

Qin Ming and Chen Muling could converse about the questions in the Economist Qualification Examination continuously, for an hour, because both of them had passed the exam before.

If any of Qin Ming's roommates were present, they would have thought that he must have been crazy for discussing academical stuff with a beautiful lady like her. He should have been talking about luxury goods instead, or gossiping about celebrities. They would have been so fed up with Qin Ming, who had treated Chen Muling in such a manner. *Would girls like to talk about stuff as boring as that?*

In the end, even Qin Ming himself was surprised, as Chen Muling had turned out to be very enthusiastic about the topic of their discussion. She had even asked him for his guidance on some of the questions that she did not know how to answer.

In fact, Qin Ming was very perceptive when it came to girls. When he was dating Nie Haitang back then, he noticed that her passion was shopping and doing exercise. Therefore, he had

never talked about academical stuff with her and he had only brought her out shopping and food-hunting.

He was really blown away, to find that Chen Muling was interested in talking about academical stuff. *No wonder she was a top scholar.*

As for Chen Muling, she became increasingly intrigued by him, as their conversation ensued. She found that she couldn't feel more regret, for not trying to understand him better back then. It was because she had just realized that he was not only a top scholar. Rather, he was quite a fun guy to be with too.

Just as the two were carrying on their conversation at the eatery, Mu Sichun, who thought that Qin Ming was cheating on her sister, grew livid with rage.

She would not have been so worked up if Qin Ming were talking with any other normal girl. She would assume that they were nothing more than friends, as she was very certain that none of

them would be a threat to her sister, Mu Xiaoqiao, who was a real looker.

However, she could see that Chen Muling was a very beautiful girl too. This time, she couldn't help but have doubts in Qin Ming's ability to stay faithful to her sister.

Instantly, she snapped a photo of them happily chatting away and sent it to her sister, who was busy working on her career in Jing City. It was solid proof of her boyfriend cheating on her.

After shooting her three besties a look, Mu Sichun instructed them, "Yew, please help me handle the camera, and the rest of you, it's about time that you put your acting skills to the test."

The girls gave her a firm look and a nod before setting off to their mission.

One of them who was wearing a pleated skirt approached Qin Ming. Immediately, she widened her eyes and put on a look of utter disbelief as she covered her mouth with one hand and pointed at Qin Ming with the other.

“Y-You guys! Qin Ming... How dare you cheat on me? You told me that you weren’t free, but what are you doing now? You’re having lunch with another girl! What a jerk you are! I’m breaking up with you!” she sobbed.

Upon yelling at him, tears immediately started to stream down from her face; her angry outburst appeared extremely real and convincing.

Qin Ming as well as everyone else at the eatery were dumbstruck. *What was that girl doing?*

*Did she catch Qin Ming cheating on her red-handed?*

The point was, the girl was a nice-looking one, and her voice was strong and full of emotion. It went without saying that she had successfully gained everyone’s attention, by her words.

While Qin Ming was still in a state of confusion after the girl had stormed off, another girl in a yellow dress entered the scene. Pointing at him in accusing manner, she burst into tears right away and croaked, “No wonder you’d ended things

with me, after sleeping with me last night. It turns out that you've found yourself a new target. Fine, let's break up and here's the lingerie that you'd given to me, as a present before!"

While speaking, the long-haired girl, with a tearful face snaked her hand down her blouse. She somehow managed to produce her bra which still had her lingering warmth and tossed it right in front of Qin Ming before marching out of the eatery.

Everyone else at the eatery went wild because of the scene. They couldn't help but be impressed, by how the girl had managed to remove her bra with her blouse still on.

"Tsk, tsk. What kind of scum is he? I can't see why he had dumped the two cute girls who had entered just now."

"All men are playboys. They will never stick to only one lady."

"Gosh, I can't believe that Qin Ming is so good at flirting with girls! Not only did he manage to date

the campus belles of our university, rather, he had even hooked up with the girls from the College for Performing Arts!”

“My heart goes out to our campus belle who’s bound to have her heart broken because of him.”

Qin Ming was left speechless at the melodramatic scene.

Meanwhile, Chen Muling was stupefied. It was still acceptable if his girlfriend had happened to bump into him at the eatery. However, two girlfriends were a totally different case! *Was Qin Ming putting on an act to disguise his playboy traits?* She couldn’t believe that he had actually dated girls from other universities before.

She suddenly remembered that Mu Sichun, the campus belle from College for Performing Arts, had visited him at the campus before. He had never offered her a proper explanation about that.

Grabbing the bra that still felt warm in her hand, she confronted him, “Qin Ming, what is all of this about? How many girlfriends do you really have?”

It's not possible that they are doing this to you for no reason at all, isn't it?"

Meanwhile, she felt slightly disheartened, deep down inside. She had just started to develop feelings for him, but here came the solid proof of what a jerk he was. *Why did men always turn out to be such a huge disappointment in her life?*

Momentarily, she discovered that her mind was in turmoil. She no longer appeared as relaxed and laid-back as she had been, earlier on.

At the same time, Qin Ming was utterly at a loss, of the situation. This was due to the fact that none of the girls were his girlfriends. They were all total strangers to him.

A voice coughed out. "Hmph!" Out of the blue, a familiar voice sounded out, as Mu Sichun widened her eyes and pouted her lips. Soon, her face contorted with rage. Standing with her legs slightly apart, she stared at the both of them condescendingly.

Thereafter, she confronted them directly, "What

is this nonsense? Who are you? Don't you have a clue that Qin Ming is my boyfriend? Who do you think you are? Don't you know that he's taken?"

With that said, she immediately plopped down upon Qin Ming's lap, with her legs crossed in a seductive manner. Twining her arms around his neck suggestively, she deliberately made *asmooch* sound, beside his ear.

*What a scene was that!*

Everyone, including the waiters at the eatery, were left nonplussed as yet another gorgeous lady had come to associate herself with Qin Ming. Judging from how she sat on his lap and how intimately she had behaved with him, they were definitely a thing.

Realization dawned upon Qin Ming at that moment. He realized that he was once again a victim of that damned girl's scheme.

Furiously, he condemned her, uttering, "Mu Sichun, what are you doing? Get off me now or people might start getting the wrong idea of us!"

Yet, it was Mu Sichun's intention to stick around. Squirming on his lap, she spoke coquettishly, "Qin Ming, you're such a bad guy! Why should we be worried about how others think of us, since we're already a family? You're going to make both my sister and I devastated, by falling in love with someone else so quickly. Has the sl\*t caused you to fall under some sort of spell?"

Despite knowing that this was one of Mu Sichun's mischievous ideas, Qin Ming did not have any ideas on how to deal with her, since he couldn't possibly get physical with her.

In the meantime, Chen Muling was looking ominous, feeling embarrassed to be the target of public censure.

"Damn it, I can't believe that Chen Muling has been screwed too!"

"I bet that she must have slept with him already."

"What a waste. She clearly deserves better."

No longer able to put up with the degrading

comments coming from all directions, she jumped to her feet, as she suddenly muttered through gritted teeth, “Qin Ming, you’re such a disappointment.”

At first, Qin Ming intended to run after her. However, he thought better of it in the end. After some contemplation, he decided that this was probably a good way to make Chen Muling give up on pestering him in the future.

Once he reached that conclusion, he managed to keep his cool. He went on to wrap one arm around Mu Sichun’s waist, proclaiming flirtatiously, “Baby, here you are.”

Mu Sichun shuddered all of a sudden, as she could feel a tingling sensation on her waist, where he placed his hands upon.

Frantically, she urged, “Ming, you should let me down, now that the sl\*t has left.”

Qin Ming deliberately refused to do, as per her request. “Why should I let you down? Since you claim to be my girlfriend, you have to stay still. I

love to have my girlfriends sit on my lap.”

Panic-stricken, she tried to wiggle out of his hold. To her misfortune, she was soon stuck, because of the table. As she tried to worm her way out, she could feel his thing beneath her, which had scared her out of her wits.

At that moment, she recalled of the fateful journey, when they were escaping from their abductors. Because of the special situation, she had to drive the car, sitting on his lap. When she drove past a particularly bumpy stretch of road, she could feel his thing ramming against her butt beneath her skirt.

Her cheeks flushed a bright red right away as she bit her lips and pleaded, “Ming, I was wrong to do that to you just now, but I did it all for my sister’s sake. I just wanted to make sure that you were out of the reach of other women...”

Qin Ming took a glance over his shoulder and spotted a girl aiming the camera of her phone at them. He realized that she was in this together with Mu Sichun right away.

Feeling exasperated, he decided to use her scheme against her. “Baby, let me kiss you so that you can send that video to your sister. We need to show her who’s flirting with her boyfriend.”

“Oh, no! Please, Ming, don’t do that...”

Mu Sichun was so shaken that her face grew as pale as a sheet. Meanwhile, he drew her closer to him with so much force that she was not able to break free.

He pretended to force his lips onto hers. Gazing into his eyes, she was at a loss. Soon, she forgot about resisting him, as her heart started pounding erratically against her chest.

Resting her hands upon her chest in an attempt to calm herself down, she squinted her eyes fearfully, as she did not have the guts to actually fight back.

At the same time, everyone else at the eatery went open-mouthed in shock, as they witnessed Qin Ming closing the gap between his lips and hers. *Was another campus belle sinking because of Qin Ming?*

Staring at his hands on her slender waist, and his furious expression as he forced her to remain on his lap, Mu Sichun wondered whether he was going to kiss her for real. *What should she do if he had really done that?*

A stir broke out amongst the students at the eatery, in response to the scene. After stepping out of the eatery, Chen Muling witnessed what had happened through the glass window. She shook her head, feeling disappointed, as he had been fooled by Qin Ming once again.

Not daring to shift her weight on his lap too much, Mu Sichun closed her eyes in embarrassment and fear.

“Ming, Ming, you know that it’s not right to do this to me... Xiaoqiao will be pissed if she sees this.”

Restlessly, she tried to shove him away, shyly and tentatively.

In the meantime, the spectators around them freaked out, as yet another fine and beautiful girl

was about to be ruined by Qin Ming. Feeling frustrated for not having the guts to stop him, they could only blow off some of their steam by growling in lamentation.

“Oh, they’re about to kiss!”

“Gosh, is the girl not going to fight back?”

Just as his lips were merely inches away from hers, the crooked smile on Qin Ming’s face vanished, as a furious expression took its place.

“Mu Sichun, what a naughty girl you are!”

Out of the blue, he knocked his forehead against hers,

*Thump!*

“Ouch!” Mu Sichun felt a sharp pain on her forehead which made her see stars, as her head started spinning. Because of the distraction, she relaxed her tensed muscles and staggered to her feet.

“Ming...” Covering her forehead, she shot him an

aggrieved look and accused him, “You’re such a bully.”

He glared at her in response and snapped, “I think that this punishment is far too light, for the trouble that you’ve brought me!”

“Boo!” Seeing that they did not launch into a passionate kiss as they had expected, everyone erupted into a round of commotion, as they were pleased to see that Qin Ming had failed to conquer the campus belle.

Subsequent to the incident at the eatery, Qin Ming was now given a new nickname on the school forum- ‘Campus Belles’ Harvester’. He was speechless with the nickname because he didn’t interact much with those campus belles in real life. At the same time, he couldn’t help but feel taken aback by how vehement his haters on the forum could be, at condemning him.

Just as he was ready to head back to the dorm, Mu Sichun came running after him with a swollen forehead. “Ming, I made a mistake just now. Please wait for me...”

He snapped irritably, “Stop pestering me because I’m no longer your brother-in-law. If you want the details, ask your father for it.”

Not having a single clue that the marriage between Qin Ming and her sister was nothing more than an arrangement, Mu Sichun thought that Qin Ming was merely making a spiteful remark. Grabbing his arm, she pleaded coquettishly, “Oh, Ming! Please don’t be mad! I was just worried that you might have been tempted by that pretty face of that sl\*t from earlier. I thought that you might’ve decided to have an affair with her. In fact, you should thank me for salvaging your reputation!”

He shot her a supercilious glance in response. “My reputation has been tarnished by both you and your besties, who have impersonated yourselves as my girlfriends just now. I am now an out-and-out jerk in many people’s eyes.”

“Hmm...” Mu Sichun was left stumped for a second before adding, “B-But, at least your relationship with my sister is still intact. You know what? My sister is hailed as the most

beautiful lady of Guang City and there used to be a tons of guys who were eager to propose marriage to her! As long as those guys know that you're her husband, they'll give up any hopes of marrying my sister instantly."

Getting fed up with her family drama, he asked her instead, "Is your father home? He isn't abroad on a business trip, is he?"

"My father is home everyday," she answered.

A sly smile emerged on Qin Ming's face. He had been tired of cleaning up the mess for Mu Hao and it was about time he paid him a visit. He wanted to spill the beans.

Triumphantly, he suggested, "Great. Let's head over to your place now."

"Ming, are you finally willing to go home? I'm so glad that you've say that, because it's been a long time since you'd last returned. Mom has been nagging us about how we've pissed you off, by treating you badly prior to this."

With that, the two drove their way over to the Mu family's house.

When they arrived at their destination, they found that there were several luxurious cars parked at the front yard of the mansion. It seemed like the family was entertaining some guests.

The sculptures placed at the gate and the sight of the garden appeared familiar to Qin Ming, because it had been two months since he had last visited the place.

Back then, he was suddenly separated from Nie Haitang, and he happened to bump into Zhang Quanzhen, who had cunningly talked him into becoming the live-in son-in-law of the Mu family. For some reason, he fell for his inducement, as he proceeded to help the family, in avoiding an impending disaster, by his marriage to Mu Xiaoqiao.

Fortunately, things turned out well, as he was successful, in eliminating the disaster for the family. Nie Haitang returned to his side too. At long last, the Mu family finally allowed him to

divorce Mu Xiaoqiao, letting him go.

From then on, he had been maintaining an amiable relationship with the family.

Fang, who was sweeping the floor at the front yard, exclaimed in delight when she spotted him. “Sir, are you back? Madam has been nagging us for days about your return. I bet that she would be thrilled to see you tonight!”

Qin Ming was greatly amused by her remark, as he thought to himself, deep down inside, that Xu Shulan surely would not have been happy to see him, back then.

“Fang, are we entertaining any guests today?” Mu Sichun asked.

Fang responded, “Yes, Ms. Sichun. Your Uncle Wangshen and Uncle Tianle are here, accompanied by their families.”

A look of utter disgust immediately appeared on Mu Sichun’s face. “That’s so boring. Ming, I’ve just remembered that I have to rehearse for a

play, at the studio owned by Mr. Feng. See you later.”

With that, she quickly turned on her heels.

Qin Ming rolled his eyes at the difficult little devil.

As soon as he stepped foot in the living room that was renovated lavishly, he saw old Mrs. Mu and Xu Shulan chatting with two couples, who were of their similar age. Meanwhile, there were a group of younger people, hanging out at the back.

To his surprise, Mu Hao was nowhere in sight.

Uncle Wangshen was a bulky guy with a sonorous voice. He queried at the top of his lungs, “Eh? Is this guy Zhaoyang? He doesn’t look like him though.”

Uncle Tianle was a man of medium build, with tanned skin. He spoke with composure in a low voice, “He is Xiaoqiao’s husband. Don’t you know that she has been secretly married? I guess his name is Qin Ming. He’s nothing but a live-in

son-in-law, haha.”

Uncle Wangshen’s wife was an average-looking lady, dressed in a fancy manner. She made an loud exclamation before commenting, “Oh, I’ve finally received the opportunity to meet Xiaoqiao’s husband today! I’m surprised to discover that he is merely a student. Why is he dressed so shabbily? Is he younger than Xiaoqiao? Shulan, how could you allow Xiaoqiao to put up with this? No wonder she has escaped to Jing City to avoid all this.”

Uncle Tianle’s wife was comparatively young, as she was in her thirties. She was his second wife and she despised Qin Ming. Sitting cross-legged, she chimed in, “Didn’t Shulan tell all of us at their wedding ceremony that they were a perfect match for each other? He was picked by Master Zhang himself, as the ideal husband for Xiaoqiao, who could bring good luck to our family.”

Qin Ming narrowed his eyes at their snide remarks. *No wonder Mu Sichun was so eager to run away from this!* He soon realized that it was because they were a bunch of people who were difficult to get along with.

Xu Shulan, who seemed to be oblivious to the hint of contempt in their remarks, responded in a joyful tone, “That’s true. After Qin Ming married into our family, things really started getting better. Dad’s health improved tremendously and the doctors were able to come out with a diagnosis of his condition.”

Just as Qin Ming had intended to ask about Mu Hao, a sophisticated guy sitting next to Uncle Wangshen spoke, “Nice to meet you, my name is Xu Kuang. Ming, I really envy you, as you were able to transform yourself from a mere peasant into a rich man overnight. Not only that, rather, you’ve also received the opportunity of having someone as beautiful as my cousin, as your wife.”

Qin Ming shot him a long and hard look as he wondered why the guy had an air of superiority while he was talking to him. He confronted him, “What do you mean by a ‘merc’ peasant?”

Xu Kuang was dumbfounded to hear his

question. Irritated by Qin Ming's angry outburst, he snapped, "What's wrong with that? Aunt Xu has told me that your family has worked as peasants. Ming, I can see that you are a really short-tempered man, but please don't get me wrong, because I'm not looking down on you. Is it not right to say that peasants are just a bunch of penniless losers? Ming, you should feel glad that you've gotten rid of that label now."

Uncle Wangshen, who was sitting next to him, pointed out in a deep voice, "Tsk, what's the matter with you? Not only did you not greet us when you came in, rather, you had even thrown a tantrum at my son. Mind you, you're nothing but a live-in son-in-law of this family. Shulan, you really need to talk some sense into your son-in-law."



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Qin Ming couldn't be more frustrated, dealing with a bunch of snobbish and presumptuous people like them. *Could they have elevated their status by making fun of him because he was poor?*

Just as he was about to lose his cool, old Mrs. Mu, who was sipping tea leisurely beside him, tugged at his shirt. She was trying to remind him to calm down and to join her instead.

After mulling over the situation, Qin Ming decided to let it go, out of his respect for the family. Once Mu Hao returned later, he would force him to offer a clear explanation on the truth to his family, as he would make his departure soon after.

He decided not to stoop to the level of a bunch of uncivilized people like them by having an argument with them.

Meanwhile, Xu Shulan spoke up, "Although Qin Ming comes from a peasant family, that doesn't change the fact that he is a very talented guy. There was a time when the two brothers of Mu

Hao tried to usurp his power at the company, by defrauding the company's assets and shares. Even Zhaoyang fell victim to their tricks. Fortunately, the duo was ultimately arrested by the police. This was all because of Qin Ming, who had called the police just in time."

Xu Kuang burst into laughter right away as he remarked disdainfully, "Aunt Xu, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to know when to call the police. However, I must say that what he did has shown how loyal he is to our family. I can't blame him, as anyone in his position would do the same. Once one is used to having a luxurious life, it's hard to go back to his old, destitute life."

Assuming that he was better than everyone else in the world because he was loaded, the tone of superiority in Xu Kuang's voice was simply unbearable. He was clearly mocking Qin Ming, but for some reason, he just refused to admit it. What made him even more snobbish was that he actually had the audacity to make such a comment, at places other than his own home.

Uncle Tianle did not see very highly of Qin Ming

too. “I can’t believe that Mu Hao is still so superstitious. In this modern era, everything should be based on science and logical thinking. Just look at how Xiaoqiao and him are separated, so soon after their marriage. Isn’t it very obvious that this is Xiaoqiao’s way of showing her repulsion for her marriage?”

Xu Shulan clarified, “Things are not that way, because they are in fact, very close with each other. Xiaoqiao merely decided to build her own startup company in Jing City, where she would be able to reach out to a more international customer base. After all, she’s selling luxury goods, as a business. It’s inevitable that she has to make connections with the companies, in other countries, in order to expand her business.”

Uncle Wangshen exclaimed, “Your daughter is really capable, as she doesn’t just rely on her family after graduation. She tries to make it on her own and she’s doing it so well. My daughter is such a far cry from her. The fact that she’s still depending on us to get her source of income and refuses to get a job after graduation really get on my nerves.”

After making that complaint, he cast a glance at a bespectacled girl who was dressed fashionably.

That girl was obviously a fiery-tempered one, as she instantly freaked out because of his comment, screeching, “Dad, why are you suddenly talking about me again? Can you just stop the comparison between Xiaoqiao and I? At least I won’t get a live-in son-in-law as my husband to piss you off. All of my exes are rich and highly-educated men. Don’t be worried that you might have to support my living in the future, because I won’t get a broke guy to be my husband!”

Uncle Wangshen responded, “See, you know nothing, other than about having fun in life. By the way, haven’t you started going out with that Mr. Zhao who has a family that operates a diamond business? When are you going to bring him back home to meet us?”

Xu Shulan exclaimed right away, “Wow, Waner, it’s very impressive that you actually are a friend of the boy from the Zhao family! Mind you, he’s the only child of his family.”

Xu Waner responded proudly, “Indeed. He is also a PhD graduate, from Cambridge University, and his net worth is more than ten billion! He has been asking me to be his girlfriend, but it’s difficult to make a decision when I have too many options. However, I can say for sure that I won’t get a peasant as my husband, from a family as poor as Qin Ming’s. Hence, I’m better than Xiaoqiao in this aspect.”

Qin Ming considered himself well-mannered enough not to make a scene. As he was simply a guest of the Mu family, he thought that he should have to respect them.

However, this bunch of people were driving him crazy. *What problem did they have with peasants? Did they really have to use him as the negative example to educate their daughter? Did he offend them before, to have deserved such a treatment?*

With an awkward chuckle, Xu Shulan tried to defend him by saying, “Although Qin Ming comes from a poor family, he’s a top student at Huasheng University of Technology. Furthermore, he has been receiving scholarships

every year.”

Uncle Tianle sneered, “How much money can he get from the scholarships? I bet that it’s nothing, compared to the profits of our business. Every day, I have goods that have filled up around thirty cargo containers, waiting to be exported to other countries. I can easily gain millions in profits, within several minutes’ time.”

Uncle Tianle’s wife glanced at her daughter and advised, “Waner, can you finally see that? You have to be extra careful when it comes to choosing your future husband. You are always complaining when I try to meddle with your relationships, but the same thing has happened to Xiaoqiao too. She didn’t even know Qin Ming very well before, and they had only married each other because of some verdict of a priest. Shouldn’t you be complacent, that the one whom I’m urging you to keep in touch with is the rich boy from the Qin family?”

Her daughter, who was more naïve, countered irritably, “Mom, why are you criticizing me? Are you forcing me to get a loser as your live-in son-

in-law too? I'd rather die than resort to having someone like that as my husband!"

Qin Ming was getting miffed because of her offensive remark. *Was she indirectly referring to him as a loser?*

Waner's mother was displeased to hear that from her daughter too. "You're being ridiculous. Is the rich boy from the Qin family a loser? He's better than Qin Ming in all aspects, including his family background, his education, his looks and his manners."

Waner retorted, "Nonetheless, everyone in Sea City is saying that he's infertile, seeing that he had been assaulted, two months ago. Whoever marries him will live the life of a widow in the future."

Her mother rebuked her statement, saying, "Why should that matter, when he is loaded and powerful? Just compare him to Qin Ming, who has nothing of that sort. Then, you will begin to see how nice of a guy he is."

With a loud *thump*, Qin Ming smacked the table and yelled, “That’s enough. You guys are free to show me no respect, but that doesn’t mean that I have to sit still and listen to all of your degrading remarks in silence! Why am I a loser? What’s wrong with my family, who works as peasants? Did they offend you guys in any way? Please stop using me as an example, when you guys are educating your children.”

There was no way that Qin Ming would allow such a bunch of unreasonable people to get away with their bad manners.

However, not only did his remark fail to make them realize their mistake, rather, they thought that it was him who was behaving inappropriately, in that instance.

With a crease on his forehead, Uncle Wangshen reprimanded him. “What’s wrong with you, lad? Why are you yelling at us? Mind you, you are merely a live-in son-in-law of our family, who has nothing under your belt. You know what? Your behavior is truly unacceptable. Our family is a prestigious family in Sea City and so is the

Mu family, in Guang City. Hence, if you want to be one of us, you have to play by our rules. When the seniors of the family are talking, you should know that it's time to keep your mouth shut.”

Xu Kuang went on to taunt Qin Ming, “Ming, if you want to gain our respect, you have to show us something. Forget about your exam results and whatnot, because those don't count. As a live-in son-in-law of our family, what else can you do, other than having children with Xiaoqiao in the future, and taking care of them while you're at home? While your wife is able to establish a company from scratch in three years, what are you capable of doing?”

Another young girl chimed in, “Kuang, spare Qin Ming the embarrassment and stop talking.”

Xu Kuang refused to comply. “I'm only pointing out the truth. As it seems like he doesn't know very well where he stands in this family. I have to give him some tips out of kindness. Otherwise, he would be the one who would have bear the brunt, if he causes any trouble in the future. Alas, I understand that he might not be pleased to hear

this from me, because good advice is always harsh to the ear.”

Uncle Tianle spoke, “Shulan, you really should take some time to educate your son-in-law. As much as he might try to deny it, people are categorized by their social statuses, and he has to accept all the disadvantages that come with his poor family background. As a live-in son-in-law of this family, he should do his best to help out and share the burden of the family.”

Although Qin Ming had interacted with people from all walks of life, and many of them were weirdos, none of them were weirder than the two families today. Not only were they meddling with other people’s business, rather, they had even done it as though it was the rightful thing to do.

Xu Shulan was at a loss of what to do, despite being able to sense the offensive nature of their remarks.

Qin Ming could tell that she was in a dilemma, as she was not bold enough to contradict the opinions of her two elder brothers and their

wives. Judging from her condition, it seemed like it was because her status in her family was more inferior to theirs.

Seeing that, he lamented deep down inside over their toxic familial relationship.

Then, Xu Shulan whispered to him, “Qin Ming, why don’t you go back to your room first? Your Dad has gone to the airport to pick Xiaoqiao up and they will be back soon. Is that alright?”

Qin Ming was frustrated because he couldn’t see why he would have to avoid them, seeing that he was not the party at fault.

However, he decided to do as she had said, seeing that it was the first time that Xu Shulan was requesting him to do something. Furthermore, was only there to visit Mu Hao, to talk about his divorce with his daughter. If he picked a fight with their relatives now, he would put the family in a very awkward situation.

He first shook his head resignedly and relented. He couldn’t help it, because he was a kind-

hearted person.

At that moment, he came up with an excuse, as he soon left for his room.

Uncle Wangshen, who was not pleased to see him walk away, commented, “Who does that lad think he is, to behave in such a manner? By the way, when is Xiaoqiao coming back?”

Xu Shulan responded, “She should be back soon. Are you guys here to meet her? What’s the matter?”

Uncle Wangshen and Uncle Tianle glanced at each other, before answering in unison, “Yes, we both need a favor from her.”



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Xu Shulan was bewildered as to why her eldest and second brothers would suddenly show up at her house, giving the excuse of merely paying her a visit.

*Don't we usually meet only during the holidays and festivities?*

She knew that they must have had something up their sleeves; hence, she ventured forth, "Brothers, are you here specifically for Xiaoqiao?"

Wangshen, the eldest brother, nodded his head and admitted, "Yes. We want to have a talk with Xiaoqiao. We heard of the rumor that she possesses the Nine-eyed Dzi bead artifact, worn by the living Buddha himself, during his lifetime. We want to ask her to relinquish hers, if possible."

Tianle, her second brother, chimed in, "There are many types of Dzi beads around, why would she cling on to the Nine-eyed Dzi bead? After all, she's just a young girl; why would she wear such an old-fashioned antique? It'll be better for her to

adorn herself with some diamonds or emeralds, right?”

Shulan was evidently surprised. “The nine-eyed Dzi bead? That thing is impressively rare!”

Xinyi, the wife of Wangshen, responded boorishly, “I know right! We can’t even get hold of one, even if we’d wanted to. Doesn’t your family believe in that Taoist priest? Why would Xiaoqiao buy a trinket of the living Buddha? Isn’t that something that is conflicting?”

When Shulan heard that, she felt offended. Even the Taoist master whom she had consulted before did not speak in such a brash manner.

The wife to Tianle, Liuting chimed in, “Shulan, we’re all a family here. One bloodline. Try to persuade Xiaoqiao on our behalf. We’ll come up with the appropriate compensation from our side as well.”

Feeling curious, Shulan asked, “Is it really necessary? Is there no other way?”

Both Wangshen and Tianle nodded at the same time. “Yes. There’s no other way. We’ve searched high and low, but we couldn’t find a replacement. The Dzi bead was originally owned by the Xie family. No one expected them to cease their possession of it in such a secretive manner. In fact, ten years ago, Ms. Xie herself won it from the Qins, after their duel.”

Trying to explain their way out, they continued, “Our group has a big business deal with Sea City’s Qin family. Madam Qin has been longing for the Nine-eyed Dzi bead for a long time. We plan to utilize this bead to fulfill her desire, thus establishing a good business relationship with the Qin family. As for Xiaoqiao, we’ll compensate her three times the price of the bead later.”

“Truthfully, this antique ornament doesn’t really grant any protection. Whether you believe in it or not, it really doesn’t matter.” Sounding desperate, they resorted to empty coaxing. “In addition to that, we’re all highly educated, and thus, we shouldn’t be too superstitious. No matter how powerful the purported Dzi bead is, ultimately, it’s still just a piece of jewelry.”

The two brothers rambled on, one after the other. Shulan would have accepted their train of thought in the past, for she had believed that all superstitions were mere tomfooleries.

However, her way of thinking had since changed. She trusted that the heavens bore witness to whatever humans were doing. The circle of retribution would happen one way or the other, and as a mere person, she ought to go with the flow and live a simple life, filled with patience and benevolence. Just as her husband Mu Hao had, she was also a believer in the ways of Taoism, learning to let go of strife, as she sought to achieve harmony with her surroundings.

With that in mind, Shulan deflected the issue and concluded, “Regarding this matter, it’ll be better for me to wait for Xiaoqiao to come back, before I decide on anything.”

Old Mrs. Mu who had been watching TV while sipping her tea was getting a load of the whole conversation. She grunted coldly, feeling disgusted with how timid and meek her daughter-in-law was, in front of her own family. She

continued to savor her tea on her own, deciding not to interfere, for she knew that she would not get along well with her son's in-law's family.

Had it not been for the sake of her son, to gain his position and financial support within the Mu family, she would not have had to rely on the wealthy and powerful Xu family of Sea City. In fact, she was not satisfied with Xu Shulan being her son's suitor. Besides having a pretty face, Shulan was also small in stature and short-sighted in various dealings. In her opinion, Shulan was not much of a help to her son, Mu Hao. However, she grudgingly admitted that Shulan made up for her own shortcomings with her obedience and filial piety.

Taking out her cellphone, old Mrs. Mu slowly typed the following message to Xiaoqiao: *Your uncles and their families have just humiliated your husband. They have even asked for your Nine-eyed Dzi bead.*

Right at this moment, Xiaoqiao had just gotten off the plane and was on her way back. She was looking at the photos that were sent to her by her

sister Mu Sichun, which showed Qin Ming and Chen Muling chatting and laughing happily.

She was unnerved, for the girl in the photos was beautiful. *Could it be that Qin Ming had fallen for another girl?*

She quickly opened the university forum website of Huasheng University of Technology. Inside, there was a ranking poll for the prettiest lady of the university; the forum was filled with gossips and rumors on the aforementioned topic.

Xiaoqiao bit her lips as she read the posts in the forum: *“Chen Muling... Ranked third in popularity votes according to the beauty poll.”* *“Heiress to the Chen family food empire in Guang City.”* *“Just a small empire.”*

*“Not another beauty?”*

*“Heh, I was once called a campus beauty too.”*

*“Qin Ming, you’re such a womanizer!”*

*“True to your title as the ‘Campus Belles Harvester’.”*

*It has been two months. You have neither contacted me, nor spoken to me about our divorce. What are you up to?*

*Perhaps it is your plan to wait for me to bring it up?*

At that moment, her cellphone interrupted her train of thoughts. She looked down and saw that it was a message from her grandmother. Reading the message, she could not help but frown. *So, both Uncle Wangshen and Uncle Tianle have dropped by? They're still trying to humiliate Qin Ming? Moreover, how dare they try to request for the Nine-eyed Dzi bead?*

Xiaoqiao instinctively reached for her Nine-eyed Dzi bead that had hung from her neck. *This gift had a value of sixteen million, and it was bought by Qin Ming especially for her.*

Truthfully speaking, she had not believed the Taoist priest's words. Her arranged marriage to Qin Ming was merely a sham, in the first place,

conducted to bring good fortune to her grandpa. However, after the ceremony, old Mu Hairan did happen to recover from his illness, causing her to start believing in it a little. Her situation was sort of similar to that of Shulan's, yet not as serious as Shulan's either. Anyway, she was prepared to believe in such hocus-pocus, for her logical mind found no reasons nor disadvantages not to.

When Zhang Quanzhen happened to be there last time, she had requested for a fortune-telling session from him. She had asked him how she could find her true love.

Quanzhen had foretold her that her life had lacked strong temperament and will. By wearing a Nine-eyed Dzi bead, she would receive extra protection from the living Buddha. Other than that, it would serve to lure her one true love to appear in her life.

Xiaoqiao had agreed with him that her personality was indeed hard on the outside yet soft on the inside. Deciding to turn her fate for the better, she had gone to bid for the Nine-eyed Dzi bead in an auction, and in the end, she had

managed to win it, thanks to Qin Ming.

Upon gaining the possession of the Dzi bead, added with her earlier experience of a certain chain of events, she discovered within her that Qin Ming was someone whom she deemed important in her heart. Thus, she was willing to accept him as her husband.

When he had suddenly wanted to call it quits, she panicked. Wanting to evade reality, she merely used her entrepreneurship venture as an excuse to escape to Jing City.

Mu Hao, who was driving, took notice of his daughter's distraught expression and asked, "What's the matter? Why are you looking at your phone and frowning?"

Brushing her hair to the side, she replied, "It's nothing. It's just that Uncle Wangshen and Uncle Tianle have dropped by."

Mu Hao joked, "What must come shall come. After all, they haven't shown up for a long time anyway. However, your sister, Sichun, may be

angered again.” Musing to himself, he continued, “Haha, they will possibly try to introduce another suitor to your sister yet again.”

Xiaoqiao winced and grinned. She remembered that in the past, her uncles and their families had repeatedly tried to introduce her to the sons of the affluent and influential families in Sea City, hoping that she would end up marrying one of them. However, she was not interested in them at all. She believed that her Mr. Right would appear in due time.

As a result, her destined one did appear, just as her grandpa fell ill.

Initially, Xiaoqiao felt reluctant towards such a sham of a marriage that cared not for her happiness, but for improving someone else’s fortune. She had tried her utmost best to resist the arranged marriage, in the first instance. After all, such an excellent lady like her was incomparable in aspects such as education level, body figure, appearance, family background... During ancient times, she would have qualified to be either a princess or a daughter to a prince, or even at least

to a minister.

In the end, she ended up marrying someone whom she had never met before, just because their birthdates had matched. In addition to that, her husband was seen to be a mere live-in son-in-law, something that outsiders would scorn at.

However, for the sake of her grandpa, Mu Hairan's, illness and for the sake of turning his fate around, she relented.

Upon getting to know Qin Ming, she discovered, to her delight, that he was someone who was mysteriously capable. There had been a few times when he had helped to resolve the Mu family's conundrums and problems.

His capabilities had successfully attracted her. She began to re-examine her feelings, as she gradually re-evaluated her stance towards Qin Ming. Despite his poor family background, he was someone with qualities and merits that were simply too impeccable to ignore.

Just as she had started to warm up to him, Qin

Ming had wanted out of their marriage.

Deep inside, she did not want to be a divorced woman. Her pride would not accept it, and she would feel too embarrassed to bear it. Hence, she hid, escaping to Jing City to start a business venture, allowing Qin Ming some time to cool down and reconsider his decision.

Xiaoqiao asked curiously, “Dad, did Qin Ming ever mention divorce during my period of absence?”

Mu Hao pursed his lips. Qin Ming had wanted to file for a divorce and had approached him. Yet, he had kept this fact to himself and had never notified anyone else of it. As a result, Qin Ming had called him almost every day, and it bothered him so much that he had to resort to giving excuses of going abroad for business, to avoid the latter every single time.

Mu Hao had made up his mind to continue with the charade. Just as Zhang Quanzhen had prophesized, Qin Ming had indeed brought prosperity to the Mu family. His faith in the

divination had hardened his resolve not to give in easily.

Mu Hao replied, “No. The two of you are still married, as far as I’m aware of it. If you don’t believe me, you can check your status at the Civil Affairs Bureau yourself. Qin Ming himself was working hard, even during his summer break.” Pausing to look at his daughter, he continued, “He told me that he doesn’t want to be a man who doesn’t deserve you. Even though we are well-off, he still doesn’t slack off. He has even promised that when he has made it, he’ll properly provide a lavish dwelling for you. I’ve got to admit it, that kid has a fire burning in him. He’s motivated, and he’ll definitely make it far in life.”

Mu Hao’s nonsensical and deceptive talk caused Xiaoqiao to feel elated. Her ecstatic heart mused, “I guess he does work hard. I was wrong about him.”

Looking at the passing sceneries outside the car window, with joy filling her heart, Xiaoqiao glanced at the few photos of Chen Muling in her phone and muttered to herself, “This time, when

we meet, we must become a pair of formal husband and wife. I shall not allow him to be taken away by other women.”



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Meanwhile, at the Mu family house, Qin Ming was reading in the study, and old Mr. Mu was right next to him.

Mu Hairan was fond of him, as he continuously recommended him a lot of books about life philosophy, such as, the Thick Back Theory, Murphy's Law, and many others. He had also told him of his many stories and personal experiences, during his youthful days.

Qin Ming felt shy. Mu Hairan seemed to like his "grandson-in-law" very much. However, Qin Ming understood that Mu Hairan had not known that he had left the Mu family.

Although Mu Xiaoqiao was gorgeous to behold, Qin Ming already had someone else in his heart.

*Since we have yet to consummate our marriage, why bother burdening the family?*

Qin Ming felt slightly irritated on the inside. *Mu Hao is such a sly man! Why is no one talking about the divorce yet? Can it be that the divorce certificate is fake? Now, where have I placed that certificate of mine?*

Just then, a rumbling sound of a running engine was heard. A car turned into the Mu family house's compound, and out came Mu Xiaoqiao, dragging her suitcase along, behind her.

Smiling insincerely, Qin Ming immediately called out to Mu Hao, "Hey, Mr. Mu! Where have you been?"

Hearing his voice, Mu Hao quickly answered, "Well, well, well, if it isn't Qin Ming. I was just overseas, striking up some business deals. What's the matter here?"

Qin Ming smirked, opened the window as he waved his hands down, towards Mu Hao. "Look up! Guess where I am?"

Looking up, Mu Hao saw that Qin Ming was waving at him. Rolling his eyes, he sighed. *There's nowhere to hide anymore, I guess. Does he really hate my Xiaoqiao that much?*

Xiaoqiao gazed up in the direction of her room as

usual and saw Qin Ming waving his hands at her father. She was startled, for it had looked as though he was waving at her.

Her heart skipped a few beats, as nervousness and shyness crept in. She could feel her heart speeding up, as if she were tasting the sweetness of love. *Is he welcoming me? How does he know that I'm coming home today? Has he been waiting at home all the while?*

A smile appeared on her face unknowingly, as her heart fluttered with gladness.

Upstairs, Qin Ming snorted in derision, and announced, “Mr. Mu, I’ve given you face and I’ve paid my respects. I have not made a ruckus in your household, even though I’ve endured endless, unprovoked humiliation from your relatives. Come up and clarify the situation to me. Otherwise, don’t blame me for putting your Mu family to shame...”

Mu Hao continued to feign innocence as he asked ignorantly, “Qin Ming, why are you so anxious? Wait a moment and I’ll come up right away.”

Speaking of which, Mu Hao did not go up, ultimately, but rather, he stayed in the hall to greet the family members of Uncle Wangshen and Uncle Tianle.

Xu Shulan was glad to see that Xiaoqiao was back, as she took the latter's hand and explained, "Qin Ming is here too. Let's have dinner together at home tonight. I'll inform Fang to prepare a delicious meal, consisting of your favorite foods. Go up and see him. Let your dad chat with your uncles."

Soon, Xiaoqiao nodded shyly. Without even giving a word of greeting to her two uncles and their family members, she then turned to walk upstairs.

As she was about to ascend the stairs, old Mrs. Mu, who had been watching TV, immediately grabbed her precious granddaughter and asked, "Dear, do you miss Qin Ming?"

Xiaoqiao replied embarrassedly, "Grandma, what are you talking about? Not really. After all, work has kept me busy. Every day has been quite

hectic yet fulfilling.”

Old Mrs. Mu smiled mysteriously, “When you meet Qin Ming later, don’t be impatient. Seek his opinion for whatever you have in mind.”

Feeling puzzled, Xiaoqiao did not manage to catch the meaning behind her words.

Nonetheless, there was something insinuated in those words, and even though she could not guess it, she decided it would be wise to remain vigilant.

Meanwhile, Qin Ming was expecting Mu Hao, as soon as he found that he had encountered Xiaoqiao instead.

Seeing her, his heart felt inexplicably strange. He remembered that he had almost pushed Xiaoqiao over last time, and she had avoided him right after that.

He nonchalantly asked, “I see that you have returned. Where is your father?”

“He is downstairs chatting with my two uncles,”

Xiaoqiao responded.

After such an exchange, the both of them soon fell into an awkward silence. This kind of strange interaction felt familiar, yet distant, simultaneously.

Fidgeting uncomfortably, Qin Ming appeared to be upset. “Your dad has continuously avoided me.”

Xiaoqiao bit her lips. With a hint of gladness, she uttered, “You can tell me if there’s something weighing on your mind. Since you have not filed for a divorce, I have been quite happy. I’ve feared living my life as a divorced woman.”

Frowning, Qin Ming felt as though his words had been taken right out of his mouth. He had initially wanted to discuss this issue.

To his misfortune, before he could open his mouth, Xiaoqiao fiddled with the Nine-eyed Dzi bead on her neck. “Uncle Wangshen and Uncle Tianle want me to hand them this Dzi bead that you’ve gifted me. What is your take on this?”

Qin Ming immediately responded with disdain, “Those greedy old men! Don’t give it to them! This thing is worth more than one hundred million, setting a new record that the market has yet to see! It is an artifact that the living Buddha himself has once worn. In the antique world, this thing is priceless! You can’t just give it away, for the sake of some relatives!”

Nodding, Xiaoqiao responded, “We are on the same line of thought. This is something that Master Zhang had bought at an auction. It is a charm to protect us.”

Upon hearing the words “to protect us”, Qin Ming found that his heart was moved. *Had Xiaoqiao thought of me, while she was bidding for this Nine-eyed Dzi bead? I guess that spending such an exorbitant amount wasn’t in vain, after all.*

However, upon seeing Xiaoqiao’s indifferent attitude, mellowing to her current passionate manner, Qin Ming soon found that he had felt rather uncomfortable.

As he was someone who placed great importance on relationships, he could not bear to hurt Xiaoqiao, who seemed to be in a good mood. He was at a loss for words.

After much consideration, he decided that it would have been much better to clarify this matter with Mu Hao.

Seeing that Qin Ming was still wearing his old clothes, Xiaoqiao quickly opened her luggage and took out a few sets of new clothes. “When I was on my way back, I had bought these for you. Do you think that they’ll fit you?”

He took the clothes into his hands and gazed at them. *Versace and Armani- these were world-famous brands, made with high-quality materials. They incorporated the latest styles.*

He felt slightly touched. After all, it was his first time receiving clothes, gifted by others. *Should I accept these?*

While Qin Ming was hesitating, Shulan came up and asked for Xiaoqiao, saying that her two

uncles were looking for her.

Seeing that Qin Ming did not reject her gift, Xiaoqiao treated it as though he had accepted it. “These clothes have already been washed for you. You can try putting them on. Stay for dinner tonight, okay?”

With that, she headed off downstairs. As soon as they saw her, Uncle Wangshen exclaimed, “Here comes our Xiaoqiao. From an ace student, she has now become the prodigious president of her own company.”

Not wanting to miss out, Uncle Tianle quipped, “I have heard that your Xinglong brand has already firmly established itself in the domestic luxury clothing line. I’ve even heard that it’s going to go international soon!”

Aunt Xinyi chipped in, to praise her, “That’s right. I’d only wish for my useless sons to possess half of Xiaoqiao’s capabilities; only then, would I have felt relieved.”

After the initial superficial praises by the elders,

the conversation took a different turn, vectoring into the touchy topic that they had wanted to discuss- the crux of their reason for visiting today. “Dear Xiaoqiao, is the Nine-eyed Dzi bead that you’re wearing now the same antique which was in the Guang City auction a while ago?”

Xiaoqiao had foreseen this question popping up from miles away, and had deduced the true intentions of her Uncle Wangshen and Uncle Tianle. They had wanted to obtain such an antique artifact for themselves.

Casually she replied, “Indeed it is, Uncle Wangshen. What’s the matter? It was sold for the price of a hundred and sixty million and it has set the new record for the highest bid in the market.”

Mu Hao quickly interjected, “That was won with Xiaoqiao’s own money. I have no part in it. It is therefore up to her own volition to do whatever she would want to, with it.”

The daughters of both Uncle Wangshen and Uncle Tianle were ripe with envy, upon hearing that Xiaoqiao had spent her own money, without

any support from her family. Unlike her, they were still living off of their own families, even though they were already near to her age.

They were clearly upset and frustrated as well, for they knew of the naggings and rebuking that would await them, back at home. After all, being cousins, they had always been compared to one another since childhood.

As luck would have it, Xiaoqiao had married a useless, live-in son-in-law. Such a shame would have at least restored some of their own dignity.

Both cousins began to harbor thoughts to themselves. *In the future, I'll have to make sure that I marry a rich man. Otherwise, I won't be able to raise my head for the rest of my life.*

Uncle Wangshen rubbed his hands gingerly and bluntly requested, "Well then, can you give us your Nine-eyed Dzi bead in that case?"

"No can do." Xiaoqiao flatly rejected her uncle's request.

Bewildered at such outright denial, Uncle Tianle shot back, “Huh? Why? There are so many varieties of Dzi beads in the market. Why hold on to this one? On the other hand, we are in need of yours.”

Aunt Liuting quickly supported her husband. “Dear Xiaoqiao, we’ve been relatives for so many years. This in itself is not a big deal anyway. After all, there are many similar substitutes in the market. Why would you stubbornly hold on to this ornament?”

“Aunt, this Nine-eyed Dzi bead was not bought by me. It was bought by him, and he had gifted it to me as a token of his love.” Exhausting her breath, Xiaoqiao tried to explain further, “This bead means a lot to me.”

Uncle Wangshen immediately shushed her, “Oh Xiaoqiao. Pipe down, will you? Even if your good-for-nothing, live-in husband is not here, remember that the walls have ears too. He may be listening in to us, at this moment.” Lowering his voice further, he cooed, “Now, good girl, who is this ‘him’ that you’ve mentioned? Let’s call over

the fine gentleman who has gifted you the Dzi bead for a nice chat.”

Rolling her eyes, she silently resigned and conceded. “Sure. Let me call him over then.”



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Mu Xiaoqiao was annoyed with the way her uncles completely ignored Qin Ming.

Having mentioned that the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead was a token of love, she thought it was obvious that Qin Ming was the one who gifted it. Mu Xiaoqiao did not specifically mention Qin Ming because she was embarrassed with the fact that she remained a virgin even after getting married for two months.

*In the end, my uncle suspects that I am having an affair.*

*What an insult!* Because of the blood relation, Mu Xiaoqiao chose not to have an outburst.

On the other hand, Xu Waner was rather surprised, “So you’re seeing someone else? Qin Ming must not have taken this very well.”

Xu Kuang chuckled. “That’s hardly surprising, considering what a poor bastard Qin Ming is. He can count himself lucky for getting to be Mu Xiaoqiao’s live-in husband.”

Aunt Liuting then asked calmly, “Mu Hao, why did you arrange a marriage like this for Xiaoqiao? I know you wanted to bring Dad joy with a wedding in the family, and it worked. But he’d also feel sorry for his granddaughter.”

Mu Hao’s face darkened. “I didn’t make the decision lightly. Dad’s doing much better now because of Qin Ming. Besides, our family would be in a total mess without him.”

He believed in what Zhang Quanzhen told him. *I’m not superstitious. Taoism is based on science. After all, Qin Ming rid our family of the genetic disorder and prevented our company from being swindled away.*

Noticing that Mu Hao was getting upset, Uncle Wangshen quickly changed the subject. “We’d better keep it down. Xiaoqiao will be in trouble if Qin Ming catches wind of this. Who is this gentleman you’re talking about, Xiaoqiao? Maybe you should have him meet us.”

Annoyed, Mu Xiaoqiao rolled her eyes. “Fine. I’ll go get him.”

Uncle Wangshen was baffled by the response.

“Here? Now? Don’t you think it’d be a bad idea to meet the guy so openly in front of Qin Ming?”

“Why would it matter? Qin Ming’s a live-in husband! Xiaoqiao can do whatever she wants. This will show him who’s the boss in the family,” protested Uncle Tianle.

“Wouldn’t it be hilarious if Qin Ming suddenly stormed down here because he couldn’t take it anymore?” Xu Kuang suddenly burst out in laughter.

Mu Xiaoqiao was not happy at all with her relatives’ harsh words, so she went upstairs to get Qin Ming.

Qin Ming was trying out his clothes when Mu Xiaoqiao suddenly walked in. Embarrassed, he quickly covered his nipples. “Aren’t you supposed to be downstairs?”

Mu Xiaoqiao found how Qin Ming reacted to be amusing. “Everybody’s looking for you, so you should head down.”

Although Qin Ming had no intention of meddling in the Mu family's business, he was curious as to why they looked for him. "Just a second. Let me change first."

"Why? This suit looks good on you. Here, let me help you," offered Mu Xiaoqiao, who then took the initiative to help Qin Ming put on his outfit as any good wife would. She even knelt to help with the pants.

He was so close to Mu Xiaoqiao that he could smell her fragrance, Qin Ming felt touched that someone like Mu Xiaoqiao, who was born with a silver spoon in her mouth, would treat himself that way.

After Mu Xiaoqiao was done, Qin Ming looked like a different man. Qin Ming looked so handsome that Mu Xiaoqiao could not help but feel pleased.

Then, she held Qin Ming's hand and led him downstairs.

When Uncle Wangshen, Uncle Tianle, and the

other family members saw Qin Ming in a nice suit, they were surprised by how much he looked like a rich man.

“I guess Xiaoqiao got Qin Ming a new outfit,” ridiculed one of Mu Xiaoqiao’s cousins.

“Show some respect. He’s your cousin, after all. Why is Qin Ming here, though?” asked Xu Kuang.

“Both of you need to mind your manners. Look at how your cousin Xiaoqiao managed to control her man at home, so who cares about the man out there.” Aunt Xinyi spoke as if she cared about manners.

Mu Xiaoqiao was rather annoyed with her comment. “What are you trying to say, Aunt Xinyi? Whether it’s at home or out there, Qin Ming is my husband. I’m not seeing anybody else.”

Aunt Xinyi was puzzled, “But you just said that your boyfriend gave you the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead as a token of love.”

Qin Ming found it hard to believe that Mu Xiaoqiao would say something stupid like that.

“That’s your assumption. I said it’s a token of love, but I never said who gifted it to me. Don’t you think it’s just rude to assume?” retorted Mu Xiaoqiao.

Mu Hao quickly chimed in, “How could you guys say that about my daughter? We’re all family, and we shouldn’t spread rumors about each other. Otherwise, I’m going to have to ask you to leave.”

Left speechless, Aunt Xinyi felt offended and was breathing heavily.

“But that can’t be true. Don’t you lie to your uncle now, Xiaoqiao. Are you implying that your husband was the one who gave the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead?”

Mu Xiaoqiao glanced at Qin Ming before replying, “You said you wanted to meet the person who gave it to me. Here he is, my husband. Why do you not trust me?”

After a moment of silence, the uncles and their family continued to ridicule Qin Ming.

“How’s that possible? He’s just a poor boy from the countryside. How can he ever afford something like that?”

“Is your husband forcing you to make him look good? Qin Ming must have quite a temper then. Xiaoqiao, I think you need to work on the house rules.”

“Look at the way he was dressed just now. He even needs you to get him some decent clothes. So you must be joking when you said he can afford the bead.”

“Even if you’re unwilling to hand it to us, you didn’t have to make up such a lie.”

“We are very sincerely. Look, everyone’s here to see you. On top of that, we really need the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead because it’s very important to us.

“It’s true, Xiaoqiao. You don’t have to use Qin Ming as some sort of excuse.”

“Your Mom told us how poor your husband is. She just wanted to have a wedding in the family for your grandfather’s sake, and she planned to arrange for your divorce as soon as he gets better.”

“That was then. Now I have nothing against Qin Ming,” Xu Shulan quickly explained herself.

“That’s enough! I have the certificates from the auction house and the famous antiquarian, Mr. Yang. You can see for yourselves that I never spent a dime for the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead and that my husband’s not as worthless as you claim him to be.”

Then, the uncles and the others quickly read through the two certificates of authenticity thrown to them by Mu Xiaoqiao.

Everything was stated clearly there, including the name of the bidder, the amount bid, and the taxable amount. It was all under Qin Ming, and the relatives could not believe what they discovered.

*How is this possible.* All the Xus looked at Qin Ming in disbelief. Suddenly, they regretted ridiculing Mu Xiaoqiao's husband, who they thought was a poor country boy.

“This can't be right. Something's not right here,” stated Xu Kuang suddenly.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Many in Sea City considered the Xu family to be wealthy, so they despised country boys like Qin Ming.

Mu Xiaoqiao was pleased to see how shocked her relatives were after they saw the certificates, “Your small mind didn’t expect that, did it? You have kissed the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead goodbye when you humiliated my husband.”

Both her uncles felt that they had dug their own grave when they realized that they had to go through Qin Ming, who they had just made fun of, to get the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead.

They were in distress because it was too hard for them and too late to beg Qin Ming now.

*What shall we do now. We are doomed.*

Old Mrs. Mu, who was supposed to be watching TV, laughed at the uncles’ predicament.

Pleased with the revelation, Mu Hao praised Qin Ming, “Wow, Qin Ming. Where did you get the money from? You’re such a great husband.”

After rolling his eyes, Qin Ming walked over to Mu Hao and whispered into his father-in-law's ear, "You'd better not try to hide anything today, Mr. Mu. I'm only playing along for the sake of your family."

"Don't worry. I promise I won't, but let's take care of the matter at hand first," responded Mu Hao with a diplomatic smile.

Convinced that he was nothing but a tool for the Mu family, Qin Ming then grunted before sitting aside.

Then, Xu Shulan joined in to gloat with her husband, "I bet you're regretful now, aren't you? None of you has expected Qin Ming to be such a great son-in-law, right?"

She had a smile so wide that her eyes narrowed into slits, but it disappeared the second Aunt Xinyi glared at her.

It was very obvious that Xu Shulan was rather afraid of her other family members.

Like a boss lecturing her employees, Mu Xiaoqiao lectured her uncles, “Don’t you know not to judge a book by its cover? My husband and I love each other, so please don’t tarnish my reputation.”

He may be just a student, but he’s the top in class, and he received a scholarship every year. He’s also doing his internship at a multinational company.”

“Someday, he may even be more successful than I am, so don’t presume he’s a kept boy just because he came from the countryside. As far as I know, our family owes him more than he owes us.”

“We’re all very grateful to him, so don’t pretend to be on my side when you’re humiliating my husband.”

After the bombardment, Aunt Xinyi’s face darkened, for she had never been scolded like that by someone as young as Mu Xiaoqiao.

Aunt Xinyi didn’t take it well and scolded, “Even

your mother dared not oppose me. How dare a punk like you talk to me this way!”

Those words meant war.

With that, Aunt Liuting decided to join in, “Once a country boy, always a country boy! As embarrassing as it is that Qin Ming married into the family, that’s a fact! You may have failed to get yourself a decent husband, but I’ll be damned if Waner followed your footsteps!”

The fact that Qin Ming seemed unaffected by the insults as if he had gotten used to them only made Mu Xiaoqiao feel more guilty about not being able to defend her husband’s honor.

Seeing how upset his parents were, Xu Kuang was not about to hold back his fury either. “This just doesn’t seem right. Is Qin Ming doing something illegal? I mean, the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead is over a hundred million! The papers even stated that he had acquired a famous painting, a red diamond necklace, and a fifteen-million-year-old dodo bird skeleton at the auction. All of these have got to be worth at least two to three hundred

million. How would Qin Ming get this much money? Does his family print money?”

The other family members agreed it was impossible that Qin Ming had that much money.

*He comes from the countryside, doesn't he?*

*Even an internship at a multinational company can't get anyone two hundred million.*

A corporate boss like Uncle Wangshen would never lower himself to beg Qin Ming, so he decided not to take his niece's scolding quietly. “You could've just told us directly that you didn't want to sell us the bead. There's really no need to lie to us like that.”

Xu Waner also chimed in, “It's sad that you have to lie just so you can brag. Since you've already married the guy, you should just admit that he's not as impressive as you'd like him to be. There is no shame in that.”

“He's a live-in son-in-law, that's the truth! There's no way he has that much money. We

know you bade in Qin Ming's name because you want to save his face. We can understand that." Uncle Tianle was not about to sit that family war out.

"You're not trying to raise the price, are you? Come on, Xiaoqiao. We're relatives! I practically watched you grow up. Do you really want to do this to us?" sneered Aunt Liuting.

"Why don't you say something, Qin Ming? You're allowed to speak, so tell us. How did you get the money from? Did you really do something illegal?" asked Aunt Xinyi.

"Yes. Do say something, Qin Ming. It'll only make you look more suspicious if you don't."

"It's either legal, or it isn't."

"Are you afraid to tell us, Qin Ming?"

At that point, nothing was off-limits as the relatives said all kinds of vile things and came up with the wildest speculations.

However, Mu Hao and Mu Xiaoqiao were also curious about how Qin Ming got the money because they knew what his background was like. Even old Mrs. Mu was all ears trying to listen to Qin Ming's secret.

Calmly, Qin Ming explained himself, "I'm just keeping a low profile. My boss gave me a black card from the Global Bank because I helped him with a certain task. It's supposed to have no spending limit, so I used it at the auction that day."

Xu Kuang scoffed, "You must be bluffing. Not just anybody can get their hands on a black card. Why didn't you use the card to buy yourself some clothes then, Qin Ming?"

Uncle Wangshen shook his head and sighed, "Young people these days are always daydreaming. Xiaoqiao, your husband may not have any talent, but he sure knows how to brag."

Aunt Xinyi turned to her children, "You two stay away from guys like Qin Ming. Not only is he poor and good for nothing, but he has also asked

his wife to save his own face while he spends her money. Heck, he even forbids her from seeing other men.”

Qin Ming was supposed to be in a good mood for finally catching Mu Hao, but the Mus’ relatives seemed to be testing his patience.

*They’re attacking me like this just because they want to save their own face?*

*Because Mu Xiaoqiao tried to defend me?*

Chuckling, Qin Ming was done with being nice, “If you want, I can prove it to you. All it takes is just a phone call.”

Uncle Wangshen sneered, “Sure. Make your call then.”

Pissed off, Qin Ming decided to show them that he was not a pushover, so he immediately called Song Ying, “Ying, I need to teach the Mus’ relatives a lesson. How big is the Xus’ business in Sea City? I want you to acquire all of them.”

After hanging up, Qin Ming noticed that everyone was looking at him like he was a moron.

“Do you know how rich our family is? You think you can ruin our family with that phone call?” ridiculed Uncle Tianle.

“Don’t get your panties in a twist. Give it some time,” responded Qin Ming casually as he crossed his legs.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Compared to the thugs he used to be when he was younger, Qin Ming would rather be good-tempered and easy-going, but the Xus kept hurling all kinds of insults at him.

There was no way he would put up with their nonsense anymore so he had decided to retaliate.

They even goaded him to prove that he was as rich and capable as he claimed himself to be, so Qin Ming decided not to hold back any longer.

“Ying, acquire all the shares and cut off all their business. I want the Xu family to be crossed off the list of Sea City’s wealthiest families,” ordered Qin Ming over the phone.

After the phone call, the surrounding was dead silent as the Xus stared at Qin Ming in bafflement.

Even the help at the mansion was stupefied by what he said.

“What do you think is going to happen after that phone call? Not even the president himself can

take on our family!” boasted Uncle Tianle.

The Xu family had established many businesses in Sea City over the years. They were almost as influential as the Mus, if not more, so it was understandable that they found it hard to believe that a phone call could do anything to their family.

Buying the Xu family’s shares alone would cost tens of billions. Not to mention the other business partners who had been working with the family for many years. It was unlikely that they would simply end the partnership.

The Xus started to ridicule Qin Ming because nobody took him seriously.

“Have you lost your mind? You’re nothing but a poor bastard, so just accept it. Hey, if I were you, I would’ve done the same thing.”

“Xiaoqiao, is he always like this? Getting himself into trouble and wait for you to clean up his mess?”

“Why else would she move to Jing City? Anyone who’s married to a loser like that would want to stay as far away as from him.”

All the mocking infuriated Mu Xiaoqiao so much that she gritted her teeth, but there was nothing she could do about it.

The Xu family was bigger than her family, and they have connections all over Sea City, which happened to be a cosmopolitan city and a crucial area in the Yangtze River Delta.

The Xus were arrogant because they know how powerful and influential they were.

There was no way they could imagine a poor country boy like Qin Ming doing anything to them with a mere phone call. That sounded absolutely absurd.

In response to ridiculing, Qin Ming raised three fingers and scoffed, “We’ll see soon enough. You’ll probably have to leave later, so I want to press three charges now. Number one, I have no grievances with you, but you’ve insulted me over

and over again; number two, you insulted my parents when you insult farmers because that's who they are.; number three, you insulted Mu Xiaoqiao to save your own face. I may be a regular person, but I'm no pushover, and neither is my... “ Qin Ming glanced at Mu Xiaoqiao and hesitated for a while before continuing, “And neither is my wife. You're not getting away that easily for insulting us.”

For the sake of the Mu family, Qin Ming decided to call Mu Xiaoqiao his wife.

Upon hearing that, Mu Xiaoqiao was convinced that Qin Ming cared about her. *He probably didn't show how much he cared because he didn't know how to.*

Disgusted with Qin Ming, Aunt Xinyi sneered, “You ignorant country boy!”

Then, Aunt Liuting insisted, “One way or another, the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead will leave with us. How about we triple the price, Xiaoqiao? Do you remember how much we've helped you in your business, Mu Hao? We never even asked for

anything in return.”

Aunt Xinyi chimed in, “What good will it do if you were to keep the bead? We can gift it to the Qin family for Madam Qin’s birthday and get ourselves a deal for a ten billion business. More importantly, we’ll be building a relationship with the Qins, a world-class giant! Think about it. Your family will benefit from our success too.”

“Exactly! It’ll be even better if we manage to become relatives to the Qin family. Rest assured that we won’t forget your family’s contribution,” promised uncle Wangshen.

“You won’t be far off when we’ve reached a greater height, and it will be a great one. Just ask Old Master Mu. He’ll tell you exactly how powerful the Qins are,” suggested Uncle Tianle.

Having listened to that, Qin Ming finally realized all that fuss was purely for business.

The Xus hurled insults and brought up past favors just to force Mu Xiaoqiao to hand over the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead.

At the mention of past favors, Qin Ming noticed Mu Hao's darkened face.

*No wonder Xu Shulan was submissive to the Xus. Her husband was indebted to them.*

On the other hand, old Mrs. Mu seemed to be unaffected by the Xus' tactics.

She quietly pulled Qin Ming aside, "Were you telling the truth just now, Qin Ming? If you were, you have my respect. If you weren't, then you're just playing with fire."

"Do I look like a compulsive liar?" responded Qin Ming rhetorically.

Old Mrs. Mu then smiled and gave him a thumbs-up before turning back to the TV.

Five minutes later, the Xus' ringing phones broke the silence in the mansion. Every single one of them received calls.

Seeing that it was his secretary, Uncle Wangshen answered the phone, "What? All the shareholders

sold their equity? Just calm down. It's not going to make a difference. The company still belongs to my family.”

“Our clients canceled their orders? Shelved indefinitely? Why? Call them now! Find out what's going on. They don't want anything to do with us anymore? That's impossible!”

“Mr. Zhao warned us not to repeat the mistake? What mistake, and why would he do that? We're old pals.”

“Our goods were detained by the customs? Did they mention what the reason was?”

“They said our factory violated production regulations? We were slammed with a fine and got our power cut off?”

Uncle Wangshen was facing as many problems as Uncle Tianle was. Business partners were abandoning them. At the same time, branch companies were being acquired; they were even getting warnings from industry giants which they used to have good relationships.

It was even worse for Mu Xiaoqiao's cousins. Their friends and other relatives called to either sever ties with them or collect debts.

Watching everything playing out in real-time, the Mus were astonished, for they did not expect things to actually happen after Qin Ming's phone call.

“Our cooperation is no longer possible? But why, Mr. Qin? I thought we had a deal. You don't have to worry about the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead. I'll be sure to get it for Madam Qin's birthday, so please just give us another chance,” pleaded Uncle Wangshen as he switched between two phones.

The number of calls was so overwhelming that the Xus got frustrated and turned off their phones.

Suddenly, the mansion was quiet again as everyone shifted their focus to Qin Ming.

They did not look at him the same way after what happened.

Uncle Wangshen trembled as he answered the call from Sea City's wealthiest family. It was the first time he received a call from the Qins.

Because of the barrage of bad news, Uncle Wangshen was like a cat on a hot tin roof. "Hello, Mr. Qin. Is there a reason you're calling all of a sudden?"

"It is very bold of you, Mr. Xu. You sure know who to piss off, and I don't want to be a part of whatever mess you've just caused. Don't even bother coming to my grandmother's birthday celebration. You can keep the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead to yourself. As far as I am concerned, we're done," informed Mr. Qin.

Feeling like his heart skipped a beat, Uncle Wangshen started to panic. "Wait, Mr. Qin! Give me a chance to explain. Hello? Hello?"

He tried to call Mr. Qin back, but the number could no longer be reached.

Uncle Wangshen's mind went blank as he dropped onto the couch and watched the others

received one bad news after another over the phone as he did.

“Oh my god! Your personal investment costs the company billions. You have to cover the loss, Xinyi!”

“Liuting, you slipped your relative into my office, didn’t you? I’d never have known that it’s you behind the arrangement had he not misappropriated the company funds.”

“Xu Kuang, you bas\*ard! Did you really think that I wouldn’t find out about the three hundred million debt? You used the money in the business account to gamble in Las Vegas, and now your creditors are coming after me!”

“You broke my heart, Waner. How could you not tell me about that washed-up actor you’re dating? He’s almost as old as your father! How long do you plan to keep it from me?”

“All of you, shut up! The Qins have severed ties with us. We’re not even welcomed to join Madam Qin’s birthday celebration anymore. How did this

happen?”

“How can this be real? This saboteur seems to know everything about us. Dad, have you tried to speak with Mr. Zhao? Maybe we should ask Mr. Ma for help.”

The barrage of bad news kept cascading onto the Xus. One phone call after another, they lost friends and business associates. Even their employees quit because they suddenly received a better offer elsewhere.

The Xus wanted to believe it was all nothing but a ruse, but the calls and emails they received could not have been faked.

Even the news channel was broadcasting all sorts of scandals involving the Xus, including sordid photos of Uncle Wangshen with young models in a nightclub.

While the Xus panicked, the Mus' jaw dropped as they wondered how Qin Ming managed to cause so much damage with just a phone call.

Staring at Qin Ming, Mu Hao mumbled to himself, “Master Zhang was right. Qin Ming’s the perfect match for my daughter.”

At that moment, Qin Ming’s phone rang, and it was Song Ying calling, “Young Master, 39% of the merger and acquisition has been completed. 50% of the Xu Group’s employees have quit, and 90% of their business partners have severed ties with them. I’ve also warned our main patron, the Qins, to stay away from the Xus.”

“Kelly Olson was the one who dug the dirt on the Xu family, and it helped to cause their stock to plummet.”

“According to my estimation, the acquisition will take a week and cost around thirty billion, and it’ll take two to three years before we can break even.”

“Money’s not an issue. Double down on the efforts,” responded Qin Ming calmly before the Xus finally realized that he was the one responsible for their misfortunes.

All of a sudden, both Uncle Wangshen and Uncle Tianle knelt before Qin Ming and begged, “Please stop it!”

At that moment, all eyes in the mansion were on Qin Ming as if he were the ultimate decider of everyone’s fate.

“But uncles, you’re the ones who asked me to prove that I can afford the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead. I only made the phone call because you requested it,” explained Qin Ming, which only confirmed that he was really the one who messed up the Xus.

The Xus, who just ridiculed Qin Ming as if he were a nobody, were stupefied when they discovered that he was not bluffing at all.

It would take billions to buy the shares of every minority shareholder.

To buy off the business associates would require substantial wealth too.

The most unbelievable thing was that the cargo

ships, which never had any problem transporting goods before, were suddenly intercepted by the customs in various countries. The cost on the shipment seized per day was enough to render it with no profit at all, and seizure for any longer than that would incur losses.

The Xus' business had been affected from production to delivery.

*It's unbelievable how Qin Ming managed to do all that with just a phone call, but now is not the time to figure that out.*

*What matters now is that we need to get him to stop.*

Qin Ming sneered, "Have I proven myself, my dear uncles? Are you satisfied now? I don't want to ruin the relationship between the Xus and the Mus either. If you'd just stop asking for the bead from Xiaoqiao, nobody's going to have a problem."

Uncle Wangshen was completely helpless. "You can't do this, Qin Ming. You've been toying with

us all this while.”

Panicking, Uncle Tianle chimed in, “Xiaoqiao is my niece, so that makes you my nephew-in-law. Please, you can’t ruin us like this.”

Xu Kuang refused to believe Qin Ming. “Dad, how do you know if it’s really Qin Ming? It could be a coincidence. Maybe our enemies are responsible... “

*Slap!*

Before he could finish, Uncle Wangshen gave him a slap so hard that his face was swollen.

After that, Uncle Wangshen pulled him toward Qin Ming. “Apologize to Qin Ming and Mu Xiaoqiao now! Didn’t you insult them because you’re jealous? If you’re half the man Qin Ming is, I’d be a proud father. You two get over here and apologize too!”

If it were someone else who slapped Xu Kuang, he would have given that person hell, but alas, it was his own father. For that, he had no choice but

to apologize, "I'm sorry, Qin Ming. I'm sorry, Xiaoqiao."

Unsatisfied, Uncle Wangshen kicked Xu Kuang behind the knee to make him kneel on the ground. "Your manners, boy! They're your elders, so you have to kneel. Now, do it again."

As the heir to one of the most powerful families in Sea City, Xu Kuang had never knelt to anyone, much less his own cousin.

Still, he knew better than to defy his father, so he knelt obediently. "I'm sorry, Qin Ming. I'm sorry, Xiaoqiao. I was wrong."

The uncles then roared at their wives, "You too, women! Apologize to Qin Ming and Mu Xiaoqiao now!"

"What a shame that we didn't attend your wedding. You two are a match made in heaven. Your Uncle Tianle and I wish you all the best."

"We're sorry, Qin Ming. You're right all along, and we're too blind to see it. Would you please

forgive us? Xiaoqiao, you're lucky to have such a great husband, and we're all so jealous. I'd die happy if my daughter could marry someone half the man Qin Ming is."

The aunts who were arrogant before trembled as they quickly made their apologies as well.

Because of Mu Hao's submissive nature back then, Xu Shulan could never hold her head high in front of the Xus, but it seemed that Qin Ming had turned the table.

Looking at how the Xus begged, Xu Shulan could not help but feel relieved over her grievances. At the same time, she was impressed by her son-in-law.

Still groveling to Qin Ming, the uncles pleaded, "Qin Ming, we're truly sorry. Have mercy on your uncles and stop all this, please?"

Everyone focused on Qin Ming as they waited anxiously for his response.

The Xus' attitude took a big turn as they groveled Qin Ming.

“We shouldn't have underestimated you for being a farmer. Three generations ago, our ancestors reared cattle and were also farmers. I mean, everyone from Huaxia was born at a farm, right?”

“We didn't mean to disrespect you or your parents.”

“We watched Xiaoqiao grow up, so we'd know what kind of person she really is. It's all just a big misunderstanding. Would you please forgive us?”

“Our lifestyle has degenerated our minds and made us forget that it takes adversities to forge heroes such as yourself. You're right to teach us a lesson. I may be in my fifties, but I'm honored by your teaching nonetheless.”

“You should've told us about your wedding so we could see what a perfect couple you two are. Still, you can be sure that you have our best wishes.”

“Why don’t you say something nice to your son-in-law too, Shulan?”

Xu Shulan, who was having the time of her life watching the Xus groveled, received a look from the uncles.

As part of a powerful family, the two Xus never imagined that they would have to apologize to a younger generation or plead with their sister, and neither did Xu Shulan.

Qin Ming’s mysterious background was starting to freak everyone out.

Knowing how much more powerful the Xu family was compared to his own, Mu Hao found it frightening that Qin Ming could ruin the Xus with a mere phone call.

“Qin Ming, this is just a joke, right? You’re not really going to ruin my family, are you?” asked Xu Shulan, who was part of the Xu family, after all.

“Why not? The Xus claimed to be more powerful

than a poor live-in son-in-law like me, didn't they? Now, we'll see how they like being poor," replied Qin Ming.

"Please! I don't want to be broke! Have mercy, Qin Ming! We promise not to repeat our mistake. You can beat or scold us, but please don't strip us of our wealth. After all, we're family!"

"I'm begging you, Xiaoqiao. Please talk to your husband."

The uncles did everything they could to beg for mercy. Everything besides kneeling, and that was why they made Xu Kuang do it instead.

Even after the Xus switched their phones to silent mode, they kept vibrating because the barrage of bad news kept coming in, and it was making the Xus more and more anxious.

*Cough!*

Suddenly, the sound of a cough came from upstairs. It was Mu Hairan who had walked out of the study to help the Xus off the hook.

“Come here, Qin Ming. This old man has something to tell you,” informed Mu Hairan with an amiable smile.

Smiling softly in return, Qin Ming held Mu Xiaoqiao’s hand and went upstairs with her.

When the two reached the study, Mu Hairan pointed at Qin Ming. “You sure know how to play your cards, boy. Where did you get the resources to toy with the Xus? Even their elderlies are calling me and pleading for help.”

“Sir, you know that I work at a multinational company. I was recently promoted to Vice President of the Great China District, and my job is to take over businesses in Chaoyang for reorganization. As long as it’s profitable to our company, it doesn’t matter if I poached their employees or do hostile takeovers. That’s why I have access to a large amount of capital and personnel resources,” lied Qin Ming, who decided not to expose himself as the heir to the world-class corporate giant, Huan Ning Century Corporation.

“I’m just a wage earner. My boss instructed me to make another acquisition, and since the Xus were so eager for me to prove myself, I targeted their company,” continued Qin Ming.

The title of Vice President at the Great China District was enough to stun Mu Xiaoqiao. She did not expect Qin Ming’s career to skyrocket in her two months of absence.

*Is this what Dad meant when he told me that Qin Ming’s been working hard to match my success? Is all his hard work really for me?*

Touched by how hard she thought Qin Ming had worked for her, Mu Xiaoqiao tightened her grip on his hand as she leaned against him.

“Even so, you’re living every wage earner’s dream, my boy! I expect nothing less from the top student at the Huasheng University of Technology. This multinational company you’re working at is quite something, isn’t it? Not only did they managed to upgrade the service level I had at the Nanshan Nursing Home, but they also got me the special medication from a private

biopharmaceutical company in Z Nation to treat my condition. Not to mention your promotion. I see a great future ahead of you, young man,” praised Mu Hairan with a thumbs-up and a pat on Qin Ming’s back.

Then, Mu Hairan suddenly changed his tone and advised Qin Ming as an elder, “However, I think you’ve done enough already to prove your point to the Xus. After all, they are our in-laws. As a family member, I don’t see why you have to fall out with your mother-in-law’s family. I’m begging you. Please let it go. Look at how sorry they are. Your cousin even knelt before you.”

However, Mu Xiaoqiao would not have it. “They’ve insulted Qin Ming over and over again. Heck, they even brought up past favors to use them against Dad. These people are not my relatives!”

“Are you turning against your own family? What do you think would happen to your grandparents if the Xu family were broke?”

After getting rebuked, Mu Xiaoqiao, who loved

her grandparents, decided to shut up and looked to Qin Ming.

After some thought, Qin Ming finally agreed with Mu Hairan, “Okay, but you owe me a favor.”

Pointing at Qin Ming, Mu Hairan chuckled. “You strike a hard bargain, boy. But I accept it. I owe you one then.”

After that, Qin Ming went back downstairs with Mu Xiaoqiao.

Staring at Qin Ming, Mu Xiaoqiao felt proud of how capable her husband had become. Yet, she could not help but feel a little dissatisfied with how mysterious Qin Ming was.

“When did you get promoted, and why didn’t you tell me?” asked Mu Xiaoqiao.

Qin Ming decided it was best not to reveal the truth about being heir to the Huan Ning Century Corporation when he had not secured the position yet. “I’m just a wage earner. That’s nothing worth bragging about. If my boss loses his job, I could

lose mine anytime. I just got lucky, that's all."

"Well, luck is what you make for yourself. You're lucky because you've got what it takes to make it so," retorted Mu Xiaoqiao before standing on her toes to give Qin Ming a peck on the cheek.

"You're amazing today, Qin Ming."

After that, she held onto Qin Ming's arm affectionately like a teenage girl in love.

The peck startled Qin Ming and made his heart raced, and Mu Xiaoqiao's soft voice only intensified the situation.

He wanted to resist Mu Xiaoqiao because he was supposed to be acting only, after all. Qin Ming blamed Mu Hao for the misunderstanding, for he did not make it clear to the Mus that Qin Ming would be leaving them soon.

He only continued with the act because he did not want to fall out with the family, though a beauty like Mu Xiaoqiao made it hard for him not to sink into his character.

Looking at how everyone in the living room was staring expectantly at him, Qin Ming shook his head and decided to wait until later to tell the Mus the truth. He only prayed that they would not hate him for it.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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When Uncle Wangshen came, he had had a well-drafted plan in his mind.

*It would be best if I'm able to just buy the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead from Mu Xiaoqiao after some persuasion. Otherwise, I can offer twice the original price, then let our families gather for a meal together, then catch up and talk about the children's latest achievement. At the same time, I can demonstrate dignity as an elderly brother and maintain my status.*

*If all the above doesn't work, then I can still take advantage of the favors they owe us from the past to pressure the Mu family. It doesn't matter how, but the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead must be attained.*

*And this Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead which used to be worn by the Tibetan living Buddha when he was alive will be presented to Madam Qin of the Qin family, the most prominent family in Sea City, as her birthday gift. That way, we should be able to develop a connection with the Qin family.*

*If that happens, the position of Xu family in Sea City will be strengthened by a lot.*

Everything was very well planned. Not only could he acquire the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead, but also flaunt a little and make the Mu family envy and succumb to his power since he was the eldest uncle of Mu Xiaoqiao. The difference was who would succeed in doing that, Tianle, his younger brother, or him.

Nevertheless, no one had expected Qin Ming, the live-in son-in-law to appear halfway through his plan with such a skillful feat that almost racked and ruined the Xu family.

During the few minutes when Qin Ming walked up to talk to old Mr. Mu, the two Xu families received numerous warning calls from their business partners threatening to cut off the ties with them, including some very old friends. Scandals involving Xu Group were also exposed, causing their share price to plummet. Accidents happened in their factory, and even their supply chain had been suspended for investigation. Thirty billion of the company's stock value diminished instantly.

And then he saw the simpering way Mu Xiaoqiao

stole a kiss from Qin Ming.

*How could the joy in Mu Xiaoqiao's eyes be fake?*

Everyone in the Xu family felt ashamed. They thought Qin Ming was just a loser who had to depend on the Mus and Mu Xiaoqiao married him was only a result of her father's pressure.

They were always snobbish and took everything for granted all along. This time, they finally met with someone who had come to teach them a lesson, and that someone was none other than Qin Ming.

Without any care for saving face, Uncle Wangshen wasted no time and came up front to plead, "Mr. Qin, please spare us. We will just waive the loss that has occurred this time but please don't make everyone turn against the Xu family."

Qin Ming turned to look at Mu Xiaoqiao and asked, "Dear, would you forgive him?"

It was a dead silence. At that point in time, the destiny of the Xu family was totally in the hands of Mu Xiaoqiao.

Mu Xiaoqiao replied with a question, “Dear, why don’t we just let them go? In the future, Uncle Wangshen, Uncle Tianle, Aunt Xinyi, Aunt Liuting, and my cousins, you people would better have respect for Qin Ming and my mom. Especially my mom, if any of you dare to pick on her again, we’ll see then.”

Upon hearing that, Xu Shulan stood tall delightedly. For once, she had gained a formidable reputation in front of her brothers and sisters-in-law, thanks to her brilliant son-in-law, Qin Ming.

“That’s for sure.” Aunt Xinyi and Aunt Liuting immediately nodded quickly and had no other choice but to agree to that term. *Where does a stupid woman like Xu Shulan find an excellent live-in son-in-law like him? Why would such a capable man willingly become the live-in son-in-law of the Mu family? He must be coveting Mu Xiaoqiao’s beauty.*

Qin Ming rubbed his hand and said, “Well then, since old Mr. Mu and my dear had spoken up for you, I can set aside your humiliation towards me. After all, we’re relatives, right?”

Qin Ming then made another call to Song Ying and said, “Ying, it’s me. Put the acquisition of the Xu Group on hold for the time being.”

Song Ying did not ask about the reason and instead just answered directly, “I got it, Young Master.”

After orders were given by Song Ying to stop their attack against the Xu family, the calls received by members of the Xu family had decreased significantly. Followed by that were calls coming in from previous business partners to clarify that their phones had caught some virus and they were impersonated to say things that shouldn’t be said. Hence, they called back to stress that business dealings between them would carry on as per normal.

Even a high-level official called to inform them that he had lost his phone and just found it. What

was said previously was not his own intention and it was impossible for him to cut off their ties considering the many years of friendship they had maintained.

Even their cargo ships which were sending goods over to several countries had successfully docked, and they received feedback that it was a misunderstanding previously and the suspension order had been lifted.

A few business executives from their company called to inform them that their phones had been infected by a virus. However, they were loyal to the company with absolutely no intention to resign.

Everything was like a dream. It was as though a huge bunch of people had had their phones lost or attacked by some virus or malware.

However, nothing could change the fact that their share prices had hit the lowest limit. At the same time, the news about Xu Wan'er going out with a down-and-out celebrity boyfriend was true. Then, the problems that came with their minority

shareholders' equity being acquired were irreversible. On top of that, Qin family in the Sea City wanted to sever ties with them, and the loss of tens of billions in Xu Group was all true.

That was the power behind a phone call made by Qin Ming. They had intensely felt the terrific influence he had.

By then, Qin Ming had become this huge invincible mountain where his presence intimidated everyone who was present.

Xu Kuang, the arrogant spoilt brat, dared not look down on Qin Ming anymore and was just sitting uneasily with a hunch at the side.

It was a tremendous loss for the Xu family this time. All the efforts they put in for the past twenty years were dissipated and the size of Xu Group had decreased by almost half. Uncle Wangshen and Uncle Tianle quickly apologized and expressed their gratitude towards old Mr. Mu for speaking up for them, then rushed back to Sea City after that.

The peace in the Mu family was then restored. Xu Shulan could not stop praising Qin Ming with compliments like ‘virtuous son-in-law’, ‘promising young man’ and she even called him a ‘legend’.

Qin Ming effaced himself and said that every happened only because of his job in a multinational company, where he was in charge of merger and acquisition. All these were, of course, some excuses he made up.

The Mu family had nowhere to investigate what he said either, so they bought his story while complimenting him on his capabilities of being able to secure such a promising internship program. They could not stop glorifying him with acclaims, saying that he must have a very bright future, that he’s a capable son-in-law and also the best son-in-law.

It made him feel very awkward because he had come to discuss with Mu Hao the fact that he had left the Mu family. This matter must be made clear.

When he saw that there were only people from the Mu family left, he pushed Mu Xiaoqiao's hand away gently, which took her by surprise and said, "Ahem... Actually, I have come here today as I have something else to declare. Mr. Mu?"

He turned to look at Mu Hao as he said that, making eye contact with a very clear intention. "Mr. Mu, it's better for you to announce it yourself than me revealing it. Otherwise, it would be bashful for you."

Mu Hao was distressed while he exchanged quick glances with Qin Ming. "Is there no other way around this?"

Qin Ming glared at him furiously. "No! If you don't tell them, then I'll do it."

Xu Shulan who was still kept in the dark asked cheerfully, "Qin Ming, what is it? Didn't you come back specifically because you knew Xiaoqiao was coming home? Xiaoqiao, you see, you've gone to Jing City to start your own business and haven't been around or see each other in such a long time. That's bad for

newlyweds like you two. Qin Ming is an exceptional young man and the Mu family is a prominent family in Guang City. How hard up are you to have to work so hard on your own?"

Mu Xiaoqiao pressed her lips together in embarrassment. Indeed, she started having feelings for Qin Ming and had had thoughts about intimacy when he pushed her on the bed the last time. Their clothes were almost completely taken off but he suddenly held back and left the room.

Mu Xiaoqiao knew that Qin Ming might still be caring for Nie Haitang deep down.

She did not blame him but instead, she thought of him as someone who truly valued relationships and love, and such a person would be someone worth spending the rest of her life with.

She went away previously because Qin Ming was persistent in divorcing her. Two months had passed and Nie Haitang had disappeared. During this period, Mu Hao did not mention anything about Qin Ming's intention to get a divorce at all. Hence, she thought that there might be a change

in Qin Ming's decision.

Especially just now, after seeing how Qin Ming coddled her. Moreover, he had striven for her, worked hard, fought the Xu family, and came back home for her.

So she did not mind that much anymore and it was possible to get Qin Ming to start liking her in the future.

Enduring the pressure from Qin Ming, Mu Hao couldn't help but sit down slowly. He took a sip of water and sat squarely and in a very alert manner. Then, he sighed and said, "To be honest, I've concealed something, and it's..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Mu Hao suddenly fainted and fell to the ground.

*Qin Ming was dumbfounded. Damn! What the heck is happening to you, Mu Hao? Don't you faint just like that! You should finish off your sentence before you fall unconscious.*

The other Mus were busy giving him first-aid and

the family doctor was also called upon but Mu Hao did not regain consciousness.

In the end, even the family doctor could not do anything anymore so Mu Hao had to be sent to the hospital. A short while later, the ambulance arrived.

The Mu family had been busy running back and forth the entire afternoon. It was until evening that Mu Hao was finally wheeled out of the operating room.

The doctor said that Mu Hao had high blood pressure, hyperlipidemia, hyperuricemia, atrial fibrillation, and other common diseases of old age. The advice was given for him to rest well and others had to take note that he could not be agitated anymore.

Xu Shulan stayed at the hospital to take care of Mu Hao while Qin Ming and the others returned to the Mu family house.

When they arrived at the Mu family house, Qin Ming puzzled over whether he should tell