“Quick, brother. Your guests are here already.”

Now that the guests had finally arrived, Han Yue started to hurry Han Hai and Han He along.

“Mr. Han, we are not late, are we?”

The first guests to arrive were Han Hai’s work colleagues.

Han Hai was an executive at a state-owned enterprise in Jianghai. Since today was Madam Han’s birthday, it was natural for his subordinates to come bearing gifts.

“Not at all, not at all. Quick, come in.” Han Hai and his son welcomed their guests warmly.

“Madam Han, we are friends of Mr. Han. We have come here today to celebrate your birthday.”

“These are some longevity peachs I asked somebody to buy from overseas. I wish you good health.”

“Haha, you are standing on ceremony. It is good enough that you can come. There is

no need to bring presents as well," Madam Han laughed politely.

"I can't do that. Mr. Han has been taking care of me at work and all of us here have received his favors. So there is no way we will miss his mother's birthday."

And while everyone was exchanging greetings, several more guests arrived with their presents. They were all wearing suits and carrying expensive gifts. It was easy to see that they were men of status.

"Mayor Han, we are not late, are we? Where is the old madam. We have come to celebrate her birthday."

When they heard this form of address, everybody knew that the new arrivals were Han He's guests.

"Not at all, not at all. Please come in. My grandmother is in the hall."

And Han He ushered his guests into the hall.

In a short while, the hall turned lively.

"Madam Han, I am Wang Zhen-Xiang from

the Fengxiang Food Factory in Dongyang Town. I am here to celebrate your birthday. May you be blessed with good health!”

“Your grandson is young and capable. You have to live a long life~”

“I am Niu Zheng-Fei, the director of Shanshui Metal Sheet Factory. May you live to a ripe old age.”

“I am Shen Shan-Hua, the vice-mayor of Dongyang Town. I wish Madam Han a happy birthday~”

“Madam Han, you have an excellent grandson~”

“Han He is so capable. The Han family has a successor now.”

It was lively inside the hall.

Various factory directors from Dongyang Town and some leaders in the town government had all come for the birthday banquet.

One by one, they went to shake Han He’s hand when they entered the hall. At this moment, Han Fei-Fei also joined in to greet

and show her fact to the guests. Afterward, Han He led them to where Madam Han was seated, so that they could wish her a happy birthday and present their gifts.

In just a short while, Madam Han's table was piled full of all sorts of rare and valuable presents.

And the guests from the nearby neighborhoods were filled with envy, when they saw the lavish display.

"Han He is such a capable grandson."

"So many birthday guests showed up for his sake!"

"There is a talent among the younger generation of the Han family."

"It looks like Han Hai's family will have the highest number of guests this year."

And one by one, the guests sighed in admiration.

Han He was in high spirits, after hearing the praises from the surrounding guests. And from the expression on his face, it

was clear that Han Hai felt immense pride for his son's accomplishments.

"Ye Fan, do you see? My son has an endless stream of guests showing up to support him. But look at you! You don't have a single guest!"

"This is the difference between poverty and wealth. This is the difference between a low-class person and an elite. This is the difference between a piece of trash and a dragon. It is as different as heaven and earth!"

When Han Hai walked past Ye Fan, he came to a stop. And then, as he looked down from above, he started talking haughtily to Ye Fan. It was clear from his words that he was in high spirits.

Because his son was such a capable person, it was only natural that Han Hai would feel conceited.

When compared to his son, Ye Fan looked even more worthless. And as Han Hai was bragging about Han He, the gaze he directed at Ye Fan was filled with disdain and mockery.

The reason Han Hai said all that to Ye Fan was because he wanted the latter to feel inferior and embarrassed. But disappointingly, Ye Fan remained composed and continued to sip his tea quietly. It was as if he had not heard Han Hai at all.

And Ye Fan's reaction made Han Hai especially unhappy.

"Hmph, you are so useless that you can't be helped at all!"

"Mu-Cheng, are you still not willing to divorce this piece of trash?"

"If your man was as capable as your cousin, your table would not be so empty today. You don't even have a single guest."

"And your family would not be so useless. You people have always been bottom-feeders in the Han family," Han Hai said coldly and angrily.

Qiu Mu-Cheng lowered her pale face and said nothing.

"You little girl, use your head and think!"

“Do you want to follow this piece of trash and continue to suffer humiliation? Or do you want to find another husband?”

After saying his piece, Han Hai did not loiter. He snorted coldly and walked away.

Just then, a Land Rover Range Rover slowly came to a stop outside the Han’s family house.

“Whoa!”

“It’s a Land Rover! A million yuan luxury car!”

“Quick, Han Hai! A VIP has come to visit your family!”

The guests who had arrived earlier were considered upper-class in Dongyang Town. But their cars were mostly in the one hundred thousand to two hundred thousand range. The most expensive car out of the bunch was an Audi A4 that cost around three hundred thousand. And so, they were all outclassed with the arrival of a million yuan luxury vehicle.

The local townsfolk who were at the door started hollering in agitation.

Just then, a man got out of the Range Rover. After fussing with his hair for a bit, he looked at the entrance and then walked into the Han's family house.

"Hahaha, you must have traveled far to get here. I hope your journey wasn't too arduous~" Han He greeted the new arrival warmly and shook his hand.

Although Han He had never met the Range Rover's driver before, he assumed the latter was his guest and probably one of the factory directors in town.

After all, Dongyang Town was not a small place. Han He had met many of the townsfolk before, but he could hardly claim to know everyone.

"Mm, you are?" Shen Fei was slightly taken aback when he saw the person before him.

Han He was also taken aback. "You don't know me? I am Han He, the mayor of Dongyang Town. You people are really standing on ceremony. It is good enough that you are able to come. Why must you insist on bringing presents?"

After speaking the perfunctory

pleasantries, Han He took the gift from Shen Fei and prepared to carry it into the hall.

But once Shen Fei heard this, he glared at Han He like he was looking at an idiot. “Han He? Town mayor?”

“Screw you!”

“Do I freaking know you?”

“You are just a minor functionary! How dare you act familiar with me?”

“Do you know who I am? I am Shen Fei, the young master of Shen Jewelry Group!”

“You are just a lousy mayor! Do you think you are worthy of receiving my gift?”

“Do you think you are worthy?”

Shen Fei did not give a damn about who Han He was and started cursing right away. He thought the latter was just some punk who had come to make trouble.

Han He was confused by the outburst.

And the banquet guests went quiet, when

they heard what Shen Fei had just said.

“Shen Jewelry?”

“Could he be talking about the Shen Jewelry in Yunzhou?”

“The biggest jewelry enterprise in Jiangdong?”

“Qianyi Corporation”

“Good heavens, this is awesome!”

“The young master of Shen Group is here?”

“Who did he come for? Who has the clout to invite him?”

After a short moment of silence, the assembled guests erupted into a frenzy.

The factory directors of Dongyang Town were shocked. Even Han Hai and Madam Han could not remain calm.

Shen Jewelry. That was one of the top ten enterprises in Jiangdong. The head of the company, Shen Jiu-Yi, was ranked as one of the top tycoons. Earlier, when he had come to Jianghai to invest, he was

personally received by the city mayor.

Now that such a personage had personally come to celebrate Madam Han's birthday, it was only natural for the Hans to be shocked.

"Hai, do you know the crown prince of the Shen family?" Since Shen Fei had not come for Han He, Madam Han turned to ask her son. After all, Han Hai was an executive in a state-owned enterprise, so it was possible that he might know the young master of the Shen family.

But Han Hai shook his head and said, "Mom, although I am working at a state-owned enterprise, it is only a small one. There is no way I can get to meet a VIP like him."

 Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.

 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

 Send a Gift to the Writer!

Han Hai spoke in a panic. Madam Han frowned and said, “Since he is not your guest, then he must be here for Wen-Xuan’s family.”

“Yes yes yes. A VIP like him must be here for my Wen-Xuan.”

“Wen-Xuan, quick. Come over here and welcome Young Master Shen. He has traveled far from Yunzhou to come here to support you. We are the hosts so we must not neglect him.” Han Yue had been feeling antsy because Han Hai’s family was hogging all the limelight earlier.

Now that their guest had finally arrived, Han Yue was naturally excited. Especially since the guest was such a big shot. It was finally her turn to brag. And right away, she impatiently hurried her son-in-law to go receive the VIP.

“Dar...Darling, is this Young Master Shen your business associate?” Just then, Han Yu was feeling a little confused. Throughout her many years of marriage with Mo Wen-Xuan, she had never once seen any interaction between the Shens and the Mos.

After all, one family was residing in Jingzhou while the other was residing in Yunzhou. The two families were separated from each other by a hundred miles or so.

“May...Maybe?” Mo Wen-Xuan was feeling uncertain. Although he did not have any interaction with the Shens, but it was possible that his father had business dealings with Shen Jewelry Group. And perhaps, Young Master Shen had come here today to curry favor with his father.

And so, Mo Wen-Xuan stopped hesitating and went forward to welcome Shen Fei.

“Haha, Young Master Shen, you have traveled far to come here, please excuse me for...”

Mo Wen-Xuan spoke respectfully as he welcomed Shen Fei with a face full of smiles.

But before he could finish speaking, Shen Fei pushed him aside without sparing him a glance. Mo Wen-Xuan was dumbstruck and stood there in a daze.

As for Shen Fei, his face was all smiles as he quick-stepped toward where Ye Fan

was sitting.

“Haha~”

“Mr. Ye, Master Er told us today is your wife’s birthday. So I have come here early to wish her a happy birthday.”

“I wish you a happy birthday! And may you always remain youthful!!”

“This pearl necklace is one of the most expensive necklaces in our company. Please accept it!”

Shen Fei looked ingratiatingly at Qiu Mu-Cheng as he respectfully offered his birthday congratulations.

All at once, the Han’s family house went quiet.

Everyone was dumbfounded. Han Yue and her daughter were rooted to the spot. And Madam Han’s face was filled with shock. The house was deathly quiet.

Unexpectedly, Young Master Shen had not come for Han Hai, Mo Wen-Xuan or even Madam Han. Instead, he was here to celebrate Qiu Mu-Cheng’s birthday. And

looking at the way he was talking to Ye Fan, it seemed that the two of them had a close relationship.

Just then, Han Hai had a dumbstruck look on his face as his eyes twitched continuously. “Fei...Fei, is today Mu...Mu-Cheng’s birthday?” he asked shakingly.

Han Fei-Fei was also looking surprised. “Probably...not?”

The scene before them had overturned their expectations.

Even Qiu Mu-Cheng was panicking. After a long moment of bewilderment, she started shaking her head and turned down the gift. “No, Young Master Shen. I can’t accept this. It is too expensive. Also, today is not my birthday.”

But Shen Fei laughed and said: “Haha, you must be lying just to turn down my gift. Mr. Ye has already told us today is your birthday. Therefore, today must be your birthday. You have to accept this necklace. Out of all the ladies present, only you are worthy of wearing it. The others are too unrefined for the necklace.”

The more Shen Fei sang her praises, the more bewildered Qiu Mu-Cheng became. Finally, she turned to look at her husband.

Ye Fan laughed awkwardly and turned to look at Shen Fei. “When did I say today is Mu-Cheng’s birthday?”

“Mm? It isn’t? Master Er was the one who said it. He told us today is her birthday. He also said you will be here to celebrate her birthday. I rushed here immediately after I got the news. Right now, my father and the other Jiangdong leaders are rushing to get here. I think they will be arriving soon.” Shen Fei had an innocent look on his face as he explained.

Okay!

Ye Fan thought for a moment and finally understood what was going on.

Obviously, last night’s phone call had caused the misunderstanding. Ye Fan had told Chen Ao that he was in a hurry to go home to his wife, and that he had to attend a birthday celebration the next day.

So Chen Ao and the other Jiangdong leaders had probably joined the dots and

assumed that the birthday celebration was for Ye Fan's wife.

This blunder has made things interesting.

I am afraid my wife is going to steal Madam Han's limelight today.

"What, Mr. Ye? Did we make a mistake? So today is not your wife's birthday?" Shen Fei was not stupid. He could guess that something was up, when he noticed the expression on Ye Fan's face and Madam Han's red clothes.

"Yes, Young Master Shen. Today is my grandmother's birthday. Not mine," Qiu Mu-Cheng hurriedly explained. She would never dare to steal her grandmother's limelight.

Shen Fei was immediately embarrassed.

They were all going to make fools of themselves!

"Mr. Ye, why don't I give Master Er a call and explain the situation to them?" Shen Fei asked in a hurry.

But Ye Fan waved his hand and smiled

nonchalantly. “No need to do that. This works for me.”

Madam Han had been taking advantage of her own seniority to humiliate him and his wife. So Ye Fan was perfectly happy to see his wife steal the old lady’s limelight.

Since Ye Fan had spoken, Shen Fei did not say anything else. But the latter felt that he had to do something for Ye Fan’s grandmother’s birthday. So Shen Fei removed a ring from his finger, placed it inside a box and brought it to the old lady.

That necklace was very expensive and meant only for Mr. Ye’s wife. Shen Fei was not going to spend that much money on an old lady.

And so, without giving it much thought, he had simply removed one of his rings and presented it as a birthday gift.

“Old madam, I wish you a happy birthday.”

“Your granddaughter has found herself an excellent husband. In future, you will be able to bask in the limelight and enjoy good fortune.”

Shen Fei laughed heartily.

Madam Han did not know how to reply to this, so she just laughed embarrassedly.

Inwardly, she was feeling puzzled. She had no idea which granddaughter Shen Fei was talking about. Han Yu's husband, Mo Wen-Xuan, did not know Shen Fei. And it would be even more puzzling if Shen Fei was referring to Qiu Mu-Cheng. Her husband, Ye Fan, was just a poor person and a useless live-in son-in-law. How was he supposed to bring her good fortune?

He was more likely to bring her misfortune!

After giving his birthday greeting, Shen Fei returned to chat with Ye Fan. Inside the hall, everyone was looking at each other. Han Hai, Han Yu and the other Hans, especially, had terrible expressions on their faces.

They had assumed that Shen Fei was their guest. Earlier, Han He had shamelessly went to welcome him. But, in the end, it had turned out that they did not know each other. And Shen Fei had even pushed Mo Wen-Xuan aside in order to get to Ye Fan.

That scene was like a slap in their face. Han Hai and the others had an ugly green pallor on their faces. It was clear that they were feeling embarrassed.

But, just then, Han Yue said disdainfully: “He is probably just a wastrel son. This Young Master Shen is just degrading himself by associating with that piece of trash. He probably has very low status in his family. There is no need to envy him!”

When Han Yue saw Qiu Mu-Cheng, Ye Fan and Shen Fei chatting happily together in the courtyard, she felt very unpleasant. So she did her best to belittle Shen Fei.

“You are right. This Shen Fei is probably not doing well in his family. That is why he is wallowing in degeneration and associating with a country boy.” Madam Han nodded in agreement. She thought that her daughter’s analysis was reasonable.

After all, she could not bring herself to believe that a live-in son-in-law would be capable enough to associate with a successful person.

“That’s right. If Ye Fan is truly capable,

then his guest would be the head of the Shen family, Shen Jiu-Yi! Instead of some wastrel rich kid!" Han Hai snorted coldly with a disdainful look on his face.

But who would have thought that, right after Han Hai had spoken, the door to the family house was pushed open once again.

Several elegant and affluent-looking people stepped into the courtyard all at once. They were all dressed to the nines and carrying gifts. And very respectfully, they said their birthday greetings all at the same time.

 Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.

 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

 Send a Gift to the Writer!

“Chen Hai-Sheng, the young master of Jiucheng Holdings of Jingzhou, is here to celebrate Madam Han’s birthday. I present to you this crutch made of Phoebe zhennan wood. May you enjoy good fortune as vast as the sea!”

“Liu Zhao-Ran, the general manager of Donghua Industries of Jingzhou, is here to celebrate Madam Han’s birthday. I present to you a pair of peaches made of Lantian jade. May you live to a ripe old age!”

“Lei Ao-Ting, the crown prince of the Lei family and the young master of Lei Group of Jingzhou, is here to celebrate Madam Han’s birthday. I present to you a platinum tea set. May you live to a ripe old age!”

A bout of hearty laughter rang out from the courtyard’s entrance.

And several men, all dressed to the nines and looking radiant, appeared before the assembled guests. All of them had smiles dancing on their lips as they walked toward the hall.

Although the new arrivals were just young men in their twenties, all of them had on branded clothes. It was clear that they

were from well-to-do families. And just like that, while carrying the birthday gifts in their hands, the young men walked proudly forward under the shocked gazes of the assembled guests.

“Damn!”

“A crutch made of Phoebe zhennan wood?”

“How much do you think it is worth?”

“Several dozen thousand perhaps?”

Everyone was surprised. Phoebe zhennan wood was renowned as the king of wood, and top-quality Phoebe zhennan wood could go for several million per tonne.

“That pair of peaches is also awesome! They are made of jade!”

“Damn! Look at that tea set! Not only is the workmanship exquisite, it is also made of platinum!”

“It must cost at least several hundred thousand?”

“Damn! Whose guests are they?”

The surrounding guests had erupted into a frenzy.

When the gifts were announced, even Madam Han could not help panicking.

As for Han Hai and his son, they were both badly shaken.

The fact that the new arrivals were bringing such valuable birthday gifts meant that not only were they from well-to-do families, but they were also taking this celebration seriously.

But why would they go to such expense? For whose sake?

Madam Han and the other guests were badly shaken. Nobody had any idea who the gift bearers were. And so, when Madam Han was suddenly presented with such expensive gifts, she did not dare to accept them.

“Grandmother, my friends have come to celebrate your birthday. Won’t you say something to them?”

Just as everyone was still reeling in shock, the hitherto silent Mo Wen-Xuan stood up

from his seat and spoke up.

“Wen...Wen-Xuan, are these people your guests?” Han Hai asked in surprise.

Mo Wen-Xuan smiled and said, “But of course?”

“Out of everyone here, besides the Mo family, who else could command such respect in Jingzhou?”

“Don’t tell me you are actually thinking that they are here for Ye Fan?” Mo Wen-Xuan said heavily, his voice filled with haughtiness.

A burst of proud laughter rang out as he stood there with his hands clasped behind his back.

While he was speaking, Mo Wen-Xuan completely ignored the shock in Han Hai’s eyes and the fearful gazes of the guests. He simply turned to his wife and said, “Come, darling. Let us go and welcome the guests.”

At this moment, Mo Wen-Xuan’s spirits were soaring as he basked in the envious and shocked gazes of the crowd.

“Okay!”

Han Yu’s face was filled with joy and pride. She lifted her long skirt and stood up gracefully like a princess. After grabbing her husband’s hand, the couple walked forward together toward where the guests from Jingzhou were standing.

And then, the couple escorted their guests to Madam Han, all the while chatting away happily. All the guests shivered in shock as this scene unfolded before them.

“Damn!”

“They are here for Han Yue’s son-in-law?”

“Awesome!”

“That Donghua Industries is the biggest real estate company in Jingzhou.”

“That Jiucheng Holdings is also awesome. It is one of the first companies to go public in Jiangdong. At the peak of the stock market, the company was worth a hundred billion.”

“That Lei Ao-Ting is even more awesome. He is the son of Master Lei San, the

kingpin of Jingzhou. Master Lei San is the ruler of Jingzhou, so that makes Lei Ao-Ting the crown prince!”

“What a surprise! To think Han Yue has such an awesome son-in-law! Even the crown prince of Jingzhou has come to support him!”

“Damn! How lucky is this family!”

“Madam Han’s granddaughter has gotten herself an excellent husband!”

Outside the hall, the townsfolk had erupted into a frenzy of envy.

Just then, Madam Han’s face was flushed red with agitation. “Excellent, excellent. Excellent~”

“Wen-Xuan has done us proud~!”

“Hahahaha~”

Madam Han was so agitated that she said “excellent” three times in a row.

Just then, the guests from Jingzhou had already entered the hall under the escort of Mo Wen-Xuan. When they saw Madam

Han, they immediately offered their greetings.

“Madam, we are friends of Wen-Xuan.”

“We heard that today is your birthday, so we all came here to celebrate!”

“Madam, your granddaughter has married a good man. You will surely enjoy good fortune from now on.” Lei Ao-Ting and his friends laughed heartily. They were saying a lot of nonsense that all meant the same thing.

We are all here for Wen-Xuan. If you weren’t related to Wen-Xuan, we would not have come such a long way for your birthday.

Undoubtedly, Lei Ao-Ting had said all that to boost Mo Wen-Xuan’s standing.

Madam Han was looking radiant as she nodded her head repeatedly. “Yes, Wen-Xuan joining our family is the most fortunate thing to ever happen to me.”

“Wen-Xuan is the pride of our family~”

Madam Han dished out the praises

liberally. Her reaction now was very different from her reaction earlier when she had heard Shen Fei's compliments to Ye Fan.

Just then, Mo Wen-Xuan looked like he was at the top of the world. And his wife, Han Yu, was also looking haughty. Her vanity had been thoroughly satisfied.

Afterward, Mo Wen-Xuan told his wife to introduce their guests to the surrounding relatives. And Han Yu did just that. But although she introduced the VIP guests to Han Hai and his family, she did not bring them to Qiu Mu-Cheng's table.

At this moment, it was as if the world had forgotten about Qiu Mu-Cheng and Ye Fan. The atmosphere was lively in the hall but, out in the courtyard, only Shen Fei kept the couple company.

"Mom, Young Master Lei's father is Master Lei San, the kingpin of Jingzhou. In terms of status, Young Master Lei is way more important than that down-and-out wastrel from the Shen family. Aren't you happy, now that Young Master Lei has come personally for your birthday?" Han Yue could not help praising her son-in-law. And

she also took the opportunity to belittle Shen Fei in order to accentuate her son-in-law's quality.

"Hahaha~ But of course! I am proud of Yu's husband. As for that piece of trash my other granddaughter has married, I can't stand the sight of him."

Madam Han was very satisfied with Mo Wen-Xuan. He had really boosted her standing at this banquet.

Even the crown prince of Jingzhou's Lei Group had come to celebrate her birthday. Not many in Jianghai could enjoy this honor.

"Grandmother, we don't have enough chairs. Where can I find some more? I will move some over." They were out of chairs because too many guests had come. So Mo Wen-Xuan went to the old madam to ask for more.

However, before Madam Han could say anything, Han Yue answered his question. "Wen-Xuan, you stay and keep Young Master Lei company. You should not be performing menial tasks. Tell that live-in son-in-law to get the chairs. We can't just

let him freeload off us."

"Yes, you are right," Madam Han nodded. She turned to look at Ye Fan, who was happily drinking his tea in the courtyard, and said angrily: "That bastard. He is just eating and drinking away. He isn't doing any work at all. Han Yue, you go tell him to move some chairs in here."

A short while later, Han Yue walked into the courtyard and looked at the trio who were drinking tea and happily chatting away. "Heh, we are so busy entertaining our guests and, yet, you two are idling away and enjoying your tea," she said sneeringly.

"Auntie." Qiu Mu-Cheng greeted Han Yue politely, even though she was surprised to see her aunt at their table.

Han Yue sneered and said, "Don't 'auntie' me. Quick, tell your useless husband to go to the warehouse and carry some more chairs into the hall."

Han Yue's tone was haughty, as if she was talking to a servant.

Qiu Mu-Cheng said nothing. And Ye Fan

continued to sip his tea. But Shen Fei blew his top immediately.

“How dare you!”

“Who the hell do you think you are? How dare a bitch like you tell someone like Mr. Ye to go carry chairs?”

“You are just a nobody!”

“How dare you offend Mr. Ye! Are you tired of living?”

Shen Fei slapped the table, jumped out of his seat and started to scold Han Yue.

“What… What do you think you are doing?”

Han Yue thought that Shen Fei was about to hit her and was frightened out of her wits. Her face paled considerably. And her body trembled so much that she nearly collapsed onto the floor.

 Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.

 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

 Send a Gift to the Writer!

Han Yue was not afraid of Ye Fan or Qiu Mu-Cheng. But she dared not go against Shen Fei.

No matter how low Shen Fei had fallen, he was still the young master of a three-digit billion yuan company and the son of Shen Jiu-Yi, the boss of Shen Group. Considering his status and background, it was only natural for Han Yue to panic. She hurriedly took several steps back.

“Mom, what’s wrong?”

The noise in the courtyard had attracted everybody’s attention. All at once, Han Hai, Han Yu and the other Hans came out to see what was going on.

When Han Yue saw that she had numbers on her side, she got bolder. But she did not lash out at Shen Fei. Instead, she turned to Ye Fan and started scolding him.

“Ye Fan, how dare you put on airs when you are just a live-in son-in-law?”

“You refused to go carry the chairs, and you even told Young Master Shen to hit me?”

“What a vicious and unfilial person you are!”

What?

The Hans understood what had been going on when they heard this, and they turned to glare at Ye Fan. “You bastard! How dare you raise your hand against your elder? Apologize right now!”

But before Ye Fan could respond, Shen Fei burst into laughter. He turned to look at Han Hai and sneered, “Who do you think you are? How dare you tell Mr. Ye to apologize?”

“You~” Shen Fei’s retort caused Han Hai to turn green with anger.

But, due to Shen Fei’s background, Han Hai did not dare to cross the line with him.

“Young Master Shen, you are our guest so you should behave like one. This is our family matter, so I hope you will not interfere,” Han Hai said heavily.

But Shen Fei crossed his arms and snorted. “Mr. Ye’s problem is also my problem. Anyone who insults Mr. Ye is an

enemy of the Shen family.”

Back in Yunzhou, Shen Fei had always acted fearlessly. And now, with Ye Fan on his side, it was only natural for him to behave even more recklessly.

Shen Fei could not care less who was in front of him. He was determined to disrespect and challenge his opponent!

When he heard this, Han Hai paled a little. He could not afford to offend a powerful family like the Shens. But what else could he do but put on a brave front?

“Mr. Shen, you can’t go around bullying people.”

However, Shen Fei refused to back down. “Well, I enjoy bullying people. What are you going to do about it?”

Pa Pa Pa~

Just then, the sound of clapping rang out from the hall.

The person clapping was Mo Wen-Xuan. As he walked out of the hall, a cold smile was dancing on his lips.

“Young Master Shen, I have no idea you have so much influence?”

“Do you really think you can do whatever you like here, just because you have the Shen family behind you?”

“Do you really think none of us here can get the better of you?” Mo Wen-Xuan asked coldly, a dangerous light glinting in his eyes.

As he looked at Mo Wen-Xuan, Shen Fei shook his head and chuckled. “Even if there is someone here who can get the better of me, that person is definitely not you.”

“A few decades ago, the Mo family of Jingzhou might have been able to compete with the Shens of Yunzhou. But right now, you are just a family of fallen nobles. So how dare you brag in front of me! Do you think you have that right?” Shen Fei snorted disdainfully.

“Oh yeah? Then, may I ask, what about me?” Just then, the young master of Jiucheng Holdings, Chen Hai-Sheng, stepped forward and challenged Shen Fei.

“Count me in!” And Liu Zhao-Ran, the general manager of Donghua Industries, also stepped forward to challenge Shen Fei.

Within the hall, Lei Ao-Ting had been quietly enjoying his tea while his two friends were picking a fight with Shen Fei. But at this moment, he suddenly broke into a smile. And then after quaffing his tea in one gulp, he hollered haughtily, “Me too!”

What?

After Lei Ao-Ting had spoken, the entire courtyard went silent.

“Even Lei Ao-Ting is joining the fight!”

“This is going to be big.”

“The Shens are rich and powerful. But even though he is not afraid of Chen Hai-Sheng or Liu Zhao-Ran, there is no way he can go up against Lei Ao-Ting!”

“Young Master Shen has come across an unexpectedly strong opponent this time.”

And one after another, the crowd exclaimed feelingly. After all, Master Lei

San of Jingzhou was too well known.

He was the kingpin who controlled the city of Jingzhou, a personage on the same level as Master Li Er of Yunzhou and Wang Jie-Xi of Haozhou.

The Leis were not only powerful, but theirs was a family that had been around in Jiangdong for a long time. One of their previous family heads had even become the Lord of Jiangdong, but the family fell into decline after that. However, the Lei family still held Jingzhou as their territory.

And as the crown prince of the Lei family, Lei Ao-Ting could easily crush Shen Fei a hundred times over.

Just as everyone had expected, when Lei Ao-Ting joined his friends, Shen Fei paled and went quiet.

This caused Mo Wen-Xuan to burst out laughing. “What’s wrong, Young Master Shen?”

“Are you scared?”

“Come on, don’t be scared! Continue to brag! You were so awesome just now!”

“Who the hell do you think you are?”

“How dare you try to show off in front of us?”

“You should go to Jingzhou and ask around. Everybody there knows who are the Four Princes of Jingzhou. How dare a Yunzhou bumpkin like you pick a fight with us?”

Mo Wen-Xuan looked at Shen Fei and sneered.

After lashing out at Shen Fei, Mo Wen-Xuan turned to look at Ye Fan, who was still drinking his tea.

“And you! You are just a live-in son-in-law! A weakling! Do you really think you are somebody just because Young Master Shen is here for you? Let me tell you this. In terms of background and status, any of my three brothers here can easily crush this wastrel from the Shen family,” Mo Wen-Xuan said disdainfully.

“Do you think you two bumpkins can act tough in front of us?”

Han Yu got smug when she saw how

scared Shen Fei had become. And then she raised her voice at Qiu Mu-Cheng, “Cousin, look at your husband!”

“He is just a piece of trash! But he actually had the audacity to offend my mother?”

“If you know what’s good for you, then apologize to my mother right now! Otherwise, you will not be walking out of this house under your own power!”

Han Yu leaned against her husband, and scolded the couple as she looked down at them.

Meanwhile, Lei Ao-Ting and his friends were looking on with sneers on their faces and their hands stuck in their pockets. They looked like they were enjoying the show that was taking place right before their eyes.

In the end, Lei Ao-Ting laughed and said, “Heh, I thought he was a somebody, since Young Master Shen was standing up for him. But it turns out he is just a useless live-in son-in-law! And a poor weakling! Young Master Shen, how low have you fallen? How could you befriend a piece of trash like him?”

“Young man, if you know what’s good for you, you had better apologize to Wen-Xuan’s mother-in-law. Otherwise, you will not be able to walk out of this place under your own power.”

But, in the face of their threats, Ye Fan remained composed and continued to enjoy his tea. Qiu Mu-Cheng, on the other hand, had turned pale and was advising Ye Fan to apologize.

“Ye Fan, we can’t afford to offend these people.” Qiu Mu-Cheng was panicking inwardly.

But Ye Fan turned a deaf ear to her pleas and continued to remain composed.

“Hahaha~” In the next moment, Shen Fei suddenly burst out laughing.

“Mm? What are you laughing at?” Lei Ao-Ting and the others frowned, as they glared at Shen Fei.

“Haha~ I am laughing because you are ignorant! And because you are unable to recognize the master in front of you!”

“Yes, in terms of family background, I can’t

be compared to Young Master Lei, the son of Master Lei San. In the whole of Jiangdong, there are few who can measure up to him in terms of family background."

"But just because I can't get the better of you, it doesn't mean Mr. Ye can't either." / "But just because I can't get the better of you, it doesn't mean Mr. Ye can't get the better of you."

"Very soon, you will know what kind of behemoth you have tried to pick a fight with," Shen Fei said heavily.

After a short moment of bewilderment, Lei Ao-Ting and the others burst into laughter.

"Hahaha~"

"Are you talking about him?"

"This live-in son-in-law?"

"This poverty-stricken weakling?"

"Hahaha, are you telling a joke?"

Lei Ao-Ting laughed. Chen Hai-Sheng laughed. Mo Wen-Xuan laughed.

Han Yu, Han Hai and the other Hans laughed.

Their laughter was unrestrained, as if they had just heard the world's funniest joke.

But, in the midst of the loud mocking laughter, the main door to the Han's family house was once again pushed open!

And then several middle-aged men in suits appeared in front of everyone. The moved with gravitas and radiated an extraordinary presence. The dignified and authoritative look on their faces suggested that they were men used to command.

When they spotted Ye Fan, they immediately bowed and, in the next moment, their greetings thundered through the air.

"Song Shi-De, the chairman of Shunde Group of Haozhou, is here to celebrate Madam Chu's birthday! May you always remain youthful!"

"Lin Feng-Hua, the head of Huaxing Heavy Industries of Fenghai, is here to celebrate Madam Chu's birthday! I wish Madam Chu many happy returns of the day!"

“Shen Jiu-Yi, the head of the Shen family and chairman of Shen Group of Yunzhou, is here to celebrate Madam Chu’s birthday! May you always enjoy good health!”


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Wait! I Have Something to Say!


Send a Gift to the Writer!

“Song Shi-De, the chairman of Shunde Group of Haozhou, is here to celebrate Madam Chu’s birthday! May you always remain youthful!”

“Lin Feng-Hua, the head of Huaxing Heavy Industries of Fenghai, is here to celebrate Madam Chu’s birthday! I wish Madam Chu many happy returns of the day!”

“Shen Jiu-Yi, the head of the Shen family and chairman of Shen Group of Yunzhou, is here to celebrate Madam Chu’s birthday! May you always enjoy good health!”

Their reverent greetings reverberated through the courtyard.

When Shen Jiu-Yi and company walked into the courtyard, they immediately spotted Ye Fan, who was seated at a table and drinking his tea. Without another word, the trio hurried forward, all the while pushing aside all bystanders who were standing between them and their goal. Even a VIP like Lei Ao-Ting was pulled aside by Shen Jiu-Yi.

Finally, under the shocked stares of the guests, the three magnates bowed to Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng. And the sound of

the trio’s respectful greetings shook the guests to their core.

At first, Lei Ao-Ting and company had felt nothing but disdain when they heard Song Shi-De’s and Lin Feng-Hua’s names.

After all, the two businessmen were not very well-known, so Lei Ao-Ting and company had reckoned that they need not take the Song-Lin pair seriously.

But the young men’s expression had changed when Shen Jiu-Yi’s name was announced.

“How...How is it possible?”

“Why is Shen Jiu-Yi here?”

“He actually came for that live-in son-in-law?”

Finally, Lei Ao-Ting was starting to take this seriously. And the mocking smile on his face was replaced by a frown.

Lei Ao-Ting was no stranger to Shen Jiu-Yi’s name; he had even seen the latter a few times.

Once, he had followed his father to meet Master Li Er in Yunzhou. At that time, Shen Jiu-Yi had been standing right beside Master Li Er.

Shen Jiu-Yi's position in Yunzhou was probably only just below Li Er's and Xu Lei's.

"Whoa, what is going on?"

"Shen Jiu-Yi is really here in Jianghai?"

"He is here to support Ye Fan?"

"Damn! Awesome!"

"Could this live-in son-in-law be some kind of big shot?"

Everyone present was shocked.

Han Hai and the other Hans all had dumbfounded expressions, as they stood there in a daze.

Madam Han had been sitting in the hall, but she could still hear Shen Jiu-Yi's name being mentioned. Naturally, she was surprised and, right away, she yelled out to her son. "Han Hai! What is going on? Has

the head of the Shen family, Shen Jiu-Yi, arrived?”

“He is a VIP guest!”

“Quick! He is here to celebrate my birthday. Quick, invite him into the hall. How could we let him sit in the courtyard?”

The old lady was in the throes of excitement. Her birthday banquet was turning out to be a truly eminent affair. Even a bigwig like Shen Jiu-Yi had come all the way from Yunzhou to celebrate her birthday. Madam Han felt rather flattered.

But Han Hai’s eye twitched a little before he answered his mother. “Mom, let… let us observe the situation for a bit first. Perhaps he is not here for your birthday.”

As he looked at the bigwigs who were celebrating Qiu Mu-Cheng’s birthday, Han Hai could not help feeling perplexed.

What is going on?

Isn’t today mom’s birthday?

When did it turn into Mu-Cheng’s birthday?

Meanwhile, Qiu Mu-Cheng was panicking and trying to return the presents Shen Jiu-Yi and the others had given her.

“Mu-Cheng, accept them. Mr. Shen and the others just want to give you a little something,” Ye Fan said nonchalantly.

And then he started serving tea to Shen Jiu-Yi and company. “Mr. Shen, Mr. Song. Please have a seat. This is thoughtful of you.”

“Hahaha~ Mr. Chu, you are standing on ceremony. It is our honor to be able to celebrate your wife’s birthday for her. We have already heard stories about Miss Qiu’s peerless beauty, and today we can see that the stories are true after all! Compared to her, the lady in the red dress over there is just an ugly duckling, no matter how much makeup she has on.” Song Shi-De laughed heartily.

And Han Yu, who was the lady in the red dress, nearly had a stroke when she heard this.

“Hmph, what are you getting smug about?”

“What’s the big deal about some unknown

low-class businessmen?”

“My husband is still way better than them,” Han Yu said disdainfully.

Han Yue and the others nodded in agreement. “That’s right, that’s right. Look at that lowlife acting like he’s some bigshot. His guests are just some small-time businessmen. They can’t be compared with Wen-Xuan’s guests.”

“Take Hai-Sheng and Young Master Lei for example. Either of them can easily scare the bejesus out of those businessmen.”

And Mo Wen-Xuan laughed mockingly.

“Okay. They are just a bunch of bumpkins sitting together. Why pay them any attention?”

“Mm, Wen-Xuan is right. What Shunde Group? I bet it is just some two-bit company. I have never heard of it before. And that Shen Jiu-Yi. Who knows if that is the real Shen Jiu-Yi?”

“Maybe he is a hired actor?”

Chen Hai-Sheng, Liu Zhao-Ran and the

others erupted in mocking laughter.

“Yes! He must be a fake!”

“A hired actor!”

“We have never seen Shen Jiu-Yi before. That piece of trash knows this. So he hired an actor to impersonate Mr. Shen.” Han Yue was burning with jealousy. She would never believe that a piece of trash like Ye Fan could get the support of a personage like Shen Jiu-Yi.

Just then, the roar of car engine drifted in from outside the house once again.

And very soon, several more people pushed open the door and entered the courtyard.

“Liu Qing-Cheng, the head of the Liu family of Nanquan, is here to celebrate Madam Chu’s birthday. I wish you a very happy birthday~”

“Chen Qing-Quan, the chairman of Jiucheng Holdings of Jingzhou, is here to celebrate Madam Chu’s birthday...”

“Liu Biao, the chairman of Donghua

Industries of Jingzhou, is here to celebrate Madam Chu's birthday. May happiness always be with you~"

What?

The chairman of Jiucheng Holdings, Chen Qing-Quan?

"Hai-Sheng, he is your father?"

The chairman of Donghua Industries, Liu Biao?

"Zhao-Ran, he is your uncle?"

Damn~

Why have they come?

The Hans were once again shocked when they heard the names of the latest arrivals. Meanwhile, the onlookers who had gathered outside were staring at the scene inside the courtyard, their eyes bulging with envy.

What had happened to the Han family this year? Did Madam Han's grandson get promoted to become the city's mayor? Or perhaps, had Han Yue's son-in-law finally

become the head of the Mo family?

What on earth was going on? The birthday well-wishers this year were on a much higher level than the guests who had come last year!

In the past, many guests had shown up to support Mo Wen-Xuan, but they were all just ne'er-do-well friends of his; wastrel sons of rich families who had no real power.

The guests who had just arrived, however, were not wastrel kids like Lei Ao-Ting or Chen Hai-Sheng. They were family heads and company chairmen; the people who held the reins of power.

Han Yu turned to her husband and asked shakily, “Wen-Xuan, did… did you invite Uncle Chen Qing-Quan?”

However, Mo Wen-Xuan was just as bewildered as his wife. His whole body was shaking as he replied, “I… I didn’t invite him.”

Mo Wen-Xuan knew his own limits. Given his current status, he was able to fool around with other rich kids like Chen Hai-

Sheng. But he knew that the people who held real power would never pay him any attention.

So he most certainly did not have the guts to send personal invitations to those movers and shakers.

“Hai-Sheng, did you ask your father to come?” Mo Wen-Xuan turned around and asked his friend.

“No… No, I didn’t.” Chen Hai-Sheng was ready to burst into tears. His father had already told him not to associate with Mo Wen-Xuan. Today, Chen Hai-Sheng had sneaked out of the house in order to attend the birthday banquet, so there was no way he would bring his father with him.

Meanwhile, Liu Zhao-Ran was dumbstruck to see his uncle here.

Both Chen Hai-Sheng and Liu Zhao-Ran would never have thought that their father and uncle would show up at this banquet.

For whom had they come?

Madam Han?

Impossible. She was just an old woman who was ready to drop dead at any moment. If it were not for Mo Wen-Xuan's invitation, none of the Jingzhou princes would bother to show up.

As for Han Hai and his son...

That was even more unlikely. In the eyes of the elites, both father and son were good-for-nothings. Han Hai was just a worker and Han He was merely some low-level functionary.

What about Mo Wen-Xuan?

But Mo Wen-Xuan was just a nobody; the scion of a family of fallen nobles. He was able to get the support of the Jingzhou princes because they were his playmates, but it would be impossible for him to influence the real movers and shakers.

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Wait! I Have Something to Say!

Send a Gift to the Writer!

No matter how much Liu Zhao-Ran and Chen Hai-Sheng racked their brains, they could not figure out why their uncle and father had come to this banquet.

Both Chen Qing-Quan and Liu Biao were important figures who held the reins of power in their respective families. They were completely different from wastrels like Liu Zhao-Ran and Chen Hai-Sheng, who did nothing but fool around.

It could be said that Chen Qing-Quan and Liu Biao were the backbones of their families. They were the reason why the wastrels like Chen Hai-Sheng and Liu Zhao-Ran were able to go around flaunting their power.

Meanwhile, just as Chen Hai-Sheng and company were feeling flummoxed, Madam Han was shivering with excitement inside the hall. She could no longer sit still.

“Hahaha, Mr. Chen and Mr. Liu are both here?”

“They must really think highly of me!”

“Haha, Wen-Xuan, stop standing around. Quick, go out and welcome them!”

“They are here for you.”

“Stop! Wait for me. I will go with you.”

“Since Mr. Chen and Mr. Liu are doing me the honor of coming to my birthday banquet, I must show them the utmost courtesy.”

Just then, Madam Han was overwhelmed with joy. She thought that, this time, she was going to truly shine.

Chen Qing-Quan was the family head of the Chen family of Jingzhou, while Liu Biao was the boss of Donghua Industries.

The top honchos of the two families had personally come to Dongyang Town to celebrate the birthday of an old lady like her, so naturally Madam Han was both surprised and panicked.

One could say she was overwhelmed by the favor she was being shown.

“Wen-Xuan, excellent. Excellent. You have done well.”

“You managed to invite a VIP like Mr. Chen! It is most fortunate for our family

that you have married my granddaughter~”

“You are completely different from that good-for-nothing who keeps causing trouble for me.” Madam Han praised Mo Wen-Xuan to the skies and, when she compared Han Yu’s husband with Qiu Mu-Cheng’s, her dislike for Ye Fan deepened.

“Oh yes, Wen-Xuan. Mr. Chen has come here to support you, so why are you still standing around?”

“Quick, bring your grandmother to welcome him.”

Just then, Han Yue was flushed red with agitation. It was time for her family to truly flaunt themselves!

As she was hurrying her son-in-law forward, she turned to look smugly at Ye Fan, who was still nonchalantly drinking his tea.

Song Shi-De? Shen Jiu-Yi? Nobody knew yet if they were the real deal. But even if they were, next to the bigwigs like Chen Qing-Quan and Liu Biao, they were nobodies.

“Qiu Mu-Cheng, since you have married that piece of trash, your family will always be beneath me!”

Mo Wen-Xuan’s mother-in-law, Han Yue, was eeling rather smug.

But Mo Wen-Xuan was not feeling confident at all.

He knew he did not have the clout to invite bigwigs like Chen Qing-Quan. But at this banquet, no one else could either.

And so, as if he was setting off on a journey to find the Holy Grail, he stepped forward to welcome the new arrivals. Along the way, both Madam Han and his mother-in-law pushed him from behind.

“Uncle Chen. Uncle Liu. You are here. Why didn’t you tell me you were coming? If I had known, I would have welcomed you personally.” Mo Wen-Xuan put on a respectful smile on his face as he greeted his elders.

And Madam Han was smiling most radiantly as she tried to take the gifts from Chen Qing-Quan’s and Liu Biao’s hands.

The gifts from the two VIPs must be extremely valuable. Suddenly, Madam Han had the thought that she was going to make a killing this year.

“Mr. Chen. Mr. Liu. You are standing on ceremony. I am already very happy that you are able to attend my birthday banquet. There is no need for you to bring gifts as well.”

Madam Han had a limited store of perfunctory lines for such occasions.

But Mo Wen-Xuan’s and Madam Han’s warm welcome was met with cold reception. Chen Qing-Quan and the others frowned and looked at the pair as if they were idiots.

“Where did these idiots come from? Get out of our way!”

“Your birthday banquet? Who told you Mr. Chen is here for your birthday?”

“You are just a stupid old biddy! Are you worthy of that honor?”

Just then, one of Chen Qing-Quan’s bodyguards started lashing out at Madam

Han and Mo Wen-Xuan. As the surrounding guests looked on in bewilderment, he pushed the presumptuous pair aside.

Mo Wen-Xuan was dumbfounded, and he remained standing in a daze.

Pa~

But in the next moment, he was sent flying away by a slap from the bodyguard.

“Can’t you read the mood? Why are you still standing in our way?”

“Get lost!”

After the bodyguard had cleared the way, Chen Qing-Quan and company continued walking forward without sparing a second glance at Madam Han. And then, they stopped right in front of Ye Fan.

“Mr. Chu, I hope we are not late.”

“This must be your wife. She is a beautiful woman and you are a talented man. The both of you are a match made in heaven.”

“This is just a little something from us.

Please accept it, madam.”

The moment Chen Qing-Quan and company saw Ye Fan, the authoritative expression on their faces was replaced by reverent smiles. And they bowed slightly at the waist as they presented their gifts to Qiu Mu-Cheng.

When the surrounding crowd in the courtyard saw this, they went quiet.

Everyone started looking at one another. Han Hai, Han He and the other Hans were all dumbfounded.

“For… For them again?”

“But… But why?”

Everyone was almost driven mad with confusion. Their mouths were agape, and sharp intakes of breath could be heard.

They could not understand why VIPs, such as the bosses of Jiucheng Holdings and Donghua Industries, were celebrating a birthday for Ye Fan and his wife.

“Damn. This live-in son-in-law has surpassed all our expectations!”

The onlookers were so frightened that they nearly wet their pants. Everything that had just happened seemed so fantastical to them.

As for Mo Wen-Xuan, Han Yue and Han Yu, they all had the most terrible expression on their faces. Just then, they felt so down that they were almost prepared to kill themselves.

Ye Fan had given them one good slap right in their faces.

The arrival of important guests like Chen Hai-Sheng had allowed Han Yue and her daughter to feel smug, and thrust Mo Wen-Xuan into the limelight. But immediately afterward, magnates from all over the land had come to pay their respects to Ye Fan and his wife.

Chen Hai-Sheng, the sole heir of the Chen family, was indeed a powerful figure.

And Liu Zhao-Ran, the young master of the Liu family, was definitely somebody to be reckoned with.

However, in front of their family elders, the youngsters were just nobodies!

So in this situation, Mo Wen-Xuan's friends were thoroughly overwhelmed by Ye Fan's guests.

When they thought about this, Mo Wen-Xuan and the Hans blushed bright red from embarrassment. Just then, there was no trace left of the disdain and haughtiness they had displayed earlier.

They just looked thoroughly defeated.

"Han Hai, what is going on?"

"Aren't they here for Wen-Xuan? Why aren't they talking to him? Why are they paying their respects to that good-for-nothing son-in-law?"

"Also, aren't they here to celebrate my birthday? Why are they congratulating Qiu Mu-Cheng instead? Why are they putting my gifts over there?"

"Quick, Han Hai. Go bring those gifts into the hall."

"They belong to our family. We must not let that useless son-in-law steal them from us!"

Madam Han was an old lady after all, and could not process information fast enough. So when the guests ignored her and went to pay their respects to Ye Fan, she grew anxious. That was why she wanted her son to hurry up and get the gifts back.

“Mom, will you just freaking shut up?”

“Can you not see what is going on?”

“They are not here for Wen-Xuan, whom you are so proud of. Neither are they here to celebrate your birthday.”

“They are here for Ye Fan and they have come to celebrate Mu-Cheng’s birthday.”

“This has got nothing to do with you~”

“You want me to bring the gifts in? I can’t bring myself to be as shameless as you!” Han Hai was so angry that he started shivering.


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Wait! I Have Something to Say!


Send a Gift to the Writer!

Qiu Mu-Cheng had already lost herself in a daze. Standing in front of her were some of the richest magnates in Jiangdong and, in her hands, she was holding some very priceless gifts. This all felt like a dream to her.

Her brain buzzed and her mind went blank. She could not figure out what was going on. Panic filled her eyes as she looked around her in a daze.

Could it be that these men were really here for Ye Fan?

But how was this possible?

Even Qiu Mu-Cheng could not bring herself to believe this. Earlier, she had been surprised by Shen Jiu-Yi's visit, but it was still within the realm of believability.

Perhaps the Shens had come to repay Ye Fan's favor.

But what about Chen Qing-Quan and Liu Biao?

They were two of the richest men in Jingzhou!

Nobody knew just how shocked Qiu Mu-Cheng was feeling at this moment. As she was receiving the gifts from Chen Qing-Quan and company, she could not even muster up the courage to turn them down. She simply sat there in a daze.

At this moment, Shen Fei was feeling smug. After a while, he looked challengingly at Mo Wen-Xuan and company. The rich brats from Jingzhou, who had earlier been flaunting their power and treating Ye Fan disdainfully, were now thoroughly frightened out of their wits.

Chen Hai-Sheng and Liu Zhao-Ran had realized that things were not going to turn out well so, at this moment, they were trying to sneak out of the house.

“Eh, don’t go away?”

“Weren’t you two acting all high and mighty earlier? Why are you like this now?”

Shen Fei walked over to block their way. And then, he continued to question them.

“What now, Young Master Chen? And Young Master Liu?”

“Now, do you still think Mr. Ye is a country bumpkin?”

“Now, do you still think Mr. Ye is insignificant and low class?”

Shen Fei laughed haughtily. His rapid series of questions rolled over Chen Hai-Sheng and Liu Zhao-Ran like a thunderstorm, and the pair paled immediately.

“Mm? Hai-Sheng?”

“Zhao-Ran?”

“Why are you here?”

Chen Qing-Quan and Liu Biao were slightly surprised to find their son and nephew there.

“Fine, you guys come over here.”

“We will pay our respect to Mr. Chu together!”

It seemed that the two magnates wanted to introduce their son and nephew to Ye Fan.

But Ye Fan put down his tea cup and laughed coldly. “Mr. Chen, please don’t. Your son just called me a low-class country bumpkin. Considering my low status, it would be inappropriate for Young Master Chen and Young Master Liu to pay their respect to me.”

“Also, Mr. Chen and Mr. Liu, please take back your gifts. I am not worthy of them.”

The expression on Chen Qing-Quan’s and Liu Biao’s faces changed instantly. Right away, they turned to glare at Chen Hai-Sheng and Liu Zhao-Ran.

“You unfilial son! What is going on here?”

“Tell me! Now!”

Chen Hai-Sheng and Liu Zhao-Ran were so frightened by the outburst that they nearly wet their pants. The pair kept their heads bowed and dared not speak a single word.

“Speak!”

Chen Qing-Quan screamed again.

Finally, cowed by their elders’ authoritative presence, both Chen Hai-Sheng and Liu

Zhao-Ran broke down and revealed what had just happened.

As Chen Qing-Quan and Liu Biao listened to the recounting, they grew more and more sombre. When the narration reached the part where the Jingzhou princes called Ye Fan a country bumpkin and forced him to apologize, Chen Qing-Quan finally exploded with rage. He walked over and kicked his son to the floor.

“You unfilial son! How many times must I tell you not to hang around that wastrel from the Mo family?”

“Now see what happened?”

“Do you know how much trouble you have caused me? And it is all because of that wastrel from the Mo family!”

Chen Qing-Quan was furious. After all, Ye Fan was the very person Master Lei San was trying to curry favor with!

Today, in order to show how sincere he was about apologizing, Master Lei San had ordered all of them to come over to prepare the way for him.

But it had never dawned on Chen Qing-Quan that their meticulously thought-out plan to win over Ye Fan would be wrecked by his own son.

“You bastard! Do you know what you have done? Not only have you screwed yourself over, but our entire family will also be damned along with you!”

Chen Qing-Quan was not sensationalizing the situation.

Since Chen Hai-Sheng had offended Ye Fan, it was possible that Master Lei San might decide to affirm his loyalty to Ye Fan by removing the Chen family from Jingzhou.

“You bastard! Bastard~”

Meanwhile, Liu Biao also found himself in the throes of rage. Echoing Chen Qing-Quan’s example, he walked over and gave his nephew a beating.

It was a most terrible ordeal for Chen Hai-Sheng and Liu Zhao-Ran. After just a short while, their faces were completely smeared with blood. And all they could do was wail for mercy as they laid sprawled

on the floor.

“Bastard! Get over there and apologize to Mr. Chu!”

“And from now on, if I find you associating with that wastrel Mo Wen-Xuan, I will not just break your leg! I will also drive you out of the family!”

Chen Qing-Quan was thoroughly enraged.

Both Chen Hai-Sheng and Liu Zhao-Ran did not dare to go against their elders, so they kept on promising to never associate with the idiotic Mo Wen-Xuan.

At this moment, the person they loathed most was undoubtedly Mo Wen-Xuan. After all, if it were not for him, they would not have gotten beaten up.

Meanwhile, Mo Wen-Xuan had turned pale after hearing Chen Qing-Quan’s opinion of him. He tottered a few steps and nearly collapsed onto the floor.

It had never dawned on him that he was just a good-for-nothing in the eyes of his elders.

“Uncle Chen. Uncle Liu. Hai-Sheng and Zhao-Ran are already adults. It is unreasonable for you to interfere with their personal lives like this. And how could you hit them for the sake of a live-in son-in-law? Don’t you think you are debasing your own children?”

After witnessing the brutal beating of his good friends, the hitherto quiet Lei Ao-Ting decided to step forward and speak up for them.

Because both Chen Qing-Quan and Liu Biao were his father’s underlings, Lei Ao-Ting felt no fear when he faced them.

“Damn! I was wondering how my son got fearless enough to go against Mr. Chu! So you were the one behind him!”

“Lei Ao-Ting, listen to me. You had better go and apologize to Mr. Chu right now. Otherwise, you are going to get it later on.”

After warning Lei Ao-Ting, Chen Qing-Quan pulled his son over to Ye Fan and kept begging for forgiveness.

When Ye Fan saw this, he decided not to make things difficult for them and agreed

to let both father and son leave.

“You unfilial son! Get out of here now!”

Chen Qing-Quan and Liu Biao lashed out at their juniors once more. And the two wastrel children felt enormously relieved, as if they had received a pardon. They did not dare to stay any longer and prepared to leave right away. But before departing, they went back to the hall and retrieved the gifts they had given to Madam Han. And then, right in front of everyone, they presented the gifts to Qiu Mu-Cheng.

“Thank...thank you, Mr. Chu. And Madam too. I wish you a happy birthday.”

“Wish… Wish you a happy birthday~” The two wastrel children had been thoroughly frightened out of their wits. After stammering their birthday greetings and presenting their gifts to Qiu Mu-Cheng, the pair departed right away. They did not want to risk getting another beating from their elders.

When Madam Han saw this, her whole body trembled with rage and her face turned green with anger.

The gifts that rightfully belonged to her had been taken away and given to Qiu Mu-Cheng.

This made Madam Han feel the rage of having suffered humiliation and disdain.

“To think that an old lady like myself can’t even be compared to a young one like her?”

Chen Hai-Sheng’s and Liu Zhao-Ran’s action had thoroughly angered Madam Han. And she was further enraged when she saw the VIP guests, who had previously ignored her, fussing over Qiu Mu-Cheng and Ye Fan. This was supposed to be her birthday banquet, but someone else had stolen her limelight.

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“Dad, what is going on?”

“How come Mu-Cheng’s family has so much clout? How come they have so many guests coming down to support them?”

“Could it be that Ye Fan is actually a VIP?”

Just then, Han He was ignoring Madam Han’s unhappiness and musing over the scene in front of him.

“Hmph, what VIP? I think they are just borrowing clout from the Qius.”
Meanwhile, Han Yue continued to find all sorts of reasons to demean Ye Fan and his wife.

In the past, Han Yue’s and Qiu Mu-Cheng’s families had never gotten along. And today, Qiu Mu-Cheng had caused Han Yue’s family to lose face. This naturally deepened the feud between the two families. So at this moment, Han Yue was doing her best to badmouth Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng in front of Madam Han.

“Mom, I think Ye Fan and Mu-Cheng are just out to humiliate you?”

“Look at how many guests they have

invited today. My niece probably enjoys high status in the Qiu family. I bet she gets hefty monthly allowances from them."

"But look at what she gave you for your birthday. A few catties of cheap tea leaves."

"I am afraid you no longer have a place in their hearts."

"And today is the day of your birthday banquet. But they are going around telling people that it is Qiu Mu-Cheng's birthday. Look, they have gathered so many guests here to celebrate her birthday."

"What is the meaning of this? Undoubtedly, they are doing this because they are dissatisfied with you. They are demonstrating their influence in order to put us in our place."

"They want us to lose face in front of all our guests!" said Han Yue as she fanned the flames of discord.

The more Madam Han listened, the angrier she got. Finally, she got so worked up that she threw her tea cup onto the floor.

“This Qiu Mu-Cheng is such an unfilial child! An unfilial child! She is worse than a beast~”

“What a traitorous child~”

Madam Han was so furious that her whole body started shaking.

“That’s right, grandmother. An unfilial person like her should kneel down in front of you and beg for forgiveness!” Han Yu interjected.

But, just then, Han Fei-Fei spoke up in her cousin’s defense. “No way. Mu-Cheng is not that sort of person. Mu-Cheng has always been a filial person. It must be Ye Fan. That bastard made her do this.”

“Ye Fan is way too bold. He even dared to beat up Sheng Tian. There is nothing he wouldn’t do. He must have encouraged Mu-Cheng to do this,” Han Fei-Fei declared loudly.

“Mm?”

“Sheng Tian? Which Sheng Tian?”

When Han Hai heard this, he was taken

aback for a moment. He turned around immediately and looked seriously at his daughter.

“The Sheng Tian of Sheng Tian Restaurant.”

What?

“You mean the boss of Sheng Tian Restaurant?”

“That live-in son-in-law beat up Sheng Tian?”

Han Hai’s eyes bulged in shock and his face turned pale immediately.

“Han Hai, what’s wrong? Is this Sheng Tian someone important?” Madam Han asked. Han Hai’s expression had aroused her suspicion.

“No. He is not just somebody important. He is very powerful! Powerful enough to make anyone despair!”

“Sheng Tian is Chen Tian-Jiao’s underling. And Chen Tian-Jiao’s uncle is the King of Jiangdong, Chen Ao!”

What?!!

All the Hans were shocked when Chen Ao's name was mentioned.

Han He stared with wide-opened eyes. Han Yu's face turned pale. And even Mo Wen-Xuan started trembling.

As for Madam Han, she was so shocked that she cried out immediately.

"Sheng Tian is working for Master Ao?"

"Wretch! That wretch!"

"Go. Go get those two wretches in here right now!"

"Bastards! How dare they offend Master Ao's underling?"

The old lady was so utterly shocked that she started screaming in rage.

Meanwhile, Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng were chatting away with their guests.

Han Yu suddenly walked over and said coldly, "Qiu Mu-Cheng. Ye Fan. Grandmother wants you two to go inside."

Qiu Mu-Cheng was taken aback. Why did her grandmother ask for them?

“We are happy to stay in the courtyard. So there is no need for us to go into the hall.” Clearly, Qiu Mu-Cheng was still unhappy with her grandmother’s earlier decision to make Ye Fan eat in the courtyard.

“Don’t ask why. If you still care about grandmother, you will go in.” After saying her piece, Han Yu turned around and went back into the hall.

In the end, Qiu Mu-Cheng followed her cousin into the hall. And, of course, Ye Fan went with her because he was worried about letting her go alone.

As for Shen Jiu-Yi and company, Ye Fan told them to wait in the courtyard.

“You wretch! Get down on your knees!”

Madam Han’s rage-filled voice rang out in the hall, the moment Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng arrived.

“Grandmother, I don’t understand?” Panic raced across Qiu Mu-Cheng’s face as she looked doubtfully at her grandmother.

“You don’t understand? I think you are pretending not to understand!”

“Fei-Fei has already told us everything. That husband of yours went and beat up Sheng Tian.”

“Are you going to deny this?” Han Yue asked angrily.

Qiu Mu-Cheng turned pale immediately and then bowed her head.

“How dare you!”

“Do you know what kind of person is Sheng Tian? He is an underling of Chen Ao, the King of Jiangdong! Do you know what kind of calamity you have invited upon our family by offending him?”

“A word from Chen Ao and your cousin could lose his job as town mayor!”

“The both of you are too reckless! How dare you assault Chen Ao’s underling?”

“You bastards! Are you trying to do us in?”

“If my son’s future is affected, how are you going to compensate us?” Han Hai

screamed as he glared at Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng with red-veined eyes.

Just then, Han Hai was shaking in rage. He wished he could just kick the trouble-making Ye Fan to death.

“You bastards! Why aren’t you saying anything?”

“Chen Ao. He is the King of Jiangdong and the top honcho of Jianghai. He can affect the path of your cousin’s career, exercise influence over your uncle’s business and even decide the rise and decline of Wen-Xuan’s family in Jingzhou.”

“We can only hope to be able to curry favor with a VIP like him. But look at what you have done? How dare you offend a VIP like him?”

“Do you realize what you have done? A person like Chen Ao can easily destroy your cousin’s and uncle’s careers. He can also make it difficult for our family to advance in Jianghai.”

“Can you bear the responsibility for these consequences?”

As she was scolding Ye Fan and his wife, Madam Han got so worked up that she slapped the table.

And then, it was Han Yu's turn to deliver the scolding. "Qiu Mu-Cheng, do you know what kind of calamity your marriage to this ignorant fool has brought upon us? Master Ao of Jiangdong. My husband's family has spent years currying favor with him. But because of your useless husband's foolishness, all our efforts may have gone to waste!"

"Aren't you going to kneel down and apologize to our family?!" Han Yu yelled angrily.

"That's right! Get down on your knees and apologize!"

"Tonight, you will personally go to Master Ao and beg for his forgiveness~"

"You bastards! Get down on your knees now!"

At this moment, all the Hans were yelling at Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng. None of the Hans had asked for the reason behind the conflict at Sheng Tian Restaurant. They

had merely listened to one side of the story and that was enough to make them decide that the couple should kneel and apologize.

As she faced the scoldings from the crowd, Qiu Mu-Cheng's eyes reddened while the tears rolled down her face.

On the other hand, Ye Fan remained composed and silent. No expression could be seen on his face.

Just then, Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng looked so lonely, as if they had been abandoned by the world.

Nobody, however, knew just what sort of upheavals were going on in Ye Fan's heart.

"How dare you!"

"Who is the gutsy fellow who wants Mr. Ye to kneel?"

Suddenly, a shout rang out. Shen Jiu-Yi and company, who had been drinking tea in the courtyard, were now walking angrily into the hall and lashing out heatedly at the Hans.

“You are our guests, so our family will treat you with courtesy.”

“But what is happening here is a family matter. You are all outsiders, so I hope you will not interfere!” Madam Han frowned when she saw the intruders, and she spoke coldly to them.

However, Shen Jiu-Yi sneered and stepped forward. “I don’t give a damn about your family matters. But if you want to insult Mr. Chu, I, the head of the Shen family of Yunzhou, Shen Jiu-Yi, will have to object!”

Swoosh Swoosh Swoosh~

And Sheng Jiu-Yi’s words caused a domino effect among the magnates who had come to support Ye Fan. One after another, they stepped forward to raise their objections.

“Song Shi-De of the Song family of Haozhou objects to this treatment of Mr. Chu!”

“Chen Qing-Quan of the Chen family of Jingzhou~”

“The head of the Liu family, Liu Biao,

objects to this treatment of Mr. Chu!”

All at once, Ye Fan’s guests stood forward to support him. All of them refused to back down, as they faced the Han family.

“Well done. Well done, indeed~”

“Excellent!”

“Ye Fan. Qiu Mu-Cheng. You have truly grown up. I suppose you are now capable of leaving the nest. How dare you flaunt your influence in front of your grandmother.” Madam Han was so angry that she started to laugh. Her whole body was trembling and her face turned an ugly shade of green. She had suffered a huge loss of face when the guests, who were her juniors, talked back at her. So it was only natural for her to get so worked up.

“But Shen Jiu-Yi and Chen Qing-Quan. No matter how rich you are, I doubt you can protect Ye Fan now, considering the trouble he has gotten himself into!”

“What if you count me in?!!”

Just then, a loud voice rang out in the hall.

Immediately afterward, the assembled crowd saw a suited middle-aged man with a bald patch walking toward them with two bodyguards in tow. His head was held high and he had an authoritative expression on his face. When he saw Ye Fan, the middle-aged man bowed to pay his respects.

“Mr. Chu, I have come late.”

And then, the middle-aged man turned to pay his respects to Qiu Mu-Cheng.
“Madam, on behalf of the chiefs of Yunzhou, Li Er of Yunzhou is here to celebrate your birthday. I wish you a happy married life with Mr. Chu! And may you be blessed with children soon!”

When they heard this, the hall went dead quiet.

Within the hall, nobody made a sound!

The Hans simply stood there in a daze.

And Madam Han’s eyes bulged in shock.

Li Er of Yunzhou?

The top honcho of Yunzhou City?

He was a top elite who controlled a prefecture-level city; an existence on the same level as Master Lei San of Jingzhou.

Master Li… Li Er of Yunzhou?

Good heavens!

Why… Why is he here?!

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Li Er's arrival had caused the hall to go silent.

Due to Yunzhou's proximity to Jianghai and because one of Madam Han's daughters had married into the Qiu family, the Hans knew who were the movers and shakers in Yunzhou.

And the most renowned among them was Master Li Er.

He was an existence who was on speaking terms with Chen Ao!

So, naturally, the Hans found it hard to believe that a personage like Li Er would pay them a visit. Also, looking at his reverent attitude toward Ye Fan and his wife, it was clear to all that he had come to support Ye Fan.

"Good day to you, Master Er!"

"Greetings to you, Master Er!"

After Li Er's arrival, many businessmen in the hall started to pay their respects to him.

After all, Li Er was the top honcho of a

prefecture-level city. A person like him would have many means at his disposal and plenty of connections in both the business and political sectors. He was definitely a force to be reckoned with.

It was only natural for the business community to treat Li Er with respect because, oftentimes, businessmen like Shen Jiu-Yi and Chen Qing-Quan would find themselves in need of help from a resourceful mob boss like him.

Li Er nodded in response but did not say anything to them. Instead, he lifted his head to look at Madam Han, who was seated in the seat of honor.

“You must be the family head of the Han family of Jianghai, Madam Han?”

“This is unexpected. To think a small family like yours would have such clout. I could hear your scoldings from outside the house!”

“How dare you tell Mr. Chu to kneel and apologize? You should learn to watch your mouth, madam,” Li Er spoke coldly, his words filled with ridicule and disdain.

“Master… Master Er, this is a misunderstanding,” Han Hai stammered. He was afraid of offending a bigwig like Li Er.

“Misunderstanding? I heard it with my own ears and saw it with my own eyes. Don’t tell me I was hallucinating?”

“You Hans are really audacious! Do you think Mr. Chu is someone you can afford to offend?”

Li Er yelled and frightened Han Hai so much that the latter paled immediately.

Meanwhile, Mo Wen-Xuan’s family all had terrible expressions on their faces. But they dared not say a word.

But Madam Han had seniority because she was older than Li Er. So, even as she was facing his authority, she soldiered on and said: “Master Li Er, I know you are well-connected and there is nothing you can’t do in Yunzhou. But this is Jianghai. Don’t you think you are poking your nose into places it doesn’t belong?”

“Moreover, Master Li Er, even you can’t protect Ye Fan from the person he has

offended!”

“That’s right. You may be very powerful, but that’s only in Yunzhou. This is Jianghai. This is Master Ao’s territory. As the saying goes, even a mighty dragon can’t beat a snake on its home ground. You must be daydreaming if you think you can protect that good-for-nothing all by yourself!”

Just then, Han Yu managed to gather enough courage to yell at Li Er.

“What if you count me in?”

Bang~

A deep bang rang out. Someone had pushed open the door to the Han’s residence.

And when the guests looked outside, they could see several men swaggering toward the hall with their heads held high. The new arrivals were old but energetic, and they looked like men who were used to command.

“This… This is...”

“The head of the Wang family! Wang Jie-Xi!”

“The overlord of Haozhou!”

Damn! Why… why is he here?

The guests in the hall were surprised to see Wang Jie-Xi. And, right away, some businessmen from Haozhou hurried outside to pay their respects.

Han Hai and the other Hans were so shocked that their eyes started twitching.

But Madam Han continued to put up a brave front. She suppressed her shock and, with a livid expression on her face, she screamed, “The head of the Wang family? Wang Jie-Xi? Sure, you have clout. But it is still not enough to shield that trash from Master Ao!!”

Clearly, Madam Han was on the warpath against Ye Fan.

She was an old lady in her seventies so, in her mind, it was not possible for her to lose to a young man like Ye Fan.

“Count me in as well!”

Suddenly, an angry shout rang out in the courtyard. This voice was deep and carried the weight of authority.

And then, once again, the door to the Han's family house was pushed open. The latest arrival was a well-suited middle-aged man who had his hands clasped behind his back. As everyone looked on, he swaggered in through the door with four to five bodyguards in tow.

"This… This is..."

"The kingpin of Jingzhou! The head of the Lei family, Master Lei San!"

Oh damn?

Even Master Lei San is here?

What is happening in Jianghai today?

Just then, a commotion broke out among the assembled crowd and many of them nearly went mad with excitement.

And Lei Ao-Ting, who had earlier defended Mo Wen-Xuan, felt a current of shock run through his body when he saw the middle-aged man.

The young master's eyes bulged immediately, and he stood there as if thunderstruck.

"Dad...dad?"

Lei Ao-Ting was flummoxed.

And Mo Wen-Xuan's family was shocked. Master Lei San's appearance had plunged their hearts into turmoil.

"Master… Master Lei San?"

Earlier, Mo Wen-Xuan and his family had been shocked by the arrival of Shen Jiu-Yi, Li Er and Wang Jie-Xi. But they had not been frightened.

After all, their home was in Jingzhou. No matter how powerful Li Er was, his home ground was in Yunzhou. The lord of Jingzhou was Master Lei San of the Lei family. So Mo Wen-Xuan and his family had not felt afraid of Li Er and the other family heads.

But now, Master Lei San was here.

Mo Wen-Xuan and his family were thoroughly frightened.

The fear began to ferment and sweep through their hearts.

Could it be that they had offended a powerful elite?

“Count me in too!”

And a new wave arose before the previous one had subsided.

Before the waves caused by Master Lei San’s arrival had time to subside, another group of visitors stepped into the courtyard.

As the latest arrivals stood upright in front of Ye Fan, they shouted their greetings in unison.

“This...This…This is...”

“Chen Tian-Jiao!”

“The President of the Chen Group in Jianghai? Chen Ao’s nephew?”

“Why… Why… Why is he here?”

This time, it was Han Hai’s family turn to be flummoxed.

The bosses of Yunzhou, Haozhou and Jingzhou were all here. And now, even one of the top elites of Jianghai had also come.

And the Hans found it hard to believe that he had actually come to support Ye Fan.

Han Hai was bewildered.

The entire hall went dead quiet.

But the storm had yet to subside.

After a short moment of silence, yet another fleet of luxury cars slowly came to a stop outside the Han's residence.

And then, a dozen odd men pushed open the door and trooped into the courtyard.

The moment the door had opened, the assembled crowd could see that the well-suited visitors were all men used to command. When they stepped on the ground of the Han's residence, their footsteps rang out heavily and shook the guests to their cores.

And immediately afterward, one reverent greeting after another sounded in the hall.

“Yang Zi-Hai, the head of the Yang family of Jingyang City, has come together with the leaders of Fenghai to celebrate Madam Chu’s birthday! We wish Madam Chu a happy birthday!”

“Luo Hai-Qiang, the head of the Luo family of Xinfeng City, has come to celebrate Madam Chu’s birthday!”

“Wang Jing-Yu, the head of the Wang family of Luzhou City, has come to celebrate Madam Chu’s birthday!”

Their greetings rang out one after another and surged through the courtyard like huge waves at sea. And then, they coalesced together to shake heaven and earth.

Today, the bosses of half of Jiangdong province, of nearly ten prefecture-level cities, had all come to pay their respects to Ye Fan and his wife. All of them had been present that night at Sheng Tian Restaurant.

“Chen Ao, the King of Jiangdong and the head of the Chen family of Jianghai, has come with daughter Chen Nan, to celebrate Madam Chu’s birthday!”

“May Madam Chu always be youthful and beautiful!”

Boom~

Finally, the arrival of the last guest caused shock waves to ripple through the crowd and plunged their hearts into turmoil.

The King of Jiangdong… Chen Ao. He… He is here as well?!!!

Just then, Han Hai was flummoxed. So was Han Yu. And Madam Han as well. In fact, all the Hans, along with their guests, were flummoxed!

They felt as if a whirlwind of destruction had just swept through the place.

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Chen Ao's arrival had created huge waves among the assembled guests, and sent the already noisy house into further turmoil.

Within the courtyard, all the onlookers had already gone mad with excitement.

"Good heavens!"

"Even Chen Ao is here?"

"What is going on? Half of the bosses of Jiangdong have all come here."

"Even the mayor's mother's birthday was a more subdued affair, right?"

"What's going on with the Hans?"

Clearly, the events at the Han's family house had already shocked everyone in town.

At this moment, numerous townsfolk were running toward the Han's family house. They were eager to find out what was going on. Was there an elite person among the Hans? Why had half of the bosses of Jiangdong come to pay their respects? And how come an unknown town like

theirs had become the meeting place for all the leaders in Jiangdong?

However, after they had arrived at the house, they discovered that the bosses of the prefecture-level cities were not here to celebrate Madam Han's birthday. Instead, they were here for the birthday of Qiu Mu-Cheng, the old madam's least favorite granddaughter.

And once the townsfolk had understood the situation, they got even more shocked.

"Damn!"

"The VIPs came for them?"

"Isn't she Madam Han's least favorite granddaughter?"

"Isn't her husband a good-for-nothing live-in son-in-law?"

"But, just now, they wanted both husband and wife to go down on their knees?"

"Could it be that they are the true dragons of the Han family?"

When they heard the comments of the

onlookers, the Hans turned deathly pale.

Han Hai, Han Yu and the other Hans were in a panic. Even now, they still found it hard to believe that Chen Ao had come in person.

Madam Han's face was trembling. Earlier, when Chen Ao announced his arrival, she had gotten so frightened that she nearly fell off her chair.

Just then, the Hans were behaving themselves and they did not dare to speak a single word. They just stood there with panicked faces as they looked dazedly at the scene before them.

"Mr. Chu, I heard today is your wife's birthday. So I set off from home early with my daughter. But, unexpectedly, I am still the last one to arrive."

"Quick, Nan-Nan. What are you standing there for? Come over here and pay your respects to Mr. Chu."

Within the hall, Chen Ao was all smiles as he spoke reverently to Ye Fan. And then, he called his daughter over.

But Chen Nan felt a little embarrassed to see Ye Fan again, and a hint of panic could be seen on her exquisite face.

“Good… Good day to you, Mr. Chu.”

“What… What happened last night was my fault. Please forgive me.”

Chen Nan lowered her head and apologized to Ye Fan.

However, Ye Fan simply waved his hand dismissively and smiled. “It was nothing. I don’t blame you. On the contrary, I admire your pride and indomitable spirit.”

Last night, Chen Nan had left a deep impression on Ye Fan.

Especially since this girl had refused to back down, even while she was getting rebuked by her father and even after finding out his identity. Chen Nan’s stubbornness reminded Ye Fan of his wife.

Chen Nan was overjoyed when she heard that she had been forgiven.

She had assumed that Ye Fan would take the opportunity to insult her. But to her

surprise, not only did he not scold her, he was treating her with friendliness.

A bright smile appeared on Chen Nan's pretty face and she asked, "Mr. Chu, have you really forgiven me?"

"Mm," Ye Fan nodded and smiled. "And your father told me you are only nineteen this year. But you are already handling some of his business all by yourself. You are indeed young and capable. I am only older than you by a few years. So you can just call me Ye Fan. There is no need to call me Mr. Chu."

"Alright, Ye Fan."

"Hee hee~"

Chen Nan laughed happily.

When he heard Chen Nan say his name, Ye Fan stirred, as if someone had suddenly touched a tender spot within his heart. Almost immediately, he recalled his childhood with the Chus. Back then, a young girl had also called out to him in the same sweet way as she followed him around like a duckling.

If I remember correctly, this year, Yu-Qing should be about the same age as Chen Nan.

Most of his memories about his life with the Chus were full of pain and sorrow. But Ye Fan's cousin had been the only sweet oasis amidst all the bitterness at the Chus.

At that time, none of the Chus had liked him or his mother. So the both of them had been treated as unwelcomed guests and outsiders. Ye Fan's cousins had called him a bastard and none of his uncles or aunties would look him in the eye.

Only Ye Fan's pure-hearted and kind cousin, Yu-Qing, had been consistently kind to him.

Suddenly, Ye Fan remembered many things that had happened in the past and an unfathomable smile appeared on his lips.

It has been ten years already. I wonder if she is doing well. Does she still remember me?

Just as he was lost in his thoughts, a sharp pain at his waist brought him back

to reality.

“Mu-Cheng, what are you doing?”

Ye Fan’s eyes bulged as he stared doubtfully at his wife.

What is wrong with her today? Why did she pinch me for no reason?

She has never dared to do this before!

Qiu Mu-Cheng stared judgmentally at Ye Fan, a mesmerizing smile dancing on her lips. But the smile did not reach her eyes. “Do you think Miss Chen is pretty?” she asked.

“She is young. And beautiful. Am I right?”

Ye Fan shivered when he heard Qiu Mu-Cheng’s tone.

Damn?

Is she jealous?

When he realized this, Ye Fan broke out in a smile.

In all these years, this was the first time he

had seen Qiu Mu-Cheng getting jealous.

It made him feel good.

“Mr. Chu, why are you standing here? Is there not enough seats here?”

“If this is the case, we should all go to Sheng Tian Restaurant. I, Chen Ao, will prepare a banquet for Madam Chu!”

Chen Ao had come late, so he did not know what had been happening here.

Ye Fan nodded. “Mm, this is thoughtful of you.”

“But, before going, I have some matters to take care of.”

And then Ye Fan, who had been keeping quiet when the Hans were humiliating him, finally lifted his head to look at the disrespectful hosts. He smiled frostily as he stared at Madam Han, who was seated in the seat of honor, and the other panic-stricken Hans.

In the next moment, Ye Fan smiled nonchalantly and said, “For Mu-Cheng’s sake, I will call you grandmother and

uncle.”

“Grandmother. Uncle. And auntie. This is Chen Ao. You wanted Mu-Cheng and I to kneel and apologize to him.”

“Now, he is right here in front of you.”

“You can go ahead and ask him. Have I done anything to ruin your grandson’s career?!”

“Or have I done anything to make your son lose his job?!!”

“Ask him! Have I done anything to make the Han family lose their place in Jianghai?!!!”

Ye Fan lashed out with a series of questions and they resounded thunderously through the air.

Whenever Ye Fan asked a question, he would take a step forward. His voice rang out powerfully, like a rock striking the ground, and his authoritative presence made him seem like a force of nature sweeping through the place.

Under Ye Fan’s questioning, the Hans

blushed and were rendered speechless.

Han Yu and her family were trembling all over with their mouths agape. They could not get a single word out and looked like chickens who were being strangled.

And Han Hai was panicking. He was so overwhelmed by Ye Fan's presence that he stumbled several steps back.

As for Madam Han, her face had turned deathly pale. Her legs had gotten so weak that she nearly fell off her chair.

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