them was, of course, Wang Yu, Lin Qian’s husband.

He was going all out to avenge his wife’s loss of face. So even when the price hit the six hundred thousand mark, he continued

to soldier on.

“Six hundred and five thousand!” Wang Yu declared as he raised his placard.

The other competitor was also a young man with a lady companion. But he was obviously losing steam.

“Honey, let’s stop bidding. This is getting to be too expensive. Even if we win the bid, we will be making a loss. Once my father finds out that I have spent six hundred thousand on a pair of high heels, he will kill me.” The young man’s circumstances were different from Wang Yu’s. The latter was an independent and successful businessman, but the former was just a rich man’s son and he was spending his father’s money. So, naturally, he felt guilty about spending more than six hundred thousand on a pair of high heels. He had no choice but to plead with his girlfriend to discontinue bidding.

“I don’t care. I want it~”

“I really want that pair of high heels!”

After a bout of wheedling from his scantily-dressed and heavily made-up

girlfriend, the young man gave in and raised his bid once more. "Six hundred and ten thousand!"

"If anyone offers a higher bid, then this pair of high heels will go to him. I will stop bidding then."

The rich young man was obviously talking to Wang Yu. His strategem of making a concession in order to gain an advantage was a resourceful move. If his competitor had been any other person, the rich young man might have won.

But Wang Yu was bound and determined to get the pair of high heels, so he raised his bid boldly. "Six hundred and fifteen thousand!"

"Haha~"

"Friend, you are really extravagant!"

"A true gentleman does not covet. This pair of 'red-soled shoes' is yours." The rich young man smiled calmly and was magnanimous even in defeat.

Wang Yu smiled and nodded. He looked really relaxed at the moment, as if six

hundred and fifteen thousand was just petty cash to him.

“Wah~”

“Darling, you are the best!”

“I love you so much~”

When she saw that their last competitor had given up, Lin Qian was beside herself with joy. She shrieked happily and threw herself into his open arms.

“It’s just petty cash.”

“Qian-Qian, I have already told you. I will give you the best things in the world.”

“As for the white jade hairpin, that was just used goods. It’s not fit for my woman. You are so noble that only this limited edition ‘Queen of Shoes’ is a suitable match for you.”

Wang Yu said lightly, his eyes filled with pride.

Lin Qian’s eyes shone brightly as she hugged her husband tightly. Pride rose up within her heart at that moment.

Wang Yu was her man.

And only a man like Wang Yu was worthy of her!

As she basked in the gazes of the crowd, Lin Qian's vanity was greatly satisfied. Finally, she looked smugly at Qiu Mu-Cheng and said: "Mu-Cheng, I am sorry. I know you really like the high heels too. We are friends so I should have given it to you as present. But my husband insists that it's made for me. Because of its nobility and elegance, it's not suitable for you at all."

"How about we do this. I can tell that the pair of shoes you have on is old. Why don't I give you the pair I am wearing? It's branded and cost several dozen thousand. It's worth several dozen pairs of what you are currently wearing."

Lin Qian pretended to show concern but she was talking down to Qiu Mu-Cheng as if the latter was a beggar. It made Qiu Mu-Cheng feel uncomfortable.

Lin Qian raised her voice on purpose, so a number of people in the crowd were turning to look at them. Whether by intent or not, they directed their gazes at the high

heels Qiu Mu-Cheng was wearing, and the mockery was evident in their eyes.

Their mocking looks stabbed painfully at Qiu Mu-Cheng. She lowered her head and hid her feet under her seat.

When Lin Qian saw this, she felt even more smug.

How dare you steal my limelight? Qiu Mu-Cheng, are you even worthy enough to be my rival?

Yes, what Lin Qian wanted to see most was Qiu Mu-Cheng's complete loss of face.

Lin Qian was determined to take back the limelight Qiu Mu-Cheng had stolen from her during their university years.

"Six hundred and fifteen thousand. This gentleman is offering six hundred and fifteen thousand."

"Ladies and gentlemen, do I hear a higher bid?"

The auctioneer looked around the hall, as she readied herself to lower the gavel in

her hand.

There was no response. No one wanted to continue bidding.

They were not idiots. The bidding price had already exceeded the value of the auction item so, unless there was any special reason to do so, nobody was willing to keep on bidding.

Wang Yu saw the state of affairs and he started smiling. This time, he had won the bid.

But just as the auctioneer was about to strike her gavel against the sound block, something happened. Lin Qian, who did not like to be left out of things, suddenly turned around to look at the masked gentleman who had bid against her for the white jade hairpin.

"This mister, you were so magnificent earlier and your valor was unstoppable. Why have you lost your steam now? Why aren't you bidding now?"

"Have you spent all your money?"

"Have you been scared off by the price

tag?”

“Haha~”

“I know new-money people like you. You can only afford to show off when the prize is some worthless trinket. But when it comes to something truly valuable, you don’t even have the courage to bid for it.”

Lin Qian taunted Ye Fan without restraint, like a jumped-up villain.

In her eyes, the masked man was just an ignorant nouveau riche. He did not really possess great wealth. The auction had already gone on for a while, but he had not bid on any other item beside the white jade hairpin. He had probably spent all his budget here.

“You are just new money. How dare you show off in front of me!”

“Have you learned your lesson now?”

Lin Qian laughed mockingly, crossed her arms and sat back peacefully in her seat. Then she waited for the auctioneer to swing her gavel and hand her the shoes.

“Seven hundred thousand!”

But in the next moment, a low voice rang out quietly from among the crowd.

In the quietness of the hall, the voice sounded especially loud.

The masked man had started bidding again, after a long moment of silence.

It seemed like he had been bidding his time quietly, just so he could release the full extent of his brilliance at this moment.

It was Ye Fan’s first bid in this round, but he managed to shock everyone in the hall. The seven hundred thousand bid was like a slap right in Lin Qian’s face; one that dazed her right there and then.

She had not expected the masked man to offer a bid.

“Damn!”

“Is this fellow crazy?”

“He added another hundred thousand to the price just like that!”

“He’s a low-key nouveau riche~”

The crowd went into a frenzy. In the hall, many attendees turned to look at the masked man. And they exclaimed inwardly when they saw the plain clothes he was wearing.

“Wah~”

“So handsome!” Among the crowd, a young lady was struck with infatuation.

“Handsome? He has his mask on, so how can you freaking tell if he’s handsome?” A man who had heard her was dumbfounded at her illogicality.

“He’s handsome. He’s handsome because he’s rich. So what about it?”

Many people in the hall had already started to pay attention to the mysterious masked man.

As for Wang Yu, he was livid. He wished he could give his wife a good smacking.

“Are you freaking crazy?”

“Why did you agitate him?”

“You think we are made of money?”

He had been about to win the bid with six hundred and fifteen thousand. But now, the price had risen to seven hundred thousand.

Wang Yu was insane with rage.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“You prodigal bitch! Are you trying to drive me to my death!”

Wang Yu turned to his wife and lambasted her.

“Darling, I was wrong. I just wanted to get back at him for you.” Lin Qian’s face was pale and she knew she was in trouble, so her voice was softer than before.

“Quick, darling, increase your bid. The auctioneer is about to end the bidding.”

Just then, Lin Qian noticed that the auctioneer was about to hit the sound block with her gavel, so she frantically pushed her husband to make his offer.

Wang Yu gave in to her obstinacy and increased his bid again.

After all, he had already been humiliated during the bidding for the white jade hairpin. If the high heels went to the masked man as well, he would completely lose face in front of everyone.

So Wang Yu held his breath and coldly announced, “Seven hundred and ten thousand!”

After making his offer, Wang Yu turned and stared frostily at Ye Fan. "Friend, don't go overboard here. After all, we might meet again in the future. I let you have the jade hairpin earlier. If you fight with me over this pair of high heels, I will be forced to teach you a lesson."

Wang Yu's chilly tone carried a hint of threat.

But Ye Fan could not be bothered with him. He raised his placard again. "Eight hundred thousand!"

Damn~

Another hundred thousand.

Everyone in the hall went into a frenzied state.

"What the hell?"

"Who is this nouveau riche?"

"He's freaking rich. He added a hundred thousand to the pot just like that."

"When did we have such an awesome person in Yunzhou?"

“Could he be the son of Shen Jiu-Yi?”

The gentlemen marveled at Ye Fan’s feat as they tried to guess his identity.

The ladies, on the other hand, were stealing sidelong glances at him. They had been overawed by Ye Fan’s imperious aura.

“The way he bidded... He looked so handsome~”

“It’s love!”

“Do you think he has a girlfriend?”

More than a few girls acted without restraint and were preparing to throw themselves at him.

After all, most of the ladies present were kept women of wealthy men. So since they had to depend on men for money anyway, it would work out better for them if they had a wealthier sugar daddy.

Li Er, who was sitting in one of the private rooms, heard the discussion that was going on in the hall below. And he laughed disdainfully. “A bunch of ignoramuses. Do you think you actually have a chance of

finding out Mr. Chu's true identity?"

Li Er was a sharp person. He had already guessed Ye Fan's intention to hide his identity, when the latter asked him for a mask. So he was not going to do something stupid like reveal Ye Fan's identity to the auction attendees.

Meanwhile, Wang Yu's face had already turned white as sheet and his eyes were red with anger.

But Ye Fan did not pay him any attention and interjected with another bid, before Wang Yu could even start talking.

"Nine hundred thousand!"

"For heaven's sake, that's nine hundred thousand! That man is competing against himself and he just bided nine hundred thousand!"

"Do I hear another bid?"

"Do I hear a higher bid?"

The auctioneer, a veteran of many auctions, was already in the throes of excitement. Until today, she had never

seen a customer as generous as Ye Fan. His overpowering presence had completely subdued Wang Yu.

And the latter was just standing there in a daze, too scared to raise another bid.

“Darling, raise another bid. Quick!”

“I don’t care. I want that pair of high heels. You said you would get it for me no matter how much it costs.”

Lin Qian was only concerned with receiving the attention and envy of the other attendees. She wanted to be the most dazzling woman at the auction. As for Wang Yu’s predicament, it was none of her concern. And since it was Wang Yu’s money they were spending, she was not bothered by the astronomical price tag.

But before Wang Yu could reply, Ye Fan had already stood up. The latter swept a bold gaze round the venue and spoke in a soft voice, that nevertheless, resounded round the room.

“Never mind. Let me add another ninety thousand.”

“This nine hundred and ninety thousand is just a little something for the kids living in the mountainous areas. I hope, with the government’s assistance, these children can live happily for a long long time.”

Applause!

The applause went on for a long time.

A great many attendees stood up to show their respect to Ye Fan. Even the auctioneer was nearly moved to tears by his words.

Was this true magnanimity?

To have the capacity to think about the world and to hold concern for the people.

Perhaps Ye Fan was truly concerned about the children and not merely showing off?

With just a few words, Ye Fan had managed to elevate himself to an exalted position.

“At the same time, I wish to gift this pair of high heels to that beautiful lady. May your looks and smile never fade and remain for a long long time.”

"Lady, ever since I laid eyes on you, I have already made up my mind. This pair of high heels was made for you."

"I believe, under your feet, this pair of red-soled shoes will exude all its sublimity and elegance."

"Naked slim feet and bright red soles. Exuding an air of elegance. Your matchless beauty not only conquered the world, but also the most powerful man in the world."

Ye Fan's magnetic voice resounded throughout the room, like a melody of nature.

When his passionate gaze focused on her, it startled the beautiful lady in the crowd.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was dumbfounded. She lifted her beautiful eyes and stared dazedly at the man who was splendid like the sun. At that moment, for reasons unknown to her, she thought that the man standing under the dim lights of the hall looked and sounded somewhat familiar.

In her dazed state, Qiu Mu-Cheng almost lost control of herself. As she looked on

with her reddening eyes, she whispered,
“Ye...Ye Fan?”

“In the distant past, the general Wu San-Gui went on a rampage for the sake of a beauty.”

“And today, Mr. Chu emptied his coffer just to draw a smile from his ladylove.”

“Mr. Chu, your boldness and magnanimity are truly deserving of our respect.”

“Tonight, you and this lady are the stars of this auction!”

The auctioneer’s words rang out suddenly and caused the atmosphere in the hall to climax.

At that moment, the multi-colored spotlights started strobing. Standing under the dreamlike lights, the matchless beauty became the focus of attention. As if she was a princess; a moon surrounded by her attendant stars.

And Lin Qian almost went insane with jealousy.

Why?

Why Qiu Mu-Cheng again?

In what way am I inferior to her? Why did she get so lucky? How did she get a rich guy to like her?

Influenced by her own jealousy, Lin Qian threw a tantrum and tried to persuade Wang Yu to offer another bid.

“Qian-Qian, stop messing around. I will get it for you another time. This pair of high heels is not worth a million. Let’s go?”

Wang Yu had a terrible expression on his face as he tried to coax his wife into leaving.

He had only brought five hundred thousand in cash to the auction. And even after adding the amount in his bank card, the total came up to a number between seven and eight hundred thousand. How could he compete with the masked man?

He did not have enough money!

Also, it would be foolish to spend a million just to buy Lin Qian a pair of high heels. Money should not be spent so unwisely.

"I don't care, I don't care. You have to buy it for me."

"You just said it. I am the queen, and only I am worthy of this pair of high heels. You said you would buy me the best things~"

"You have to keep your promise!"

"If you won't bid, I will make the bid for you~"

Lin Qian sat down on her seat and refused to leave. And finally, she took Wang Yu's placard and made the bid on her husband's behalf.

"A million. I am offering a million."

"That pair of high heels is mine!"

Lin Qian's ranting caused the venue to go silent. And the attendees turned to look at her.

Ye Fan looked at the scene unfolding before him and smiled. "Okay. If you really have one million, then I will let you have the high heels."

And Wang Yu got so frightened that he

nearly wet himself.

“A freaking million?”

“Do I even have that much money?”

“If you are not leaving, then you come up with the one million. I am leaving.”

Wang Yu was in a foul mood. He had not expected Lin Qian to fool around like that. The auction was not a playground for kids. Now they were going to get publicly shamed. They had completely embarrassed themselves.

“Shit, It’s my misfortune to marry a dumb bitch like you. You have completely embarrassed me.”

And then Wang Yu turned to leave, his face red with shame. He did not care if his wife was following him or not.

Lin Qian was dumbfounded by Wang Yu’s departure.

She did not have any money of her own. She was just spending Wang Yu’s money. Now that her husband had already left, she could not even fork out a thousand, let

alone a million.

“Miss, are you really going to offer one million for this pair of high heels?” The auctioneer turned to look at Lin Qian.

“|...|...|~”

Everyone in the hall was looking at her. Expressions of fear and anger raced across her face, as she stood there with her mouth opened. She did not speak but croaked wo wo wo like a rooster. Finally, her face turned red from the shame.

Lin Qian did not have the courage to call out a bid after all, so she ran out of the hall with her tail between her legs.

“Haha~”

“The two idiots were showing off even though they had no money?”

The hall erupted in laughter.

Wang Yu and Lin Qian had made complete fools of themselves.

Chapter 27 A Complete Embarrassment



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

The auction hall became more peaceful after Lin Qian's and Wang Yu's departure.

Later on, a few more items were put up for auction. The auctioneer looked longingly at the masked man, hoping that he would bid for yet another item. But she was left disappointed.

After his successful bid on the pair of red-soled shoes, the masked man had been sitting quietly in a corner. Meanwhile, Qiu Mu-Cheng kept stealing glances at him.

Earlier on, for just a brief moment, Qiu Mu-Cheng had really thought that the masked man was Ye Fan.

Their voices and their body builds were so alike after all.

But in the end, Qiu Mu-Cheng shook her head and quashed that line of thinking.

"What's wrong with me? Why do I keep thinking these unrealistic thoughts?"

"How could he be Ye Fan?"

Under the dim lights of the hall, Qiu Mu-Cheng hesitated for a while, but she failed

to pluck up the courage to confirm the truth for herself.

She knew Ye Fan all too well. He had been born in the countryside and was of common stock. How could he possibly have the same presence and magnanimity as the masked man?

“His temperament is too poor~”

Qiu Mu-Cheng looked at the pair of high heels and white jade hairpin in her lap. She really liked them, but she was not a greedy woman. If she had a right to something, she would take it. But if it did not belong to her, she would refuse it.

“I will wait till the auction is over, and then return them to him.”

Qiu Mu-Cheng did not turn him down earlier because she did not want to embarrass him in front of everybody. That was all. She did not have any ulterior motives nor was she hoping to reap any benefits from her action.

The time passed quickly and, just as the auction was about to come to an end, the organizers unveiled the final item on the

list. Surprisingly, it turned out to be a small car.

“I am sure you have heard of this saying. Rather than a Land Rover or BMW, the discerning buyer looks for a Phaeton.”

“Yes. The last item to be auctioned is a car from Volkswagen’s low-key line – a Phaeton.”

“This car is the epitome of low-key luxury. I believe this car is perfect for those people who wish to keep a low profile!”

During the auctioneer’s speech, her gaze remained on Ye Fan.

And Ye Fan did not disappoint. He was going to bid for this item.

Since he was planning to buy a car anyway, he might as well buy one at the auction. Not only would he get a car, he would also be doing a good deed.

Perhaps Ye Fan’s display of extravagance earlier had frightened everyone else. After Ye Fan had made his opening bid, very few of the attendees tried to compete with him.

The auctioneer had been hoping that the participation of the nouveau riche would raise the price of the car. But it had the opposite effect instead. In the end, Ye Fan managed to get the million-yuan car with a relatively low bid. And once again, he gifted it to Qiu Mu-Cheng.

“Damn it!”

“A million-yuan car for a beauty~”

“Awesome!”

“This is the highest level of skirt-chasing!”

All of a sudden, an uproar erupted in the hall. Many wealthy young men felt ashamed of themselves. Although they liked beautiful women too, there was no way they could be as forceful and extravagant as the masked man.

“Wah~”

“I am so envious~”

“If only that was for me!”

Many of the ladies looked at Qiu Mu-Cheng, envy and jealousy evident in their

eyes.

And once again, Qiu Mu-Cheng found herself in the limelight. A number of the wealthy young men present looked at the elegant beauty and sighed inwardly.

"It's a shame. A pretty girl like her is going to become someone else's lover?"

Almost everyone thought that, after Ye Fan's formidable onslaughts, the lady in the purple dress would definitely be moved. And she would most probably offer herself up to the masked man this very night.

"This auction has ended on a satisfactory note. All the proceeds will be donated to charity."

"But, before we call it a night, I would like to thank the masked gentleman for his support, on behalf of Yunhai Auction House."

"But may I know how to address you, sir?"
The auctioneer asked suddenly.

And everyone turned to look at Ye Fan. Qiu Mu-Cheng's heart tightened in her chest as

she waited for his answer.

“My surname is Chu.”

When she heard the answer, the light vanished from Qiu Mu-Cheng’s eyes.

As expected, she had been overthinking things.

“Mr. Chu, you have been spending lavishly tonight. And you have overbidded on the auction items. Does it hurt to spend so much money?” The auctioneer was obviously trying to get close to a wealthy customer like Ye Fan, by giving him the opportunity to brag at the end of the auction.

Ye Fan did not shy away from the invitation and he went up to the stage.

“Does it hurt to spend so much money?” On the stage, Ye Fan shook his head and smiled.

“Why should it hurt?”

“Money is meant to be spent. Otherwise, it’s no different from a pile of waste paper. Money can only realize its value when it’s

being used.”

“Moreover, the couple of millions that I spent tonight is only petty cash to me. But to the people living in the mountainous areas, this amount of money could very well be their life-saving straw and their oasis in the desert.”

“One should never forget his roots. Now that I am doing well for myself, the ones I worry about the most are the people suffering in the mountainous areas.”

“I wish to thank the organizers for giving me this opportunity to help the needy. Let us pursue happiness together. We are all dream chasers after all.”

Applause, thunderous applause broke out in the hall.

“Whoa!”

“It’s such a moving speech!”

“This is how a real tycoon should behave?”

“This is the magnanimity of a great person!”

"I am crying. What about you?"

"It's a great speech!"

Ye Fan's speech was majestic and greatly elevated his style. The venue erupted into a frenzy once more.

Even Li Er, the boss of the Cloud Clan, was taken aback when he heard the speech.

He could not help but think that Mr. Chu was truly a great man.

With his state of mind alone, he could surely accomplish great feats.

"To me, tonight is surely a night that will live on in my memory."

"Because, tonight, not only did I help the children living among the beautiful mountains, I also met a beautiful lady."

Ye Fan's voice continued to resound through the venue. He stood there with his hands clasped behind his back, and his proud gaze swept through the crowd below him. Finally, his gaze landed on Qiu Mu-Cheng and remained there.

She blushed and bowed her head, not daring to look at Ye Fan.

“Lady, Mr. Chu has emptied his coffer just to draw a smile from you. Would you like to come onto the stage and tell us how you feel?” The auctioneer was a sharp lady, and she seized the opportunity to extend an invitation to Qiu Mu-Cheng.

Meanwhile, the other attendees decided to join in the fun as well.

“Together~”

“Together~”

“Together~”

The onlookers were eager to see things happen, and their clamoring filled the hall.

Finally, with her face blushing red, Qiu Mu-Cheng walked onto the stage.

Just when the audience thought that the lady was about to throw herself at the masked gentleman and a beautiful romance was about to bloom in front of them, Qiu Mu-Cheng nodded her head slightly and said, “Mr. Chu, thank you for

your good will tonight.”

“But, I am sorry. I can’t accept it. Because you are not Ye Fan.”

And then Qiu Mu-Cheng ran out of the hall, leaving behind an oppressive silence.

The attendees looked at each other. The twist in the plot had caught all of them by surprise.

Ye Fan smiled bitterly as he looked at her retreating back.

Actually, he had been prepared to remove his mask. He had wanted to tell her, in front of everybody, that he was Ye Fan and he could give her the best things in the world.

But unexpectedly, Qiu Mu-Cheng had not even given him the chance to reveal his identity.

But her refusal only made Ye Fan treasure his beautiful wife even more.

Since Qiu Mu-Cheng had already left, Ye Fan had no reason to stay.

But, suddenly, just as Ye Fan was stepping off the stage, a woman rushed forward and pulled off the mask he had been wearing.

And his face was exposed to the crowd in the hall.

“Shit!”

“It’s really you?”

“Just now, the lights were too dim, so I couldn’t be sure. But when you went on the stage, I thought you looked familiar. Now that your ugly mask has been removed, let’s see how you are going to keep up the act?”

Ye Fan was speechless as he looked at the woman in front of him.

This stupid bitch. She is sticking around like a piece of gum. She hasn’t left yet?

Yes, the noisy shrew standing in front of Ye Fan was Lin Qian, who had fled the hall in shame earlier.

Lin Qian had been doing some thinking after her departure. Her performance

tonight had been pathetic. She had wanted to show off in front of Qiu Mu-Cheng and take her down a few pegs. But instead, Lin Qian had ended up embarrassing herself in front of everybody.

Because she did not want to take the insult lying down, Lin Qian sneaked back into the venue. She had already guessed that the masked man liked Qiu Mu-Cheng. And so she had waited for the moment when Qiu Mu-Cheng would give in to the masked man's overtures and throw herself in his arms. Lin Qian's plan was to start taking photos when Qiu Mu-Cheng was kissing and hugging her masked suitor. Afterward, Lin Qian would distribute the damning photos to Qiu Mu-Cheng's friends and relatives. She would completely ruin Qiu Mu-Cheng's reputation by sharing evidence of the latter's adulterous affair.

But contrary to Lin Qian's expectations, Qiu Mu-Cheng had turned down the masked suitor. Still, her effort had not been for naught.

Lin Qian started smiling sinisterly.

"You damn piece of trash. Have you enjoyed your one-man show?"

“Just wait, I am going to ruin your reputation tonight!”

As she smiled coldly, Lin Qian stepped onto the stage and snatched the microphone from the auctioneer. Then she pointed at Ye Fan and declared loudly: “Everybody, don’t be fooled by him.”

“What nouveau riche? What dragon among men? That’s all a load of crap!”

“He’s just a poor commoner.”

“He has no money. Not one single cent.”

“From top to bottom, he’s just a piece of trash.”

Lin Qian’s words had the impact of giant rocks hitting the sea, and created huge waves among the attendees.

“What?”

“Is what you are saying true?”

“You can’t just go around saying anything you like!”

The auctioneer found herself in a state of

panic. If Lian Qian's accusation was truthful, then the auction would turn into a farce. It would be a huge blow to the reputation of their auction house.

"Of course it's true!"

"I ran into him this morning, when I went to the bank with my husband."

"He was pretending to be a rich man at the bank, even though he was really poor. He took out a bank card and claimed that it was the Hongqi Bank's black card. And he even said he wanted to withdraw all the money in the bank."

"In the end, it turned out that he did not have a single cent in his card."

"If you don't believe me, just check his card. See if he has any money in there."

"Also, if he really has money, why would he be wearing cheap clothes?"

"He's just a poor man. You all have been fooled by him."

Lin Qian's words immediately caused an uproar in the hall.

“Shit~”

“Could it be true?”

“So he was just pretending to be a rich man earlier?”

“Is he really a poor man?”

“No wonder he’s dressed so shabbily. Anyone who marries him is truly unfortunate.” The crowd’s attitude toward Ye Fan took a hundred-and-eighty degree change.

The fawning smile had also vanished from the auctioneer’s face. She looked expressionlessly at Ye Fan and said coldly, “Mr. Chu, according to our rules, you have to show us your bank card and allow our staff to verify if it has sufficient fund.”

“Haha~”

“You poor bastard. That’s what you get for messing around with me.” When Lin Qian saw that Ye Fan’s reputation was in tatters, she lifted her chin and smiled smugly.

“Erm, let me say a few words.” Ye Fan ignored Lin Qian and asked the auctioneer

for her microphone.

The audience below the stage looked on sneeringly.

Lin Qian looked disdainfully at Ye Fan and said, "Making a final struggle, eh?"

At that moment, Ye Fan's voice rang out.

"I have decided. To support the building of infrastructure in the mountainous areas and to help the people living in poverty there, I will donate another million."

Ye Fan paused for a moment before continuing. "Mm, I will be paying in cash."



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

What?

Another million?

And in cash?

Ye Fan's words were impactful, like giant rocks dropping into the sea, and caused huge waves among his audience.

Everyone was stunned. Ye Fan's boldness had shocked everyone present.

Lin Qian was especially affected. She lost control of her emotions and started scolding Ye Fan.

"A million?"

"Go screw yourself!"

"I think you are addicted to showing off?"

"A poor bastard like yourself. Do you even have the money?"

"And you want to pay in cash? I think you don't know how heavy a million yuan in cash is?"

"Obviously, right? You are just a poor

bastard. You have probably never seen so much money before in your life, right?”

Lin Qian could not help but laugh, when she heard the nonsense that had just came out of Ye Fan’s mouth. As if he had just told the world’s funniest joke. Her heavily made-up face was filled with disdain and derision.

When the other attendees heard Lin Qian’s denunciation, they looked at Ye Fan as if he was an idiot.

“It looks like we have been fooled by this bastard.”

“Does he take us for idiots?”

“He’s penniless and yet he’s going around pretending to be a rich man. How shameless!”

“How poor does a person have to be, before he goes off to do a stupid stunt like this?”

“Really, I think he’s not just poor, he’s also a damn fool~”

All at once, a clamor broke out in the hall.

There were voices of ridicule, sarcasm, abuse and disdain.

It was obvious that they saw Ye Fan as a liar and a braggart. Very few of them believed him.

After all, who would actually lug around a million yuan in cash to an auction?

Moreover, a million yuan in cash was heavy. Ye Fan would need a box to hold all that cash. But after looking around Ye Fan, no one could see any container big enough to accommodate all that cash.

"I have confirmed it. He's just a simple weakling!"

"Does he spend all his time fantasizing about being a rich man?"

"This poor bastard is just here to create trouble!"

"What is Shanshui Hall doing? Why did they allow an idiot to come in here?"

Ye Fan's actions had stirred the crowd to anger, and many of them were denouncing and castigating him.

The auction attendees, who considered themselves “high society”, felt insulted that they had to share the same space as a commoner. By doing so, they had cheapened their status.

And the auctioneer, who had been fawning over Ye Fan, finally lost her patience. She turned to him and warned, “This is a formal setting, not some place where you can act wilfully.”

“If you cannot produce a bank card with sufficient fund, then we will throw you out and put you on our blacklist.”

Her tone was cold, without a single trace of the respect she had shown before. Just then, she did not even use the “mister” honorific to address him.

People are materialistic after all.

If you have money and power, they will respect you and properly address you as “Mister Chu”.

If you are poor and powerless, then you are just a poor weakling that everyone despises.

As he looked at the so-called “high society” folks below the stage, Ye Fan could not help but think that they looked exceptionally “ugly”!

In the private room, two of Li Er’s underlings, Jin Bao and Yin Bao, looked at the scene unfolding below them and then turned to ask their employer: “Master Er, should we act now?”

But Li Er waved his hand dismissively and replied, “Let’s wait and see what happens next. Mr. Chu is not a rash person. Since he said he would pay in cash, that means he has a backup plan.”

In the hall, Ye Fan continued to stand in the same spot.

Beside him, Lin Qian was wilfully sneering away. The auctioneer’s tone got more pushy and she gave Ye Fan another warning. “Mister, our patience is limited. If you still refuse to produce your bank card, then we will be taking action against you.”

“Why are you still talking to this poor bastard?”

“He really has no money.”

"If you ask me, you should just give this poor bastard a beating and then kick him out." Lin Qian said sneeringly.

Behind Ye Fan, the attendees in the hall were filled with righteous fury and they started criticizing him.

"You bastard, why are you still here?"

"Get out!"

"I thought you were rich, but you are just a poor bastard."

"You are so shameless! Get out now!"

All at once, the people in the hall started hurling abuses at Ye Fan.

Their angry voices merged together into a stream that filled up and pounded against the inside of the hall.

As he faced the attacks from the crowd, Ye Fan continued to maintain his composure. The dim lights of the hall rained down upon his slim figure and cast a huge shadow on the floor.

Just then, it looked like the entire world

had abandoned Ye Fan.

The auctioneer, Lu Lu, had already called for the security guards. They were prepared to throw Ye Fan out of the venue.

Lin Qian smiled smugly, while the other attendees had expressions of rage or disdain on their faces.

But, the farce was about to come to an end.

Just as the auctioneer, Lu Lu, was calling for the guards, the low roar of a car engine could be heard from outside the hall. And its orange headlights pierced through the night like twin swords.

Then, under the shocked gazes of the attendees, the door to the hall was pushed open with a pong sound.

Like a bolt of lightning breaking through the dark clouds, a mature beauty strode into the hall, her eyes blazing with cold authority. Wind from the outdoors swirled about and caused her hair to dance erratically. The pair of silvery high heels on her feet struck frantically against the floor as she walked. On her body, the black

business dress helped to accentuate her sensual figure, while the black stockings and white dress shirt worked together to enhance her noble bearing.

Some women are just so dazzling that, when they appear, nobody would be able to look directly at them. The aloof and mature woman walking through the hall just then was one such example. In the dark night, she was like a queen descending from heaven. And the moment she appeared, everyone in the hall was stunned by her powerful presence.

Following behind her were ten heavily built men in suits. They were dressed crisply and wore sunglasses. Each of them was carrying a safe deposit box.

“This... This is?”

Everyone was dumbfounded. All of them tilted their heads to look at the gatecrashers, especially the mature beauty at the front.

The auctioneer, Lu Lu, was surprised to see them. The look of disdain she had been showing Ye Fan earlier vanished from her face, to be replaced by a fawning

smile. She hurried forward and said, "We are honored by your presence, Miss Xu Lei. If you had informed us earlier, we would have prepared to welcome you."

"Xu Lei?"

"Could she be the person-in-charge of the Hongqi Bank in Yunzhou? The one in charge of managing billions worth of wealth?"

"No wonder she has such a powerful presence!"

"So that's Xu Lei. The tough character whose reputation and notoriety have shocked the whole of Yunzhou."

"What the hell. Why is this woman here?"
Li Er cursed with a heavy expression on his face as he jumped up from his seat. He was feeling just as bewildered as the crowd below him, and could only stare at the commotion in the hall with wide-open eyes.

In Yunzhou's upper crust society, everyone had heard of Xu Lei.

After all, if they needed money, they had to

deal with her.

In Yunzhou, there was a saying: Li Er rules half of Yunzhou and Xu Lei has the other half. Li Er held power while Xu Lei controlled the wealth.

With just one of them, one could easily rule over Yunzhou.

Even Li Er had to show Xu Lei respect, whenever they met.

Due to the nature of her job, the auctioneer – Wang Lu Lu – knew Xu Lei by sight. That was why she hurried to welcome Xu Lei without delay.

But Xu Lei ignored Wang Lu Lu completely and simply pushed the auctioneer aside. Her cold eyes swept round the hall and finally, she led her men to the stage to stand in front of Ye Fan.

Under the watchful eyes of the auction attendees, the strongwoman of Yunzhou faced the man in front of her and bowed. Her cold authoritative voice rang out and resounded through the venue. “Mr. Chu, here is your twenty million in cash as requested. Please have a look!”

“Mr. Chu, please have a look!”

“Mr Chu, please have a look!”

The ten heavily built men formed two rows in front of Ye Fan and bowed to him. And their respectful voices reverberated through the air.

Swoosh~

At the same time, ten safe deposit boxes were opened at the same time and twenty million yuan in cash appeared before everyone’s eyes.

“This~This~”

Everyone in the hall jumped from their seats.

Everyone was struck dumb with amazement.

And Lin Qian just stood there like an idiot.

Chapter 29 The Woman With the Powerful Presence



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

It went completely quiet inside Shanshui Hall.

Within the dimly lit hall, Ye Fan continued to stand on the stage. In front of him, the ten heavily built men were lined up in two rows, and Xu Lei was standing respectfully by his side.

The crowd was dumbfounded. They found it difficult to believe what they were seeing.

“This... This...”

“Twenty million in cash?”

“Delivered personally by Miss Xu Lei?”

“I will be damned!”

“What kind of person is he?”

“Could he be a super tycoon?”

The entire venue erupted into clamor, and many among the crowd were left speechless with shock.

All the disdain and mockery had already disappeared, to be replaced by shock and confusion.

It was inconceivable to them that the man wearing plain clothes could possess such wealth.

“Damn!”

“When did Mr. Chu hook up with Xu Lei?”

It was not just the crowd in the hall. Even Li Er, who had been sitting in his private room, was shocked by the pairing of Ye Fan and Xu Lei.

In Yunzhou city, Xu Lei was one of the very few people whom Li Er was wary of.

Not only was she a resourceful woman, she also had an influential background. And, as the person-in-charge of the Hongqi Bank's branch in Yunzhou, she was managing an enormous amount of wealth. Since she had money and Ye Fan wielded influence, it did not look like Li Er was needed at all. Therefore, if she hooked up with Ye Fan, then Li Er would become a redundant figure in Yunzhou.

That was why, Li Er felt ill when he saw the power couple together. Without another word, he rushed out to greet Ye Fan.

"Impossible?"

"That card has insufficient fund. So how could he withdraw so much money?"

"The money must be fake!"

"They are most definitely fake."

Even though Lin Qian had just seen the truth with her own eyes, she still found it difficult to believe that Ye Fan was a wealthy man. With bloodshot eyes and a piercing scream, she ran forward to verify the authenticity of the money.

"Screw you!"

"You blind fool, how dare you insult Mr. Chu?"

And when Lin Qian stepped onto the stage, she was immediately slapped down by Li Er. Right afterward, the latter smiled fawningly at Ye Fan and said, "Mr. Chu, I am sorry you have been alarmed."

When Xu Lei saw Li Er, a hint of surprise flashed through her eyes. She had not expected to see him here. And it looked like he was acquainted with Ye Fan as

well.

“Damn!”

“Isn’t that Master Li Er of Yunzhou?”

“He’s actually here?”

“What the hell. Why is he so respectful toward that guy?”

Li Er’s appearance had created a disturbance among the crowd.

“Xu Lei and Master Er. If you have just one of them on your side, you can obtain Yunzhou.”

“This person has both of them on his side. That means, in the future, he will control the whole of Jiangdong province!”

“Who the hell is this Mr. Chu!”

“When did such a personage come to Yunzhou?”

On the stage, both Xu Lei and Li Er were treating the young man with the utmost respect. When the crowd saw that, they could hardly believe their eyes. Many

women among the attendees had stars in their eyes, and were looking worshipfully at Ye Fan.

"If you have to get married, you absolutely should marry someone like him!"

As for the auctioneer, Wang Lu Lu, her body was shaking all over and she was so frightened that she had almost wet herself.

Heavens, just who had she offended just now?

Wang Lu Lu had almost gone crazy with fear. Just then, what she wanted to do was to give that bitch Lin Qian a good kicking. If the latter had not derailed the proceedings with her nonsense, Wang Lu Lu would never have treated Ye Fan with suspicion and called for the guards to remove him.

"I am in big trouble~"

Wang Lu Lu's face had turned white as sheet. With a bitter smile on her face, she approached Ye Fan.

"Mr. Chu, just now..."

And Ye Fan replied in a heavy tone: "Don't call me 'Mr. Chu'. I am just a weakling after all, so I can't bear the burden of such an honorific. You had better get the security guards to chase me out."

When Wang Lu Lu heard his response, she was almost scared witless.

"Mr. Chu, I... I wouldn't dare. It's a misunderstanding. A misunderstanding." Wang Lu Lu was on the verge of bursting into tears. Finally, she looked pleadingly at Xu Lei.

She had regular dealings with Xu Lei and they could be considered acquaintances. Now she hoped that the latter would speak up on her behalf.

"Mm? Miss Wang, you are here too!" Xu Lei was mildly surprised to see her acquaintance.

Screw you!

Wang Lu Lu felt like crying. Didn't Xu Lei ignore and push her aside earlier?

"But, if you have offended Mr. Chu, then there is nothing I can do to help." Xu Lei

shrugged to express her powerlessness.

Wang Lu Lu felt even more hopeless.

But Ye Fan did not pay her further attention. She was just a small fry after all, and Ye Fan could not be bothered with her. He simply nodded to Li Er and Xu Lei, before walking forward to where Lin Qian was. Just then, she was covering her face with her hands and cowering on the floor like a dog.

Ye Fan looked down on her indifferently. "Actually, there was no grudge between us. But you should not have insulted Mu-Cheng."

"Because she is my wife."

Ye Fan's indifferent speech, however, caused Lin Qian to stare with her eyes wide open.

Shock filled her eyes and her mind blanked out as tempestuous waves assailed her heart.

"Wi... Wife?"

Could it be that, the Mr. Chu standing in

front of her was, in fact, the live-in son-in-law of the Qiu family? He was Qiu Mu-Cheng's husband?

Just then, shock raced across Lin Qian's face and a sense of defeat filled her heart.

A moment later, Lin Qian smiled as tears streamed down her face and her eyes were filled with self-deprecation. She felt that Life had just played a huge joke on her.

She had always thought that Qiu Mu-Cheng's husband was a useless piece of trash. And that she would always be standing above Qiu Mu-Cheng. But just then, she realized how wrong she was; how mistaken everyone else was.

Qiu Mu-Cheng's husband was truly a great man.

"Mu-Cheng, congratulations~"

Lin Qian's pride had been completely shattered in that instant.

She had assumed that, after marrying Wang Yu, she would be able to look down on Qiu Mu-Cheng.

But that thought had turned out to be a joke.

The attendees started leaving the venue once the auction had ended. At that moment, Ye Fan had followed Li Er into a private room to conduct their meeting. However, Xu Lei was also present.

“Miss Xu, I have something to discuss with Mr. Chu. So would you mind?” Li Er was the one who had invited Ye Fan to the auction, and he wanted to use this opportunity to get close to the latter. So, naturally, he did not want a third wheel like Xu Lei to hang around. That was why he had wasted no time to send away the uninvited guest.

But Ye Fan just smiled lightly and said, “Never mind. Since Miss Xu is already here, let us all have a meal together.”

“I have heard that, Yunzhou is split equally between both Master Er and Miss Xu. One wields power and the other has wealth.”

Ye Fan smiled lightly as he sipped his tea.

When Li Er and Xu Lei heard that, they broke into cold sweat and hurriedly

denounced that as a rumor spread by uninformed people.

"We would not dare to claim to be rich or powerful, in front of Mr. Chu."

One after another, both Li Er and Xu Lei dissociated themselves from the rumor.

They knew a thing or two about Ye Fan's background.

He was a member of that Chu family and his father was the current family head. As for Ye Fan himself, he belonged to the Tian (Heaven) character generation within the Chu family. The Hongqi Bank had even set up a branch in Yunzhou just for his sake.

When it came to power and wealth, nobody in the whole of Great China, let alone Yunzhou, could hope to match the Chu family!

"I don't think you have invited me here tonight, just to have a meal?"

Ye Fan took a sip of tea and asked leisurely, "If you have any request, just tell me." He did not beat around the bush and went straight to the point.

Chapter 30 She's My Wife



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!