Zhao Yuxin came from a prestigious family. She had a lot of suitors when she stayed at Jing City.

She was free to pick whoever she fancied back at her home turf - rejection wouldn't even cross her partner's mind. Moreover, she looked quite pretty. She knew for a fact since young that she would be a rich heiress and lead a royally comfortable life in the future.

She had no choice but to attend the blind date with the heir to Huan Ning Century Corporation tonight since her family had instructed her to do so.

At first, she thought that they could at least get along, even if things didn't turn out well.

After all, both she and Qin Ming were around the same age. Surely they would have something in common to talk about.

However, Qin Ming straight up told her he was a playboy. He explained that he wouldn't be able to give her sexual happiness and that he expected her to serve him alongside other women. He even

French kissed the blonde woman in front of everyone. Zhao Yuxin couldn't hold back her anger, no matter how high her EQ was.

This was sheer humiliation.

She beat her chest lightly and took two deep breaths before saying, "Mr. Qin, I-I ca-cannot accept..."

Unperturbed, Qin Ming shrugged. "Well then... This blind date has failed. Mr. Feng, see to it that Ms. Zhao returns home safely."

Zhao Yuxin was stunned. *I flew all the way here just for this?*

She found Qin Ming to be extremely arrogant. Doesn't he understand how influential my family is? Am I that hard to love?

Zhao Yuxin stood up and said, "Mr. Qin..."

However, Qin Ming couldn't be bothered with her anymore as he stood up and left.

He signaled for Song Ying and the rest of his subordinates to follow him into his office.

The first thing he did when he sat down was ask Long, Song Ying, and Kelly, "Everything I said tonight will not be leaked, right?"

Song Ying assured him, "Don't worry, Young Master. I've been personally watching over Century Tower's security and information work ever since I took over Huaxia's properties. There won't be any mishaps."

Qin Ming trusted Song Ying most among his three subordinates. "Ok. Kelly, you will work with Long to collect information about Feng Dongxiang starting today. I will take him down one day and replace the four elders with my own people instead."

Qin Ming shot the three of them a look when he mentioned "his own people". It was obvious that he was implying he would pick from the three of them.

The four elders in Huan Ning Century

Corporation controlled everything the company owns in one country. They had to do all kinds of things for Qin Ming. It was a very high-ranking position that came with great power within the company.

Long and Kelly were moved, for nobody would want to remain as a bodyguard or an informer their whole life.

However, Song Ying was willing to work as Qin Ming's secretary for the rest of her life.

The difference was like being the King's ministers and the King's favorite eunuch. Each had its own perks.

Song Ying was also aware that she could step on anyone except Qin Ming as long as she remained his secretary. She would then be able to protect Qin Ming at all times.

So, she said, "Young Master, I'm not going to participate. Leave it to the two of them."

Qin Ming was quite happy to hear that. He knew

Song Ying wanted to stay by his side as he swelled with pride.

Long and Kelly said in unison, "Got it. We will arrange for it."

Qin Ming then said, "Ying, reject all blind dates Mr. Feng sets me up with in the future if you can. Make other arrangements if that's not possible. Also, can you get me information on the Zhao family?"

"The company has stipulated that we cannot investigate the board of directors. I've sent some people to find out more about him in private, but to no avail. They're very good at fabricating themselves. I'm afraid they might even be connected to the government," Song Ying said, stumped.

Qin Ming said, "Kelly, you will mainly work on collecting information about the Zhaos. I need you to single out Huaxia's intelligence system from Huan Ning Century Corporation for the time being." Kelly agreed to it, but she shed crocodile tears. "Boss, how can I start work with a mere salary of one thousand per month? My sister is still recovering in a public hospital; we're struggling to get by."

She even blinked at Qin Ming coquettishly with signs in her bright blue eyes.

"Ying, is she not registered as a permanent employee yet?" Qin Ming asked, puzzled.

Song Ying shot Kelly a hostile look. "Young Master, you hired her privately. As an exemployee of Chang Huan, Kelly Olson has yet to pass her probation period. It's not right for me to register her as a permanent employee according to the rules."

Kelly crossed her arms and said, "Look, Young Master, she's just jealous that I'm prettier and more capable than her. Just like how Young Master picked me instead of her when you put on a show just now."

Song Ying gritted her teeth in anger when she

heard Kelly say that. The former badly wanted to fight the latter right now.

Qin Ming waved his hand. "Fine then, I have money, so I'll give you one hundred million to do the job. I don't care whether you hire someone else or bribe your way in, as long as you show me the results. Or else, your salary will remain one thousand for the rest of your life."

Kelly was overjoyed. "Okay, I will not let you down."

Qin Ming then signed some important documents after instructing his subordinates what he wanted them to do. Just then, Zhang Quanzhen flashed into his mind. He recalled he still had some scores to settle with him.

Qin Ming soon arrived at the 88th floor of Century Tower.

He saw Zhang Quanzhen lying on the glass platform, enjoying a body massage from three pretty ladies. From there, the man could see the Pearl River and the beautiful night view of Guang

City.

"Tsk tsk tsk, Master Zhang, aren't you still a monk? I thought monks were forbidden from coming close to women?"

Zhang Quanzhen chuckled. "There's a Chinese saying of how alcohol and meat only goes through my intestines, while the Buddha stays in my heart. I am free to do anything as long as I don't go against my conscience. Moreover, they might get punished if I don't allow them to serve me. I'm simply helping them."

Qin Ming laughed. "You really are a smooth talker."

The man then waved his hand to signal for the girls to leave. "I remember you saying that I have great luck with the ladies when I came. I was forced to go on a blind date tonight, but you got it wrong. Nothing will happen between us."

Zhang Quanzhen laughed. "That's because you brought me here. Every cause has an effect. I'm the cause, and the effect is you have lost your luck with the ladies tonight."

Qin Ming didn't agree with his view. "You're bluffing. Should I go sleep with Ms. Zhao right now to prove you wrong?"

Zhang Quanzhen replied, "Ok... Why don't you go back now? Guess what would happen between the two of you."

Qin Ming found it hard to believe. Is Zhang Quanzhen really clairvoyant?

Qin Ming headed back immediately. Could it be that Zhao Yuxin could charm him and make him fall for her?

Qin Ming couldn't find a single soul when he arrived at Zhao Yuxin's presidential suite.

"Where is everyone?" Qin Ming looked around and mumbled, "There were a few staff members standing at the entrance."

Creak. The bathroom door suddenly opened and out walked a woman.

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Zhao Yuxin emerged from the steamy shower, looking pink and alluring.

However, she immediately noticed a man standing at the entrance when she walked out of the bathroom.

Qin Ming felt as if he had been framed. He had thought something was off since there were no bodyguards stationed in the room. He thought Zhao Yuxin had left in a fit of anger. *Zhang Quanzhen, you're wrong, h*e thought to himself gleefully. The woman had walked out of the bathroom naked.

"Ah! Mr. Qin. W-What is the meaning of this? Barging into my room like that!" Zhao Yuxin screamed in fright.

Qin Ming apologized, "I'm so sorry, Ms. Zhao. I came by to discuss some things with you. I only entered your room when I only saw a few hotel staff stationed at the door. When I didn't see any of your bodyguards here, I thought you had left. Why didn't you station any bodyguards here?" Chapter 420 That Old Geezer

Flustered, Zhao Yuxin ran back into the bathroom. *Bang!*She tripped and fell face down in the bathroom stall.

Qin Ming saw her sprawled out on the floor.

Zhao Yuxin groaned in pain as she laid on the ground and passed out.

Qin Ming felt so wronged by the unexpected turn of events - all he did was stand at the door.

He quickly covered her up with a towel and carried her to the bed.

Qin Ming took a deep breath to calm himself down. Nevertheless, the woman's fragrance that filled the room turned him on.

"My self-control is getting so weak. What is happening to me? Why do I want to sleep with every woman I meet? No, I must not lay a finger on her. I can't afford to offend the Zhao family now. As long as she doesn't lose her virginity, everything will be fine. Zhang Quanzhen is still waiting for me," he mused.

Qin Ming knew he mustn't let his desires take over, so he quickly got up and left. However, he turned back when he reached the door.

He fell into a trance. This was the second time Qin Ming had felt like that.

The first time was when he rescued Nie Haitang in an old castle in Germany. That wealthy elite had mistaken him for his cousin and had then sent him on a blind date with a woman that hailed from a rich family from Xiangxi.

I think she was called Lin Yurou or something.

At that time, Qin Ming had been set up. The water he drank had been drugged, and he fell into a trance, just like how he was feeling at the moment.

His mind went blank. It was as if he had forgotten what he needed to do. Qin Ming threw himself on Zhao Yuxin when he turned around and saw her lying unconsciously on the bed.

He kissed her soft and supple lips gently,

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brushing his lips sensually over her skin.

The unconscious Zhao Yuxin even moaned and cooperated with him subconsciously.

Qin Ming was well aware that he was in the wrong. However, he couldn't seem to resist his desires.

After the foreplay, Qin Ming proceeded to take off his clothes. At that moment, Zhang Quanzhen suddenly barged into the room.

He bellowed, "Wake up!"

Qin Ming had his arms around Zhao Yuxin when he was jolted awake. Zhang Quanzhen then pressed into the nape of his neck vigorously. Qin Ming suddenly felt nauseous as he laid on the side of the bed to throw up.

He turned sober after puking.

Terrified, he quickly sorted things out. A sense of relief washed over him when he realized that his pants were still intact. Chills ran down his spine as he recalled what he had done to Zhao Yuxin. He had almost committed a crime.

"What happened?" Qin Ming murmured to himself. "I didn't drink anything."

Zhang Quanzhen covered Zhao Yuxin up with a blanket and turned to face Qin Ming. "What do you think, Mr. Qin? I didn't lie to you, did I? You were going to get her pregnant if not for me."

Qin Ming's brows furrowed in confusion. "What happened? Master Zhang, what did you do to me?"

Zhang Quanzhen waved his hand dismissively. "I'm a monk. I don't do such things. You've been cursed. Something about you smelled off the last time, and it has grown stronger. I'm certain that there's a parasite inside you. Another female parasite is looking for the male parasite inside you. That's why it's emitting a strong smell."

"Parasite?" Qin Ming sniffed himself, feeling puzzled. He couldn't smell anything. *Are you a dog?*

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Zhang Quanzhen replied, "That's right, there's a parasite living inside you. It's a parasitic animal that lives in your bloodstream. Its' excretion will affect your endocrine system and excite your nervous system, making you lose your mind."

"Damn it." Qin Ming felt bitter, but he knew that he couldn't tell anyone of his distress.

The first time he lost control of his own body was when he was forced to go on a blind date with that heiress whose family had lost its influence in Xiangxi. He slept with her after drinking a glass of water that had been drugged.

Qin Ming had thought it wasn't a big deal - it was just sex. They drugged him and he ran away after the incident - it was tit for tat.

He thought he would never have to see them again after the incident. However, look at what they had done to him now.

Qin Ming suddenly recalled an old movie.

"Master Zhang, will I get a stomachache if someone were to play drums on me?"

Zhang Quanzhen grinned and produced a small rattle drum. Chills ran down Qin Ming's spine when he laid eyes on it. *You terrible old man.*

Thud. Zhang Quanzhen swayed the drum.

Qin Ming narrowed his eyes. Weird, I can't feel anything.

"Hahaha!" Zhang Quanzhen laughed and patted Qin Ming. "You've watched too many movies. You lost control because of the female parasite in her body. It's very different from the male parasite."

He paused for a moment before he continued, "The female parasite always take the lead. Its excretion will make her stronger and increase her immunity. It can also control the male parasite within you and affect your endocrine system. In conclusion, you will lose control if the girl wants to have you. You will be reduced to nothing more than her toy. If she wants you dead, she can get

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the male parasite within you to commit suicide through the smell the female parasite emits. Once your male parasite is dead, it will emit poison that will clot your blood. You will then die of a heart attack. Not even a coroner can find out the cause of death then."

Qin Ming gaped in horror. "But Ms. Zhao has passed out," he questioned.

Zhang Quanzhen explained, "You left when she was injured and passed out. When the male parasite leaves the female parasite at a time like this, the female parasite will emit a scent to control the male parasite within you to make you return."

"This..." Qin Ming was rendered speechless. This sure was a terrible lesson for him. He should be warier of the beverages offered to him in the future.

Zhang Quanzhen felt puzzled. "That's weird. Where did she come from? It's very rare to see this type of witchcraft these days. Most people wouldn't use it. I'm constantly amazed at the

principle of causality."

Qin Ming placed his hand on his body and asked, "Master Zhang, let's not puzzle over such things anymore. Is there a way to remove this parasite from my body?"

"Ugh... It's so hot. Mr. Qin, Mr. Qin..." Zhao Yuxin suddenly muttered, licking her dry lips.

Qin Ming said immediately, "Master, you should leave first. I will come to you after I settle this with her."

Zhang Quanzhen frowned as he stared at Zhao Yuxin's body.

Qin Ming said, "Master, it's not cool of you to take advantage of her."

Zhang Quanzhen slapped his thigh and said, "Shit, I was too late. The female parasite has caused her hormonal imbalance after your foreplay. You have to sleep with her, or else she will get hurt."

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Qin Ming raised his brows in surprise. "No way, Master. Didn't you say everything will be fine after you came? Why do I still have to sleep with her in the end?"

Zhang Quanzhen spread his arms and said, "I can't help the fact that you have a lot of troubles with women. You can't blame me for your own fate."

Qin Ming was speechless. "Then... Then the only thing left to do now is to sleep with her?"

Zhang Quanzhen nodded and smiled mysteriously. "Congratulations, Mr. Qin. Remember to wear a condom."

Damn it, you old geezer.

Qin Ming then asked, "Master, you must have another way out, don't you? Stop beating around the bush and get to the point, ok?"

Zhang Quanzhen stroked his goatee and said, "Hehehe, of course, I have a way out. I'm the successor to the Mountain of the Beasts. My job

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is to guide men who have lost their way and trapped heroes. Only thing is..."

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Deep down, Qin Ming still had very little confidence in Zhang Quanzhen's trade. He just couldn't bring himself to believe in fortunetelling or anything of that sort.

However, Qin Ming's views towards Zhang Quanzhen were starting to change. At least, Zhang Quanzhen was able to point out that the parasite in Qin Ming was the reason why he had such an intense desire for a woman he was not interested in at all.

Qin Ming glanced at Zhao Yuxin, whose skin throughout her body was flushing. He spoke, "Master, please help us. The two of us are innocent."

Zhang Quanzhen smiled mysteriously. "You want me to help you? Sure! But as a professional in this field, I do charge a fee. Are you okay with it?"

Qin Ming heard that the fortune teller wanted remuneration and did not hesitate to answer, "Of course I am fine with it. How much is the fee, then?"

I

Zhang Quanzhen raised his index finger. "Not much. You will only owe me one favor."

Zhang Quanzhen's answer caught Qin Ming by surprise. Returning favors was indeed more difficult than repaying someone with money.

Qin Ming scrunched his brows. He said disgruntledly, "Alright, I'll accept your deal. Hurry up and get us back to normal. But just so you know, I only agreed because our lives are at stake now. Don't ever think you can extort anything from me again."

Zhang Quanzhen looked at Qin Ming admiringly. Then, he grinned as he replied, "Tsk tsk, Mr. Qin. You have misunderstood me. Even if I do nothing, she won't die. I only said that she might get hurt, and I didn't say that she'd die. Please listen carefully."

"The hell! So you just tricked me into going your way?" Qin Ming was flabbergasted. He sprung to his feet and charged into the bar with a knife in one hand. He intended to teach the cunning fortune teller a lesson.

Zhang Quanzhen squeezed out an anxious smile on his face. "Calm down, Mr. Qin! You don't want to be arrested for murder. I wasn't forcing you into anything. It's not my fault that you misunderstood me!"

Qin Ming placed the sharp knife against Zhang Quanzhen's neck. He barked, "I don't want to hear your excuses! If you want to play tricks with me, then be prepared to lose something, even if it's your life... Ah, whatever! Save her first. I'll let you off this time. "

Zhang Quanzhen still had his smile plastered on his face. "Okay, okay. Mr. Qin, could you get a pail of some cold water?"

Qin Ming set off to the washroom right away.

Qin Ming had barely left when Zhang Quanzhen tended to Zhao Yuxin with a solemn expression on his face. He studied her pulse before placing a pitch-black pill he took out from his bag into her mouth.

When Qin Ming returned with the water, Zhang

Quanzhen ordered, "Wipe her down with the cold water. Then, we're done here."

Qin Ming was bemused. "That's it?"

Zhang Quanzhen replied, "Yep. That's it. Okay, I am going to leave you to clean her up."

Qin Ming glared at the fortune teller begrudgingly. If he knew that the remedy was as simple as this, he would never have let himself owe that guy a favor.

Nevertheless, Qin Ming could not go back on his promise. Right now, he had to make sure the girl was back to normal. He dialed Song Ying up and asked her to help him with Zhao Yuxin. While waiting for Zhao Yuxin to regain her consciousness, Qin Ming headed outside.

Qin Ming sneaked behind Zhang Quanzhen back to the 88th floor. Upon reaching his destination, the old man found a spot at the glass counter of a bar. It turned out he was only there to behold the spectacular night scenery around the tower. Qin Ming waited for him to settle down before he approached the fortune teller.

Qin Ming initiated, "Master, you seem to know a lot about such parasitic voodoos."

Zhang Quanzhen replied calmly, "Of course. Do you think people just make them up out of nothing? They are actual living insects, but modern humans chose not to believe in anything that has to do with voodoos and whatnot. Because of their ignorance, they never studied the use of parasites as voodoos. Such parasites are passed down from generation to generation within my community because of how useful they are. Back in the olden days, these parasites were utilized to both save lives and assassinate enemies. Aren't they amazing?"

Qin Ming followed up with another question, "With the current parasite inside me, I'll react to anyone who has a female parasite in them, right? In that case, is there a way to remove the parasite from my body? I'll definitely reward you well if you know the way."

"Of course, there is a way." Zhang Quanzhen

replied nonchalantly, "Not that I want to brag about my expertise, but I dare say that in the entire country, the number people who can remove the parasite without damaging your body can be counted with one hand."

Qin Ming was now mystified by Zhang Quanzhen. He's starting to believe that Zhang Quanzhen was no ordinary guy.

Qin Meng sat upright and pleaded in a sincere tone, "Please help me, Master Zhang."

Zhang Quanzhen responded, "Listen. There are two ways to get rid of the parasite. The first method is to forcefully remove it from your system through physical means. However, it can be harmful to your body and the recovery time takes approximately one year. The second method will require you to train your body to get rid of the parasite itself through a particular martial arts skill."

Qin Ming immediately followed up with another question. "I don't want to damage my body so I'll probably go with the second method. What skill

will I be practicing though? Is it like those we see in movies?"

Zhang Quanzhen shook his head. "Those you see in movies are martial arts techniques that involve flexing your limbs to defeat enemies. What I'm talking about is a martial arts skill that will improve your vitality. It's a skill that belongs to the Mountain of the Beasts, the sect I originate from. If you practice it once every day and night, you will find your blood flowing at a greater rate in three months. When the blood flow is faster, you will consume a special musk that will attract the parasite into your large intestine. As you pass motion, the parasite will be removed from your body."

Qin Ming responded with a hint of laughter in his voice, "This sounds so disgusting. Hmm, it doesn't sound like what I've read in books."

Zhang Quanzhen guffawed. "What you read in storybooks are just tales fabricated to entertain bored souls. Believe me, everything I told you is true."

Qin Ming was caught in a dilemma. The first method will hurt my body. The second method involves a secret skill from the Mountain of the Beasts. There's no way Zhang Quanzhen will divulge the secret to me.

With that thought in mind, Qin Ming queried, "Master, are there no other methods?"

Zhang Quanzhen shrugged and replied, "There is one last method other than the two I mentioned. You have to get close to the host with the female parasite. The parasite in you will then be drawn out of your body. This is honestly the most simple and efficient method. According to my knowledge, in the rural areas of our country, there are many maidens from fallen clans who kept such female parasites to make their lustful husbands stay loyal to them."

Qin Ming continued, "Master, I only drank a glass of water to have such a strong desire for that woman. I don't even know that woman! What is she trying to achieve then? I'm not her lover or anything!"

A sly smile dawned on Zhang Quanzhen's face. He leaned into Qin Ming's ears and whispered, "Actually, I think I know who's the one who gave you the parasite. I heard that the Lin family from Xiangxi is looking for you. Do you want me to request the female parasite from them? Once the host is here, it will draw out the parasite within you right away. It's the most simple and efficient method."

Qin Ming's face stiffened. *How much more does this rotten fortune teller know?*

He's a complete outsider! How can he point out the source of my problems right away?

Qin Ming's body slumped down. "If that's the case, could you give me the instructions to practice the secret skill from your sect? I'll pay you handsomely. If not, I am willing to owe you any favors."

Zhang Quanzhen rubbed his stubble and said, "Mr. Qin, did you not hear me earlier? I came to this place with the guidance of the Big Dipper to help those that are fated to meet me. You already

owe me a favor and that shall be it. I won't ask you for more, and I don't want your money. Money cannot be brought to the grave, anyway. With all said, I won't be charging you this time."

As Zhang Quanzhen spoke, he tried to look for the sling bag around him. Suddenly, his expression took a 180-degree turn. "Wait. Where's my bag? Oh! I must have left it behind when I visited the Mu family earlier. Could you help me retrieve it from them?"

Qin Ming's eyes twinkled as it was a task he was capable of. "Alright, I'll go get it. Thank you Master Zhang for helping me out! I am beyond grateful!"

Zhang Quanzhen waved his hand dismissively. "Nah, it's nothing. I might have something that would require your help later on. Then, perhaps you will remember our promise."

The fortune teller finally revealed his motive.

Qin Ming sensed that there was something off with Zhang Quanzhen but he did not know

exactly what it was.t dare to assume Zhang Quanzhen's ulterior motive.

Another thing that bugged Qin Ming was the fact that Zhang Quanzhen did not know about Qin Ming's business, the Huan Ning Century Corporation. This meant that right from the start, money was not Zhang Quanzhen's motivation to approach him.

What does he really want?

What does he want me to do for him?

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However, no matter what Zhang Quanzhen was going to request, Qin Ming was determined to remove the parasite within his body. For the time being, he decided to keep his question to himself and get the troublesome worm out of his body.

Nevertheless, he sensed something sinister approaching him.

It was as if Zhang Quanzhen had cast an invisible net just to catch Qin Ming, the unknowing fish.

Qin Ming did not know Zhang Quanzhen beforehand. He first saw Zhang Quanzhen on the streets as Zhang Quanzhen was quarreling with Li Meng. Afterward, he found out that Zhang Quanzhen was highly regarded by the Mu family and that Mu Hairan's history with Zhang Quanzhen went far back.

Tonight was the first time Qin Ming witnessed the capability of Zhang Quanzhen in elucidating an issue. With just one guess, he could tell that Qin Ming was under the influence of a parasite.

Qin Ming did not explicitly promise to help

Zhang Quanzhen as he was taught a lesson earlier that night.

Qin Ming quickly learned how to be as sly as the old fox Zhang Quanzhen was.

Thus, Qin Ming only said, "Rest assured, Master. I'll make sure to do as I see fit."

Zhang Quanzhen rolled his eyes. What do you mean 'do as you see fit'?Doesn't that mean you will only do as you please?Tsk, since when did he learn to be so tactful and sly with his words?

Now that Zhang Quanzhen had told Qin Ming about the solutions to remove the parasite, he could only plan his next step as he went.

Zhang Quanzhen responded, "Ah, we'll see. Anyway, it's not like I need your help right now. I'll wait patiently for that day when I'll require assistance from you."

Qin Ming wanted to continue the conversation, but Zhang Quanzhen cut him off, saying that he was worried about revealing the world's secrets to him if they continued. Then, Zhang Quanzhen made up an excuse that he needed to set off right away as fate was beckoning him to travel. With that, he stood up and strolled away from the scene.

Qin Ming wanted to order his subordinates to stalk him, but then he remembered the previous time when his men failed to keep up with Zhang Quanzhen. Thus, before Zhang Quanzhen could leave, Qin Ming went ahead to ask him for his contact number.

It turned out that the old man didn't even have a phone. Right away, Qin Ming offered to buy him a phone. Yet, Zhang insisted that he did not want one.

In the end, Qin Ming had no choice but to let him go.

Now, Qin Ming was headed for the Mu family to search for a book that contained the instructions on how to practice the martial arts skill Zhang Quanzhen was talking about.

Very soon, Qin Ming's car was already in front of the Mu family's house. To be truthful, Qin Ming didn't think that he would ever visit the Mu family again.

Qin Ming stood in front of the gate. A few moments later, a familiar car drove into the driveway. It was Mu Hao.

Mu Hao was excited to see Qin Ming. "Hey, little fella! You're back!"

Mu Hao approached Qin Ming right away and held his hands. "How did you know of my hospital discharge today? Hahaha, you sure are caring!"

Qin Ming didn't like Mu Hao treating him so warmly. He pulled his hands away from Mu Hao and uttered in a displeased tone, "Mr. Mu, once again, I need to remind you that I am no longer married to Mu Xiaoqiao. Have you forgotten that it was you who settled the divorce papers for us? What are you up to now?"

Xu Shulan was shocked. "What? Qin Ming, since

when have you divorced Xiaoqiao? Why do I not know about this?"

Mu Hao rubbed his palms fidgetily. It was indeed an awkward situation. "I'm one to blame for this. I'm sorry for lying to you. The divorce papers you have are fake. By law, you and Mu Xiaoqiao are still legally wedded."

Qin Ming's face darkened by a thousand shades.

Mu Hao hurriedly continued, "Qin Ming, please don't be angry. I'll be honest with you. At first, I was indeed not happy about you marrying my daughter. Then, Master Zhang said something about how you and she are a match made in heaven. I believed in Master Zhang's words, but still, I had my doubts about you, which is the reason why I made up rules for you to follow. Time soon proved you to be a good man. Now, I was more than willing to have you in our family. Since Xiaoqiao also likes you a lot, I have really taken you as my son-in-law. I didn't want you to leave us at all. Oh, my child! I hope the Mu family hasn't forsaken you too much! Anyway, let me tell you the truth. When you requested to
leave the Mu family, I didn't settle the divorce between you and Xiaoqiao, and I also didn't inform anyone about it. I thought that perhaps you might change your mind with time."

Mu Hao sighed despondently, "I didn't think you were so determined to leave us. If that's the case, let's head inside and have one last conversation about this. I just hope you wouldn't regret your decision."

Qin Ming was flummoxed.*Huh?Why is Mu Hao being so compliant today?*

However, Xu Shulan was the one who was on pins and needles. "I don't understand! Why do you want a divorce from our daughter? Is it because I have ridiculed and shamed you before? Oh dear, if you have a grudge against me, you can take it out on me instead! If you leave our daughter, then she'll officially be a divorced woman, someone who's been used and disowned! Coming from such a well-reputed family, Xiaoqiao is always under the public's scrutiny. What nasty remarks will people say behind her back now that she's divorced? Oh my lord!

Please don't leave us, Qin Ming!"

Mu Hao tugged on his wife's hand. He looked as if he had already accepted the reality. "Qin Ming has already made up his mind. There's nothing we can do but to wish him well. Let's head inside."

The three of them entered the house. In the living room, Mu Xiaoqiao was all by herself, scanning through a document. At once, Qin Ming could recognize the headings on the piece of document. It was the divorce papers.

Mu Xiaoqiao had a conflicted expression on her face when she noticed Qin Ming. Yet, she soon returned to her composed and unyielding self. She sat there silently, as still as a statue.

The light in Qin Ming's eyes wavered. He did not expect Mu Xiaoqiao to already make up her mind to divorce him. *She's even had the papers ready for me to sign?*

Mu Xiaoqiao kept a straight face as she raised from her seat. "Dad, Mom, you guys came back in time. Since everyone is here, I'll hereby declare that I will be divorcing Qin Ming. Here are the papers. Once you sign here, we will no longer be husband and wife under the Constitution."

Having said her words, Mu Xiaoqiao threw the divorce papers at Qin Ming furiously and turned around to grab her handbag. "Oh, I have a date later. I won't be sleeping at home tonight."

Qin Ming was slightly upset by Mu Xiaoqiao's conviction and harshness.

Nonetheless, he did not say anything. He knew the divorce was bound to happen in any case. Mu Hao was the only one keeping it from happening. Everything finally came to an end.

Xu Shulan rushed to catch up with her daughter. "Xiaoqiao! Think about it again! Don't make rash decisions!"

Mu Hao picked up the divorce papers. "It seems like I have nothing more to do here. Qin Ming, thank you so much for everything you did for the

Mu family especially when we were in hot water. If not for you, my dad and my son wouldn't be alive right now. If you were my son-in-law, the Mu family would not owe you anything as it would be your responsibility to ensure your family members' safety. Since you're not one of us anymore, I'll make sure to repay your kindness someday."

Qin Ming responded at once, "You don't owe me anything. Your sister Mu Shuyun has already given me a billion, and we are now even. Mr. Mu, from now onwards, please don't worry about not repaying me anymore."

Then, Qin Ming took a pen out of his pocket. He was about to sign the papers when a torrent of cold water came splashing onto him.

Whoosh! Not only was Qin Ming wet from head to toe, but even the divorce papers were also completely soaked.

Qin Ming raised his head. He saw Mu Sichun making a cheeky face at him. "Hehehe! Qin Ming, if you dare sign those papers, I won't care about you anymore! Hmph! Why don't you come up now and beat me up? Aren't you angry at me?"

Qin Ming wiped off the water on his face. He sighed lightly as he gazed at the divorce papers. They were too wet to be signed now.

Qin Ming suddenly thought of his purpose of visiting the Mu family and asked, "Mr. Mu, was Master Zhang here earlier?"

Mu Hao nodded. "Yep. He also left behind a small gift for Xiaoqiao. It's a box containing a women's self-defense guide from his sect, the Mountain of the Beasts. Zhang Quanzhen said any girl can practice it well."

Qin Ming was at a loss for words. *That doesn't* sound like what Zhang Quanzhen has mentioned to me, does it?

Qin Ming continued with another question, "Then, did he leave behind anything else? Anything he said he'll return to retrieve at a later date?" Mu Hao was muddled. "I don't think so. He was talking to my dad here in the living room that day. The only thing he left behind was the box he gifted to Xiaoqiao."

Qin Ming scrunched his brows. *How coincidental is that? Now I have to look for Mu Xiaoqiao myself.*

Qin Ming had no choice but to get in touch with Mu Xiaoqiao on his phone.

Once the call got through, Qin Ming could hear Mu Xiaoqiao's icy voice coming from the other end. "Did you sign the papers? You can just leave it on the table after you signed it. Also, the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead you gave me is in the study. Take it with you when you leave."

Qin Ming jumped straight to his question. "Did Master Zhang give you a box? Can I please have it-"

Mu Xiaoqiao intervened abruptly, "Qin Ming, Master Zhang's gift to me has nothing to do with you at all. Of course, I won't give it to you. Since you've already signed the papers, we shall not cross paths with each other anymore for the rest of our lives."

"Oh Xiaoqiao, you've finally thought it through? Didn't I tell you that you should have just divorced-"

Beep beep!

Qin Ming was still midway through his sentence when he heard another man's voice on the phone. No sooner than that, Mu Xiaoqiao hung up the call.

Qin Ming kept his phone in his pocket. His face sunk upon itself as his eyes glowed with murderous intent. He spoke to Mu Hao, "Mr. Mu, could you pass a word to Zhang Quanzhen? If he ever appears in front of me again, I'll take his life. I will never be fooled by that sly old fox again!"

Qin Ming turned to leave after speaking.

As Qin Ming was leaving the Mu family's

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household, he dialed Long up. "Long, get in touch with Bi Yuan and tell him that we will be taking a trip to Xiangxi this weekend. We have a small matter to settle. We are bringing some men with us too."

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"Dad, is there nothing else we can do anymore?"

Mu Hao was pacing in the study anxiously. He glanced at the soaked divorce papers and then his son Mu Hairan. "Qin Ming is sure a tough guy to deal with. I can't believe he managed to guess that Zhang Quanzhen was helping us to make him stay."

"That's true. But isn't that working? He's looking for Xiaoqiao now."

"Sigh, initially I thought Qin Ming was not qualified enough to marry Xiaoqiao. Turns out, it's us, the Mu family, who's not qualified enough to have him as a son-in-law."

Mu Hao might be a successful business mogul, but he was a complete rookie when it came to love.

On top of that, the person of concern now was Qin Ming. He was still traumatized by the time Qin Ming almost dissolved the position held by his relatives, the Xu family, in Sea City with just one call. Right now, he was afraid of what Qin

Ming had up his sleeves.

Mu Hairan had a copy of Guiguzi, a collection of ancient Chinese texts on Taoist thinking, in one hand. He flipped through it mindlessly as he uttered, "Sigh. Although we have billions in our bank accounts and our business is global, I know we are still not qualified enough for Qin Ming to stay with us. Sure, Qin Ming's origins are unknown, but that kid's got a heart of gold. That's the only thing in the world that cannot be bought with money. Unlike most men in the world who only chase after luxuries and opulence, Qin Ming is loyal and genuinely cares about his people. He is such a gem! Even now that he's made up his mind to leave us, he's very careful in settling the divorce. Obviously, he's not a cold-blooded animal. If anything, he wants to continue to have a good relationship with us."

Mu Hairan paused to take a breather before continuing on with his speech. "We might have angered him this time, but when there's a will, there's a way. Since he's one who values genuine bonds with others, we'll have to show him personally how much he means to us. According

to my observations, Qin Ming likes to treat people the way he's treated. If you talk to him nicely, he'll definitely reciprocate your friendliness. However, if you play tricks against him, he would easily be enraged. I think Master Zhang's approach is wrong this time around."

Mu Hao was startled. "Master Zhang is wrong? I've always been impressed with how he deals with people. How's he wrong this time?"

Mu Hairan laughed wearily, "Master Zhang is still a human. In the past, he's made a lot of mistakes before, all of which have made him who he was now. He always learns from his mistakes and makes sure he doesn't repeat them."

Mu Hao replied disgruntledly, "Dad, then what should we do? We can't hide in Guang City forever. Are we always going to run away from the shame that has fallen upon us when we're chased out of Jing City? Dad, we can't live life this way! We're born to be greater! Remember the time you called all the shots in Jing City?"

Mu Hairan's face stiffened. He was having

recollections of his glorious past. A grim expression was beginning to form on his face as he tightened his fists.

Mu Hao then added, "Dad, how about I send Chun instead? It's not like we have any other chance to get him back. We only have two kids under our roof."

Mu Hairan scoffed. "Didn't I tell you to find another woman to bear your children? Tsk, do you regret it now? You're too old to have children anymore now. However, Chun indeed has a much different personality from her sister. Perhaps she will do the trick. You let Chun come here. I want to talk to her."

After a while, Mu Sichun showed up at the door of Mu Hairan's study.

"Grandpa, what's up?" Mu Sichun was quite dejected. Her eyes were slightly reddened.

Mu Hairan spoke in his gentle voice, "Oh my, did someone bully my little princess? Did Mr. Feng not treat you well at the shooting?"

Mu Sichun pouted. "With Ming around, who dares to bully me? I'm just very flustered right now! Why does Ming want to leave us? Are we not nice to him? Also, what's wrong with big sis? Isn't Ming a nice guy? Why does she want to divorce him?"

"We are in no position to discuss their relationship, Chun." Mu Hairan chuckled lightheartedly. "Actually, I have this feeling that Qin Ming treats you better than your sister."

Mu Sichun nodded innocently. "Yeah. I used to dislike Ming. Back then, not only was he useless, but it was also hard to reason with him. As time passed, I realized he's actually very capable and also a gentleman. Hehehe, now I'm kind of envious of Xiaoqiao."

Having said her words, Mu Sichun suddenly recalled how happy she was in all the moments she spent with Qin Ming. Unwittingly, she simpered bashfully.

Mu Hairan chuckled again. "It's natural you are envious of your sister. Qin Ming is such an

amazing man. Too bad he and your sister are not to be. Anyway, he's stricken with a complicated illness. I worry he might not have much time left."

"Huh? He's dying?" The blood drained out of Mu Sichun's face.

Mu Hairan continued, "Ming has caught a peculiar disease. You remember the box Master Zhang gave your sister? The stuff inside can save Ming. But now that the two of them are divorced, your sister doesn't want him to have it. Sigh, the two of them are not on good terms now."

"How can Xiaoqiao be so cruel? It's a life or death situation! Poor Ming!" Mu Sichun clenched her fists tight. "I'm going to let her have a piece of my mind now!"

Mu Hairan halted Mu Sichun before she could leave the room. "Chun, it's not like you can do anything to her. Just leave your sister alone, okay? Better not interfere with grownups' business. By the way, didn't you just receive a gig from Mu Sichun? You're really fortunate to

be working with such a well-known director at such a young age, Chun! Do you really want to give up on that for Qin Ming?"

Mu Sichun pouted and stormed back to her room. She knew her grandfather was speaking the truth.

She took out a bag as she grumbled to herself, "Hmph! Grandpa is so annoying! Ming hasn't even signed the papers yet. Doesn't that mean there's still a chance to win him back? Even if he's not one of us anymore, shouldn't we try to save his life? He's helped us so much! How can we turn a blind eye to what Xiaoqiao is doing!"

Mu Sichun picked up her phone and dialed Qin Ming in. She spoke in a hurry once the call got through, "Ming, where are you?"

Even though Mu Sichun just threw a bucket of water over Qin Ming just now, he wasn't mad at her. He spoke calmly, "What's up? Chun, I have to tell you this. I'm not your brother-in-law any more. But we could still be friends if you don't mind."

"Ming, can you not leave us?" Mu Sichun's eyes were pitiful. "By the way, where are you right now? Bring me with you to my sister. I'll make her give you the box. The box is meant to save lives anyway, so my sister shouldn't be hoarding it for herself."

Qin Ming answered, "It's fine. Let us settle this ourselves. We're already adults. You just focus on whatever you're doing at the moment and study well."

Qin Ming hung up the call right after he ended his sentence. Mu Sichun was infuriated by Qin Ming's response as it was exactly what her grandfather had told her earlier.

She clenched her jaws as she puffed up her cheeks. "Grrrr! Qin Ming, aren't you only two years older than me? Don't act like you're much more mature than me. Nope! I have to do something! I'll bring Qin Ming back into the Mu family!"

Meanwhile, Qin Ming was leaving the Mu family's household in a terrible mood. He felt

like he was fooled right from the start, but couldn't do anything as he had no evidence.

It irritated Qin Ming that despite being a gentle, yielding person on the surface, Mu Hao actually hooked up with Zhang Quanzhen to stop Qin Ming from leaving the Mu family. Qin Ming just hated having someone controlling his life as if he were nothing but a puppet.

Since you want me to find Mu Xiaoqiao, then I'll deliberately avoid her.

It was in Qin Ming's favor that Mu Xiaoqiao also wanted a divorce. From now onwards, they would live separate lives.

However, the parasite in Qin Ming's body was something he did not foresee.

Since Mu Xiaoqiao was not willing to hand him the box, Qin Ming could only visit Xiangxi to look for it.

But before that, Qin Ming still had to sign the divorce papers.

Qin Ming came to a bar in the affluent regions of the city. According to Kelly, Mu Xiaoqiao was patronizing that bar.

Qin Ming could immediately spot Mu Xiaoqiao all dressed up and caked up in thick makeup at the counter. Next to her was a handsome man in a suit and tie.

Under normal circumstances, if a pretty girl like Mu Xiaoqiao showed up at the bar, there would be a horde of men swarming around her. However, the man next to her had his bodyguards with him. The four burly men formed a fearsome wall around the couple, blocking away any strangers trying to interrupt them.

Yet, Qin Ming was not intimidated. He walked straight ahead.

Qin Ming walked over. He saw Mu Xiaoqiao, who had already drunk a dozen glasses of cocktails. Her cheeks were flushed while her gaze was unfocused, lending her an alluringly seductive look.

Qin Ming said, "Mu Xiaoqiao, even if you got a divorce, you don't have to drown your sorrows in a place like this, right?"

The intoxicated Mu Xiaoqiao turned around and glanced at Qin Ming coldly. She snapped, "You can leave after placing the item down."

When Qin Ming saw how drunk Mu Xiaoqiao was, he felt a bit guilty. If it were not for him, she would not have come to the bar alone to drown her sorrows in alcohol.

She was in a precarious situation now. If she truly got drunk, the handsome man in a suit who was sitting at the side could do anything he wanted to her.

As Qin Ming was acquainted with the Mu family, he could not bear to see Mu Xiaoqiao abusing

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herself like this.

Qin Ming said, "That's enough. Go back with me first. I have something to tell you."

Mu Xiaoqiao flung Qin Ming's hand away and yelled, "Who are you? How are you related to me? Why must I leave with you? I don't know you, nor do I want to listen to what you have to say."

"Stop right there!"

The suited man's bodyguard suddenly stopped Qin Ming and scolded him, "Where did you come from, you rascal? Get lost! Can't you see that she doesn't know you? Our Young Master is drinking with her now. Do you have a death wish? Look at the men over there. If you continue spouting nonsense, you'll end up in the same state as them."

Qin Ming glanced at the men at the side, whose faces were covered with bruises. They were glaring at the suited man resentfully. That suited man flirted and beat people up to his heart's

content. He was going overboard!

Qin Ming asserted, "Move aside."

"Let him pass." The elegant, handsome man tidied his Brooks Brothers' suit, shoved his hands into the pockets and eyed Qin Ming arrogantly. "If I'm not wrong, you're the Mu family's live-in son-in-law, right? The broke bloke Xiaoqiao mentioned earlier."

Qin Ming said, "That's me. Who are you?"

"Me? My name is Su Shiming, Mu Xiaoqiao's business partner. My company supplies the raw materials for her company's luxury products. Strictly speaking, many luxury brands worldwide collaborates with me to supply their raw materials and fabrics," introduced Su Shiming proudly. "I have a net worth of billions. What about you? Have you even graduated from college? Oh, right. I remember Xiaoqiao mentioning that you just entered your fourth year in college."

He spoke with the arrogant tone of a successful

man, and acted condescendingly like those from wealthy families.

Qin Ming scoffed. "Haha! So what if you're rich? It's none of your business when I'm speaking to Mu Xiaoqiao."

Su Shiming continued, "Well, isn't it obvious? Since Mu Xiaoqiao already divorced you, what she does is none of your business too. Aren't you being too clingy? Are you reluctant to part with the Mu family's wealth and luxuries? A man like you can't help Mu Xiaoqiao at all, you know. You're just a burden."

He lit a cigarette and slowly puffed on it. "Do you know how big a crisis Xiaoqiao's company is facing? Do you have the ability to resolve it? Do you have any idea how competitive the international market for luxury brands is? You don't know anything. All you know how to do is to leech on her money, right? Put down the divorce contract and leave. Initially, you didn't care about her at all. Now, you're not worthy enough to be in her league!"

Smirking, he continued, "However, I should really thank you. I've known Mu Xiaoqiao for a few years already. I kept pursuing her, but she never reciprocated my feelings. Then, I realized that she secretly married a broke man like you. I can't believe that Mr. Mu would want a live-inson-in-law. Haha! Since Mu Xiaoqiao is in a bad mood now, I must thank you for giving me this opportunity."

Suddenly, Mu Xiaoqiao stood up, grabbed the divorce contract and demanded, "Why are you wasting so much time talking to him? Su Shiming, send me to the old office building. I don't want to see his face anymore."

As she drank a lot of alcohol, she swayed as she walked.

When Su Shiming saw that, he knew that his chance had arrived. Hence, he quickly reached his hand out to help her.

However, Qin Ming suddenly dashed forward. He slapped Su Shiming's arm away and grabbed Mu Xiaoqiao, who was about to fall.

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Mu Xiaoqiao stumbled into Qin Ming's arms. When she saw him, she pushed him away weakly and yelled, "What are you doing? Since you've already signed the contract, it means that we're divorced. Don't you love Nie Haitang? G-Go and look for her! Now that we're divorced, I'm not standing in your way anymore. Aren't you free to do whatever you want now?"

When Qin Ming heard her words, he felt hurt.

Qin Ming reminded, "Su Shiming is up to no good. Don't be too naive!"

Mu Xiaoqiao rebuked agitatedly, "You think I can't see that? At least, he's interested in me and wants to get into bed with me. What about you? Even after I stripped naked in front of you, you didn't even want to touch me. And I even did that multiple times! I think I'm not even half as worthy as Nie Haitang. Let go of me. I don't need you to care about me."

Smack!

Acting under the influence of alcohol, Mu

Xiaoqiao slapped his cheek furiously.

A red mark appeared on Qin Ming's cheek.

The slap caused the entire bar to fall silent.

Actually, people had already noticed their argument.

"No way! Even after such a beauty stripped naked in front of him, he still doesn't want to sleep with her?"

"Who's that woman called Nie Haitang? Is she prettier than this beauty?"

"Is she Nie Haitang, the wealthy heiress from Guang City whose family went bankrupt? The finance magazines often reported about her. Guang City's rich families yearned to have their sons marry her. Unfortunately, after the news of her family's bankruptcy, there were no more updates regarding her."

"Haha! Don't men always get fed up with the old and lust for the new? They can never be satisfied. Even if she's a goddess to you, he might already be utterly fed up with her."

A delighted smirk played on Su Shiming's lips. He clearly knew that at such a moment, he did not need to attract any attention. Keeping a low profile was the best way to impress.

Mu Xiaoqiao grabbed a bottle of Whiskey at the bar table and gulped. Her boldness caused the customers in the bar to erupt into cheers. "Wow, this pretty gal is so bold! How impressive!"

As Mu Xiaoqiao wiped her lips, tears welled up in her eyes. However, it was not noticeable under the dim light of the bar. She wagged a finger at Qin Ming and shouted, "I'm giving you the freedom you want. It's none of your business who I sleep with—even if it's with a dog on the streets. Su Shiming, are you dead? Take me back to the office."

Su Shiming tossed a wad of cash onto the table and said, "This is for the bill. Xiaoqiao, I'm coming. I'm right here. Be careful! Look at how drunk you are. Don't go back to the office to

work. Let's go to a spa in the hotel. How great is it to have a nice, warm bath!"

Su Shiming's four bodyguards also stepped forward at the right time and blocked Qin Ming's path. They wanted to stop him from interfering with their bosses' pursuit of Mu Xiaoqiao.

When Qin Ming saw that it was the four of them again, he snapped in annoyance, "Move aside, or you shall bear the consequences."

Exchanging incredulous glances with each other, the four bodyguards burst out laughing.

"Buddies, did I hear him wrongly? Did this little rascal tell us to move aside? Look at his puny body!"

"He thinks that he's a big-shot after experiencing how it feels like to be the son-in-law of a wealthy family."

"You little brat, you can never win Young Master Su. He's rich, handsome and thoughtful towards women." Chapter 424 Are You That Broke Bloke

"You're just a live-in son-in-law who got dumped. Get lost now!"

Qin Ming waved his hands and Long, who was wearing slippers, shuffled out from the side. He yawned lazily. "Young Master, how do you want to deal with them?"

Pointing at Su Shiming's bodyguards, Qin Ming instructed, "Make them lie in the hospital for a few months."

Long agreed instantly, "Sure! Young Master, you can leave first. Hey, fatty! Move aside!"

With that, Long aimed a slap at him. He was so speedy that the bodyguard blocking the way could barely react in time before Long slapped his face. He collapsed onto the ground and fainted, lying there motionlessly.

Long's slap was blunt and unpredictable.

Glaring at the other bodyguards, Qin Ming stormed out just like that.

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The other three bodyguards were astonished. *What happened? This rascal has such a strong bodyguard? Isn't he a live-in son-in-law?*

Long stretched and sneered, "Okay, you guys can attack me all at once. Within five seconds, I'll make you stay in the hospital for a few months."

Shrieks of misery soon sounded behind Qin Ming's back. However, he did not care anymore. After all, as he was the boss, all he needed to do was to wait for his subordinates to carry out his orders.

At the entrance, Su Shiming dragged the drunk Mu Xiaoqiao into a BMW.

Qin Ming strode over, kicked Su Shiming and grabbed Mu Xiaoqiao away.

Collapsing on the floor, Su Shiming cursed, "F***! It's you again! Where are my bodyguards? You broke bastard! Let me tell you this. I'll hire someone with one million to end your life. My wealth is limitless, okay? It's a piece of cake to deal with a broke bastard like you."

At that moment, a golden Rolls-Royce stopped beside Qin Ming. Escorted by a row of men in black suits, Qin Ming helped the drunk Mu Xiaoqiao enter the car.

Su Shiming was astonished. *Why did a luxurious car appear out of thin air?* He recognized this car. It was a custom-made Rolls-Royce that belonged to someone living at the highest point of the Yun Shan Villas.

Su Shiming's family lived at the Yun Shan Villas too. However, he lived at the foot of the hills. Occasionally, he would spot this luxurious car entering and exiting the roads. This was the exact car plate number. The wealthy people of Guang City's upper-class society discussed extensively about the car's mysterious owner, yet no one knew who he actually was.

All they knew was that the rich businessman, Hou Qing, and the wealthy Qi family both had dealings with the car's owner. The car's owner even had an exceptionally beautiful secretary.

Click, clack... Song Ying walked towards Su Shiming in her high heels. When the latter saw such a beautiful woman like her, he felt a chill run down his spine. However, his eyes widened simultaneously. Everything seemed to be confirming his guess.

I-Is Qin Ming, Mu Xiaoqiao's husband, the owner of the highest mansion in Yun Shan villa? That mysterious billionaire?

Impossible! Isn't he just a student? Plus, his clothes are so plain and his secretary is so beautiful. Why did he even marry Mu Xiaoqiao?

On the other side, loud thuds could be heard as Long tossed Su Shiming's four bodyguards out. Each of them were unconscious, their faces were covered with bruises while their bones suffered multiple fractures.

Su Shiming was so terrified that he felt his knees buckle. He did not even dare to ask anymore. After all, it was blatantly obvious. His four bodyguards were professionally trained. Yet, they could not even defeat someone wearing slippers.

Song Ying glared at Su Shiming coldly, her chin raised up in arrogance. She twirled a sharp knife in her hands as she asked, "I heard that you wanted to hire someone to kill our Young Master?"

Su Shiming dropped to his knees in fear. He apologized quickly, "I-I'm really sorry for disturbing Mr. Qin! I was just rambling nonsensically after drinking. Please forgive me, Mr. Qin."

After placing Mu Xiaoqiao in the car, Qin Ming strode over and threatened, "You're Mr. Su, right? Let me give you a warning. If you dare to tell anyone about what happened today, I'll kill your entire family."

Su Shiming was terrified by Qin Ming's sharp gaze. He did not even dare to utter a single word as he knew that Qin Ming was being serious.

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With that, Qin Ming spun around and instructed, "Destroy his car and teach him a good lesson."

Su Shiming watched as Qin Ming's subordinates smashed his car. However, he did not even dare to stop them or ask any questions. All he could do was to accept his demise.



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Mu Xiaoqiao had a splitting headache.

Her memories were fragmented. The last thing she could remember was Su Shiming helping her into his car.

Who was Su Shiming? He was one of Guang City's wealthy, and notorious playboy. When she was at the bar drinking, she coincidentally met him while he was flirting with girls. Then, she ended up being pestered by him.

As she was business partners with his father, Mu Xiaoqiao did not chase him away out of politeness.

To feign indifference in front of Qin Ming, she asked Su Shiming to send her to the empty old office building. There was no way for her to back away at that juncture.

Her eyes quickly fluttered open. She did not know how long she had been drunk. If Su Shiming was the one who led her into the car, did she lose her virginity? Upon that thought, Mu Xiaoqiao broke into a cold sweat and she was Chapter 425 The Trashcan In The Bar

jolted awake instantly.

Su Shiming did not take advantage of me, right?

Mu Xiaoqiao scanned her surroundings when she woke up. When she touched her clothes, she heaved a sigh of relief and lay back onto the bed.

She was lying in her room and her clothes were not disheveled.

"I didn't expect Su Shiming to send me home so gentlemanly." Mu Xiaoqiao heaved another sigh of relief. Now, she had a better impression of Su Shiming.

Checking the time, she realized that it was only 3 am.

When she saw that Fang was dozing off at the side, she gently called her, "Fang, Fang. Pour me a glass of warm water, please."

"Oh, you're awake!" Fang yawned and quickly poured a glass of warm water for Mu Xiaoqiao. She explained, "When your parents saw you Chapter 425 The Trashcan In The Bar

being sent back home completely drunk, they were so heartbroken. Luckily, Sir sent someone to bring you home. Otherwise, if you met a bad person..."

Stunned, Mu Xiaoqiao asked, "Didn't a friend send me back?"

Fang replied, "No, it's Sir's friend. She's a very beautiful woman."

Mu Xiaoqiao's hand subconsciously moved to her chest. She was determined to forget that heartless man, and she almost succeeded. However, when she heard that Qin Ming sent her back, she could not help but feel secretly overjoyed. This instinctive feeling would never lie.

Mu Xiaoqiao rummaged through her bag but could not find the divorce contract. Thinking about it carefully, she figured out that she probably left it at the bar.

The divorce contract must have been given to the lawyer before it could come into effect legally. If
she lost it, she would have to sign another copy.

Mu Xiaoqiao sighed. "Forget it. I'll look for it later. Fang, you can go and sleep now. Thanks for taking care of me."

Fang was about to leave when she stopped in her tracks. "Oh, right. Your phone kept ringing earlier, so I turned it off to avoid disturbing you. I don't know if you missed anything urgent. You should take a look at your phone first."

Mu Xiaoqiao grabbed her phone and saw more than thirty phone calls from her sister, Mu Sichun. When she could not reach her phone, she even texted her.

Right after reading the messages, Mu Xiaoqiao stood up in shock. She bolted out of the house, only doubling back to grab a pair of shoes after realizing that she was bare-footed.

Fang, who had just went downstairs, asked in confusion, "Huh? Are you going to the kitchen? What do you want to eat? I'll cook it for you." Mu Xiaoqiao exclaimed, "Fang, I'm going out for a while. Don't tell my parents."

As she had just become sober, she did not dare to drive on her own. Hence, she hailed a cab and returned to the bar where she was drinking at earlier.

Even though it was three in the morning, the bar was still very lively. However, there was a BMW 7 Series sedan which was smashed into smithereens. Mu Xiaoqiao recognized it to be Su Shiming's car. *Why is it damaged?*

Throwing it to the back of her mind, she briskly walked into the bar and asked the bartender who served her earlier. "Sir, do you remember me? I drank eighteen glasses of the cocktail you mixed for me, and even took away a bottle of whiskey. My husband also came to look for me, holding a divorce contract. Do you know where it is?"

The bartender replied, "Oh, I saw it. The cleaner threw it into the trashcan. If you want to find it, you might need to rummage through the trash." Then, Mu Xiaoqiao ran to the alley outside the bar.

"Ah!" The moment she stepped out, she was taken aback by the sight of a few drunk ladies lying on the ground. There were a few men eyeing them lustfully.

A beautiful lady even got carried away, while the uglier ones remained sprawled across the floor.

Suppressing her fear, Mu Xiaoqiao briskly strode towards the trashcan.

There was a massive pile of garbage in the stinky drain behind the bar, which emitted a foul smell. She immediately spotted a moist condom lying on it.

Mu Xiaoqiao frowned in disgust. However, she still had to find the divorce contract.

She wanted to confirm whether Qin Ming had signed the divorce contract when he brought it to her.

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Is he really so heartless? If so, why is he so concerned about me? Why did he stop me from abusing myself and drowning my sorrows in alcohol?

Mu Xiaoqiao recalled the message her sister, Mu Sichun, sent her. She said that Qin Ming was diagnosed with a rare terminal disease. To cure the disease, he would need something from the box in her possession.

Mu Xiaoqiao was actually quite puzzled. That box was actually given to her when Master Zhang visited the Mu family today. He said that it included a set of martial arts techniques that could strengthen one's body. There was even a fragrant sachet placed inside the box.

It was merely an ordinary gift, with nothing particularly special about it.

Initially, she found it strange. After all, she was always in pink health. She had no interest in whatever martial arts techniques that could strengthen her body. If she wanted to train, she would go to the gym instead.

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Why did Master Zhang give that to her?

Only after receiving Qin Ming's call did she realize that he needed it.

However, back then, she did not know that he needed it to save his life.

As Mu Xiaoqiao was furious then, she tossed it into the trashcan at the alley behind the bar when she heard that Qin Ming needed it.

Hence, the box that Qin Ming wanted, as well as the divorce contract, were discarded into the garbage pile.

Mu Xiaoqiao had no choice but to slowly rummage through each garbage bag in the massive pile of trash.

There were alcohol bottles, cigarette boxes, food scraps, adult toys, sanitary pads and even condoms. The disgusting stench caused her to retch.

"Urgh!" Feeling her stomach lurch, Mu Xiaoqiao

vomited all the alcohol in her stomach onto the floor.

Afterwards, she merely wiped her lips and carried on with her search. It was not the time to care about anything else. As it was something that could save Qin Ming's life, she regretted tossing it away so casually.

Gritting her teeth, she wondered, "Why did he get the strange disease? He looks so normal that it doesn't seem like he's sick."

Mu Xiaoqiao had been searching for almost an hour. After separating the pile of garbage, she opened each trash bag and poured its contents out. By then, she was already drenched in sweat and her clothes became very filthy.

"Phew..." Mu Xiaoqiao swallowed her saliva and wiped the sweat on her forehead, feeling a huge wave of exhaustion engulf her.

"Hey, what are you doing? You stinky beggar! Search for trash elsewhere. Don't mess this place up. My salary will be deducted!" The bar's cleaner smacked a broom on Mu Xiaoqiao's back.

"Ouch!" Howling in pain, Mu Xiaoqiao collapsed onto the ground.

"Huh? You... You aren't a beggar." When the cleaner noticed that Mu Xiaoqiao was a pretty lady who just happened to have filthy clothes, she realized that she hit the wrong person. "Are you high on drugs? Why are you rummaging through the garbage? I'm sorry. I thought that you're a beggar."

Enduring the pain, Mu Xiaoqiao reassured her, "I'm fine. Have you seen a piece of paper? It's a divorce contract. There's also a very ordinarylooking wooden box that has a fragrance."

The cleaner thought for a while before replying, "Oh? A wooden box? I picked it up. If you want it, you need to give me some tips."

Mu Xiaoqiao quickly opened her bag and took out three thousand in cash. She pleaded, "I only have this much with me. Please return the box

with me. It concerns a human's life! I'm begging you."

The cleaner took a hundred and replied, "I'm not trying to scam you. A hundred is enough."

When Mu Xiaoqiao received the wooden box Zhang Quanzhen had given her and confirmed that its contents were not missing, she heaved a sigh of relief. A satisfied smile spread across her ashen face.

She shoved the money into the cleaner's hands and said, "Please accept this money. Take it as my compensation for messing this place up. Also, did you come across the divorce contract?"

The cleaner replied, "I saw it. But you should probably draft another copy. When I went to the toilet, I ran out of toilet paper, so I used it to wipe my butt. Anyway, since you're going to get a divorce, just draft another copy."

Mu Xiaoqiao was speechless. *She flushed it down the toilet just like that?*

She probed, "Then, do you remember if there's a signature left on the contract by the other party? It should be very noticeable, right?"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"A signature?" The cleaner pondered for a while before replying, "No. Let me tell you this, Missy. Life's difficult for everyone. As a couple, you must understand each other and be content with life. When I was younger, my husband and I often argued. Although he's not very capable and doesn't earn much, that's the reality of life. At least, he dotes on me."

Casting a knowing look at Mu Xiaoqiao, she continued, "I've seen that guy. It's obvious that he was worried that you would be led away by some indecent men. The owner of the BMW is a regular of the bar. I've witnessed how he flirted with many women who drink alone. Tsk... When I thought that you were going to enter his car, I was certain that you would lose your virginity. Well, your husband is quite masculine. He snatched you away by force."

Before the cleaner left, she gave Mu Xiaoqiao some parting words. "Well, don't blame me for being nosy, but since you gave me three thousand, I'll give you a piece of advice. Just be content with life—it has to go on, no matter what. All men are playboys, after all. As long as he still

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cares about you, everything's fine. My husband said that only incapable men are not playboys. Haha! He's probably stuck with me for the rest of his life."

Mu Xiaoqiao did not hear a single word of the cleaner's lecture. All she could remember was that Qin Ming did not sign on the divorce contract.

Why didn't he sign it?

Doesn't he miss Nie Haitang? Then, he should just leave! Why didn't he sign it? Why is he still caring for me?

Mu Xiaoqiao could not figure it out at all. With her clothes all dirty, she returned to the Mu family's house in a daze.

When she went to the study room, Qin Ming was not there.

When Qin Ming first joined the Mu family, he slept in the study room almost every day. This was where Qin Ming spent the most time in.

Her gaze fell onto the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead on the table. The ancient bead exuded a historic and rich aura.

Mu Xiaoqiao picked the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead up and wore it on her neck. Then, she slumped against the sofa which Qin Ming used to sleep on, and fell into a deep sleep.

The next morning, Qin Ming had already washed up, all ready to leave.

He decided to solve the root problem. As the heir of Huan Ning Century Corporation, why was he acting so timidly?

So I slept with Lin Yurou, right? But you planted the parasite first.

If we actually fought, I won't be scared of you. So quickly take that parasite out of my body.

Instead of falling for Zhang Quanzhen's plot, he would rather look for Lin Yurou to take the parasite out.

"So, that's what happened. Someone planted a parasite in me. I'm going to Xiangxi to find someone to remove it. Mu Sichun, why are you following me? You brat! You knew that I was at the dorm, so you waited till I had to come out to ask for a leave of absence. You're such a cunning girl." Speechless, Qin Ming stared at Mu Sichun, who was grasping his arm tightly.

This woman waited for Qin Ming at the campus dorm since last night. Refusing to release her grip, she clung onto his arm like a koala.

She did not even sleep yesterday, afraid that Qin Ming would run away.

Through gritted teeth, Mu Sichun asserted, "I want to follow you. What if you meet danger in the mountains? I can protect you."

"Hahaha! Qin Ming's bodyguard burst into laughter. *This weak little girl wants to protect Qin Ming? Is she joking?*

Mu Sichun glanced at Bi Yuan and snapped unhappily, "What are you laughing at? Oh, I recognize you. You're Qin Ming's friends, right? Don't you work as delivery men, waiters and bellboys? Why are you dressed up so formally now? You look like you're going to war. Don't you have to work?"

Chuckling, Bi Yuan replied, "We're buddies, so we're sticking together through thick and thin."

For this trip, Qin Ming brought Long and Bi Yuan along, forming an assassination team. Last night, he already deployed some men over to Xiangxi.

Song Ying needed to handle the company's business at Huaxia, while Kelly needed to collect information about the Zhao family. Hence, they were very busy.

Long was quite busy too. However, to protect Qin Ming's safety, he was deployed over.

Mu Sichun hugged Qin Ming's arm tightly. She insisted, "I don't care, Qin Ming. I'll follow you wherever you go until you change your mind about divorcing my sister. If you don't bring me

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along, I'll commit suicide at home. My suicide letter will claim that you got me pregnant and did not want to take responsibility."

Everyone was speechless. *Isn't Mu Sichun being too shameless?*

Qin Ming glanced at Bi Yuan, who nodded reluctantly. He could probably protect Mu Sichun as well.

It would not make a difference for an additional person to tag along, so Qin Ming relented.

Just like that, the team set off and boarded a private jet arranged by the company. After being certain that Qin Ming would not abandon her, Mu Sichun finally slept.

However, she fell asleep on Qin Ming's lap. This was his private jet, yet he had to endure this discomfort.

The flight was just halfway through. Qin Ming gazed at Mu Sichun, who was asleep on his lap. She pouted while she slept, looking very cute.

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Wearing a black skirt and a white top, she curled up into a ball.

Qin Ming could not help but snap a photo.

He was about to save it when his phone rang.

"Hello, what's the matter?" When Qin Ming saw that it was a call from Mu Xiaoqiao, he was actually quite calm. Since everything happened in the past, he was no longer hung up over it.

However, he felt that it was a pity he did not sleep with her before they divorced.

Mu Xiaoqiao sounded anxious. "Where are you? I'll send you what Master Zhang gave me right away. This is such an important matter! Why didn't you explain to me patiently?"

"What?" Staring at the clouds outside the private jet, while being partially blinded by the glaring sun, he said, "It's okay, I don't need it anymore. I'll look for other experts to cure me. Zhang Quanzhen, that old man, tricked me. I certainly won't spare him. Keep the thing for yourself. I

heard that it can strengthen your body. However, if you don't need it, just throw it away. Also, I'll not interfere with your matters from now on. Still, I'd advise you to avoid drinking alone at the bars. There are all sorts of men in places like that."

Mu Xiaoqiao clenched her fists and rebuked, "Stop putting up a tough front. Tell me where you are right now. I'll send it over to you personally."

Qin Ming replied irritatedly, "I'm on the plane. Are you going to fly to me?"

Mu Xiaoqiao fell silent for a while. Still persistent, she insisted, "Then, send me your address. I'll book a flight over now."

Qin Ming replied, "There's no need for that. Why do you want to follow me? Didn't you tell me to stop interfering in your business? Since we're divorced, you don't need to care about me anymore. I asked you for it yesterday, but you didn't give it to me. Hence, I stopped pinning my hopes on you."

"You're angry, right?" said Mu Xiaoqiao. "I admit that I was furious last night and didn't hear what you said. I made a mistake. However, you didn't even sign the divorce contract. Last night, weren't you trying to reconcile with me? We're still legally a couple. Now that there's something wrong with your health, shouldn't I help you? Tell me your address."

Qin Ming tilted his head to the side, puzzled. If he was not wrong, he actually signed the contract.

"Oh!" Qin Ming finally recalled that Mu Sichun had poured water over the contract. Did the water smudge the ink?

Qin Ming said, "Forget it. You already initiated the divorce. What's there to..."

Mu Xiaoqiao interrupted, "I oppose to the divorce now. Tell me where you are right now. Don't you want to live? I'll give the item to you right away."

Qin Ming licked his lips, not knowing how to respond. He was quite moved by how Mu

Xiaoqiao was so insistent on giving the box to him.

Suddenly, Mu Sichun, who was still in a deep slumber, wrapped her hands around Qin Ming's neck. With her face pressed against her chest, she mumbled in her sleep, "Qin Ming, are we reaching Dayong City? I'm hungry... I'm going to bite you... Don't leave, Qin Ming. If sis doesn't want you, I do."

This made things really awkward. The phone call fell silent for a while.

Mu Xiaoqiao was so shocked that her breathing quickened. Pinching the Nine-Eyed Dzi Bead on her neck, she suddenly felt distressed, as if something had been snatched away from her. "Qin Ming, why is my sister with you? Aren't you on a plane?"

Qin Ming was rendered speechless. What a coincidence. Is fate playing a joke on me?

I am a man with money, social status and respect. Yet, I'm being misunderstood as a scum who is hooking up with his sister-in-law?

Mu Xiaoqiao continued, "Dayong City, right? Wait for me, Qin Ming. Remember that we're not divorced yet. I'll send the item over instantly. Let's have a talk, okay?"

Qin Ming really did not understand why all of them wanted to tag along.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 427 A Chance Encounter On The Plane

As a famous tourist spot in Huaxia, Dayong City had the famous glass globe, the ancient Phoenix town, beautiful brooks and a nature reserve. There were countless tourists to Dayong City every year.

Since Qin Ming had already arrived at Dayong City at Xiangxi, he decided that it was only right to pay a visit to the Lin family.

He stayed in the most luxurious hotel in the city. As it was owned by Huan Ning Century Corporation's branch company, he did not have to worry about security.

To prevent others from recognizing himself, Qin Ming put on some make-up and wore a pair of glasses. There were even stubbles on his chin. Mu Sichun mocked Qin Ming for looking like a middle-aged pervert trying to trick little girls.

Naturally, Qin Ming would not trick little girls. The previous time, he got mistaken for someone else. Now, as there was a parasite in his body, he was afraid that the culprit would tempt the male parasite in his body with the scent of the female counterpart. This would cause Qin Ming to lose control over himself.

Hence, he needed to disguise himself.

After returning from Germany and rescuing Nie Haitang, Qin Ming did not really miss the affairs he had at the castle, including the woman whose virginity he had taken.

However, after being reminded by Zhang Quanzhen, Qin Ming recalled that Qin Zhongbai, the Young Master of the Qin family in Sea City, had mistaken him for a relative called the Ninth Young Master.

"Such wealthy families have so many children... The Ninth Young Master..." mumbled Qin Ming silently. "After all, it's possible for two people to look alike in this world. I wonder how much the Ninth Young Master looks like me."

Moments after Qin Ming and the rest arrived at the hotel, the local team leader of the company's business operations came to meet his boss, Qin Ming. Chapter 427 A Chance Encounter On The Plane

Normally, the local team leader of Dayong City's business operations was not qualified to even meet Qin Ming. Normally, it was the province's team leader who would personally visit Qin Ming. However, as he did not want to kick up a fuss and hinder his employees from earning money for him, he instructed the local team leader of Dayong City's business operations to come instead.

According to the company's internal database, the local team leader responsible for businesses in Dayong City was a senior man called Zhang Xianmin. He was a capable employee who had years of experience. He planned to work for a few more years in Huan Ning Century Corporation before retiring.

Walking towards Qin Ming, Zhang Xianmin looked a bit nervous and timid. He said, "Hello, Young Master. I've heard of you before, but it's my first time meeting you. You are really young."

Qin Ming rushed forward to stop him from bowing. After all, he was an elder over fifty years old. Since he had strived so hard for the Chapter 427 A Chance Encounter On The Plane

corporation's sake, Qin Ming should afford him some courtesy.

However, Zhang Xianmin seemed a bit overly nervous.

He was, after all, a senior manager, right? He managed so many hotels, tourist spots and restaurants in Dayong City, so why was he acting so timidly like a newbie?

Qin Ming said, "Mr. Zhang, please take a seat. I have to trouble you this time because of some personal affairs."

Wiping the sweat on his forehead, Zhang Xianmin replied politely, "No worries, Young Master. We all work for you anyway. It's our job to help you. Are you here to travel? Or are you here to visit someone—some mage, perhaps?"

Qin Ming exclaimed in surprise, "Huh? Are there any mages in Xiangxi?"

Stunned, Zhang Xianmin replied, "Young Master, are you talking about the entire Xiangxi? The parameters are too big. I thought that you're looking for someone in Dayong City."

Qin Ming said, "Indeed, the parameters are too big. I'm looking for the Lin family from Xiangxi's Tuzhai. That's all I know. Have you heard of them?"

Contemplating for a while, Zhang Xianmin shook his head. "I'm sorry, but I don't know them. However, I'm acquainted with many politicians and millionaires in Xiangxi. I can ask them about the Lin family. Is there anything special about them?"

Qin Ming replied, "They like to plant parasites on people."

Zhang Xianmin's lips twitched. He sensed that something was amiss, but he did not know what exactly, nor did he dare to ask. Hence, he replied, "Young Master, I'll ask around for them right away. I've deployed my secretary to remain behind at your service."

"There's no need for that," rejected Qin Ming. "If

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something happens, I'll ask Bi Yuan to contact you."

As an experienced employee of the company, Zhang Xianmin recognized Bi Yuan. He was one of Chang Hongxi's significant bodyguards.

Qin Ming was surprised. Is the Lin family so uninfluential and low-key in Dayong City? Their influence hasn't even spread to Dayong City?

Then, why was Qin Zhongbai, the eldest son of the Qin family, forced to go on a blind date with Lin Yurou? Could it be that their power is not predicated on wealth?

If their power did not come from wealth, it must come from something else. The average man would not know about it.

"They keep a really low profile." Qin Ming pondered about the possibilities. He certainly needed to find them, but he would have to wait for a few days. He mumbled silently, "Should I go back to school for classes?" Chapter 427 A Chance Encounter On The Plane

This time, Qin Ming felt like a country bumpkin.

It took more than an hour to fly to Dayong City from Guang City. However, with his private jet, it took less than an hour.

It was even faster than returning to his hometown. To return home, he needed to board a long-distance bus that took a few hours to enter the mountains.

Well, Qin Ming was not to be blamed for being a country bumpkin. After all, he used to be so poor that he could not even afford to take the highspeed rail. When he travelled, he needed to take the public train. Hence, he expected the journey to Dayong City to take a long time. Unexpectedly, the private jet was quick.

His previous impoverished lifestyle had really stifled his imagination.

After Zhang Xianmin left, Long stepped forward and warned, "Young Master, Mr. Zhang seems to be acting weirdly. He's so nervous that it looks like he's hiding something."

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Bi Yuan agreed, "That's right. When Mr. Zhang met Master Chang in the past, he was not as nervous and timid. Could it be that you are so intimidating that he got scared?"

Qin Ming said, "I'm just a young man. Why would I be so intimidating? Forget it. Let's focus on the task at hand."

He decided to wait for further updates.

"Qin Ming, Qin Ming!" Mu Sichun, who had just placed her luggage down, ran over in a sun hat. Tugging on his hand, she said excitedly, "Let's go to the glass bridge. Quickly! I haven't been there before. I heard that it's so frightening that one's knees would buckle."

Speechless, Qin Ming stated, "Mu Sichun, I'm here to settle something serious, not to play."

"Oh, I forgot." Mu Sichun stuck her tongue out mischievously before suggesting, "Then, let's explore the city's delicacies! There's hot pot, pig blood curd, cold noodles, Tujia meat... Wow, I'm drooling already!" Qin Ming flicked Mu Sichun's forehead. "You're such a glutton. All you know is to eat!"

Mu Sichun swayed Qin Ming's arm coquettishly. "I want to eat them. Good things always happen when I stick with you, right?"

Left with no choice, Qin Ming brought Mu Sichun out to find good food.

At the same time, Mu Xiaoqiao was on the plane, clutching tightly on the wooden box. She was not allowed to call on the plane, and she could not contact her younger sister either.

Mu Xiaoqiao felt utterly confused. Mu Sichun's drowsy voice kept circling in her mind. Don't leave, Qin Ming. If Sichun doesn't want you, I do. This sentence was stuck in her head, regardless of how hard she tried to forget it.

When did they start developing feelings for each other?

What does Qin Ming think about it?

Mu Xiaoqiao clutched her head in agony. "Why didn't you sign the divorce contract? If you did, I wouldn't pin any more hopes on you! Do you even like me at all? But no matter what, I'll personally pass this thing that could save your life to you."

Just when Mu Xiaoqiao was feeling perplexed, a pretty girl popped her head over. "Miss, where did you get that box from?"

Mu Xiaoqiao asked, "What's wrong? This is only an ordinary box."

The woman explained, "I know that it's an ordinary box, but it's smell is making me uncomfortable. I hope that you can place it into your bag."

Mu Xiaoqiao sniffed the box. It had the musky smell of wood, with nothing special about it.

However, as she did not want to start a conflict, she placed it into her bag.

The woman front turned back and heaved a sigh

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of relief. Clutching her stomach, she said, "How can an ordinary person have something like that? My baby almost became restless. This is so unfortunate. We just followed to scent to Guang City, but now we have to rush to Dayong City."

The old woman sitting beside her said calmly, "This proves that the man is wandering around. However, we can catch him quickly. The Lin family of Xiangxi will not allow you to be abandoned after losing your virginity. The Qin family of Sea City is still evading us. We'll definitely find that man."



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People always said to take things as they come.

Qin Ming didn't expect that the famous Tuzhai tribe that so many people spoke of was unknown to his subordinates. He could only wait for Zhang Xianmin to find them first.

Qin Ming took Mu Sichun to visit the nearby tourist attractions that he himself hadn't been to before.

The two of them soon arrived at Fenghuang Old City. It was somewhat quiet and uncrowded in the middle of the day. Mu Sichun never stopped eating the entire time, and she even bought a set of local Tuzhai clothing. With various flowers crowning her head, it was evident that an attractive person was able to wear any kind of clothing and still look amazing.

Several tourists mistook Mu Sichun as a local beauty when they saw her in that outfit. She took pictures with Qin Ming everywhere she went and bought a bunch of local specialties to take back home.

Qin Ming felt fatigued when he saw how energetic Mu Sichun was.*Did she come to work* or play?

Mu Sichun could guess what Qin Ming was thinking when she saw the look on his face. She handed a half-eaten kebab to Qin Ming and questioned, "Ming, you said there are worms in your body, right? Why don't you get a CT scan at the hospital and remove the worms?"

Qin Ming took a couple of bites of the kebab and replied, "I have done so, but they couldn't find them. Besides, these worms are parasites that live in my blood vessels. They will flow through my veins and reach my heart. If they die in my blood vessels, I'd quickly die of a heart attack as well."

Mu Sichun felt a sense of dread when she heard the word 'die'. She frowned. "Sorry, Ming. Am I... Am I in your way? I want to help you, but I don't know what to do. I don't want you to leave our family. The only thing I can do is to stay by your side."

Qin Ming stroked her head. "Don't worry. Money

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and problems come hand in hand. I'm used to it anyway. But, I'm still quite happy to have a little beauty such as you tagging alongside."

When she heard Qin Ming's compliment, Mu Sichun pursed her lips before smiling shyly. "Then I'll let you have a bite of my sugar-coated haws too."

Qin Ming was about to take a bite when he stopped abruptly. He saw Zhang Xianmin at the intersection in front of them.

Zhang Xianmin was carrying a black leather bag and was walking with a few young men who were wearing local traditional clothing. They were in a hurry, looking around suspiciously every once in a while. That was when the strap of the bag tore open fortuitously, dropping several stacks of cash on the ground.

The first thing Zhang Xianmin did was to look around vigilantly.

Qin Ming was confused. *Why is Zhang Xianmin in a tourist location and not spying on the Lin family?*

However, Zhang Xianmin's gaze was about to fall in Qin Ming's direction, so the latter had to act fast. He swiftly pinned Mu Sichun, who was still eating her sugar-coated haws, against a wall to prevent Zhang Xianmin from seeing them.

"Ah, Ming! What... What are you doing?" Mu Sichun was startled and backed her head away from him. She didn't know what to do when confronted by Qin Ming's sudden dominance. *Could it be that he's trying to make use of the romantic ambiance to kiss me?*

So this was Ming's scheme all along. He pretends to despise me, but he takes me to enjoy myself at so many places. He even bought clothes and rode a boat with me. Did he do all that just so he could kiss me right now?

Thump... Thump... Looking at Qin Ming's face up close made Mu Sichun's heart flutter, and she felt her entire body burn with excitement.

She didn't know whether to return Qin Ming's

kiss or to slap him when he made his move.

Qin Ming's eyes, however, were entirely focused on Zhang Xianmin. When Zhang Xianmin didn't notice anything unusual around him, he and his companions picked up the money and left in a blink of an eye.

Long, who was secretly nearby, immediately followed the group when Qin Ming signaled him with his eyes.

Long and Bi Yuan had their suspicions confirmed - Zhang Xianmin was indeed acting strangely. They didn't know why, so they could only follow him to find out.

"Chun..." Qin Ming turned back to look at Mu Sichun. Her face was blushing, and her entire body had frozen solid. Her eyes darted around in a state of confusion.

"Are you sick?" Qin Ming put his hand on her forehead. *Why is this brat's forehead so hot all of a sudden?*
"N... No. Ming, what... What are you doing?" Mu Sichun was a lot more anxious when she felt Qin Ming's hand. She licked her lips and spoke in a flustered manner, "You... You're cornering me against a wall. There... There's a lot of people around."

"Oh, I scared you. It's just a misunderstanding. I..."

Before Qin Ming was able to finish his sentence, a few children who were playing around bumped into him from behind. This caused him to fall headfirst towards Mu Sichun.

Muack!

Coincidentally, Mu Sichun's head was raised when Qin Ming fell and their lips collided.

Mu Sichun's eyes widened in surprise as she thought to herself, *Would you look at that! I knew he was plotting something! He just wanted to take advantage of me. Oh my gosh! This is my first kiss.*

Qin Ming wanted to explain to her that some kid had bumped into him, but he was too entranced by Mu Sichun's delicate lips. Her lips were slightly cold, and he could taste the subtle sweetness of the sugar-coated haws she was having just a minute ago.

He didn't expect Mu Sichun's lips to be this soft. The gentleness of her lips together with her fragrance melted him. Unknowingly, he put out his tongue.

"Aah!" Mu Sichun felt a jolt in her body as she began to tremble non-stop. Tears began rolling down her cheeks.

The moment lasted four to five seconds. When Qin Ming regained his senses, he quickly pulled his lips away. However, he felt a sudden pain and realized that she had bitten him.

With tears in her eyes, Mu Sichun looked at Qin Ming helplessly. Traces of his blood were left on her lips.

"I'm sorry." The two children who were playing

chase and bumped into Qin Ming apologized politely.

Qin Ming waved his hands to show he didn't mind. "Don't worry about it. Just be more careful next time."

Turning his attention back at Mu Sichun, he could still see the vulnerable look on her face. He reassured her, "Chun, just now, I noticed my subordinates acting suspiciously. Hence, I pinned you on the wall to hide our movements from them. But, I didn't expect someone to bump into me. It... it was just a coincidence."

"But why did you stick out your tongue then? I'm your sister-in-law, for goodness sake." As Mu Sichun fumed with a pout, tears welled up in her eyes.

Her words were right on point and exposed Qin Ming's lustful intentions.

Fine, I'll admit that I couldn't control myself when kissing someone as gorgeous as Mu Sichun.

Qin Ming was perplexed when he realized he couldn't prevent his upper body from misbehaving despite keeping his nether regions in check. *Tsk, it's really tough being a guy, let alone an exceptional one such as myself. There are just too many things to be mindful of.*

However, to save face, Qin Ming retorted, "You... you stuck your tongue out too."

*Boohoo...*The dam that was holding back Mu Sichun's tears finally broke when Qin Ming exposed her true feelings. Further embarrassed by his words, she didn't dare make eye contact as tears streaked down her cheeks.

Raising her tiny fists, she pounded them on Qin Ming's chest. "Ming, you're a shameless, disgusting, and despicable asshole. I'm going to tell my sister."

Qin Ming quipped, "Your sis and I just got divorced."

Mu Sichun replied, "In that case, I'll still hold you accountable. After all, that was my first

kiss."

While both of them argued, Long called and updated Qin Ming, "Young Master, we've discovered something important. You need to come over immediately."



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Chapter 429 They Are The Lin family

After ending the call, Qin Ming said, "Chun, something came up, can you..."

Mu Sichun responded with tears in her eyes, "Ming, will you be responsible for me?"

Qin Ming replied with a straight face, "Definitely, I will hold myself accountable. I'll let you kiss me as many times as you want until you're satisfied; how about that?"

"In your dreams." When Mu Sichun heard Qin Ming's brazen words, she broke out in a smile and stopped crying. "Alright now; it's time to get serious. Let's go."

Qin Ming was surprised at how Mu Sichun didn't kick up a fuss over it. Instead, the woman was sensible and clearly knew what the priorities were. In that respect, she resembled her sister a lot.

He couldn't help but feel that both Mu Hao's daughters were kind and gentle underneath despite their many flaws.

As both of them followed Long's instructions, they came across a row of houses located by the water in Fenghuang Old City. There were a few wooden boats beside the houses.

When Qin Ming arrived, he saw Zhang Xianmin and his companions getting on the wooden boats and rowing quickly away. On the boats, he could see black leather bags filled with cash.

Meanwhile, the sound of a fight could be heard from one of the shops that sold souvenirs.

Rushing over, Qin Ming saw Long holding a burly and shirtless man by the neck. *Crash!* The next moment, he was slammed into the display shelves, causing all the souvenirs to be strewn all over the floor.

"Long, behind you!" Raising his head, Qin Ming saw a man diving down from upstairs, aiming to grab Long by his neck.

However, Long's reflexes were lightning quick. Ducking aside, he launched a brutal kick towards his attacker's abdomen.

"Argh!" The man cringed on the floor in pain, unable to get up.

Long rushed out towards the dock and sighed at what he saw. The boat had departed, and the getaway crew was rowing with the current, allowing them to move swiftly away. Furthermore, Long's priority was to ensure Qin Ming's safety, hence he couldn't give chase.

After binding his two unknown attackers, Long brought them towards Qin Ming. "Young Master, Zhang Xianmin has escaped. He panicked the moment he saw me, which is extremely suspicious."

The shirtless man yelled, "Who are you? Are you trying to rob me in broad daylight? It's going to be afternoon soon, and the crowds are on their way. So, your plans have failed. I'm just an honest businessman. You better scram before I call the cops on you."

Bam!

Long slammed a kick into the man's stomach.

"Argh... I beg you, stop. It hurts," the shirtless man pleaded. "I'm really just a businessman who sells knick-knacks to tourists."

"You better fess up if you don't want to suffer further," Long demanded. "Speak, what were you doing?"

The other man, who looked thin, weakly replied, "We really are humble businessmen. The people you were chasing were our regular customers. Hence, we thought we would save them from you by helping them escape.

As Qin Ming scanned the old building made of mudbricks, he didn't find anything out of the ordinary.

Nevertheless, he instructed, "Long, close down the shop first to prevent others from nosing around."

As Long closed the doors, Qin Ming began to search the old building. Inside, he found a driedup well that was deep and dingy. Switching on the flashlight on his phone, Qin Ming noticed that there was someone down there.

He quickly ordered Long to get a rope and climb down. When Long came back up with the man on his shoulders, he was shocked to find that the man looked exactly like Zhang Xianmin - just without spectacles.

How can there be two Zhang Xianmins? Are they twins?No, that's impossible. This one looks visibly haggard.

"What happened? Are you holding him hostage? This is Mr. Zhang of Dayong City, president of the Century Tour Group. Don't tell me you don't know him. Besides, the man who escaped just now looks exactly like him." Qin Ming brought the unconscious Zhang Xianmin and laid him down in front of the two shop owners.

When both of them saw Zhang Xianmin, they kept their mouths shut. By then, they knew that they ran the risk of exposing themselves further by trying to deny it. Qin Ming analyzed, "It seems the Zhang Xianmin I met today was an impostor since we have the real one here. Tsk-tsk, how dare you lie to me. What do you still have to say for yourselves?"

Both men remained silent.

Qin Ming waved his hand and remarked, "Since you're not going to spill the beans, we will just have to bring you in to be interrogated slowly."

Long called to Bi Yuan to have his men come over. In a short while, Bi Yuan arrived with a large group of subordinates.

Meanwhile, the medics within the Hunting Team provided CPR to Zhang Xianmin immediately. After some treatment, the man gradually opened his eyes.

Cough... Cough..."Have I been saved?" Zhang Xianmin mumbled weakly. "Young man, who are you? Are you the one who saved me?"

Qin Ming replied, "You could say so."

Bi Yuan walked over and exclaimed, "Zhang! Do you still remember me? It's Bi Yuan."

"Oh! It's you, Bi." Zhang Xianmin barely mustered his strength to reply.

Bi Yuan was upset. "Damn it, can you not call me that?"

Zhang Xianmin chuckled. "Looks like you're the real one. Oh, Bi, I've fallen into a trap this time, so forgive me for being extra careful. There's someone who looks exactly like me after putting on some makeup. They even kept me imprisoned in the well for a week. By the way, is this young man your subordinate?"

Bi Yuan moved aside quickly and explained, "Zhang, you're being impudent here. He is our Young Master, Master Chang's heir."

"What?" Zhang Xianmin was so shocked that he fully regained his senses. Taking a closer look at Qin Ming, he exclaimed in gratitude, "So, it's Young Master who saved me. I have almost caused you to fall into the dastardly Lin family's

trap."

Qin Ming furrowed his brows and seized upon what he just heard. "The Lin family? Of the Tuzhai tribe from Xiangxi?"

Zhang Xianmin replied, "Yes. Lin Chaofeng and his companions are the Lin family's tribesmen. The Lin family is so famous in Xiangxi that everyone there knows who they are. However, Tuzhai is a long distance away from Dayong City."

Qin Ming clapped his hands in realization. "No wonder the fake Zhang Xianmin panicked when he saw me. He also claimed to not know the Lin family of the Tuzhai tribe. It was a load of bull as they all belonged to the same group. They knew I was there to cause them trouble."

Bi Yuan continued to ask, "Zhang, why do they want to masquerade as you then?"

Zhang Xianmin replied, "It's all for the sake of money. Not only do they know me, but the guy also who impersonated me, Lin Chaofeng, is an old friend of mine. During dinner, they suddenly threatened me to steal from the company on their behalf. However, I have worked for the company for thirty years and have long seen it as my second family. Hence, I refused their demands and was kidnapped for it."

Qin Ming was curious and asked, "Aren't they a rich and prominent tribe? Why are they short on funds? Furthermore, why did they choose to take the risk by making money in such an illegal manner?"

Zhang Xianmin explained, "You are probably not aware of it as you're relatively new. Even I only heard about it recently. Something happened to the Lin family; they are Xiangxi's largest Tuzhai tribe. I'm not sure what it is exactly, but they are extremely desperate for cash."

The situation became clearer now. As something occurred to the Lin family, they sent Lin Yurou to approach the Qins of Sea City for a marriage alliance two months ago. However, they bumped in Qin Ming, who foiled their marriage plans. Also, the Lin family's troubles appeared to be huge as many members of the tribe began to take brazen risks by making money illegally.

However, it wasn't clear if they were doing so on their own accord or under the instructions of their tribal chief.

Qin Ming had a hunch that the journey ahead was going to be a challenging one.

He asked, "Mr. Zhang, do you know where the Lin family of Tuzhai are?"

Zhang Xianmin hesitated for a moment before answering, "Ordinary folk won't be able to find them as the Lin family of Xiangxi are very mysterious. They are considered a large tribe and are spread all over Tuzhai in Xiangxi. Their influence isn't just limited to finances. Most of the residents there have a unique and mysterious connection to the family. It's easy enough to meet an ordinary tribe member like Lin Chaofeng, who disguised himself as me. As for the tribal chief, it will be a lot more difficult." Chapter 429 They Are The Lin family

Qin Ming bit his lip. *Why are there so many rules*?

Long asked, "Young Master, what are we going to do next?"

Just when Qin Ming was about to make a decision, his handphone rang. Mu Xiaoqiao had arrived.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Qin Ming would never have expected that he was almost scammed by the Lins who impersonated as his subordinate right after he arrived in Dayong City. Because of this, he wasted half of his day and even got his plan exposed.

If not for Mu Sichun, who kept badgering him to swing by Fenghuang Old City to have some fun, he would not have found out about it.

"See, told you that you'll need me one day. You might be the vice president of Great China District, but you'll still need a woman like me to guide you out of a dangerous situation," Mu Sichun said proudly, beating her chest above her voluptuous breast.

Qin Ming said nothing but smiled politely.

Earlier on, he had handed over the two imposters from the Lin family to Bi Yuan's assassination team. It was just a matter of time before the two cracked under pressure and started spilling everything they knew.

However, Qin Ming did not have time to attend

to this issue himself, he had to pick up Mu Xiaoqiao from the airport first.

Thinking of her, Qin Ming felt conflicted. He had been tricked by Zhang Quanzhen, that was why he had to ask Mu Xiaoqiao for the box containing the unique martial art of the Mountain of the Beasts. But she refused to give it to him. It made him so furious he decided to come to Xiangxi to look for the Lin family himself.

But when Mu Xiaoqiao suddenly decided to come to see him, Qin Ming found himself feeling elated. Sometimes, men just could not figure out how they really felt.

In fact, he was so thrilled he rushed to the airport to meet her. There was a huge crowd at the airport, but Qin Ming located her instantly—he could not help it. Her presence naturally drew many adoring eyes. Mu Xiaoqiao was beautiful, tall, and slim, giving off an irresistible aura as she cut through the crowd.

Under the scorching sun, her black attire made her all the more eye-catching. Her fair skin glowed in the sun and her body shape was prominent in her figure-hugging clothes.

Mu Xiaoqiao was attractive, yet distant. She was like a lotus flower in a still pond, and no one dared to approach her. She was just of another world.

When Qin Ming finally came up to her, people were wondering why a nobody like him would go near a perfect woman like Mu Xiaoqiao. True enough, Qin Ming was dressed in bleached jeans and a pair of old Warrior shoes, creating a stark contrast with the woman before him.

"Seriously, does he think he can get the girl?" one of the people commented.

"He should take a good look at himself. The girl is waiting for her boyfriend to pick her up, which is obviously not him!" yet another said.

"I really don't know what's wrong with men these days. They see too highly of themselves!" a young woman whispered to her friend.

"Haha, let's just see how this unfolds then! I have a feeling it's gonna be dramatic!"

"Young man, you'll need at least a bouquet of flowers if you wish to court a woman," an old man said to Qin Ming.

"Hey, look at that handsome young man coming down from the Mercedes-Benz! I knew it! He must be her real boyfriend. It's impossible that that poor beggar is her boyfriend."

Their comments bugged Qin Ming so much he turned to look at the "handsome young man" they were talking about and saw Long coming towards him.*Handsome young man, eh?* Qin Ming rolled his eyes, hard.

He paced towards Mu Xiaoqiao and asked, "What brings you here?"

Isn't it obvious? It's because I'm worried about you! What kind of question is this? Mu Xiaoqiao was annoyed that that was the first thing Qin Ming said right after he saw her. But she squinted her eyes and looked at him as he came up close. "What's with the makeup? And the beard too. You look like a middle-aged man. Are you trying to score a date with some young chicks?"

She looked at him, perplexed, as she tried to figure out what he was up to.*Don't tell me he's here to have some fun with my sister.*

Mu Xiaoqiao hardened her face and as she looked at Qin Ming suspiciously.

But just as he was about to confidently swear by his unwavering loyalty to Mu Xiaoqiao, he suddenly thought of the sweet peck he gave Mu Sichun and swallowed his words.

He looked at her awkwardly while Mu Xiaoqiao stared at him waiting for an explanation.

Nevertheless, Mu Xiaoqiao finally eased her glare after some thought. She knew he was not feeling well, that was why he needed the box that badly.

She could not bring herself to give him a lecture or get into a fight with him. Besides, she would still need him by her side if she threw a tantrum and got drunk in the end.

Chapter 430 Public Display Of Affection

Oh, well, he just has a little difficulty getting over his ex. Why make a big fuss about it?

But although she decided to just let go of the matter, Mu Xiaoqiao was still struggling inside. Should I give him my poker face, or should I just be nice?

"Just a gentle reminder. Since the divorce agreement is gone, we're still legally married," she said harshly.

The moment she finished her words, Mu Xiaoqiao quickly regretted her attitude.*I came all* the way to Dayong City to visit him, what was the point of giving him a cold shoulder?I'm not here to pick a fight...

But Mu Xiaoqiao really did not know how to face Qin Ming. She wanted a husband who would protect and pamper her—all that Qin Ming would not do.

Their interaction raised many eyebrows as the people around started staring. Never in their wildest dream would they imagine the man Chapter 430 Public Display Of Affection

before them was actually Mu Xiaoqiao's husband.

"The world is so unfair. Men like this get all the beautiful women," some said in disbelief.

"Can someone tell me how two people who are so different get along?" another asked.

"I can't believe my eyes. The ugly frog really gets the princess!" another man commented.

"Speaking of, a fortune-teller once told me that women who look like her are very lucky. They will have a good life, and their children will be successful. They can even bring good luck to their husband," a woman added.

"Oh! I've also heard that women who have such looks get very understanding and good children. Their children will grow up to be independent and wealthy. They have nothing to worry about in their old age," an old woman agreed.

"What a waste though. This woman is such a gem, but her husband... She just deserves better,"

said a random woman who joined the conversation.

Qin Ming glared at them fiercely and the people finally shushed. Those busybodies quickly resumed whatever they were doing just to evade Qin Ming's killing glare.

He looked at Mu Xiaoqiao and replied nonchalantly, "It's okay, we can always pen a new divorce agreement."

"Did I hear you right? Do you really want to divorce her? What an unappreciative man," a young lady stood up and insulted.

A stout man came closer and said, "Young lady, do you want to find a new husband? I'm a good candidate!"

"Don't be sad. You're still young and beautiful. There are ample men out there waiting for you," an old lady added as she shook her head at Qin Ming.

"The world seriously needs a fix. Good men like

me always end up being single forever, and jerks like him always end up with many women," a bald man commented.

Qin Ming looked at the crowd helplessly and shook his head. *Come on! What's wrong with getting a divorce? Do you guys have to be this hard on me?*

He looked at the men who were eyeing Mu Xiaoqiao and was irritated. It was true that they were getting a divorce, but he would not allow these scoundrels to get her.

He held her hand and stood in front of her defensively. "Just back off, will you?" Qin Ming shouted at them.

He shot them a piercing glare and his voice resonated in the air.

Mu Xiaoqiao's heart warmed as she looked at Qin Ming longingly. She was a woman who did not show her emotions, but deep down, she had always wanted him to protect her. She hugged Qin Ming from behind and smiled at him sweetly before glaring at the people and said, "What's wrong with some playful banter between a married couple? It's none of yall's business anyway."

Hearing this, the crowd of busybodies had no choice but to back off.

Qin Ming was not expecting her to do that. He loved it whenever she hugged him from behind. His anger quickly subsided and his heart softened.

"Alright, let's get in the car. It's really hot out here. We can continue after we reach the hotel," Qin Ming said gently as he pointed towards the car.

Just as he was about to step into the car, he took a look at the surroundings and spotted a woman with long black hair looking at him by the side of the road.

A gripping sensation seized his body and an uncontrollable desire overwhelmed his senses.

Just as what happened the last two times, his body felt hot as the parasite inside him started wreaking an effect on his endocrine system.

Qin Ming clenched his fists as he felt his hormones running wild.

He was trying to resist the urge to take off his pants in public.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Qin Ming's breathing became heavier as time passed. He knew it was a matter of time before he could no longer suppress this urge. The woman with long black hair became increasingly tempting and irresistible every second.

But Qin Ming could not understand what was happening to him. There was no way he would find that woman attractive under normal circumstances, but right at this moment, she appeared to be so appealing and attractive he could not stop himself from having her there and then.

Qin Ming was sure that there must be a female parasite in that woman's body. It was the female parasite from the Lin family of the Tuzhai tribe, which was believed to have positive effects on a woman's health. Through the unique scent it gave off, the female parasite could impel the male parasite to disrupt a man's hormones. This could throw any man head over heels for a woman.

Qin Ming could no longer repress his craving for that woman. His impulses overtook him and he took off his pants in front of the car door, ready to

walk towards that woman. He did not care anymore. All he wanted to do at that moment was to pin her down on the floor, even if it meant he had to do it in public.

Mu Xiaoqiao, who just got in the car, turned and saw him. "Qin Ming! What are you doing? We can't do it in the car! Wait till we get back to the hotel at least!" But to her surprise, he turned and walked towards the woman by the street. "Qin Ming! Where are you going!?" Mu Xiaoqiao shouted after him.

Suddenly, an old woman appeared beside the woman who had been looking at Qin Ming and tugged her hand. "Enough! we should stop this nonsense," the old lady told her.

But the young woman replied, "This man is a womanizer. I can feel that the parasite in his body is very aggressive and active, but his wife is not a woman from the Tuzhai tribe. This means he must have slept with one of the women from our tribe and left her for someone else. I have to get revenge!"

The old woman came nearer and tried persuading her again. "I don't think we should carry on with this. The man's driver looks so fierce, and he has a murderous aura about him. They aren't some commoners. Besides, we have to look for the person who took advantage of you. This man does not look young, I don't think he's the one we are looking for."

"It's because of these middle-aged men that have a mature temperament that they managed to hook naive girls from our tribe. He's a womanizer and a scum! I'll make sure to wipe him off the face of the earth!" the young lady lashed out.

Looking at how things were going, the old woman started pulling the young lady away. "You need to calm down. You shouldn't vent your vengeance on someone who is innocent. This is against our tribe's values!" the old lady shouted.

Meanwhile, Mu Xiaoqiao ran after Qin Ming and leaped on him, dragging him on his waist to stop him from doing something outrageous.

Her sudden behavior snapped Qin Ming back to

reality and he cooled down a little. He took deep and slow breaths, trying to pull himself together.

On the road, the cars sped by busily. Qin Ming could not imagine what might have happened if he had walked across the road recklessly. *I could have died...*

Fear gripped his heart as he finally figured out who that woman was. "She must be a Tuzhai woman who can control the parasite in my body. She must have found out that I have the parasite in me!"

But when Qin Ming lifted his head trying to look for the woman over on the other side of the road, she was already gone.

Mu Xiaoqiao lost her strength and her grip around Qin Ming's waist loosened. She fell to the ground and asked weakly, "What's wrong with you?"

"I'm fine," Qin Ming replied. He took a deep breath and looked at her gratefully. "I'm so sorry I lost control." Qin Ming was grateful that she came after him and stopped him in time. She must have cared for him deeply.

Wait a minute! Where are my pants!?Am I seriously just flashing the world in my red underwear?

Mu Xiaoqiao sat on the ground in front of him with her face right in front of his red underwear. Many onlookers stared at this ridiculous and obscene scene as they walked by.

An old tourist who happened to pass by shook his head in disapproval. "The world has really changed, hasn't it! I can't believe people are so open these days. This young woman surely doesn't look like someone lascivious."

His wife agreed readily, saying, "Indeed! I feel I'm too old-fashioned for this world. The young people these days are really too much for me. He's even wearing red underwear!"

"Can we record a video? I'm sure this is gonna go viral!" Another tourist came up behind them,

getting his phone out of his pocket.

"I don't think it's nice to spread videos like this. It's only going to disrupt social order and endanger good morals," the old man advised.

Their voices became less audible as the group of tourists walked away from the couple. Totally befuddled by what they saw, some of them even turned back and took another look.

Seeing the group pointing and chattering about them, Qin Ming quickly pulled up his pants, dragged Mu Xiaoqiao into the car, and ordered Long to drive off immediately.

"What happened just now? Did someone cast a spell on you? Didn't you see how many cars there were on the road?" Mu Xiaoqiao asked after she got in the car.

"Someone poisoned me with a parasite, so I don't really have control over what I do once someone took control of the parasite within me," Qin Ming explained.

Mu Xiaoqiao looked at him silently before she finally said, "Why didn't you tell me earlier? Do you even take me as your wife?"

I've never thought of your as my wife.

Qin Ming wanted to say what he thought out loud, but he knew it would be too hurtful.

Mu Xiaoqiao was too good for him. Every time she was gentle and loving towards him, Qin Ming felt so guilty he had the urge to chop off Zhang Quanzhen's head and eat him up.

He regretted believing in all those superstitious nonsense. *I shouldn't have believed that marriage can chase away bad luck and bad health. I must have been crazy. I even believed that guy when he said he could help change Nie Haitang's destiny for the better. And I really shouldn't have married into the Mu family. That guy is really the death of me!*

Despite that, Qin Ming also knew that Zhang Quanzhen was capable. He was knowledgeable, but also cunning. Because of him, Qin Ming Chapter 431 The Tides Are Turning

became involved with the Mu family more than ever.

Seeing Qin Ming deep in his thoughts, Mu Xiaoqiao reached for his zipper and pulled it up as if it were nothing abnormal. It was not until she was done with her action that she felt embarrassed.

She pulled out the scented box and held it towards him, saying, "This will be able to help you, right?"

Just as Qin Ming was about to reach for the box, he felt nauseous. It was probably because the box had an effect on the parasite in his body.

He quickly took out the copy of the martial art book named "The Oneness of Qi" from the box and snapped the lid shut.

"I've read this book before. I think it teaches about breathing and some martial art moves. When Master Zhang gave it to me, he said that this book would be helpful in case I had to fight off a pervert. But I think that's probably just an

excuse he gave so that you can read this book one day. I think you can find many books like this in the library, but still, anything Master Zhang gives will be useful in one way or another," Mu Xiaoqiao mentioned.

Qin Ming had no interest in a book like this. He would rather read a whole sales report of a company.

But since it might save his life, he decided to give it a try.

If this book were really able to help him, he would not need to go to the Lin family of the Tuzhai tribe.

No, I'll still go to the Lin family. It'll be way faster than practicing what the book teaches, which will take up a good whole month. Besides, since things are already at this stage, I might as well just go the last mile.Qin Ming thought to himself.

Not to mention the Lin family had kidnapped Zhang Xianmin and even impersonated him to
trick Qin Ming, causing Dayong City Century Tour Group to fall heavily into debt. There was no way Qin Ming could stop now.

Over on the other side of the airport, a Santana pulled up at the pickup area to fetch the young woman who made Qin Ming lose himself at the airport, along with the old woman.

A young man came out of the car, saying, "Welcome back. I'm sorry I only have bad news for you. Wei just got caught."

The old lady widened her eyes and asked anxiously, "What did he do? Who did he cross this time?"

"It seems like he got into trouble with President Zhang of the Dayong City Century Tour Group. They got Ping as well, but the good thing is that the police were not involved. Also, Zhang Xianmin's boss is here. He said the Lin family would pay for what they did," the young man reported everything that happened.

"What an incompetent group of people! The Lin

family is already in a difficult position, and what you all did just made the matter worse! Yurou, what do you think we should do now?" the old woman inquired imploringly.

Looking at the old lady, Lin Yurou let out a sigh, knowing she had to help this time. After all, Lin Mingwei was her grandson, naturally, the old lady would want Lin Yurou to help.

Lin Yurou had no choice but to say, "Figure out a way to get them out safely. Make sure there is no evidence of what they did."

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Chapter 432 A Sneak Attack

Over at the hotel, Qin Ming let Mu Xiaoqiao off so she could have a reunion with her sister, Mu Sichun.

As for him, he went over and had a talk with Bi Yuan in the little dark room. "Bi Yuan, have they spilled anything about the kidnapping of Zhang Xianmin? Did you get anything out of them?"

Bi Yuan let off a haughty laugh before replying to him. "Of course. We flexed some muscles and they chickened out before we even took out the tools. But it is nothing much though. They said the Lin family is in trouble and in dire need of money. Since they knew Zhang Xianmin beforehand, they decided to ask him to swindle some money since he's the president of the tour group. But Zhang Xianmin refused to do so, so they kidnapped him."

"Speaking of Zhang Xianmin, he looks a lot like Lin Chaofeng, in terms of both looks and height. They used to be best friends. Lin Chaofeng is the man who swindled more than fifty million out of the company just within a week," Bi Yuan added. Qin Ming nodded in silence before asking, "Did they say what's going on with the Lin family?"

"I don't think they know. They said that prominent members of the family announced that whoever is able to get money for the family will have their names written on the family's memorial tablet. This is a huge thing since only males of the Lin family can have their names included in the tablet," Bi Yuan explained.

What these two underlings admitted actually coincided with what happened. The reason why Lin Yurou met up with the Qin family in Sea City was also because of money.

But the Lin family is an affluent and prestigious family. What pushed them into such a desperate predicament?

Can't they get any help from friends?What about the bank?

Qin Ming's mind raced as he thought through the matter. "Did you ask them if there is a way of meeting the head of the Lin family?"

Chapter 432 A Sneak Attack

"I did. But they said their position in the family was too insignificant, so they were unable to give me an answer. But they did mention that the person in charge of the family is Lin Yuanwang. I did a background check on this person. He is the Chairman of Lin Shenghui Tour Group in Dayong City. I've tried reaching him, but it seems like the vice-chairman, who is not part of the family, is in charge of all business dealings," Bi Yuan answered.

"I see. Make sure you keep tabs on Lin Shenghui Tour Group and also Lin Yuanwang," Qin Ming ordered.

Bi Yuan nodded and left on his new mission without losing a beat.

Qin Ming inhaled a deep breath as he thought about how things had been progressing. The mission had been fruitful and he now had a clear target. He was confident that things would unfold according to his plan.

Now that things were more or less settled, he went over to Mu Xiaoqiao's room. But just as he was about to knock on the door, a piercing sound rang through the corridor—it was the fire alarm.

A thick smell of burnt dried grass pervaded the hotel and the fire alarm was triggered.

The security guards came rushing in to evacuate the guests, and the hotel was plunged into chaos in no time.

Nonetheless, Qin Ming kept his cool. The whole fire incident came off as strange to him. It was impossible that the fire alarm went off because of burnt dried grass. In hindsight, the smoke smelled more like burnt plastic.

Qin Ming instantly knew that the fire alarm was triggered on purpose.

He quickly banged on the door and shouted towards the sisters inside the room. "Mu Xiaoqiao, Mu Sichun, are you guys inside? Stay inside and don't come out!"

But just as he was yelling towards the door, a woman's voice came from behind. "The

womanizer, he's here. I can smell him."

He turned and saw a woman in a yellow maxi dress walking towards him. There was enmity in her eyes and she said spitefully, "I can't believe I run into you again. You must have cheated on one of our family members. How dare you come to Xiangxi!"

Qin Ming recognized that woman in just one glance. Her name was Lin Yurou and she was the woman who poisoned him with the parasite the other day.

The only reason she did not recognize Qin Ming was because he was wearing makeup, disguising himself as a middle-aged man.

Standing beside her were two tanned men who looked like professional fighters.

As they approached, Qin Ming's palms turned cold with sweat. He knew things were not looking up for him. His subordinate, Long, had gone to prepare the equipment while Bi Yuan had gone to keep an eye on Lin Yuanwang. As of that moment, Qin Ming had no one that could help him.

"I can tell from your smell that you must have taken advantage of one of the women in our family. And you must have deserted her. I'll make sure you pay for it! You two, finish him!" Lin Yurou commanded the two men beside her.

They smiled sinisterly and cracked their knuckles as they charged towards Qin Ming.

Qin Ming retreated and held his breath. He had no intention of running away. After all, he grew up fighting with people in the streets and he was always ready to beat someone off.

Just as the two fighters raised their fists, running towards him at full speed to deal a severe blow, the hotel room's door opened outwards, blocking the way between the fighters and Qin Ming.

The fighters were caught completely off guard and could not stop in time. They ran straight into the sturdy and heavy door in full momentum. With a loud bang, the two big men rammed into the door, hard, and were bounced off, falling to the ground unconscious.

A dead silence ensued after the thunderous bang. Before long, Mu Xiaoqiao peeked her head around the door cautiously and whispered, "Did the fire alarm went off? Did the door hit someone? Qin Ming, are you okay? Sichun, hurry up! Stop trying to save your clothes! The building is on fire!"

"No, Ming bought these clothes for me. I can't lose them!" Mu Sichun replied from inside the room.

Qin Ming looked at the two women cluelessly and turned to look at the two mighty fighters who just fell to the ground. *These two women are really unbelievable!*

But it was not the time he let his guard down yet. In a split of a moment, Qin Ming shifted his gaze and dashed towards Lin Yurou, giving her a merciless slap on her cheeks. He finally got hold of her and said, "You never expected me to get so lucky, didn't you? I've finally gotten hold of you!"

Lin Yurou stared at him grudgingly. Her face turned red out of anger and humiliation. Those two men were the best bodyguards the Lin family had, but they were lying on the ground unconscious now.

She glared at Qin Ming and shouted, "You jerk! The Tuzhai Lin family will definitely avenge for what you have done!"

Qin Ming scoffed and said, "Do you think I'll let you off just like this?"

Just as he was about to raise his hand against her, a sharp and evil voice came from behind. "Hey, you'd better watch your hand. These two ladies are your family right?"

Qin Ming turned his head nervously and saw the old woman and a few professional fighters beside her.

Among the lot were the two men who had helped Lin Chaofeng siphoned money out of the company earlier. It turned out that they were from the Lin family and the family came to their rescue.

Seeing Mu Sichun trying to run, the men grabbed her instantly.

Mu Xiaoqiao, however, was agile enough to react quickly and ran towards Qin Ming.

She was worried about her sister, but there was nothing else she could do. "I remember you! I saw you on the plane before! What do you want now? You'd better let my sister go!" she cried out towards the men.

The old lady smirked. "Well, I'm afraid you'll have to do the same if you want your sister to live!" she threatened, pointing at Lin Yurou.

"I know you are the one who started the fire. If you want Lin Yurou alive, you'll have to let go of her sister first!" Qin Ming yelled. "You have no right to bargain with us," one of the men hurled.

Just as the situation got stuck in a stalemate, they heard rapid footsteps coming closer. In no time, several security guards, along with Long and Bi Yuan came rushing down the corridor towards them.

"Damn! We're outnumbered! Retreat!" the old lady commanded as she listened to the roaring footsteps coming closer. The whole lot ran into Mu Sichun's room, broke the glass window, and vanished out of sight.

When Bi Yuan and the team arrived, they quickly looked around and found ropes leading downward from the window. Without any hesitation, they went down along that rope.

However, by the time they got to the ground, the old woman and her fighters had fled in cars awaiting them downstairs.

"Their car plate is A•****! Make sure you hunt them down!" Bi Yuan took out his walkie-talkie Chapter 432 A Sneak Attack

and cried out angrily.

After those people from the Lin family escaped, the situation in the hotel quickly came under control and everything resumed to normalcy. But things were not looking up for either side—the Lins had got Mu Sichun while Qin Ming had got Lin Yurou.

Even Qin Ming was not sure if things could be as straightforward now. Initially, he merely wanted to demand that the Lin family remove the parasite from his body, but it seemed like things were way more complicated now.

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"Mr. Qin, we have contacted Lin Shenghui Tour Group, but they did not give us a reply. Lin Yuanwang did not deal with us directly either. It seems like he is not aware of what is going on in the family. I don't think we can progress any further unless we use force. As for the group who got away by car, we have already located the car, but there was no one inside. We have currently mobilized the assassination team to search for any traces of them. Aside from that, we have also asked for more backup to help with the operation. No one has contacted the police so far," Long reported.

Qin Ming listened impatiently as he drummed his fingers. Mu Sichun was like a sister to him. It was never his intention to get her involved in his problem.

"What time is it now?" Qin Ming asked anxiously.

"It has been half an hour since they left. There's no way we can contact them. But we have confiscated Lin Yurou's phone and we're keeping a close eye on her," Long replied.

Everyone was worried about how things were looking at the moment. "This is my fault. All this would not have happened if I finished up the equipment arrangement earlier and came back sooner," Long said guiltily.

Qin Ming shook his head in disagreement. "No, it's my fault. My original intention was to have a good talk with the Lin family. But things escalated into a fight, and worse, we're in their territory now. Since there is nothing we can do at the moment, I think we should just start with Lin Yurou."

Qin Ming came to the little dark room where Lin Yurou was held captive. She was bound tightly with ropes and all her belongings were put aside.

Qin Ming went through her things and picked up her ID. "Lin Yurou, 19 years old, from Zhaoyang," he read aloud from her ID. "Do you know that the people from your family kidnapped my subordinate, Zhang Xianmin, and also took money out of Century Tour Group illegally?" Qin Ming questioned.

He did not wait for an answer but continued on with his accusations. "We are not planning on getting the police involved since your family is well-respected in Xiangxi. But just when we are thinking of solving this problem quietly, you came barging in to save your underlings, trying to take advantage of the fact that the police are not in the know. Why? Are you planning on pulling a fast one on us since we don't have any proof of your crime?"

Lin Yurou looked away and refused to answer. Qin Ming saw right through her scheme and she had no way of defending herself. But it was not as if she had much of a choice. The old woman wanted to save her grandchild, Lin Mingwei.

She, too, wanted to resolve things quickly and quietly because once words got back to Tuzhai that Lin Mingwei kidnapped an innocent man and even swindled company funds, the people would be unhappy about what they heard.

But it so happened that she smelled the parasite in Qin Ming's body and wanted to teach him a good lesson. She was not able to hold her anger

in and that caused her to fall into his hands.

She looked at Qin Ming from the corner of her eyes and tried evading his interrogation. "You're a jerk who ditched a woman after taking advantage of her. Your body has a parasite, but your wife doesn't. That says a lot about what kind of a person you are!" Lin Yurou shouted.

Qin Ming widened his eyes and looked at her in utter disbelief. *But I'm innocent!*

Everything happened because he was tricked by Lin Yurou. He found it preposterous that she was pointing a finger at him and accusing the victim as the perpetrator.

However, Qin Ming gave it a second thought and decided not to argue with her. There were other means of getting the parasite out of his body without revealing his true identity.

"I talked to a priest and he told me about what the Lin family of the Tuzhai tribe in Xiangxi is capable of. No one else on earth can ever come out with such an inhumane and atrocious idea of

planting a parasite in a human. But it seems like you're totally unabashed. You even have the guts to question and lecture me! A relationship is built on mutual respect. It's ridiculous for a woman to use a parasite to control and even threaten her partner!" Qin Ming asserted.

"Nonsense! The women of our family won't use such underhanded ways casually. We usually only use it to heal and help people. The kind of parasite you have in your body is used only once in a blue moon, and often when we have no other choice. The women of our family are not as heartless as you think they are. If you're loyal to a woman, the male parasite in your body will only recognize one female parasite instead of being easily triggered by just any random female parasite. This only happens to you because you're a womanizer," Lin Yurou retaliated.

Qin Ming rolled his eyes and said, "So you are saying that you're abusively controlling a man's life because you have no other choice? What a beautiful lie you believe in! You can't make sure your man remains faithful to you, so you resort to underhanded means. It's not surprising at all your

man leaves for someone else!"

Qing Ming denounced such hypocrisy, but the parasite piqued his curiosity nonetheless. He never imagined it could be so powerful. It could even recognize a certain female parasite's scent and remained devotedly loyal to it.

Be that as it may, he reined back his curiosity and continued the conversation. He had to get more information about this parasite. "You must have a knack for lying. I don't believe this parasite is this powerful. Why don't you try luring it out of my body?"

Lin Yurou laughed hysterically and said, "In your dreams! You will suffer forever and I can kill you anytime I want!"

"Well, it's true that you can kill me anytime you want. I heard that you can control the scent the parasite gives off in order to kill the parasite in my body, and I will die along with it as well. But a word of advice, the very moment I die, you will die too. My subordinates will strip you naked and rip you into pieces. They will wait till your blood

dries out, then drench your body in sweet honey and throw your body deep into the mountains, preferably somewhere near a hive of giant ants. I think that's a rather fun way of dying, don't you think so?" Qin Ming said as he looked at Lin Yurou nastily.

A shudder went down her spine and she almost cried. Lin Yurou hugged her legs and trembled in fear as she looked at the monster of a man in front of her.

Qin Ming moved closer and said, "Why don't we make a deal? You remove the parasite in my body, return the fifty million, and we're all good. You release my sister and I will let you go too. We can let bygones be bygones."

Lin Yurou tilted her head and looked at him, bewildered. She was not expecting Qin Ming to go so easy on her all of a sudden. The Lin family took away their money, so it made total sense to give it back.

Qin Ming's willingness to bury the hatchet was already a huge compromise.

Although this man is a womanizer, the Lin family still cannot afford to make another enemy. Things are already extremely difficult for us.

Lin Yurou thought about it and asked, "How can I trust you?"

Qin Ming went over and untied her. "Do you trust me now? The only way we can solve this is to stop making a huge fuss out of it. We should stop before things get worse or we may lose people we love. I'm not as bad as you think I am," he said.

Lin Yurou stared at him in shock as she thought to herself. *This man's indeed queer!*

But she had to admit that his proposal was tempting. They should not let things spiral out of control.

Lin Yurou pursed her lips and finally said, "Fine, I'll trust you this once. We can start by releasing our respective hostages. I can help you with the parasite later on. Your people outnumber mine, so you don't have to worry that I'll run away."

Qin Ming considered her suggestion and thought it was a good idea. He returned Lin Yurou her phone so she could contact her people.

Lin Yurou called the old woman and she picked up instantly. "Bai Ying, bring that girl back to the hotel. Trust me, everything will be okay. Also, get the fifty million they took and return it," Lin Yurou ordered and waited for a reply from the other side. But her brows furrowed and Qin Ming had a feeling things would not go as easy as planned. "What? You guys are already on the way back to Tuzhai? What happened to the tribe? Where is the girl?" Lin Yurou questioned impatiently.

"Oh, she's with Lin Shui? Alright then, I'll settle everything over here. Don't worry," Lin Yurou said before ending the call.

She turned towards Qin Ming and said, "Send someone over to a small restaurant in Fenghuang Old City. The specific address is 6th Street, No. 8. I'll stay right here, you don't have to worry."

Qin Ming nodded and sent Long to pick up Mu

Sichun.

When Long reached the restaurant, Mu Sichun was eating like a glutton and even asked him to pay the bill for her meal.

In fact, she was enjoying the food so much she did not look like a hostage at all.

After Qin Ming made sure Mu Sichun was safe, Lin Yurou said, "Since you've got her, it's about time you let me go too."

"What about the fifty million? Who should I get it from once you're gone? This is no small amount." Qin Ming shook his head as he spoke.

"I'll return you the money, but you'll have to go see my dad. He has the money," Lin Yurou replied.

"Go see your dad? He's not in Dayong City? Don't tell me he lives deep in some remote mountain," Qin Ming said.

"He's usually in Dayong City if he has to do

business. But he's been at Tuzhai ever since the family got into some trouble. If we travel by water, it'll take half a day. It won't take too long, we're not some indigenous people. Besides, if you want to get rid of the parasite, I'll have to get some herbs too. They are only found in Tuzhai, which means you'll have to release me so I can save you," Lin Yurou explained.

Qin Ming was caught in a dilemma. He was not sure if he wanted to go all the way to the mountains to get the money back.

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Qin Ming fetched Mu Sichun back home. She seemed to have enjoyed her time while being kidnapped and did not behave like a victim at all.

He could not help but ask, "Did they give you a hard time?"

Mu Sichun put her hands on her waist in an akimbo and gloated, "Of course not. They were terrified just at the mention of your name and treated me like a VIP. The local food here is quite nice."

Qin Ming was rendered speechless. He patted Mu Sichun's head and said, "As long as you're alright."

Mu Sichun's lips curled into a shy smile as Qin Ming patted her head.

Mu Xiaoqiao looked at the two being all loveydovey with each other. *They're not even real siblings.*

She felt inexplicably uncomfortable at their demeanor and went forward to drag Mu Sichun

away. "Chun, let me check if you're hurt anywhere."

Mu Sichun was somehow annoyed. "No, Sis. I'm fine."

Qin Ming went back to the little dark room and said, "Lin Yurou, all your people have left and abandoned you. What an unexpected turn of events. I thought you're very important to them."

Lin Yurou confidently replied, "Only Bai Ying is leaving; it's not like the entire Lin family has left Dayong City. I suppose your hotel just fired a few backstabbers?" *They are people from our Lin clan. Their purpose is to infiltrate the hotel, set fire to it, and kidnap people. So I'm still under heavy protection.*

Qin Ming frowned. Indeed, Bi Yuan had just fired a manager and four staff from the hotel. Their negligence had caused the Lin family's associates to infiltrate the hotel. *So it wasn't negligence in their duties; they were deliberately letting those people in.* Qin Ming sighed. "The Lin family is indeed one of Xiangxi's most prominent families. Even my hotel was infiltrated by your people. I heard that they were even staff who had been working for seven or eight years."

Lin Yurou replied, "Under normal circumstances, they would work to put bread on the table, just like everybody else. However, when it concerned the life and death of the whole Lin clan, all of us would make sacrifices to protect it. Even I'm not above that, either."

She paused for a while before continuing, "To get the parasite out of your body easily, I would need some herbs from Tuzhai. You have to let me go so that I could get the herbs to save your life. Given something's happened to my family, if you were to wait for me to return you may need to wait a long time."

*Wait?*Qin Ming did not want to wait even one more second. It was already afternoon, and there were still things he wanted to settle within these two days.

So I need to follow her to Tuzhai?Qin Ming furrowed his brows.Should I go?

He mumbled to himself before asking, "Why are you inviting me to Tuzhai?"

"I think you're loaded. The Lin family has encountered some problems lately. I think my father would be interested to talk business with you. My intention is really that simple. If the business talk goes well, I'll be able to remove the parasite from your body right away and you'll be able to get back your fifty million. Isn't this a win-win situation?"

What Lin Yurou said was simple and straightforward, but Qin Ming thought it was too good to be true.

Qin Ming retorted, "You're doing this for the money anyway. Doesn't the Lin family profit from tourism? Why should I invest in you? Are you planning to sell me parasites?"

"This has to do with my family's secret, so I'm afraid I can't disclose it. However, if the business

talk goes well, I think my father will let you in a little on this," Lin Yurou replied.

Qin Ming was intrigued. He had experienced the powers of the parasites himself after all. "The Lin family has far-reaching influence; how could you be in such dire need for money? How much do you need?"

Lin Yurou tried to sound him out by stating an exorbitant amount. "We need about a hundred billion to settle this."

Qin Ming was taken aback. A hundred billion? The typical rich families cannot fork out this amount. And no back would lend such an astronomical loan, either.

No wonder Lin Yurou wanted so badly to marry into Sea City's affluent Qin family that she even resorted to unscrupulous methods to achieve her goal.

However, your problems are not an excuse to trouble others.

Chapter 434 Set Out

Qin Ming did not plan to give them a hundred billion, of course. However, he was seriously considering loaning the amount to them. He would be able to make some money out of the interest, after all.

Qin Ming then questioned her, "Are you implying that my life is not worth one hundred billion?"

Lin Yurou shook her head. "We've released your wife's sister. I hope that you'll set aside your prejudice toward the Lin family. I wanted to teach you a lesson because I thought you were a jerk. If you are willing to help us, I'll also set aside my prejudice toward you. In the future, you will be treated as one of the closest business partners of the Lin family."

Qin Ming had two questions in mind. *What* happened to the well-to-do Lin family that forced Lin Yurou to defraud others with marriage? And will I be rid of the parasite if I go to Tuzhai?

He would risk becoming vulnerable if he went to Tuzhai.

But then, wouldn't I fall into Zhang Quanzhen's trap if I take what he left behind?

The thought enraged Qin Ming. He vowed to never become Zhang Quanzhen's bait.

Lin Yurou had been eyeing Qin Ming all this while. She noticed that there were a number of bodyguards following Qin Ming around. His wife was quite the beauty as well.*He must be a businessman with a deep pocket.*

She just wanted to see his reaction when she mentioned a hundred billion. The Lin family did not actually require that much money. Fifty billion was all they needed.

Lin Yurou did not expect that Qin Ming did not even bat an eye at the mention of a hundred billion, as if it was not a big deal. *That means he could fork out a hundred billion.*

She was thrilled at his point blank reaction. The Lin family had been going around to borrow money. Having said that, the fund they raised was only the tip of an iceberg compared to the money

they actually needed.

Moreover, they could not go around explaining the fix they were in. It was apparent that the Lin family wanted to keep this to themselves.

Qin Ming contemplated her proposal for a moment. The Lin family has not committed any heinous crimes, so the risk of lending them money wouldn't be that high. Since they're asking for my help, I should take this chance to make another friend.

Especially when they can get rid of this parasite in my body.

Qin Ming then spoke up, "I'm willing to see what your father has to offer. My company could fork out this one hundred billion. However, it's not for free. Having said that, we could negotiate on the interest rate."

Lin Yurou was delighted to hear his reply. "Really? How do I address you, Sir?"

"You could call me Mr. J. J for Jerk," Qin Ming

grinned.

Lin Yurou rolled her eyes at him right away. *Are* you seeking revenge now? You're such a petty man!

Qin Ming was ready to leave as soon as the two of them came to an agreement.

He deliberately kept his schedule a secret, especially from the Mu sisters. Qin Ming did not wish for them to trail behind him again.

To reach Tuzhai, they would have to take the boat. Qin Ming could only find three boats. He decided to bring along nine people, including Long and Bi Yuan. Traveling downstream, they would reach Tuzhai by nightfall.

The Lin family's problem, however it came about, would be resolved once they reached Tuzhai.

Qin Ming and his group dressed like they were setting off for an adventure. Their odd attire garnered the attention of passerby tourists. Lin Yurou then spoke up, "Why didn't you bring your wife? Are you worried about the conflict that might arise if you two bump into the girl you abandoned in Tuzhai?"

"Women from the Lin family keep going around spreading parasites. I suppose there are many victims like me every year, no?" Qin Ming ignored her question.

"Au contraire, mister. We would not resort to feeding men parasites unless absolutely necessary. Mother Nature punishes the woman whenever she does that. Because of this, not many women are willing to do so."

"Haha..." Qin Ming and his subordinates burst into laughter as they thought she was too superstitious. This was only a myth circulated among the villagers. Maybe an unassuming person would believe this story, but they were men with experience. Naturally, they did not take her seriously.

Bi Yuan mocked, "Could your curse be more deadly than the Gatling gun?"

The others broke into another bout of laughter at his words.

Lin Yurou felt indignant by their derisive laughs. She felt like her culture had been belittled. She snorted, "Mother Nature is very mysterious. There are a lot of things we can't explain."

"Huh? Who is that? Ms. Mu? Why is she here?" All of a sudden, Long pointed toward a woman who was running toward the riverbank.

All of them lifted their heads to gaze in the direction to which Long pointed and saw Mu Xiaoqiao sprinting alongside the riverbank, following the three small boats they were in. She was quite athletic, not at all like a gentle lady.

Lin Yurou chuckled, "Look, your wife thinks that you're going to see your mistress."

Qin Ming frowned at the sight of Mu Xiaoqiao. Why did this stupid woman follow along? Doesn't she know that this Tuzhai trip is dangerous? Qin Ming cried out, "Paddle faster, quick!"

However, paddling faster was of no help. They were approaching an arched bridge. Mu Xiaoqiao ran over to the arch bridge, aimed for the boat that Qin Ming was in, and jumped.

Everyone was taken aback by her sudden move. *Does she want us to capsize?*



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"Mu Xiaoqiao, have you gone crazy?" Qin Ming witnessed her jumping off the arched bridge. There was nothing else he could do but to reach out and receive her.

The others jumped into the water to save the boat from being overturned due to the impact.

Qin Ming put his feet shoulder-width apart to steady himself. Reaching out with his arms, he managed to receive Mu Xiaoqiao in his embrace.

The boat sank further into the water as expected. Qin Ming's squat stance was not steady enough, and he almost fell into the water when the boat swayed.

Thankfully, Bi Yuan, Long, and the other subordinates supported the boat and managed to stabilize it.

Tourists by the riverbank applauded the heroic save.

"That's incredible!"

"That girl is so brave to make the jump."

"Those who had to jump into the water are so pitiful, haha!"

Mu Xiaoqiao circled her arms around Qin Ming's neck. She tried her best to calm herself down. When she made the jump she was unsure if Qin Ming could really catch her, so she was delighted when he did it. *He cares about me, after all.*

However, Qin Ming's face turned impassive in a split second. "Why did you follow us here? Don't you know it's very dangerous? Do you think we're out to play?"

Mu Xiaoqiao was disheartened by his demeanor.

She felt quite indignant. "I wouldn't have followed you here if I were not worried about your safety. Why can't you understand this simple fact?"

She bit her lip and retorted, "Hmph! You might as well dump me into the water. I'll swim back to the riverbank." Qin Ming looked sympathetically at his subordinates who had to jump into the water for him. He turned around to reprimand Mu Xiaoqiao, "You're really being unreasonable here."

"Seriously?" Mu Xiaoqiao wanted to counter him but could not come up with a good comeback. Qin Ming never asked her to follow along, after all. She made the call herself.

As they traveled on, the number of tourists decreased. The entourage was now surrounded by mountains and canyons, with a few villages scattered here and there. The further downstream they went, the faster the water flowed.

Animals howled and birds swept past the surface of the water as they entered an area with lush greenery. At times, they could even spot schools of fish swimming underneath them. This was the beautiful Xiangxi.

Qin Ming smiled, "Xiangxi is indeed famous for its breathtaking nature. My hometown, Clearwater Town, only has withered trees and

barren hills. And there aren't any streams or rivers."

Lin Yurou felt quite proud of her hometown. "Of course! There's another place called Youhun Valley. It's shrouded in fog all year round and its mountaintops are covered with snow. The magnetic field there behaves in such a way that renders all electronic devices useless. It's not unusual for people not to make it out of the area alive. Even if they do, they may still encounter deadly beasts or suffer from strange illnesses."

Mu Xiaoqiao was a city girl. After listening to Lin Yurou's horror story, she was terrified and subconsciously brushed her arms and legs with her hands to prevent bugs from giving her strange illnesses.

Qin Ming handed her an insect spray. "Why did you wear a dress? You should have put on a pair of stockings."

Mu Xiaoqiao quickly snatched away the insect spray without thanking him. However, as she lowered her head her lips curved into a blissful

Chapter 435 Venomous Snake Bite

smile.

Lin Yurou then said, "My family cultivates parasites. Once these are present in our bodies, normal bugs would not come near us. This effectively prevents us from catching any strange illnesses. However, we still have to be wary of venomous snakes and wild beasts."

Her remark piqued Qin Ming's interest further. *What kind of magical parasite is this?*

The sky turned darker. The three small boats were still going downstream along the river. The sounds of birds and insects chirping became more apparent as they went further. Their phones could no longer make calls; they were now only good for checking the time.

However, the satellite phone that Long brought along could still make contact with the outside world. The phone was connected to Huan Ning Century Corporation's private satellite. Hence, Qin Ming was not at all worried.

As they entered a canyon, a number of monkeys

appeared on both sides of the river.

They screamed in agitation, frustrating everyone on the boats.

They even pulled at the vines hanging off the cliff and dangled close to the surface of the water, trying to steal the luggage Qin Ming and his people had brought along.

Long was swift in his action. He shot rocks at a few troublemakers. While the monkeys wailed in pain, Long's attack was not successful in chasing them away. On the contrary, the other monkeys started to make more noise to attract more of their kind.

"Damn it, the monkeys are agitated now." Lin Yurou saw that the situation was not promising. She lifted her lantern to catch a better glimpse of the riverbanks. "There are quite a number of them. Normally, they would stop attacking people once they're given some food. But they're obviously offended after being hit by the rocks just now." It was at this moment that more monkeys appeared on both sides of the riverbank. They swung on vines and headed for the three boats, biting people and looting luggage as they went.

Everyone on the boats hurriedly tried to protect each other. Qin Ming stood in front of Mu Xiaoqiao, protecting her with all his might.

These monkeys were quite smart as well. They threw rocks at Qin Ming and the others from the top of the cliff as they howled, trying to scare away the humans.

Fortunately, Qin Ming and his men were veteran fighters. Even though they were not armed with weapons, they still managed to fight off the monkeys. When they were celebrating their triumph, however, the boats hit the rocks.

With a*bang*, all three boats overturned and everyone fell into the water.

All of them were drenched by the time they made it to shore.

The howling of wild beasts could be heard coming from the woods.

Mu Xiaoqiao was rather timid, so she clutched tightly onto Qin Ming as she cast wary glances at her surroundings.

Qin Ming sighed. *Why did you follow us here if you're that scared? Now you're just setting yourself up for trouble.*

He harbored his thought to himself; he did not have the heart to mock her.

Mu Xiaoqiao felt a warm current coursing through her heart despite shivering from the cold. She subconsciously brought herself closer to Qin Ming. Even though she often bickered with him, she would miss him whenever he was not around.

Qin Ming could clearly feel the softness of her chest brushing against his back. This was his favorite hugging position. Naturally, racy thoughts popped into his mind.

"Is everyone here?" Qin Ming asked.

"Yes." Long was the one counting. "Ms. Lin, how far along is Tuzhai?"

Lin Yurou replied, "It's about a one-hour journey on foot. But we're quite close to the legendary Youhun Valley. Snakes and bugs are unavoidable. I'm just afraid that we might bump into wild beasts at night; we might get hurt easily."

Qin Ming let out a heavy sigh. The further they dragged on, the more likely they were to encounter more problems.

The others were counting on him to make the call ——whether to find someplace to rest or to continue on their journey.

Qin Ming wanted to continue but he also knew that Mu Xiaoqiao's stamina might not make it through the night. He titled his brows as he cast a glance in Mu Xiaoqiao's direction.

Mu Xiaoqiao noticed the slight change in his expression. Stumped, she questioned, "What's the matter?" Qin Ming saw a colorful, blue-spotted snake on top of the branch just behind Mu Xiaoqiao. It already had its mouth wide open, ready to bite on her neck. Qin Ming dashed to her side and reached out to block it.

"Ah!" Qin Ming let out an agonizing groan. He was bitten by the snake.

Right away, he felt his arm going numb.

Long responded immediately and caught the snake by its head. "Quick! Prepare the antidote serum!"

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The numbing pain radiated quickly from the location of the bite.

Qin Ming was quite worried this time. He had a fair share of playing with snakes back in his hometown but those were non-venomous ones. Obviously, this blue-spotted one was venomous.

Long did the first-aid. He wrapped around Qin Ming's arms to stop the venom from spreading to Qin Ming's body. At the same time, he sanitized Qin Ming's wound.

Bi Yuan, on the other hand, was trying to identify the type of venomous snake it was so that he could select the corresponding antidote.

"What is this snake?" Bi Yuan observed the snake for quite some time and frowned. "It looks like a coral snake but the color is too bright. Nevertheless, I'm sure it's a type of viper. I think we should use the refined polyvalent serum."

Fortunately, they were well prepared for this trip. They had a number of antidotes to choose from. Bi Yuan immediately injected Qin Ming with the Chapter 436 A Special Night

polyvalent serum.

Qin Ming could feel the numbness on his arm fading away after injecting the serum. However, his body was still numb and he was slowly losing his consciousness.

"Qin Ming, how are you feeling? Are you better?" Mu Xiaoqiao asked worriedly.

"N-nothing," Qin Ming walked for a few steps but his legs turned to jelly in no time and his vision went black as he slumped into Mu Xiaoqiao's embrace.

"Qin Ming! Don't scare me! Please wake up." Mu Xiaoqiao was terrified as she hugged the unconscious Qin Ming, feeling guilty as he was bitten by the snake only because he wanted to save her.

Bi Yuan stood awkwardly with the multivalent serum still in his hands. *Is this snake really that poisonous?*

Long then hurriedly added, "Let's find a place

and set up our tents immediately. We should also inform Ms. Song about this."

All the people that Qin Ming brought along were ever ready. They immediately found a discreet place to set up their tents and took out the necessary medical tools for Qin Ming's emergency treatment.

They fell into despair when they realized that the satellite phone could not be used.

The signal could not be sent out since they were in the depths of the mountainous Xiangxi, with complicated magnetic fields.

The multivalent serum did not help much. Qin Ming was starting to develop spots and fever. Drenched in sweat, he was still unconscious.

His men were like cats on hot bricks. They would not be able to survive if Qin Ming were to die here.

Qin Ming was actually standing in a safe spot when he saw the snake. He was exposed to danger only after he tried to save Mu Xiaoqiao from its bite.

Mu Xiaoqiao broke down in tears after seeing Qin Ming in this state. "I'm sorry, Qin Ming. This is all my fault."

Lin Yurou looked at the chaos around her and cast a glance outside their tent. She headed outside and picked a bunch of weird-looking herbs and wild grass. "Try this," she said.

Everyone turned their attention to her. No one could identify the herbs and wild grass in her hands.

Long asked, "Are you sure this will work?"

Lin Yurou added, "I'm still hoping that he could lend my family money to save us all. Why would I let him die? That snake was a type of viper that preys on poisonous insects. As a result, the venom of this snake will get more deadly as time passes. The venom is much more deadly than the ordinary piebald. This herb is not well documented as it normally grows in dark and moist valleys. He's quite lucky that I managed to find a bunch of these."

The others were still hesitating whether or not to feed Qin Ming the wild herbs that she brought.

Mu Xiaoqiao was the first to voice out. "Are you sure about this?"

Lin Yurou replied enigmatically, "I've reminded you guys to hold nature in awe and veneration before coming here. Now you've run your heads into a brick. Mother nature has a lot of secrets, and we aren't able to explore them all. Nature is full of danger, but you would find opportunities at every turn if you knew where to look. Don't worry, I've seen my friend use this as an antidote from the snake bite."

Long then asked, "What should we do? Boil this?"

"No. Chew on this and put this over his wound. If he continues to run a high fever, you guys could give him some anti-inflammatory medicine. Remove his clothes and prepare some water to

wipe and cool down his body. If we don't have any drips, make sure he is fed with ample water to prevent him from being dehydrated," Lin Yurou explained.

Long's face grew stern. "Okay, I'll chew on this."

Mu Xiaoqiao took over the wild herbs and bit on her lips. "No, let me. You guys had better prepare the medicine and water quickly."

Long and Bi Yuan exchanged glances with each other. They knew how Qin Ming was related to the Mu family. However, the relationship between Qin Ming and Mu Xiaoqiao was complicated, to say the least.

However, Long and the others wasted no time preparing the items necessary for Qin Ming's treatment and standing guard by the tent.

Mu Xiaoqiao put the bizarre-looking wild herb into her mouth and started to chew on it. She felt a pang of bitterness and her face was distorted from the sensation. Green juice seeped from the corners of her mouth as she almost sobbed from Chapter 436 A Special Night

the bitter taste.

She persevered and applied the chewed wild herbs on Qin Ming's swollen wound.

Long and the others entered the tent and gave him an anti-inflammatory injection. However, he did not regain consciousness. On the contrary, his body temperature soared and he sweated profusely.

Mu Xiaoqiao removed all his clothes and wiped him down with a cloth in hopes of bringing down his body temperature.

However, he was obviously getting dehydrated as his lips started to go dry. He needed to replenish water urgently.

Long tried to feed him water a couple of times but to no avail. Qin Ming would spit out the water that Long fed him.

Long furrowed his brows. "This is quite difficult. We need to block his mouth but we could not put too much force on him, either. Otherwise, he

might vomit."

Lin Yurou then suggested, "Use the stupidest way then: feed him by the mouth."

Using the mouth? These men would not bat an eye to engage in a fight. Of course, they also would not object to feeding a woman mouth-to-mouth. But doing so to a man was really too much to ask of them.

"Let me." Mu Xiaoqiao took over the water and took a sip. Then, she supported the back of Qin Ming's head and fed him using her mouth. Even though most of the water still spilled, Qin Ming managed to take in more than he had earlier.

She did not bother with odd glances from the others and continued to feed Qin Ming through her mouth. She prayed hard that this would make Qin Ming drink more, so as to replenish the water that his system desperately needed.

The others exchanged awkward glances with each other and had a tacit understanding that it was best that they leave the tent to just the two of

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them.

Mu Xiaoqiao supported Qin Ming's upper body with her arms and rested his head on her chest. She lowered her head and continued to feed Qin Ming.

Mu Xiaoqiao became more accustomed to Qin Ming's lips each time her lips touched his. She almost could not resist his masculine vibe.

She subconsciously put Qin Ming's hand on her chest.

Mu Xiaoqiao fed Qin Ming for three hours. In the meantime, she also wiped the sweat off his body and took good care of him.

Qin Ming's body temperature finally came down upon Mu Xiaoqiao's intensive care.

Mu Xiaoqiao was all tuckered out from caring for Qin Ming. Her lips were numb from the feeding. Having said that, she still held Qin Ming in her embrace as she prayed for his recovery. "Uh..." Qin Ming could not muster the strength to open his eyes as he drifted in and out of consciousness.

"Haitang, don't leave me... Haitang, I want it... I want it..." Qin Ming mumbled.

"What do you want?" Qin Ming's voice was faint, and the lethargic Mu Xiaoqiao could not discern what he was saying.

She lowered her ears close to his mouth. "Qin Ming, are you awake? What do you want?"

"I want you to stay by my side forever." Qin Ming was still mumbling, "Hai..." Qin Ming started to cough before he could finish his sentence.

"I'm not leaving. I will always stay by your side. You must recover quickly." Mu Xiaoqiao did not catch the beginning or end of his mumbling, only the middle part. Feeling touched, she embraced Qin Ming tightly. "I won't mention divorce anymore. It's all my fault. You're my man, and you'll forever be mine. Even though you don't know how to express yourself, I could feel it. You're such an idiot."

"I'm cold..." Qin Ming was not running a high fever anymore. Instead, he started to feel chills down his spine as he shivered uncontrollably.

Mu Xiaoqiao brought some sheets and took off her clothes. The two of them hung onto each other tightly as she used her own body to warm Qin Ming's. "You won't be cold anymore. I'm going to hug you. Qin Ming, please don't leave me."

The next day, Qin Ming was jolted awake by the sweltering heat. He had regained full consciousness and was baffled when he saw that he was sleeping in a tent, wrapped in two thick blankets on a hot, sunny day.

The most bizarre thing was, he was intertwined with Mu Xiaoqiao, and she was naked.

Qin Ming was confounded. *What the hell happened last night?Why are my hands on her...?*