

Qin Ming realized that he, too, was buck naked. *What happened? Did I have sex last night?*

Why are my hands at a very strange place?

Qin Ming felt around and noticed that he was grabbing onto something soft. Mu Xiaoqiao's skin was slippery to his touch since they were drenched in sweat. Realizing where his hands were, he had to admit that puberty had done Mu Xiaoqiao justice.

Qin Ming felt desire coursing through his veins and wanted to push her away to suppress his urge. However, the two of them were wrapped tightly in the blanket and he did not succeed in his attempt. Instead, he accidentally brushed against her chest a few times.

Mu Xiaoqiao let out a soft moan and bit her lip. Still fast asleep, she tightened her grip on Qin Ming and mumbled, "Qin Ming, are you still cold?"

Qin Ming was stumped. He finally recalled that he was bitten by a venomous snake last night. He

did regain consciousness at some point and remembered that he was feeling a chill to his bones. Qin Ming dreamed of a woman hugging him and warming him up. She was the one who gave him the strength to persevere through it all.

“Could it be her?” Qin Ming glanced at Mu Xiaoqiao who was still fast asleep. *It could only be her.*

Qin Ming slowly lifted the blanket. Mu Xiaoqiao’s fine figure laid before him. He quickly covered her with the blanket again; he was trying his best to not succumb to temptation.

He put on his clothes and went outside the tent. He spotted Long and the others eating canned food near the tent, surrounding a fire.

They approached Qin Ming as soon as they noticed him. “Young Master, you’re awake? Thank goodness!”

“The wild herbs worked!”

“Thank you, Ms. Lin.”

“Young Master, Ms. Lin found some wild herbs to treat your snake bite yesterday.”

“Oh, and Ms. Mu took care of you the whole night. I think she just fell asleep not long ago.”

As he listened to his subordinates' reports, Qin Ming glanced at the wound on his arm. The inflammation had subsided. He grappled with his fear when he listened to them recounting what happened last night. The venomous snake's bite had almost taken his life, and he was grateful for surviving it.

Lin Yurou said in a humble manner, “I did not help much. Your wife was the one looking after you for the whole night. I think she only fell asleep near dawn. She was the one who did all the hard work.”

Qin Ming felt warm in his heart. *So Mu Xiaoqiao did take care of me the whole night.*

Long then asked, “Young Master, do we continue with our journey? We could assemble a stretcher and carry her.”

“We’ll take a rest. We’ll move after Xiaoqiao wakes up. She’s tired,” Qin Ming replied after thinking for a moment.

Qin Ming went back inside the tent and looked at Mu Xiaoqiao who was still fast asleep. He gently combed through her hair and fell into a turmoil of emotions. Their relationship had only boiled down to its present state because of some misunderstanding in the past.

Even heroes had a soft spot for the charms of a beautiful woman. Qin Ming knew he was no exception.

What should I do? I’ve already signed the divorce papers. I don’t even want the things in the box anymore. Yet, she still followed me from afar and took such good care of me. I couldn’t blame her for us getting married back then, either. She was just getting married for the sake of her grandfather.

It was all Mu Hao and Zhang Quanzhen’s fault. They were the masterminds behind this elaborate scheme. Nevertheless, I can’t ignore the sacrifices she made for me.

Qin Ming stroked Mu Xiaoqiao's cheeks and brushed his fingers through her hair as he mumbled to himself, "I am so indebted to you. How should I ever repay you?"

Mu Xiaoqiao finally woke up at noon. She jolted awake when she felt around and noticed there was no one next to her. She then noticed she was not wearing any clothes, so she hurriedly covered herself with the blankets. Only then did she realize that Qin Ming was sitting beside her.

"You're awake?" Qin Ming said.

Mu Xiaoqiao blushed bright red. "When did you wake up? Did you do anything to me?"

Qin Ming joked, "Why? Didn't you say that we're man and wife by law? So what if I did? Are you going to call the cops on me?"

She lowered her head as she felt her cheeks hot from embarrassment. "They're all just outside. H-How could you be so shameless?"

“Haha, I was just teasing you. Don’t worry. I didn’t lay a finger on you.” Qin Ming burst into a laugh. “I played Minesweeper all morning and broke my own record.”

For a moment, Mu Xiaoqiao’s mind went wild. *What did he mean by having done something to me? Did he kiss me? Did we have sex? Did he touch me?*

In the end, she was crestfallen when she heard that Qin Ming did nothing to her. *So he played Minesweeper all morning when I was sleeping naked right by him?*

“Oh...” Mu Xiaoqiao was somehow let down by this revelation. She stroked her hair to calm her nerves. *Does he not find me attractive?* She had been married for a few months, and yet she was still a virgin. *I guess nobody will believe me when I tell them about this.*

From middle school until university, she had always been the most popular girl; she was never short of pursuers.

Why doesn't Qin Ming find me attractive like the other guys?

Qin Ming handed her some of his own clean clothes. "Your dress got all dirty so don't wear it anymore. Change into my clothes. It's almost afternoon now, and we'll soon continue with our journey."

"Hmm?" Mu Xiaoqiao looked at the time. It was already one o'clock in the afternoon. *So everyone has been waiting for me to wake up?*

The team looked up to Qin Ming as their leader. *Does this mean Qin Ming asked them all to wait for me to get ample rest before we continue with our journey?*

Mu Xiaoqiao was delighted that Qin Ming doted on her.

Mu Xiaoqiao got herself ready in a short while. The entourage then set off on their journey to Tuzhai.

The distance covered by an hour's journey on

foot was neither too much nor too little. Lin Yurou was obviously accustomed to the treacherous mountain trails. She was essentially speed-walking throughout the whole journey.

Long and Bi Yuan were fast-paced as well.

Qin Ming could catch up to them since he had good stamina.

However, it was an agonizing journey for Mu Xiaoqiao. There were instances when she almost fell down. She had trouble catching up with Qin Ming and the others.

Mu Xiaoqiao was all sweaty and tired from the hike. However, she gritted her teeth and persevered. Qin Ming felt for her and crouched down as he patted on his back. "Get up here. I'll give you a piggyback ride."

Mu Xiaoqiao was stumped as she stared at Qin Ming's back. She felt warmth in her heart and leaned against Qin Ming's back gently. "I... I'm holding you guys back."

Qin Ming's lips curved into a smile. "It's okay. I'm right here. Nobody will dare utter a word about you."

His remark made her chuckle.

"Am I heavy?" Mu Xiaoqiao asked.

"Uh, you're alright," Qin Ming replied.

Mu Xiaoqiao grinned from ear to ear as she wrapped her arms around Qin Ming with a blissful look on her face.

Lin Yurou looked at the two being all lovey-dovey. *Why does the mustache on Qin Ming's face look so weird?*

Is it fake?

Lin Yurou slowed down and reached out to tear the fake mustache off Qin Ming's face.

Smack!

Mu Xiaoqiao was swift to grab hold of Lin Yurou's hand, stopping the latter from tearing off Qin Ming's fake mustache. She questioned Lin Yurou coolly, "Ms. Lin, what are you doing?"

Lin Yurou was stumped. She did not expect Mu Xiaoqiao would be able to stop her. She retracted her hands. "Nothing. I was just wondering if the mustache on Mr. Qin's face was fake. Why does it seem like it's falling off on one side?"

Qin Ming hurriedly pasted the mustache back on his face and sighed a breath of relief. Thanks to the mustache, Lin Yurou did not recognize that he was the man who slept with her. The consequences could be dire if Lin Yurou came to this realization.

Not only would she refuse to remove the parasite from his body, but he could potentially be in danger as well.

"It doesn't matter whether my mustache was fake or not, as long as I have money," Qin Ming

replied nonchalantly.

Lin Yurou put up her guard immediately at Qin Ming's remark. *He's warning me to mind my own business, or else he won't lend me the money.*

Even though she was still curious, Lin Yurou abstained from questioning further.

After trekking through mountains and rivers, they finally arrived at a village located on a rather flat terrain. Sights of smoke, terraced fields, and antique-style wooden houses stretched beyond vision. There were at least a thousand houses.

The Lin family from Tuzhai occupied this remote mountainous area. They followed their forefathers' simple way of life to this very day.

Antique-style buildings were found everywhere in this village. However, one would not be able to spot any two which resembled each other. The village was surrounded by mountains of various sizes.

There were earth-piled hills covered in yellow

and black soil, as well as hills made of blue and white stones. Some stretched afar, almost like a flat terrain, while others had steep overhangs.

The entourage was greeted by a breeze as they entered the village. Long was mesmerized by the breathtaking scenery. “It’d be nice to spend post-retirement days here. The environment here is perfect.”

Lin Yurou beamed with pride. “Of course, our village is famed for our villagers’ longevity. The oldest man here is now 106 years old. A lot of the elderly are well above 90 years old and still in the pink of their health.”

Qin Ming was intrigued. “Youngsters nowadays prefer not to stay in villages and have migrated to the cities, but that doesn’t seem like the norm here. Even my parents don’t want to live in villages anymore and moved into town.”

“We inherit our forefathers’ ways and strongly hold on to our roots. The Lin family will lose everything if we abandon our roots,” Lin Yurou replied.

Electrical poles could be sighted as one went further inside the village. Stray dogs barked at the foreign-looking intruders. Lin Yurou's appearance was a pleasant surprise for the villagers, who came up to greet her.

The most posed question was, "Miss, have you found the way?" There was no doubt that the Lins were in jeopardy. The villagers were counting on Lin Yuanwang's family to come up with a solution.

The southern regions of Huaxia had always adhered strongly to close-knit clan culture. Even in this day and age, this practice was still prevalent.

Lin Yuanwang was the leader of the Lin clan of Tuzhai. He was in charge of the whole clan's livelihoods. The clan was active in Xiangxi and had far-reaching influence in the region.

Qin Ming's group traced the village's track and garnered the villagers' attention since Long and the others were heavily armed. The villagers cast wary glances at them as though they felt

threatened by their presence.

Long and Bi Yuan surrounded Qin Ming to protect him, making the villagers especially vigilant of the two.

“Mr. Qin, I’ve arranged for your group’s accommodation in the village. I will ask Lin Chaofeng to return to you your fifty million. I will then ask my father to discuss the business plan with you. I sincerely hope the discussion will go well,” Lin Yurou said.

“We’re only guests here, so we’ll just go along with your arrangements,” Qin Ming replied.

Not long after, the old lady who stirred up trouble yesterday hurriedly came looking for Lin Yurou. She dragged her to one side and whispered into Lin Yurou’s ears. Lin Yurou’s face grimaced after listening to the old lady and rushed toward the center of the village.

That old lady, Baiying, dragged along Lin Mingwei, who was caught by Qin Ming the day before. They apologized, “Mr. Qin, we are truly

grateful for your grace in escorting Ms. Lin back home safely. I apologize for the wrongdoings committed by my ignorant clan members.”

The old lady ended her apology with a deep bow. She seemed so old and frail that her back was about to break from the bow.

The Lins was a prestigious clan in Xiangxi. Qin Ming’s conflict with the clan arose because some junior clan members had tried to scam Qin Ming of his money. He believed the elder members of the clan had a stronger sense of integrity, so he was not all surprised at the old lady’s attitude.

Not wishing to make matters worse, he merely kept mum.

“What happened at the entrance of the airport yesterday? Was it your doing or Lin Yurou’s?” he asked impassively.

Baiying was stumped and kneeled before Qin Ming right away. “I was the one who misunderstood you, Sir. Fortunately, Miss stopped me from committing an even graver

mistake. I have no qualms with you reprimanding me as I am fully liable for my mistake.”

Qin Ming tightened his fist. *Damn it, so it was you.* He took a step further.

Lin Mingwei rushed to the front. “Mr. Qin, it was my idea to do so. I will be sure to pay you back. And please punish me instead for my grandmother’s transgressions.”

The hunting team gathered around Lin Mingwei and Baiying. Other villagers also circled Qin Ming and the hunting team with hoes and kitchen knives in their hands.

“What are you guys going to do to Baiying?”

“Let go of your weapons. Otherwise, we won’t welcome your presence here in Tuzhai.”

“Hey, I’m warning you. If you wish to walk out of Tuzhai alive, you’d have to know your place.”

The atmosphere was tense.

Baiying was still kneeling before Qin Ming as she yelled, "Stay away from this. This is between Mr. Qin and me. I'm the one who did Mr. Qin wrong and he was almost in danger because of me. I will not protest if Mr. Qin decides to reprimand me."

Qin Ming glanced at the frail old lady kneeling before him and recalled her demeanor when she abducted Mu Sichun yesterday. *They seem like two different people.*

He furrowed his brows as he glanced at the villagers surrounding his group. "I will take note of this. We'll see how my days go in this village. I'm a simple man. I repay people whom I'm indebted to, and I do not hesitate to seek revenge on those who wronged me."

"Yes, Mr. Qin. Right this way, please." Baiying grinned from ear to ear as she led the way to an uninhabited house.

Baiying briefed Qin Ming's group as they walked. "The head of our village is not around right now. I'm afraid that he'll only be back later

tonight. So, Mr. Qin, you might have to wait for some time. Wei, tend to Mr. Qin's every need. This is your chance to make amends for your mistake."

Qin Ming and his group reached the stilted wooden house and realized that there were actually other outsiders present. These foreigners brought along formidable-looking bodyguards, dressed in black and with sunglasses on, who stood at the entrance.

Qin Ming was even more shocked when he entered the wooden house and saw Zhang Quanzhen.

Why is this damned fortune teller here? And he's sipping tea in such a relaxed manner? Huh, is he also trying to tell the fortune of the waitress serving him?

Boiled with fury at the sight of Zhang Quanzhen, Qin Ming rushed over, clutching a knife.

“What the hell are you doing here, Zhang Quanzhen?” Qin Ming edged closer to Zhang Quanzhen with a knife in his hand.

The other people dispersed in fear at the tense atmosphere. However, Zhang Quanzhen was still sipping on his tea in a poised manner.

Qin Ming approached him and had his knife at Zhang Quanzhen’s neck. “Damn you, b*stard! You set me up!”

Zhang Quanzhen finally replied, “Qin Ming, relax. You have nothing to gain if you kill me right now.”

Qin Ming glanced around and saw that all eyes were on him. He would not be so stupid as to commit a crime in front of everyone. Having said that, he cut off a part of Zhang Quanzhen’s beard and scolded, “I’ll let you off this time. You’d better watch out when I’m not in a good mood.”

Then, he turned around and kept his knife. The crowd was astounded.

“I heard that a lot of rich families want to get acquainted with Master Zhang. Who is this fella to cut off a part of the master’s beard?”

“W-Who is this guy? How dare he touch Master Zhang’s beard?”

“Is he for real? How dare he lay a finger on Master Zhang. He will pay a hefty price for this!”

“Why doesn’t Master Zhang seem offended?”

“I think Master Zhang is just letting him off easy. The nouveau-riche these days are fearless, thinking they have deep pockets. Old money is more cultured, unlike these baboons.”

“I guess people will line up to teach this kid a lesson if Master Zhang so much as moved his lips.”

Qin Ming noticed few men of the same age were gossiping behind his back. All of them had two bodyguards each and they seemed like they came from affluent families.

Qin Ming turned around and looked at Zhang Quanzhen. “Hey, Zhang. It seems like you’re quite famous around here. Should I be more afraid of you?”

Zhang Quanzhen replied in a humble manner. “Ah, it’s nothing much. You’re well aware of how I make a living. It’s only normal that people know me after I’ve been in this business for some time. Why are you guys so late? I thought you were supposed to reach here last night.”

“How did you know about that? Did you foresee it as well? Why don’t you tell me what happened to me last night?” Qin Ming replied.

Zhang Quanzhen contemplated for a moment. “Hmm, I think you were in trouble last night.”

Qin Ming was enraged by his nonsensical remark. “Of course I got into some trouble. That’s why I’m late! What’s up your sleeves again this time? Didn’t you predict that I would make a trip to Xiangxi? Or did you plot all this to make me come here?”

The rich youngsters nearby were surprised to see that Zhang Quanzhen was not at all bothered by the fact that someone had just cut off his beard.

“Does this guy have a powerful background?”

“I don’t know. Doesn’t seem like it, though.”

“I’ve never seen him. I don’t think he’s from the north.”

“Is he a nouveau-riche from the south? How many of them could compare to us?”

“I think he’s quite close to Zhang Quanzhen. Otherwise, I don’t think Master Zhang would close an eye to this transgression.”

Qin Ming narrowed his eyes at their remarks. *How nosy are they! How does the way I talk to Zhang Quanzhen have anything to do with them?*

Zhang Quanzhen kept mum at the gossips. He parted his lips after some time. “Not at all. Haven’t I told you how to deal with your body’s

problem? It's entirely up to you now. Didn't Ms. Mu pass you the box? Didn't she divorce you? She even signed the divorce papers. So your wish has been fulfilled. Qin Ming, you've got all that you wished for. Did I really scam you?"

Qin Ming was rendered speechless. *How could this world be so full of paradoxes?*

He reprimanded Zhang Quanzhen regardless. "You've been plotting against me. I can't get divorced now."

Zhang Quanzhen searched the bag that he brought along and took out a divorce agreement. "This is the agreement that you guys lost that day. You've both signed on it. I took this from the janitor. Give this to Ms. Mu and I'm sure you'll succeed in getting a divorce."

Qin Ming took a look at the agreement. It was indeed the one that he had signed—the mark caused by Mu Sichun spilling water on it was still visible.

"Didn't Mu Xiaoqiao say that the janitor had

thrown this away?”

“Actually, I happened to pass by the bar on that day. Maybe the janitor mistook you for someone else. Anyway, I took this after you guys left. Qin Ming, don’t accuse me of not completing my mission. Give this to Ms. Mu. Maybe she’ll take this and leave right away so that she won’t continue to bother you.”

A storm raged in Qin Ming’s heart. He did not spot Zhang Quanzhen at the bar that night. *He’s getting more and more mysterious with his actions. He’s definitely conspiring something!*

Qin Ming still felt like he was being toyed with. *What does he want?*

Qin Ming’s face sank. “Zhang Quanzhen, are you conspiring against me again?”

Zhang Quanzhen was indignant at Qin Ming’s accusation. “Qin Ming, I’m a monk, and we have rules to abide by. You are what you are today by choice. Our meeting is fated.”

Qin Ming retorted, "Fate my ass. I'm leaving now."

Zhang Quanzhen pulled Qin Ming's hand. "Hey, Qin Ming. You're already here. Why don't you seize the chance to experience Tuzhai's culture? It won't make sense to go back just like that. What a waste!"

Qin Ming said smugly, "There, I knew it. I know you're up to something. Let me guess. You owe the Lin family and they invited you here to help them, but you think you can't help them much. So you find an excuse to get to Guang City to look for someone who was fated to meet you, which would be me. Then you tricked the Mu family into doing things your way, and you managed to enrage me and lure me here."

He paused for a moment before continuing. "Now there's only one thing I'm not quite sure. I was wondering whether it was you who put the female parasite in Zhao Yuxin's body back at Century Tower. You knew that I had a parasite in my body when you left Guang City. You sniffed it out of me, like how Lin Yurou did. You knew

something would happen if I was all alone with her.”

Zhang Quanzhen seemed unfazed at Qin Ming’s allegations. He looked at Qin Ming, eye-to-eye.

Qin Ming’s seemingly logical analysis eradicated all possible roles of fate in everything that happened, making it seem like it was all just a plot.

Zhang Quanzhen broke the silence by smiling as he refuted Qin Ming’s speculation. “Qin Ming, you’re overthinking this. I am not that capable. There are things that just can’t be explained.”

Qin Ming snorted. “You’ve long had me figured out, right? Zhang Quanzhen, just spit it. What do you really want?”

Zhang Quanzhen was starting to get pressured as Qin Ming cornered him.

It was apparent that Qin Ming was not buying into his fate talk anymore. *Qin Ming is much harder to fool than anyone else.*

The two of them talked for some time. Mu Xiaoqiao saw that Qin Ming was holding some papers in his hands. She approached the two and asked, “Qin Ming, what are you guys talking about? Hmm? What is this?”

As Mu Xiaoqiao reached out to take it from Qin Ming’s hands, Qin Ming hurriedly snatched it back, stuffed it into his mouth, and chewed on it. He swallowed it all in front of Mu Xiaoqiao. She was stumped.

“N-nothing. I’m just hungry from all the walking. I was asking whether he had anything to eat and he said that he only had papers. Hahaha,” Qin Ming replied rather awkwardly.

Mu Xiaoqiao replied rather coyly, “Forget it if you don’t want to tell me. Master Zhang, I didn’t expect to bump into you here. What a coincidence.”

“Ms. Mu, fate seems to always bring me and your family together. Your complexion is telling me that your relationship with your husband is improving. Congratulations!”

Mu Xiaoqiao pursed her lips awkwardly. “Yes, thanks to Master Zhang.”

Qin Ming rolled his eyes. He dragged Zhang Quanzhen to one side and said in a low voice, “Zhang, say it. Why did you lure me here? What happened to the Lin family?”

Zhang Quanzhen tapped on Qin Ming’s shoulders. “You really have to help the Lin family this time. You’ll benefit from this, too.”



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Young Masters from different houses occupied their respective space in the lobby of the wooden house.

They were all gossiping about Qin Ming, curious as to how he was related to Zhang Quanzhen. *How could he get away with cutting off Master Zhang's beard?*

Qin Ming was also listening to their gossips. It was only then that he realized that Zhang Quanzhen was quite famous.

However, Qin Ming was not to be blamed for his ignorance. Two months ago, he was still a university student who delivered takeaways and had no access to the upper echelons of society.

However, his new revelation did not change his perception of Zhang Quanzhen. Qin Ming wanted to teach the old thing a lesson.

Zhang Quanzhen and Qin Ming sat together while Mu Xiaoqiao brewed tea for the two. At first glance, onlookers would think that the two were engaging in a debate about global politics in

view of the tense atmosphere surrounding them.

Zhang Quanzhen spoke in a low voice, “Actually, it’s best that the Lin family keep their secret to themselves since it is quite embarrassing. That’s why not a lot of people know about it.”

He continued, “The Lin family had a live-in son-in-law, a distant relative of the Qins in Sea City, named Qin Weiyuan. He was not a capable man and he had a lowly status in the Qin family. He was chided by his relatives and friends because of this. In the end, he became the live-in son-in-law of Lin Yuanwang by marrying his eldest daughter. The couple did not have children. It is quite normal for power to tip from one person to another in these prestigious families. Somehow, Qin Weiyuan’s father got into Old Master Qin’s good books and started to manage a big part of the family business. Naturally, this also elevated the status of this distant relative of the Qins.”

Qin Ming listened intently. *So it’s the Qins from Sea City again.* The name had popped up on a number of occasions recently. As a crazy rich family, the Qins had a lot of business with Huan Ning Century Corporation. Even Song Ying had advised against Qin

Ming's plan to tackle them.

“Now that his status in his wife's family was elevated, is Qin Weiyuan divorcing the eldest Lin daughter? And let me guess—the Lin family does not agree to the divorce?”

Zhang Quanzhen shook his head. “The Lin family would not bat an eye to him leaving. Qin Weiyuan has enjoyed the Lin family's protection all these years and he would still be despised by others even after leaving the Lins. Qin Weiyuan did file for a divorce, to which the Lin family had agreed as well. The problem is that Qin Weiyuan wanted to have the *Handbook of Insect Rearing* which has been passed down for generations in the Lin family. Not only that, but he also wanted to bring along many rare species with him.”

Qin Ming was quite surprised at the revelation. *So the Xiangxi Lin family is not only managing tourism but they're also involved in breeding?*

“Isn't he being a bit delusional? How dare he as a live-in son-in-law demand to share the secrets of

the family that took him in when his father was a nobody?”

Mu Xiaoqiao gazed at Qin Ming with an inexplicable feeling. Qin Ming did not demand anything from the Mu family when he left. On the contrary, he provided a lot of help to the Mu family.

They were both live-in sons-in-law, but there was a world of difference between them.

Zhang Quanzhen then added, “Qin Weiyuan was looked down by the villagers and Lin family members alike when he was here. He was not at all productive and did not know how to cultivate the parasites, either. However, he became a whole different person after he could count on his father to back him up. When he saw that the Lin family was not giving in to his demands, he burned down the Insect Valley. All the valuable parasites are now gone.”

Qin Ming asked in a curious manner. “All gone, meaning that Qin Weiyuan has ruined the Lin family’s effort all these years?”

“That’s right. The Lin family has proprietary skills in cultivating these insects. Even a small one could cost up to millions, and some are used to make medicines. People place orders for these insects. But now the Lin family will have to pay for breaching their contracts in view of the delayed deliveries. The parasites, being the Lin family’s most prized secret, are also affected. The family needs a lot of money to rejuvenate their business.”

“Why don’t they catch Qin Weiyuan instead?” Qin Ming asked.

“They did not have concrete evidence. All charges made against Qin Weiyuan would amount to nothing without evidence, especially when he could provide an alibi. Even though they managed to catch the culprit burning down the Insect Valley, he died before they could interrogate him. He even died of the Lin family’s parasite. Since the scapegoat died, it has become all the more difficult to file charges against Qin Weiyuan.”

So he’s swollen with arrogance because the Lin family

does not have any evidence.

Qin Ming remarked, “A live-in son-in-law could turn the family upside-down just like that. Shame on Lin Yuanwang. So the Lin family doesn’t have any cash flow to last this crisis?”

“Lin Yuanwang is very rich, but he’s also a very charitable person. He would lend money to those who ask for help and would never issue an IOU. Considering all the money he has given away from time to time, he doesn’t have a lot of cash on hand. He’s got a lot of friends for being such a helpful person, but not many wish to lend their support when his family is in crisis. The most he could get is only a few million. To rebuild Insect Valley’s entire ecosystem would require billions. On top of that, he still needs to pay an astronomical figure as penalty for breaching contracts.”

Zhang Quanzhen pointed at Qin Ming and smiled enigmatically. “Old Master Qin did lend sixty billion to Lin Yuanwang to help him through this hurdle. However, because of you, the fact that Qin Weiyuan was backed by the Qins, and that

Lin Yurou's marriage plans went awry in Sea City, Lin Yuanwang rejected Old Master Qin's sixty billion in a fit of rage."

Qin Ming was starting to get frustrated. "Zhang, what are you trying to say? Even though my surname is also Qin, I am not at all related to the Qins from Sea City. And what does Lin Yurou's marriage have anything to do with me?"

Zhang Quanzhen stroked his beard and whispered. "Qin Ming, quit acting in front of me. How did you get the parasite in your body? Didn't you go looking for Nie Haitang in Germany two months ago? Nie Haitang was tricked by her mother, who wanted to matchmake her to someone from the Qin family. Wasn't Lin Yurou there, too? She thought you were Qin Zhongbai, whom she had not seen in a long time, and slept with you. That's why you were drugged with the parasite. Lin Yurou only found out the truth after confronting the Qins. She was chided as being shameless in trying to marry into a wealthy family. How dare you say you played no part in this?"

Qin Ming's face sank. He peered at Mu Xiaoqiao, who was sitting beside him. *Thank goodness she wasn't listening.*

He edged closer to Zhang Quanzhen. "Zhang, you really do have your hands on the latest news. I'd have to admit that your analysis is right on point."

"Ah, nothing is beyond my prediction," Zhang Quanzhen said smugly.

Qin Ming finally understood the root cause of the Lin family's calamity: it was all caused by a live-in son-in-law. That was quite a disturbing fact.

"So, what did you mean by I'll benefit from helping the Lin family?" Qin Ming asked curiously.

Zhang Quanzhen chuckled. "Isn't removing the parasite your biggest wish? Besides, you will also be paid interest on your loan to them."

"Zhang, are you setting me up? Why are you being all enigmatic?"

When Qin Ming was about to question Zhang Quanzhen further, a handsome man approached the two of them and went straight to his point. “Master Zhang, I notice you’ve been talking to this young man for quite some time. He must be a young master from a prominent family as well. However, forgive me for not being able to recognize him. How should I address him?”



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“This gentleman must be from a wealthy family, but I’m not sure how to address him.”

“Yeah, I rarely come across young men who can strike up such engaging conversations with Master Zhang. Perhaps we are just ignorant for not being acquainted with such a promising young man.”

“I agree. We are all from the same circle after all. Since he was invited by the Lin family, he must be from a wealthy family in the South.”

After observing Qin Ming for a while, the five wealthy young men in their twenties took the initiative to say hello and got acquainted with him.

They believed that the Lin family only needed money to pay off their debts and settle their damages. If they managed to tide over this difficult time, they would rise to power again.

Otherwise, the entire family would lose their standing in society.

The Lin family had already borrowed great sums of money through various channels, but it still wasn't enough to pay off their debts. So, they intended on borrowing a few billion more from the guests they invited this time.

The fact that Qin Ming was on the guest list meant that he had made the cut as a tycoon. Moreover, his close relationship with Zhang Quanzhen triggered their curiosity.

After being greeted by the five men, Qin Ming humbly said, "I'm part of the Mu family in Guang City."

"Oh, so you're Old Master Mu's grandson," A man dressed in a black suit exclaimed. "Mu Hairan was one of the most powerful figures in the North back then. We still hear of his glorious tales every now and then."

"I heard Old Master Mu and Master Zhang are very close. No wonder you were able to get along with him so well just now," said another man.

"I've heard of the Mu family from Guang City.

Your family has a strong foothold in investments and real estate. You must be Mu Zhaoyang, right? We're both alumni of Peking University," the third man said.

"Mr. Mu, here is my name card," he added.

Qin Ming felt awkward when he realized they had mistaken him as Mu Zhaoyang, more than that, he felt overwhelmed being surrounded by so many notable tycoons.

He didn't know whether to accept the name card as he wasn't prepared for this situation.

Just then, Mu Xiaoqiao walked over and held Qin Ming's arm, she then said, "This is my husband Qin Ming, not my brother. He is still a student."

Qin Ming chimed in, "That's right, I'm not Mu Zhaoyang. My name is Qin Ming, and I'm the Mu family's live-in son-in-law."

The atmosphere changed as soon as he finished speaking, and the men no longer looked up to him. Instead, they viewed him with contempt and

disdain.

The men retracted their name cards just as Qin Ming reached out his arm halfway to receive them. It was an exceptionally awkward moment for him.

Mu Xiaoqiao was startled. *Why did their expressions change all of a sudden?*

“Pft, another live-in son-in-law? What kind of low life marries into his wife’s family?” one of them said scornfully.

The rest of the men started a heated discussion. “Didn’t you hear? He’s still a student. Haha, perhaps he has good grades and the potential to succeed. After all, Old Master Mu doesn’t want his granddaughters to leave the family even after marriage.”

“Hmm, wasn’t the Lin family’s troubles caused by their live-in son-in-law? When a man doesn’t have dignity, his words hold no value. Problems would arise sooner or later.”

“Hey, didn’t he cut Master Zhang’s beard just now? Perhaps Master Zhang only gave in to him because of Old Master Mu. Haha, this kid is asking for trouble.”

“Whatever, he’s a low life. Let’s just wait for Mr. Lin to come over.”

The group of wealthy young men did not spare Qin Ming any respect at all. They treated him with disdain just because he was a live-in son-in-law.

Nevertheless, Qin Ming wasn’t bothered by what they said.

Mu Xiaoqiao, on the other hand, took offense at their words and wanted to defend Qin Ming. However, he held her back and said, “Just let them be.”

After a while, Lin Yurou walked in with a few people who were wearing traditional folk costumes and carrying plates.

She then said, “Mr. Zhang, Mr. Bai, Mr. Ma,

Master He, Mr. Huang, Mr. Qin, and Master Zhang, the Lin family welcomes all of you to Tuzhai. My father is on his way back from Insect Valley right now and should reach shortly. On behalf of the Lin family, I would like to thank all of you for helping us through our most difficult times.”

Following that, she pointed to the items that her associates were holding and said, “This is one of the few beauty pastes we have right now. It is better than hyaluronic acid, collagen, and Botox combined.”

One of the wealthy young men, Master Zhang, said, “My mother buys this very often and she says that it is very expensive. Each bottle costs more than ten million.”

Gasp!

Qin Ming almost choked on his tea.

He wondered if the young man was exaggerating. *How could a beauty paste cost that much? Isn't it the same as getting a facial? What's so good about it? Perhaps he meant ten million Vietnamese Dong?*

How could anyone use a beauty paste that costs more than ten million a bottle? How long can one bottle last?

Qin Ming's surprised reaction caught everyone's attention when he asked, "Ms. Lin, are you sure this isn't a joke? How could one bottle cost more than ten million? What kind of magic elixir is it?"

The crowd started making remarks about Qin Ming. "Haha, he's such a country bumpkin. This beauty paste is more valuable than any other product out there."

"Can you really blame him? he's a live-in son-in-law and still a student, after all, so he has little exposure to the real world. We, on the other hand, are people of status."

"Such luxurious items are only accessible to tycoons like us. A live-in son-in-law like him would definitely not be able to afford the beauty paste since ninety-nine percent of the world's population can't afford it."

Lin Yurou was stunned. *Why are these people verbally attacking Qin Ming all of a sudden?*

She then explained, “Mr. Qin, this beauty paste is made from the sputum of a special kind of insect owned by the Lin family. To collect a small vial of sputum takes a great deal of time and manpower, and the cost of nurturing these insects is very high. However, its effects are exceptional. It is also completely natural and has no side effects. Lang, please ask Shui Ma to come over here.”

Lang left for a short while and returned with a fair-skinned woman.

“Miss, you called for me?” Shui Ma asked. Although she was clearly of age, she was extremely poised and elegant. Her fair and smooth skin was comparable to Lin Yurou and Mu Xiaoqiao’s skin.

Her skin did not have an artificially white hue that usually occurred after the overuse of chemical products. Instead, it was natural and delicate like the skin of a young girl.

Lin Yurou said, “Mr. Qin, please take a guess at how old Shui Ma is.”

Qin Ming looked at Shui Ma and thought to himself, *she seems to give out the aura of a middle-aged woman. Perhaps she's in her early fifties?*

He understood that Lin Yurou was trying to prove how miraculous the beauty paste was, so he guessed conservatively, “Forty-six?”

“Hahaha...” the crowd laughed and made snide remarks one after another.

“What a country bumpkin. He's clearly never come across the Lin family's product.”

“Haha, what do you expect? He's a live-in son-in-law. What an embarrassment.”

“Keep quiet and let him guess. It would be fun to see what his answer is.”

Qin Ming felt disheartened when he heard their insults. *So what if I'm a small-town boy? I've never come across such a product before. Of course I wouldn't know the answer.*

This time, Qin Ming scrutinized Shui Ma from head to toe. *Her hair is rather brittle and white, but she doesn't have much wrinkles on her face. In terms of physique, she looks like a typical middle-aged woman with her plump body and saggy chest. However, her hands look relatively young. Maybe it's the effects of the beauty paste?*

Initially, Qin Ming had thought she was in her thirties, so his first guess had way exceeded his earlier instincts.

Those few wealthy young men stared at Qin Ming for a short while, then started mocking him again, "Mr. Huang was the fastest one to get the right answer. It took him four guesses."

"Hahaha, country bumpkin. If you can't do it, just give up."

"A peasant like you can only pray to get your hands on a valuable treasure like this. You probably wouldn't come across such an item in your entire lifetime."

“Ms. Mu, why don’t you take a guess? You’ve bought the beauty paste before, right? You should know the extent of its effects.”

“Indeed, why don’t you help your husband out, Ms. Mu? After all, a live-in son-in-law like him does not have much capabilities.”

Hearing that, Mu Xiaoqiao responded with a cold look on her face, “So what if he guessed wrongly? My husband’s still young and he does not need such products. It’s not surprising if he doesn’t know the answer. Did you guess correctly the first time you saw this product? How many attempts did it take you before you got the right answer?”

The wealthy young men zipped their mouths shut as soon as they heard her speak. Like what Mu Xiaoqiao said, they were no better than Qin Ming when they first guessed Shui Ma’s age.

After staring at Shui Ma for a long time, Qin Ming finally said, “Sixty-nine?”

“Eh?” everyone was startled.

Even though it started off as a segment that was meant to entertain the guests, Master Zhang, Mr. Huang, and the other wealthy young men looked down on Qin Ming the moment he tried to guess Shui Ma's age. Their scornful remarks made him upset and uncomfortable.

So, this time, he analyzed all angles before making a guess.

He did not guess solely based on the condition of Shui Ma's skin. Instead, he examined all of her features including her hands, facial features, teeth, and feet.

Qin Ming repeated himself, "Shui Ma is around sixty-nine, yes?"

Caught by surprise, Lin Yurou responded, "Fantastic, Mr. Qin. You guessed correctly on your second attempt."

With a smile on her face, Shui Ma said, "So many people have tried to guess my age over the years, but Mr. Qin is the first person to get it right in two guesses."

Mu Xiaoqiao grinned and said, “How many times did all of you have to guess before you got the right answer? My husband only had to guess twice.”

Qin Ming pretended to be serious and reprimanded, “That’s enough, this kind of trivial matter is nothing to be proud of. It’s just for entertainment, that’s all. There’s no need to be uncultured like some people.”

His “scolding” was actually meant to mock the few wealthy young men since they had boasted that Mr. Huang only took four guesses to get the right answer. Now that Qin Ming guessed correctly in two attempts, they could not come up with any more retorts.

Mu Xiaoqiao nodded her head submissively and agreed with Qing Ming, “Yes, you’re right, my dear. We are cultured people.”

Master Zhang, Mr. Huang, and the other men froze as they did not expect Qin Ming to guess correctly on his second try. They had mocked him for being a live-in son-in-law earlier, but

they were now ridiculed by him for being uncultured.

Anger and contempt started to boil in their hearts as they felt that Qin Ming was unworthy of being under the same roof as them. Nevertheless, they had no choice but to concede to him.

It wasn't a matter of how important or serious the question was. Rather, they couldn't stomach the fact that they had lost to Qin Ming and were ridiculed by him. Moreover, the reality that they could not return fire made them upset.

Mr. Huang said with a gloomy look on his face, "Hmph, you only got lucky with your blind guess."

Master Zhang followed suit and said, "Yeah, it was pure luck."

As they started grumbling, Lin Yurou quickly interjected to lighten up the situation, "Mr. Qin, how did you guess correctly on your second try? Even Master Zhang needed five guesses before he got it right."

Qin Ming smiled and replied, “I realized that the beauty paste is purely a skincare product. Shui Ma’s physique and the skin around her feet, eyes, and ears are very different from the skin on other parts of her body. It is as though a young lady’s skin was pasted on the body of a middle-aged woman. After taking all these into consideration, I concluded that she is around sixty-nine years old.”

Lin Yurou then commented, “You managed to take into account so many factors. You must be a very detailed person, Mr. Qin.”

Following her comment, Zhang Quanzhen praised him, “Small details determine success and failure. Even though this is just a small act of guessing, it shows how detailed Mr. Qin is.”

Zhang Quanzhen’s compliment was extremely useful in maintaining the silence of the five wealthy young men. They didn’t dare to express any more of their sarcastic insults about Qin Ming.

Meanwhile, Qin Ming finally understood the

power of the beauty paste. To his amazement, the beauty paste managed to make a middle-aged woman look like she was in her thirties.

A brief moment later, Lin Yurou spoke again, “Our beauty paste does have some drawbacks, though. The more one uses it, the less effective it becomes. After three uses, the paste will lose its effects. Nevertheless, its initial effects will last more than five years. It is completely natural and its whitening effect does not look artificial. Most importantly, supply is limited. Those who are willing to help the Lin family tide over our difficult times will each receive one bottle for free. If we do not manage to solve our problems, you might not be able to get your hands on this product in the future.”

Tsk tsk, they are trying to get tens of millions in one go. The Lin family is indeed a wealthy family of Xiangxi to be able to come up with such a brilliant way to solve their problems.

Qin Ming handed the bottle of beauty paste to Mu Xiaoqiao and said, “This is for you to use.”

Mu Xiaoqiao was caught off guard as the beauty paste was meant to be a gift for Qin Ming. Nevertheless, she accepted it without question because she knew he gave it to her out of love. She planned on using it only when she was older since she has no need for such anti-aging products at her current age.

After presenting Qin Ming with his present, Lin Yurou invited him for a chat outside.

She said, “Mr. Qin, I can help you get rid of the parasites in your body. However, seeing that you have offended one of the women of Tuzhai. I hope you are able to let bygones be bygones.”

Qin Ming narrowed his eyes in response. *Why must she bring this up?*

What if Lin Yurou wants me to bear the responsibility once I tell the truth? After all, she's the eldest daughter of the Lin family. Not only did she mistook me for someone else, but she also even went to the Qin family asking for an explanation, only to suffer a great deal of humiliation because of that.

If she finds out that I was the one who slept with her... The outcome would be terrible.

Although Lin Yurou also had faults of her own, this was the one truth she can never find out.

Qin Ming put on a deep voice as he said, “Ms. Lin, what happened between me and her was a mistake and also a misunderstanding. She doesn’t like me at all, and my trip would be ruined if we met. Please let this go, Ms. Lin. If we really have to meet, it will have to be after I meet Mr. Lin to discuss business.”

Lin Yurou scrunched her eyebrows. *Seems to me Qin Ming’s a classic scumbag.*

He’s using a billion business to threaten me.

Nevertheless, my family has no other choice. Our family business is facing great troubles, and since Insect Valley has been destroyed, most of our precious insects have died. We need urgent funding to tide over our financial difficulties.

After pondering for a long time, Lin Yurou

finally compromised, “Alright, please come with me, Mr. Qin. Only the two of us.”

Qin Ming went along with what she said and followed her.

They arrived at a small wooden hut where a strange ingredient was being burnt. The scent made him uncomfortable.

After Qin Ming sat opposite Lin Yurou, she picked up a few leaves and chewed on them until her mouth was filled with green juice.

Soon, Qin Ming experienced a surge of lust in his body. He felt that his endocrine system had been out of balance because of the parasite.

Lin Yurou gave him a strange look and clamped her legs together quietly. It was as though she had strange thoughts going through her mind.

After that, she spat out the chewed leaves and passed them to Qin Ming, saying, “Put these in your mouth and continue chewing on them. When you spit it out, the parasite will be removed

from your body as well.”

What the...

Qin Ming's face darkened instantly. *That mush is full of her spit.*

There is no doubt that Lin Yurou is pretty. She is on par with Mu Xiaoqiao in terms of voice and appearance, but to chew the leaves that came out from her mouth is absolutely disgusting.

“Hurry up, I can't hold it in any longer,” she said.

Hold it in? What?

Suddenly, Qin Ming noticed that her thighs were rubbing against each other. *Is she wet?*

Qin Ming was terrified as he said, “Just staring at me in this little room can give you that sensation? What the hell?”

He gritted his teeth and didn't dare to question her any further for the sake of getting rid of the parasite.

He closed his eyes and put the leaves in his mouth and continued chewing. It had a surprisingly strange taste and it wasn't difficult to chew.

However, after chewing for a while, Qin Ming felt that there weren't any changes in his body.

“Uh... Mr. Qin, are you still not done?” Lin Yurou questioned as she lay uncomfortably on the table. She clenched her legs and fists together tightly and rubbed them back and forth, while her breathing escalated. Clearly, she was in an unbearable state.

Qin Ming was stunned. *She was so serious just a second ago, but she's acting so coquettish now?*

Suddenly, Lin Yurou raised her head and said, “What smell is that? Is that the Emperor Male Parasite?”

Qin Ming was shocked. *Sh*t, did she find out?*

“What’s going on? Is this the smell of the Emperor Male Parasite?” Lin Yurou’s head shot up in surprise, looking at Qin Ming.

Lin Yurou knew that love parasites always came in pairs, one male, one female. Once the couple who had been influenced by the parasites slept with one another for long enough, the love parasites would get used to each other’s scents and would no longer be affected by the scent of any other love parasites.

Among the Lin family’s various mysterious practices, love parasites were the most secretive and also the most taboo.

Only a handful of people would ever use such things, and they were always only used in extreme circumstances. A love parasite being used on someone like Qin Ming was probably an accident.

The reason being the female parasite was easily able to take control of the male parasite. The method was commonly suspected to be one of slavery. Most of the time, they were used by

desperate girls in a last-ditch attempt to get their boyfriends who had changed their minds back. If they were found out, they'd get severely punished, too.

The male parasite in Qin Ming's body hadn't gotten used to any particular female parasite's scents yet, which is why it was easily affected by every female parasite's scent.

However, as they were trying to get the parasite out, Lin Yurou suddenly realized how differently this particular male parasite smelled. It smelled much stronger than any other male parasite.

Love parasites emitted their scents by releasing them internally. They influenced the host's pores to release the scent, basically making the human body into a walking dispenser.

The reason why Lin Yurou and Zhang Quanzhen could identify the scent was not because they have super-sensitive noses, rather, it was because they were simply familiar with it.

Meanwhile, Qin Ming was almost done chewing.

Finally, a nauseous sensation similar to that of being carsick slowly raised from his gut to his throat and he frowned before finally opening his mouth and puked all over the floor. He vomited relentlessly, but most of it was simply stomach acid.

There was nothing visible in the liquid, especially not any parasites. Not to the naked eye, at least.

Despite that, the strange lust that Qin Ming had been feeling finally disappeared.

Qin Ming instantly stamped his foot down and started grinding his shoe on the floor.

“Hold on.” Lin Yurou suddenly sighed heavily. She finally relaxed, but she was also exhausted. She had used plenty of energy trying to get the parasite out just now.

Once the male love parasite left the host body, its scent would become barely noticeable and hard to sense, so it shouldn't be killed right away.

However, just as Lin Yurou shouted, Qin Ming

had already stamped his foot on the puddle of vomit repeatedly.

Lin Yurou stared in surprise. All parasites took a long time to cultivate, especially an Emperor parasite. The value that these parasites held was something that could never be measured by mere money.

Still, Qin Ming was determined to get rid of the evidence.

He said, "Ah, my apologies, Ms. Lin. I was too afraid that the parasite would somehow worm its way back in. Could it pass on to anyone else?"

Lin Yurou simply waved her hand instead of saying anything. She pointed at the door, trying hard to swallow down her annoyance. "Mr. Qin, you can go now. I'd like some time to myself."

Qin Ming took some time to think before deciding that whatever was once in him had already died. Only then did he leave.

After leaving the wooden hut, Qin Ming felt

relieved. As he breathed in the fresh, crisp air of the outdoors, he felt much more relaxed. The thing he had been stressed about this whole time was finally settled. After this, no one would be able to control him again.

After what had just happened, Qin Ming was now filled with admiration for the Lin family's parasites. He felt these parasites were indeed a rather unusual and mysterious thing. Perhaps, they were even comparable to the crazy things seen only in movies.

Now that the Lin family was in crisis, he could use this as a chance to properly talk about business.

Qin Ming returned to the house. He saw that the guests were still chatting casually.

When Zhang Quanzhen saw Qin Ming, he stroked his beard and chuckled. "Well, it looks like that's settled. That being said, I am curious about one thing though. Why would someone of your capabilities feel the need to use such devious methods?"

Qin Ming glared at the old man. *Didn't you make your way here using devious methods as well?* He couldn't really say that out loud, though. After all, Zhang Quanzhen had helped him a lot this round.

Mu Xiaoqiao was the happiest about this whole thing. "Is it really gone, dear? How did you get rid of it? Are there any side effects?"

Qin Ming didn't really want to say that he had to eat something that Lin Yurou had chewed. "There are no side effects. The process wasn't too complicated, either. She just fed me something that made me vomit the parasite out."

At the mention of vomit, Mu Xiaoqiao lost all interest.

They didn't wait for long before Lin Yurou entered again. This time, she was dressed in traditional Tuzhai garb that looked strangely good on her. The men in the crowd all took second glances.

However, when Qin Ming met Lin Yurou's gaze,

they both recalled what had happened in the hut earlier and they averted their gazes awkwardly.

Did she actually get wet? Qin Ming thought to himself. He couldn't help but begin to assume when he noticed that she had changed clothes.

Lin Yurou announced, "Everyone, my dad has just returned. I know you all are extremely busy since you must have a business to attend to every day. As such, I won't waste your time any longer. Please head to the hall in the main building."

When Master Zhang heard her, he straightened his clothes and said, "Since Mr. Lin is back, we should talk about business now. Still, I can't believe that someone here just came to join in on the fun and got some beauty paste for nothing."

Mr. Bai chimed in, "That's right. Based on what I know, Mu Hao is the head of the Mu family now, isn't he? That live-in-son-in-law is obviously just here to join in the fun. How bold of him to accept a free bottle of expensive beauty paste for nothing!"

Mr. Huang said, "I bet he's going to get about one billion at most later. Who knows, he might even be mooching off his wife."

Master He said, "Mr. Huang, what kind of nonsense is that? How much money can a student like him have? Even if Mu Hao is here, he would have only taken maybe tens of billions, let alone his own daughter. After all, the money belongs to the company. It can't be taken by just anybody."

Mu Xiaoqiao chewed her lip angrily as she huffed, "Such insolence."

Qin Ming simply replied calmly, "It's fine. I'm not bothered."

They arrived at the main hall only to see a man dressed like a farmer with bare, mud-covered feet. Despite his unassuming attire, he had a strong physique and his hair was shaved in a crew cut. The man was currently fanning himself, clearly drenched in sweat.

Lin Yurou walked toward the man. Qin Ming had already guessed that this unassuming man was

the head of the Lin family as well as the head of the village, Lin Yuanwang.

When Lin Yuanwang saw the crowd, he ran toward Zhang Quanzhen and said, delighted, “I’m so sorry for making you wait for me for so long, Master Zhang! It’s all my fault. If I could recover even a little of the loss from what happened over at Insect Valley, that’d be great.”

Master Zhang replied, “Don’t worry, I’ve already heard about everything that happened to your family from your dad. How could I show up empty-handed when he invited me? Look, I’ve brought a boy that could bring wealth to you.”

As he spoke, Zhang Quanzhen pointed at Qin Ming.

Lin Yuanwang gave Qin Ming a once-over with a curious look. *He looks pretty familiar. Where exactly have I seen him before?*

Truth be told, Qin Ming admired Zhang Quanzhen.

He had really taken everything into account in this little roundabout plan of his. In the end, his goal was to trick Qin Ming over to the Lin family house to discuss business. Qin Ming had no choice but to go along with his plan, let alone be angry at him.

After all, he had helped Qin Ming settle the parasite issue and had also gotten a good helper for the Lin family. He had also managed to keep Qin Ming as the Mu family's son-in-law.

Qin Ming knew that even if he hadn't suffered from the parasite, Zhang Quanzhen would still have found a way to drag him over here.

His plan included some detailed deductive judgment and required a deep understanding of both Qin Ming and Mu Xiaoqiao's personalities. The plan that had come to fruition was extremely impressive, and Qin Ming couldn't help but admire it.

He'd only felt admiration like this when he was learning how to do business from Chang Hongxi. As for Zhang Quanzhen, his skills lied in the

business of human understanding. Each of them had its own merits.

As the saying goes, the elder really was the wiser.

Qin Ming started thinking of acquiring his talent.

Zhang Quanzhen was at the same level of seniority as Mu Hairan, but Zhang Quanzhen's family, skills, and lifestyle were much stronger points than the latter.

Lin Yuanwang reached a hand out to Qin Ming and said, "What should I call you? Which family are you from? I apologize, but I don't know who you are."

Qin Ming was just about to introduce himself when one of the wealthy young men from earlier, Master Zhang cut in. "Mr. Lin, it's not important which family he's from. He's just a live-in son-in-law."

Master He said disdainfully, "He's probably just here to join in the fun. After all, he's just the live-in son-in-law of the Mu family."

Mr. Bai joined in. “That’s right, Mr. Lin, don’t waste your time on him. He’s but a student, and besides, he can’t have that much money as a live-in son-in-law. He wouldn’t even be able to pay the penalty for one of your contracts.”

Lin Yuanwang’s hand paused in midair and he frowned. *The live-in son-in-law of the Mu family?* He had asked for help from the Mu family before, but Mu Hao had turned him down.

What’s going on? Is he messing with me? How much can they even fork out?

If they really were that rich, why didn’t Mu Hairan send his son, Mu Hao instead? Even if they’re not doing well, he could have sent his grandson, Mu Zhaoyang. Why did he send a live-in son-in-law instead?

Lin Yuanwang retracted his hand. Qin Ming hadn't expected that.

After all, Lin Yuanwang was known to be friendly and open-minded. Qin Ming couldn't understand why Lin Yuanwang would have a sudden change of attitude after finding out that he was a poor student and a live-in son-in-law.

Lin Yuanwang changed his handshake into a bow and said, "Hello, it's nice to meet you. Please, have a seat."

After that, Lin Yuanwang gestured for the other wealthy young men to sit down with him, no longer paying attention to Qin Ming.

So, he doesn't even bother knowing my name.

Master He stepped past Qin Ming and chuckled. "See? It's not worth coming here if you don't even have money. If you came over for literally any other reason, maybe he would have treated you decently. Now, you basically embarrassed yourself."

Mr. Bai said, “That’s right. Way too many people have tried to climb up the ladder by stepping all over Mr. Lin, since he’s so amicable. How could you even think of doing such a thing in their times of need? How shameless.”

Mr. Huang, who was taller in stature, took the advantage to literally look down upon Qin Ming. “Why are you still sticking around? You really don’t listen, huh? I’ll just wait and see you make a fool out of yourself then.”

These wealthy young men grabbed at every opportunity they had to make fun of and ridicule Qin Ming simply because they felt that Qin Ming had no right to enjoy the same privileges as them as a live-in son-in-law.

Mu Xiaoqiao was enraged. She was willing to admit that she had looked down on Qin Ming before, but one shouldn’t judge a book by its cover. Qin Ming had already proved himself to her through sheer skill and determination. She had already begun to respect him.

Now, Qin Ming was the vice president of a

certain multinational company, and he could even buy over the Xu family of Sea City. Who's to say he couldn't fork up ten billion to invest?

When she saw Qin Ming getting looked down upon, she said in a rage, "Who are you all to say my husband has no money? Doesn't your money come from your family as well?"

Master Zhang and Mr. Ma chuckled. "Of course he has money. Who dares say the Mu family's son-in-law has no money? Maybe he has a couple hundred million, but what good is that? Does he really think a couple hundred million can help the Lin family? What a joke. That's not even enough to pay for the penalty fee for one of his deals."

"Ms. Lin, maybe you should assert your dominance in bed tonight to show where your husband actually stands. Stop him from embarrassing himself every other day, will you? He's going to bring shame to old Mr. Mu's name at this rate, haha!"

"You!" Mu Xiaoqiao was furious, and her expression turned chilly. She was about to raise

her hand to slap them when Qin Ming held her back.

Calmly, he said, “Don’t do anything rash. Let’s not stoop to their level.”

Mu Xiaoqiao said unhappily, “But they’re making fun of you!”

Qin Ming remained smiling and said, “We’ll see who will be making fun of who in the end. I wonder who will be having the last laugh.”

Lin Yurou was getting anxious. She knew that Qin Ming was more than capable of forking over ten billion and more. She walked over, wanting to talk to Lin Yuanwang.

However, before she could speak, Lin Yuanwang started throwing a tantrum. “Don’t you think I’ve asked the Mu family for help before? I asked them two months ago, and Mu Hairan chased me off with a mere three hundred million! I didn’t even get to see his face despite our years of so-called friendship. Now, he’s trying to make amends by sending his live-in son-in-law to

placate me?”

He wasn't shouting, but the silence that ensued in the main hall after he spoke meant everyone heard his words.

So, Lin Yuanwang had gone to the Mu family for help, only to get rejected.

However, two months ago, the Mu family was also in crisis. Mu Hairan was severely sick, and Mu Hao was travelling to the ends of the earth to find a cure. At that time, they were barely able to keep themselves together, much less trying to help the Lin family.

Even though Qin Ming was displeased by Lin Yuanwang's words, he could understand where he was coming from. After the Lin family got in trouble, Lin Yuanwang had run all over trying to look for help. He probably suffered the cruelty of the world firsthand.

In this day and age, it was normal for people to add salt to injury instead of helping those that were truly in need.

Lin Yurou had to face heading to the Qin family to marry herself off in order to get help. In the end, Qin Ming messed that up and caused Lin Yurou to embarrass herself and nearly ruin her reputation.

Lin Yuanwang had probably been holding on the whole time until the Lin family got saved. This was probably the straw that broke the camel's back.

After the crowd sat down, Mu Xiaoqiao couldn't help but ask Zhan Quanzhen, "Master Zhang, is the Lin family really in such a mess that they would need such a huge amount of money? Do they really need tens of billions just to get through their crisis?"

Mu Xiaoqiao was a businesswoman herself. She knew how much just one billion was, let alone tens of billions.

There were plenty of rich families in Guang City who didn't have ten billion, much less in current assets. They owned businesses, not banks.

Qin Ming muttered inwardly, “Is ten billion really that much?”

Then, he recalled the difference in the size of Huan Ning Century Corporation and decided to keep his mouth shut, lest they assume he was trying to brag.

Zhang Quanzhen said, “Ms. Mu, I’m afraid you aren’t caught up. They really do need this amount. After all, Lin Yuanwang’s family are the heads of the village, he has to make sure that every villager’s family gets enough, interest included. That’s no small sum. If he didn’t do so, he’d lose his position as the head of the village. Also, Qin Weiyuan was the one who bombed Insect Valley. As the father-in-law of Qin Weiyuan, it’s only natural that he would bear the brunt of responsibility. The insects in Insect Valley are priceless and are used to make medicine, potions, beauty products, and they are also studied in various scientific research. When Qin Weiyuan bombed Insect Valley, they were about to ship out all their products. The Lin family only ships out products once every few years, and they lost a lot because of that. In total,

they probably lost more than tens of billions. Just the liquidated damages alone cost about twenty billion. Lin Yuanwang asked for those sellers to give him a couple of years' time, but none of them were willing to do so. They wanted him to cough up the money in less than three months, or they would expose the Lin family's secret insect breeding methods to everyone. That's basically the Lin family's lifeline, isn't it? There's barely a few more days left until that happens."

Zhang Quanzhen paused before continuing, "Aside from that, there's still the rebuilding of Insect Valley to think about. They would need a lot of time, money, and manpower to start breeding their rare insects again. That would require another twenty billion or so. I mentioned that Lin Yuanwang used to be a philanthropist, constantly donating to various charities and he also liked making friends, remember? He didn't have a lot of current assets and the villagers are actually pretty rich, but that doesn't mean he can threaten them to hand over such huge amounts, can he? That's why he is now being forced into a corner."

Mu Xiaoqiao pondered for a moment before saying, “Two months ago, when our family was in crisis, we only managed to get over it thanks to you, Master Zhang. That being said, Mr. Lin must have misunderstood Qin Ming.”

Qin Ming chuckled lightly. *This girl... She really is trying to stand up for me.*

“It’s fine,” he uttered. “I’m an unlucky soul, that’s all. Everyone looks down on me no matter where I go.”

Mu Xiaoqiao pouted. “Clothes makes the man, and yet you’re always parading around in these cheap garments. Of course people are going to look at you the wrong way. I bought plenty of branded suits for you, didn’t I? They’re like tens of thousands each. If you put them on, no one would dare look down upon you.”

Zhang Quanzhen chuckled. “That’s not true. People’s stereotypes rarely have anything to do with what you wear. In fact, Einstein once said that clothes won’t make people recognize you, but once people recognize you, they’ll know who

you are no matter what you wear.”

Qin Ming stared at Zhang Quanzhen with a strange look on his face. *Isn't it weird for a Taoist priest such as Zhang Quanzhen to speak of Einstein?*

“That’s impossible!”

The furious yell attracted the attention of the others, and they all looked over to see Lin Yuanwang shouting in rage.

“Master Zhang, are you kidding me? Not only are you asking for larvae, but you also want us to help you breed and care for them? If our people head over to your area, doesn’t that mean that our tricks and secrets will be known by you?”

Master Zhang crossed his legs and said flatly, “Mr. Lin, you’d be wrong about that. I’m using ten billion to help you here. I barely managed to get that sum from my dad. Everyone knows that you’ve quarreled with the Qins and that because the banks are afraid of getting on the Qin family’s bad side, they’re not lending any money to you.

Besides, it's common knowledge that there are plenty of wealthy families who aren't capable of helping you."

Lin Yuanwang's face twitched at Master Zhang's constant reminder that everyone knows that the Lin family had fallen from grace. His legs trembled and went limp, causing him to collapse onto a chair.

Master Zhang continued. "The Zhang family is in the beauty industry, and we really do need your beauty paste. If we lower our costs, then we'll have a larger income, isn't that right? I risked a lot coming to help you with that ten billion. What? do you think you could just give me the beauty paste in batches over the course of twenty years or something? Isn't that just daylight robbery? This is ten whole billion we're talking about here. Do you think I'm paying you in toilet paper?"

Lin Yuanwang's face fell and he remained silent.

"What if you hear me out instead?" Mr. Bai cut in and said, "I'll fork over ten billion too, but rather

than your insect breeding secrets which aren't worth much, I want to buy a person from your family."

At that, the crowd was confused. *He's trying to buy someone?*



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Mr. Bai pointed at Lin Yurou and said, “I’ll use ten billion as my dowry to marry Ms. Lin over here. Yurou, I’ve pursued you for three years now. I risked destroying my relationship with my family before managing to get my hands on this ten billion. Please believe in my sincerity now.”

Lin Yurou’s expression froze, and Lin Yuanwang wasn’t looking too pleased, either.

Lin Yuanwang huffed, “Mr. Bai, I’m glad that you are willing to help. However, seeing that you are from the younger generation, you might not know about the animosity between me and Bai Jingting. I will never let my daughter marry into the Bai family.”

Qin Ming’s attention was piqued at that. *Bai Jingting? Isn’t he Bai Yúchun’s biological father? I only just found Bai Yuchun and brought her back to Jing City.*

Bai Yuchun would occasionally contact Qin Ming. After all, they had each other’s WeChat. However, they only ever chatted lightly, and never touched on any personal subjects.

Qin Ming would also look at Bai Yuchun's WeChat stories occasionally. They were all about new recipes that she was learning or the new friends she had made. She seemed to be living well.

He was dumbfounded to know that Mr. Bai over here was also Bai Jingting's child. *They must not have the same mother*, Qin Ming mused.

Mr. Bai said, "Mr. Lin, what happened in the past should stay in the past. Why should our generation have to pay for the previous generation's faults? I can move out and live away from the mansion. I'm truly in love with Yurou. It would mean the world to me should you give me your blessings."

Lin Yurou said determinedly, "I'm grateful for your admiration, Mr. Bai, but as I've said these past three years, I am not worthy to be with you. I don't want to affect your future and your happiness, either. Please forget about me."

Lin Yuanwang looked at his daughter lovingly before saying, "I appreciate your admiration for

my daughter as well, Mr. Bai. However, my daughter will not be marrying anyone right now. Besides, I still have reason to suspect the Bai family's motivation."

Mr. Bai frowned, clearly displeased. "Who else can she marry if not me? Two months ago, she failed to marry Qin Zhongbai. She got fooled into sleeping with someone else. After she returned to Huaxia, she went to the Qins looking for justice only to be scorned. Everyone knows how much she embarrassed herself. She ruined her reputation among all the rich families. She's destined to be a spinster if she doesn't marry me. Despite all that, I would never look down upon you, so how dare you look down upon me? Is the Bai family worse off than the Lin family in any way?"

Master Zhang said, "That's right, Ms. Lin, even I witnessed Qin Zhongbai's mother scolding you that day, and how she called you shameless for trying to suck up to the Qin family despite sleeping with someone else. That's no longer a secret. The fact that Mr. Bai doesn't mind marrying you after that already shows how

sincere he is.”

When Qin Ming heard that, he stroked the fake mustache on his face self-consciously and touched the bridge of his fake glasses. *I can't expose myself here.*

At the same time, he felt sympathy for Lin Yurou. *Still, I guess that's the price you pay for having ill intentions in the first place.*

Nonetheless, Mr. Bai's words certainly hurt much more and sounded arrogant too. It exposed how his intention of marrying Lin Yurou came from more than just “true love”.

Lin Yurou was so furious, her face had turned pale. She held back her tears as she retorted, “B-Bai Haocheng, don't you dare slander me. I'll marry whoever I want to marry. It's none of your business!”

At that moment, Lin Yuanwang had the urge to chase them all away. *They are simply here to leech off of me in my time of need!*

However, he couldn't do so. He'd only managed to accumulate five billion, which was in no way enough to pay for the liquidated damages. The sellers would be coming over any day now to ask for fees. Without that money, they would leak the insect breeding secrets of the Lin family. Once that happened, the Lin family would really be in trouble.

Despite the sheer humiliation he was feeling, Lin Yuanwang did his best to control himself.

“Mr. Bai, what if I borrowed your money instead? Five years with a loan interest rate of 1% more than any bank. How's that sound?”

Mu Xiaoqiao shook her head at that. “Mr. Lin is being pretty cowardly.”

Mr. Bai started rapping the table impatiently.

“Mr. Lin, do I look like I need money? All I want is to marry Lin Yurou. Why can't you just say yes? She's been reduced to a joke now. Who's going to want her, anyway? Apart from that mysterious man who slept with her, I bet the answer is nobody. Do you really want to see your

daughter becoming a spinster?”

Lin Yuanwang gritted his teeth and said, “Bai Haocheng, thank you for your kindness, but as a father, I will not be selling my daughter off for profit! If you must use the matter of that arranged marriage against me, then I’ll tell you right now that I’ve disagreed in the first place. She was the one who ran off because she saw how stressed I was! Yes, she caused her fate, but that doesn’t mean my daughter deserves to be humiliated by you. Please go back if you’re not here to help.”

Qin Ming blinked. *Seems like Lin Yuanwang’s a pretty good father, seeing as he’d do anything rather than sell his daughter off.*

It was obvious what Master Zhang and Bai Haocheng’s true intentions were, seeing as one of them wanted the Lins’ insect breeding secret and one of them wanted to marry Lin Yurou by force.

Just then, Master He decided to step into the role of mediator. “Mr. Lin, please calm down. We’re all here because of our sincerity. I, for one, am not asking for your insect breeding secrets, nor

do I want your sullied daughter.”

Lin Yurou gritted her teeth upon hearing the word “sullied daughter”. His arrogant words were like thorns, prickling at her flesh, but all she could do was hold it in. After all, she did this to herself.

Lin Yuanwang calmed himself down and asked, “Then what is it that you want, Master He?”

Master He replied, “Didn’t you already mention it yourself? Five years, plus interest and principal. I have fifteen billion here right now. As for the annual interest rate, how does thirty percent sound?”

“That’s preposterous!” Qin Ming and Mu Xiaoqiao said in unison.

What Master He was asking was two times higher than the rate of any bank. The Lin family would be trapped in an endless cycle of returning debts.

It was useless. This was simply robbing Peter to pay Paul. All that changed was Lin Yuanwang’s

creditor.

Lin Yuanwang stayed silent. He wasn't a fool. He knew full well that this wouldn't save the Lin family.

Mr. Huang and Mr. Ma basically raised the same terms. They either wanted money or the art of breeding parasites, especially the love parasite.

As a rich family of Xiangxi, love parasites was incredibly taboo. Even their own family got in trouble when these were used, let alone if it happened to spread to anyone else.

After a long discussion, Lin Yuanwang was already exhausted. He sighed in his chair, wondering what exactly his family had done to bring such misfortune.

Meanwhile, Qin Ming had no need for Lin Yurou, nor did he want to rob the Lin family of their insect breeding secrets. All he wanted was some of the mysterious parasites and the beauty paste.

With that thought in mind, Qin Ming stood up

and said, "Actually, Mr. Lin, I..."

Lin Yuanwang waved his hand tiredly. "Enough. All of you are just trying to plunder a burning house. You just wanted to benefit from this. None of you are simply here trying to help. Get out. all of you, get out now!"

What? Qin Ming fell silent. He hadn't even gotten the chance to say anything.

He continued, "Mr. Lin, please hear me out first."

Lin Yuanwang cut him off. "How much money can you have as a live-in son-in-law? You're just here to mess with me, aren't you? I know how much money Mu Hao can have. He could barely give me twenty billion in current assets. Don't tell me you've somehow brought it all with you? Yurou, send them off, please. I'm tired."

After that, Lin Yuanwang dragged his exhausted body away. He no longer felt like entertaining them.

Lin Yurou held back her own tears and anger and

bowed. “This way please, I’ll lead you back to the entrance.”

Qin Ming ended up leaving empty-handed. He followed Zhang Quanzhen out and said, “Zhang, Mr. Lin’s already at a dead-end, and yet he doesn’t seem to want my help. I just wanted to make a solid deal, you know? I could probably get a billion or so and some pretty rare bugs from this deal, but Mr. Lin doesn’t want to negotiate with me.”

Zhang Quanzhen shook his head. “The only reason the Lin family is in such a predicament is because of Lin Yuanwang’s doing. If it weren’t for his disposition, this wouldn’t have happened. He turned down the Qin family’s help and even quarreled with them because of it. These wealthy little punks are just trying to plunder a burning house, that’s all. It’s apparent that they’re but a bunch of shameless youngsters.”

Qin Ming replied, “Oh well, I have no business entertaining someone who doesn’t even want to walk to me. Either way, my parasite is gone. I didn’t lose anything.”

Zhang Quanzhen simply chuckled as if he was already cooking up another plan in his head.

Before the three of them reached the entrance, Lin Yurou hurried over. “Mr. Qin, please wait a minute. My grandpa would like to meet with you in private.”

Qin Ming was surprised. *Lin Yuanwang's father want to meet me? But why?*



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Zhang Quanzhen reminded him, “Lin Yuanwang’s father is Lin Yundong, whose nickname was Master Dong. He was a fearless man and had friends everywhere. Due to the fact that he was not a highly educated person, someone framed him and caused him to be put behind bars for three decades. By the time he got out of jail, everything he knew about this world had changed. Lin Yundong then decided to return to Xiangxi and spend the rest of his life there. He was the man who saved Mu Hairan and me.”

Qin Ming squinted. “Are you trying to get me to repay your kindness?”

Zhang Quanzhen responded with a grin. “A deal is a deal, am I right? Lin Yuanwang has been running around like a headless chicken and was constantly humiliated by people for more than two months. Since he doesn’t trust you anymore, why don’t you find Lin Yundong? No matter what the outcome is, it’s just going to be a win-win situation for you. Besides, by earning yourself some money, you might also become someone’s hero. You might even be let off the hook for sleeping with Lin Yurou.”

Zhang Quanzhen whispered the last sentence softly but clearly in Qin Ming's ears. Though Lin Yurou and Mu Xiaoqiao did not hear what he said, Qin Ming panicked and kicked Zhang Quanzhen away.

"Ouch!" Zhang Quanzhen lost his balance and fell into a stream near the road.

Everyone gave Qin Ming a puzzled look. *Why did he kick him all of a sudden?*

Qin Ming let out a furtive laugh and said, "I have a leg cramp just now. Come, Ms. Lin, please lead the way. Master Zhang will catch up with us."

Surprisingly, Zhang Quanzhen was not mad at all. He grinned and looked at the people behind him. "Come, come, come. Help me up."

Lin Yurou then led them to the room that stored the incubators for the worms. There were not only CCTVs all over the place but also wolfhounds and security guards, who patrolled from one site to another.

Further up, there was also a glasshouse with a lot of plants grown in it.

Lin Yurou explained to Qin Ming and the rest, “My grandpa is an award-winning biologist, and he likes to study entomology and all sorts of rare plants. But please do not take any photos, alright?”

Qin Ming turned around and warned, “You all heard that? Don’t cause any unnecessary trouble here.”

The moment Qin Ming stepped into the greenhouse, he thought he had entered a surreal realm. He felt as if he was standing in a laboratory built in the deep mountains. There were glass apparatus around the room, and the floor was spick and span. Every worker wore a pair of clean shoes and was working in a dust-free environment.

Inside the greenhouse, there were many plant species that Qin Ming could not recognize. There was even a high-tech glass enclosure that contained an assortment of spiders and bugs.

Qin Ming joked around and asked if he would turn into Spiderman if he allowed these spiders to bite him.

When everyone was captivated by the plants and insects around them, an elderly man with a head full of gray hair walked towards them.

The man spoke clearly in a loud voice, “Give it a shot. I’ll be here to provide you medical assistance if anything goes wrong.”

Just when Qin Ming turned his attention to the elderly man, Lin Yurou immediately stepped forth and introduced, “Mr. Qin, he’s my grandpa, Lin Yundong. My dad got a little agitated just now, and I’m sorry for his behavior, so I invited my grandpa over. I hope you can reconsider our investment proposal.”

Lin Yundong said, “Your dad is as stubborn as a mule. He’s just like me, who always lends others money but doesn’t have many sincere friends. He could only count on Master Zhang at this time. Wait a minute. How come you’re all drenched?”

Zhang Quanzhen wiped the water off his face and put on an awkward smile. "I accidentally slipped and fell into a stream. I'm all good! Master Dong, let me introduce you to Mu Hairan's grandson-in-law, Qin Ming. He's also the man who brings wealth to the people."

Qin Ming shot a killer stare at Master Zhang before he turned to Lin Yundong and said, "Hello, Mr. Lin, I'm Qin Ming. Let's cut to the chase. I know what's going on with the Lin family, and I'm willing to cooperate with you. A fifty billion loan is not a problem, but I must safeguard my interest too."

Upon hearing what Qin Ming said, Lin Yurou was overjoyed. *So glad that I trusted him and not the other wealthy fellow.*

Lin Yundong chuckled, "Great! I like how straightforward and generous you are! I'm pleased to know you're willing to lend the Lin family a helping hand since we're struggling to survive. So what's your condition?"

Qin Ming said, "I don't want to take advantage of

this situation, so I'll offer you the same interest loan as a bank normally would. I believe this will alleviate your financial burden too. You can repay the loan either in five years or ten years, but I need you to do me a favor."

Lin Yurou was pleased with his loan proposal, and she believed the Lin family would be able to survive this crisis. Though she was mad that Qin Ming was a heartless man, at this point, she had to look at the bigger picture.

But it's kind of weird that he actually asked grandpa for his help even though they have only met for the first time.

On the other hand, Zhang Quanzhen's expression changed. He was certain that something was about to happen but did not know what was on Qin Ming's mind.

Lin Yundong responded with a grin, "I like how direct you are, Mr. Qin. How can I help you? I'm an old man who is only well-versed in biology. If only I can find myself a successor, then I'll be able to teach him everything I know."

Clearly, Lin Yundong thought Qin Ming was interested in becoming his disciple.

As an expert in economics, Qin Ming, of course, would not care about these plants and insects.

He said, "I've known Master Zhang for quite some time now, and I've been trying to get him to be the advisor of my company, but he rejected my offer with all sorts of excuses. If you can persuade Master Zhang to join my company, I can immediately approve the fifty-billion loan."

Everyone in the greenhouse was shocked, and they gave Qin Ming a puzzled look. *What kind of condition is this? That's his requirement?*

But only Qin Ming knew, this was a golden opportunity for him to strike.

Qin Ming had waited for a long time to set Zhang Quanzhen up.

While they were making their way to the greenhouse, Qin Ming knew he could finally do something when Zhang Quanzhen accidentally

revealed that he was indebted to Lin Yundong.

Though Zhang Quanzhen was smart enough to notice Qin Ming was interested to get in touch with the Lin family and made this happen, Qin Ming was not a fool either.

I can help you repay their kindness, but you'll have to serve me in the future!

In other words, Lin Yundong would be indebted to Qin Ming if he agreed to his condition.

Lin Yundong would, of course, not leave the Lin family in the lurch, and Zhang Quanzhen, who wished to repay their kindness, would have no choice but to agree with the arrangement.

If this deal fell through, the Lin family would be in the soup.

Zhang Quanzhen looked at Qin Ming with a shocked expression and did not know what to say. In the end, he responded with another awkward smile. *Qin Ming has tricked me and set me up instead. I was too careless!*

At this point, he was put in a difficult position and had no right to defend himself anymore.

Zhang Quanzhen said, “You rascal. How dare you do this to me!”



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No one expected Qin Ming to come up with this condition.

They were surprised that he was not bothered by the benefits he could get from the Lin family. This clearly showed how important Zhang Quanzhen was to him.

Qin Ming felt he could learn a lot more from Zhang Quanzhen. This was to prepare himself to take the helm of Huan Ning Century Corporation in the future. Qin Ming already had this idea in mind when he first met Zhang Quanzhen at Lin Corporation's Tuzhai.

And now it was the right time for him to seize the opportunity.

“Oh?” Lin Yundong, too, was surprised as he initially thought Qin Ming wanted to become his disciple. The truth, however, was Qin Ming had no clue who Lin Yundong was or how capable he was at all.

Lin Yundong was actually also in a quandary. Though he had saved Zhang Quanzhen's life

many years ago, he knew he must not cross the line either.

But if I don't persuade him to take up the position, Qin Ming will definitely find excuses to call off the deal. If this happens, the Lin family is doomed for sure.

Lin Yundong then gripped Zhang Quanzhen, pulled him over, and asked, "Does this Mr. Qin know your identity and your status?"

Zhang Quanzhen sneered, "Two months ago, he was just an ordinary student, but something happened, and he rose through the ranks and eventually became an influential person. I'm not surprised if he doesn't know me, but I quite like this rascal. Though he still has many shortcomings, he's definitely a diamond in the rough."

Lin Yundong responded, "What's your thought on this? We're in a difficult position now, and many wealthy families have cut ties with us. This is also why I have no choice but to get your help."

Lin Yundong explained the situation tactfully, hoping Zhang Quanzhen would take up Qin Ming's offer.

Zhang Quanzhen tapped his fingers and thought about it. "Calm down first. Give me some time, and I'll decide. If he and I are destined to be in each other's life, fate will still bring us together anyway."

"But what if something happens and disrupts our plan?" Lin Yundong was concerned. "You can say no to me directly if you're not happy with the arrangement, you know? I can turn down Mr. Qin's offer. If this is the end of the Lin family, then so be it. I'll not blame you."

Yet, at the same time, anxiety was written all over Lin Yundong's face.

Zhang Quanzhen had no choice but to say, "I can predict that disaster is on your way soon. I foresee Qin Ming is the guy who will break the curse. Let's see how he handles this deal now. If he does it well, I'll listen to you and become his advisor."

Though everyone in the greenhouse could not hear what they were talking about, they knew the two men were discussing the deal. Qin Ming gave them ample time to discuss and did not intervene. He was not worried about the outcome because even if Zhang Quanzhen rejected his offer, he still had something up his sleeves.

Before the two elderly men could finish their discussion, Bai Ying ran in from outside all of a sudden.

She panted, “Bad news! The debtors are here, and they are coming after Mr. Lin! He has climbed up the beam of the connecting bridge and is ready to jump!”

Everyone was thunderstruck. *Lin Yuanwang is going to jump off the bridge?*

They instantly ran out and looked at the main building. The building had a total of five stories, and the top floor was covered in gray tiles. Under normal circumstances, no one could get up there, but Lin Yuanwang did, and he was sitting on the horizontal beam. He might plunge to his death

should he lost his balance at any point in time.

The slanting rays of the setting sun dyed the sky red and cast long shadows on the ground. Despair crept through every nook and cranny of the village here.

“Come down, Yuanwang! We can get through this together!” An old lady, who seemed like his mother, wailed from afar. She was not ready to watch her son die.

“Please don’t do this. Our son just called and said he had raised enough money for us. He’s rushing back now, so hang in there!” A young and pretty woman, whose appearance resembled Lin Yurou, exclaimed. She might be Lin Yuanwang’s wife.

“Sir, please don’t!”

“Uncle Lin, no! We believe you!”

“We can always start over, Uncle Lin! Come down please!”

All the villagers tried their best to get Lin

Yuanwang down from the bridge, but he looked as if he was zoned out.

After wiping the tears off the corner of an eye, he gazed at the setting sun and cried, “All my life, I’ve done so many good deeds. I’ve donated several billion, built schools, and supported healthcare initiatives by sponsoring state-of-the-art medical equipment. I always give back to society generously, yet this is what I get in return.”

Lin Yuanwang lamented in desperation, and everyone around was utterly emotional.

He continued, “I’ve made many friends and helped so many of them. I’ve not done a single evil deed throughout my entire life. What did I do to deserve this kind of punishment? What have I done wrong?”

“It’s not fair, God. It’s not fair! Please give me a proper explanation!”

All the people there could only shake their heads in disappointment. In the last two months, they

only managed to raise five billion. This sum was not enough to pay for the liquidated damages. He used to have many friends, but now, they all had severed ties with him. It was all because the Lin family had a fallout with the Qin family from Sea City.

No one had the guts to defend the Lins because they were too afraid to offend the Qins, who were more powerful and influential.

At the same time, Lin Yuanwang had no idea who stole Lin Yurou's virginity. The fact that his beloved daughter had become a laughing stock of all the prominent families had dashed his hopes of marrying her into a wealthy family.

Though he suspected the culprit was Qin Weiyan, he did not have any evidence against him. Besides, Qin Weiyan had nothing to fear anymore as the Qin family was behind his back. Trying to get back at him would be a lost cause for sure.

While others were persuading him to come down from the bridge, the debtors, who waved the

contracts in their hands, said, “Mr. Lin, we’re not trying to make your life difficult, but without the goods, we’ll have to pay the penalty as well. How are we going to face our big bosses?”

“When I ordered the worm-based beauty product and parasites that promote longevity from you, I’ve risked the fortune of my family. Without these products, my company is going to collapse! Please put yourself in our shoes as well.”

“The Lins have been a prominent family for nearly a century, and you can’t afford to pay me one billion? Compared to the other debtors, mine is just a small sum. Can you think of a way to pay me back? I’ve always treated you as my brother. You can’t do this to me.”

The dogs in the village barked continuously at the debtors, but the villagers held them back to prevent any unnecessary troubles.

Qin Ming noticed there were about 30 of them who came to ask for money.

Feeling a little confused, he asked, “How did these people find out about the location of Lin Corporation’s Tuzhai? Lin Yuanwang would normally discuss business with his partners in his tour agency in Dayong City, right?”

The villagers looked at him in confusion as they did not understand what he was implying.

Qin Ming continued explaining, “It’s very clear that someone had gathered them and brought them here, and that person must be very familiar with Tuzhai.”

A thought struck Zhang Quanzhen all of a sudden. He asked, “You mean Qin Weiyan is here?”

“Qin Weiyan refused to divorce but left the Lin family, right? He has always wanted to get his hands on the secret in raising the insects, so of course, he won’t give up so easily. I’m not surprised if he tries to strengthen his position with the support of the Qins,” Qin Ming analyzed.

Zhang Quanzhen nodded in agreement. “That’s true. Hmm, interesting.”

Mu Xiaoqiao stepped in and said, “I feel sorry for the Lins. Can you help them?”

Before Qin Ming could respond to his wife’s question, someone stood out from the crowd and exclaimed, “I can help the Lin family!”



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Lin Corporation's Tuzhai was located in a valley in Miaojiang Town. Flanked by the serene mountains and gentle streams, this used to be isolated from the rest of the world. It was as heavenly as how artists would depict paradise in their paintings.

Since Tuzhai was located in the deep mountains, visitors would have to paddle through a stream on a raft, go through the Xiangwang Cave, and hike the Huangshui Slope. At the Youhun Valley, their devices would even lose the signals, and this might cause them to lose their sense of direction in the mountains.

With that, Qin Ming was certain that someone who knew Tuzhai through and through had brought this group of debtors to the village. The person was trying to pressure Lin Yuanwang into giving up Tuzhai's Handbook of Insect Rearing, so they could recover their losses.

Qin Ming whispered into Bi Yuan's ear, "The eight of you, go put on the local costume and disguise as the locals here. Monitor their ships, lock down the whole village, and identify those

suspicious-looking faces. Also, go and find me a photo of Qin Weiyuan and catch him if you see him. He should be around here.”

Zhang Quanzhen knew Qin Ming did not do all this because he wished to lend the Lins the money they needed, “What’s on your mind?”

Qin Ming responded with a gentle grin. “Don’t tell me you don’t know what I’m thinking? I’m trying to up my game to win this deal. I can’t sit here and wait for the opportunity to come. I’ll have to seize it!”

Zhang Quanzhen smiled, but he did not respond. *Alright then, let’s see what Qin Ming can do.*

He would be impressed if Qin Ming were able to handle the crisis properly. Besides, if Qin Ming could turn things around for the Lins, he would be more than willing to work for him.

But if Qin Ming failed to salvage the situation, Zhang Quanzhen would turn him down despite all the dirty tricks the young man played.

Many people were still trying to convince Lin Yuanwang to come down. Though the building was only five-story tall, anyone who jumped from the top would definitely suffer a miserable death.

“I can help you, Mr. Lin. Why don’t you trust me?” Suddenly, a man walked out of the crowd and tilted his head to look at Lin Yuanwang. “As long as you allow me to marry Lin Yurou, I’ll offer you ten billion as the dowries. I’ll discuss with my family and get my dad to give you another ten billion. Please allow me to marry Lin Yurou.”

The twenty billion the Bai family offered was only a small sum and was not enough to clear all the debts of the Lin family.

“Mr. Lin, the Zhang family only wishes to manufacture one of your worm-based beauty products. We’ll not steal your commercial secret! You can send your men over to monitor our production line. I’ll give you ten billion, what do you think? Or how about 15 billion?”

The Zhangs had everything planned when they suggested the proposal. The worm-based beauty paste had been proven to be effective and would be a hit on the market. Even Qin Ming acknowledged the potential of this product. To Qin Ming, it would not be wise to give the Zhangs the right to manufacture the product in exchange for 15 billion.

Even Mr. He, Mr. Huang, and Mr. Ma all took turns to make their offers. Their demand was more or less the same, though some of them had less rigid conditions.

“Take a look at all these people! We’re here to help you. You should just agree to their terms and conditions and pay us back the penalty, so we can compensate our customers too.”

“Your son will still have to face the music even if you decide to commit suicide. You cannot run away from your responsibility! We’ve been business partners for years, and you can’t do this to me!”

“Why don’t we check out the Insect Valley and

see if we can find any stocks? I've ordered the longevity pills, and I need the stocks. Or else, I'll be in deep trouble."

"Good idea! How do we get to Insect Valley?"

"Come, let's go."

Just when the debtors decided to make a trip to Insect Valley, the villagers went up and stopped them. They were all armed with wooden sticks and shovels.

"You want to go to Insect Valley? Over our dead bodies!"

"Who brought them here?"

"Stay where you are. I'm warning you."

The ferocious dogs were also barking nonstop.

The villagers were not ready to take a step back. In fact, they even went up and surrounded the debtors. The debtors were not easy to deal with either as they were large in number. Besides,

there were also quite a number of young man from prominent families like Bai Haocheng and their bodyguards. Both parties started shouting and cursing at each other.

Lin Yuanwang, who was still standing on the beam, was overwhelmed with sorrow. He looked down at his mother, wife, and daughter and noticed they were wailing like mad. Lin Yuanwang thought he had let them down.

He had always been a generous and charitable man and did not have a lot of savings. This was why he did not have enough money to overcome this financial crisis. Now that no one was willing to lend him a hand, his family had no choice but to suffer with him.

“Mom and Ping, I’m sorry.” Tears started rolling down his manly face. “I’m sure they’ll give you all a break if I’m dead, and I believe Qin Xiaoguang would help us, but how can I tolerate his humiliation? I’m sorry, mom. How I wish I could be a good son to you. Please forgive me.”

His mother still continued to shout in a hoarse

voice, "No, Yuanwang! We can get through this together!"

While the villagers were laying as many layers of blankets as possible on the ground, in case Lin Yuanwang decided to jump, the debtors continuously demanded him to settle the penalties.

All of a sudden, Lin Yuanwang straightened his back, and everyone was petrified at that point. Either he was coming down or was ready to jump down the building.

Qin Ming squinted and immediately nudged Long, "Quick! Get over to the other side and catch him."

Long paused for a moment but soon understood Qin Ming's instruction. The bridge was attached to the cliff of a mountain, and was connected to a village road and a stream at both ends. There were rocks all over the river, and anyone who plunged headfirst from the height of a six-story building would die without a doubt.

Long immediately dashed to the other side, and he grabbed a bamboo stick along the way.

While Long was crossing over to the other side, everyone else let out a scream all of a sudden. Just as Qin Ming had expected, Lin Yuanwang ran towards the other side of the building, tripped, and fell headfirst.

“Ah!” All the villagers shouted in fear.

Everyone was screaming like headless chickens, but Qin Ming was the only clearheaded person who predicted Lin Yuanwang’s next course of action.

At this point, Long used the bamboo stick as a pole and vaulted into the air.

While everyone was still gasping in shock, Long had already gotten hold of Lin Yuanwang. He crashed through the wooden window on the second floor and rolled into the room.

Once again, all the villagers responded with another scream and ran into the building to rescue

Lin Yuanwang.

In just a short while, they managed to rescue Lin Yuanwang. None of them were injured during the incident.

Despite being rescued, Lin Yuanwang still looked as despondent as ever. He thought his death could salvage the situation, but these people just refused to let him die.

Feeling absolutely weak and powerless, he turned around and looked at all his debtors, who were all standing around him.

Qin Ming, who was standing behind the crowd, instructed, "Long, make way for me."

"Yes, sir," Long responded in a steady voice.

He then stepped forth, grabbed the debtors on their backs, and shoved them aside. The bodyguards knitted their brows and were ready to stop Long from approaching them.

Yet, Long was a rough man and an experienced

veteran. He threw several punches at the guards and knocked every single one of them down.

Finally, everyone began to pay attention to Qin Ming, who was still looking calm and composed.

He slowly walked up to Lin Yuanwang and said, "Why are you in a hurry to end your life? I haven't had the chance to discuss business with you yet."

Lin Yuanwang looked at Qin Ming and felt so dejected that he did not realize Zhang Quanzhen was the one who brought him here to help him.

He still did not treat Qin Ming seriously. "You're Mu Hairan's grandson-in-law, and you're the one who rescued me. But you're just a live-in son-in-law. What can you do?"

A corner of Qin Ming's lips quirked up. "You're right. There's nothing much I can do. I just have a lot of money. That's all."

Qin Ming was not angry at Lin Yuanwang for disrespecting him.

After all, Lin Yuanwang had been running around for two months, and he was almost forced to jump off the building by his creditors. Having had several failed attempts in getting help, it was only normal for him to treat people lightly unless they threw huge amounts of money at him.

Qin Ming smiled and said, “Indeed, I have no abilities. I just have a lot of money.”

Lin Yuanwang looked at Qin Ming and said dully, “Then how much money do you have?”

Qin Ming said with confidence, “I have more than you can imagine.”

Upon hearing that Qin Ming had money to save the Lin family, all the creditors paused for a while.

“Is it true? Are you from a wealthy family? Well, you do look impressive.”

“Yeah, Mr. Lin. Why didn’t you tell us earlier that he has money to save your family?”

“Young man, how much money are you offering?”

Qin Ming didn’t want to answer these people. They were all bloodsuckers and only knew to exploit others’ interests.

However, Bai Haocheng stepped out and said, “Mr. Lin, don’t be fooled. He is the live-in son-in-law of the Mu family. His words are empty promises.”

Mr. Zhang added, “That’s true. How much money can he have? He doesn’t even have money to afford new clothes. Look, even his shoes are tattered. He’s just a live-in son-in-law.”

Mr. He went on to say, “He must be lying and trying to buy time. Mr. Lin, you must be wary.”

Qin Ming frowned. With these people chattering, he had no chance to speak to Lin Yuanwang. He raised his hand and said, “Long, get them to shut

up.”

Long grunted and immediately set off to grab a stick on the ground. Without warning, he turned around and swept it across the air.

“Ahh!” they shouted. Most of them were rich and pampered businessmen who weren’t used to such situations and didn’t have time to react. All of them were struck down by Long’s stick.

Several of them yelled, “F**k, get him!”

Bai Haocheng and other rich men also shouted, “Go up all at once and get his ass beaten!”

“Stop!” Lin Yurou yelled. She stood out and ordered the villagers to protect Qin Ming and his party in defense.

Domineeringly, she shouted, “This is the Lin family’s property. How dare you stir trouble here? Everyone, protect Mr. Qin and don’t let them get near.”

Bai Haocheng’s face was red and swollen after

being swept by Long's stick. Feeling ashamed and annoyed, he cursed, "Lin Yurou, I didn't despise you and even offered you ten billion as dowry. What else do you want? Did you think you are worthy of the Qin family? Don't think so highly of yourself!

"You..." Lin Yurou was angry and annoyed but didn't know how to refute him. She was afraid that Bai Haocheng would go on and blurt out the fact that she had slept with another man.

Bai Haocheng yelled, "What? Did I make a mistake? For the sake of money, didn't you sell..."

Suddenly, Qin Ming picked up a stone on the ground and quickly smashed it against Bai Haocheng's forehead.

Thud! While Bai Haocheng was yelling agitatedly, he didn't realize Long had taken down his bodyguard. Thus, no one was there to stop Qin Ming when he smashed Bai Haocheng's forehead with the stone. Immediately, blood started oozing from his forehead.

“Ah! You wench! You are just the live-in son-in-law of the Mu family. I am not afraid of the Mu family. Back then, that old fool Mu Hairan was driven out of Jing City by me. And you, you’re only their live-in son-in-law. F**k you! Ah!”

Thud!

Bai Haocheng’s rant offended Qin Ming and insulted his family. As a result, Qin Ming did not show him mercy and hit him again. He was not known as the Lord of Clearwater Town for nothing and wasn’t afraid of anyone in terms of fighting.

Bai Haocheng fainted on the spot after the second blow, and his blood spilled all over the ground.

Qin Ming dropped the blood-stained stone and said faintly, “Which one of you is not afraid of death?”

The rich men were horrified after seeing how Qin Ming knocked Bai Haocheng out then treating it like it was no big deal. Their subordinates and bodyguards had been taken out by Long earlier,

and they couldn't possibly fight him themselves.

Therefore, everyone got afraid, shut up, and said nothing.

Qin Ming clapped his hands, turned around, and said, "He deserved a beating. Now it is finally quiet. Can I talk now?"

Qin Ming looked around and found that no one dared to speak anymore. He said slowly, "Mr. Lin, please name a price. Our company can give you a loan. The annual interest rate is about the same as that of the bank. There are no conditions attached since I don't have anything I want from the Lin family. I only hope that my company is prioritized for any good business deals in the future."

Everyone was taken aback by Qin Ming's conditions. It was equivalent to giving away the money for free!

Indeed it was, but it was also to do the Lins a favor. Money was nothing to Qin Ming. What he wanted from the Lins was more than what money

could do.

This was especially since he wanted to bring Zhang Quanzhen under his command, so he had to deal with this matter without being too business-minded.

Besides, the Lin family was quite competent, as they were skilled in raising all kinds of rare and valuable insects. They only needed a flow of capital to tide over their difficulties and regain their vitality. After some time, they would no doubt be wealthy again.

By then, Qin Ming would be known as the savior of the Lin family.

The businessmen who were waiting to collect their debts were stunned.

“How is that possible?”

“You must be pulling tricks on us!”

“Pay us in a moment then.”

“Young people nowadays only know how to boast. I bet he hasn’t seen a hundred million before, not to mention tens of billions. Does he even know how much tens of billions is?”

Those creditors still didn’t believe Qin Ming and felt that he was bragging.

Qin Ming ignored them. Although he didn’t know how much ten billion was, Song Ying’s quarterly report on the net profit of the Huaxia region was tens of billions.

Lin Yurou couldn’t help but ask, “Mr. Qin, my grandfather hasn’t agreed to your additional conditions yet. But you... Are you agreeable?”

Qin Ming sighed and said, “Things have already ended up this way. If this drags on, I don’t know what else these people might do. Your father might lose confidence and seek death again. Since a man’s life is at stake, we can discuss my matter later.”

By the side, Zhang Quanzhen looked at Qin Ming and smiled secretly.

Lin Yuanwang took in a deep breath and said regretfully, "The hefty, liquidated damages we incurred this time is all because Qin Weiyuan set a trap for the Lin family. He gave us a large number of contracts and set sky-high liquidated damages. In the end, he was also the one who bombed Insect Valley. I have trusted him in vain. Mr. Qin, just lend me as much money as you can." Lin Yuanwang still didn't trust Qin Ming could be of any help.

Qin Ming chuckled, "I heard someone offered you sixty billion, but you didn't accept it. I'll offer you seventy billion. Is it enough for Lin family to recover?"

Qin Ming's words stunned the audience.

What a perfect example of "money carries weight." Indeed, a man of true talent never shows off. They didn't expect the humble-looking Qin Ming to be wealthier than them.

Or was he bragging?

Lin Yuanwang, who had given up hope, also

became dumbfounded.

Bai Haocheng, Mr. Zhang, and Mr. He could only afford ten billion, which was already a huge amount of funds. It was impossible to come up with such a large amount of funds without a wealthy background.

Yet, Qin Ming offered to come up with seventy billion? Is he being serious?

Only the Qin family which was ranked as one of the world's top wealthiest families, could take out sixty billion without blinking an eye. They were not on the same playing fields as ordinary wealthy families.

Wasn't Qin Ming the live-in son-in-law of the Mu family? Did he not know the Mu Family's status in Jing City? How could he have so much money?

Lin Yuanwang licked his lips and asked cautiously, "Mr. Qin, are you kidding me?"

Qin Ming said, "Of course not. Our company has

enough funds to make long-term investments. An investment of tens of billions is nothing to us. We even have investments of trillions.”

Everyone gulped. *Trillions in investment? What kind of investment is that? Civil engineering? Aerospace technology? Or is it for building a dam or high-speed rail?*

However, Qin Ming was still very calm as he said confidently, “Mr. Lin, are you going to refuse me once more?”

“I don’t believe it!” Suddenly, they heard someone ridicule loudly from behind the crowd, “Lin Yuanwang, stop putting on an act and delaying time. I have had enough of your nonsense. Pay up immediately!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“I don’t believe you!”

“Lin Yuanwang, stop putting on an act and delaying time. I have had enough of your nonsense. Pay up immediately!”

“These contracts have your company’s seal. You received the money, yet you failed to deliver the goods. Therefore, you will have to compensate us. Pay up the tens of billions instead of finding a little boy to buy time!”

“That’s right! Kid, you’re all talk, but where is the money? These are legal contracts.”

“What’s the point of talking about trillions if you don’t have the money? You’re a live-in son-in-law and also a poor man. You must be putting on an act!”

Those creditors started to confront them again. Qin Ming frowned, wondering if someone instigated their actions behind the scenes for another purpose. Their actions were too obvious, and it didn’t seem like they were doing this for money.

Qin Ming asked Long in a low voice, “Is there any news from Bi Yuan?”

Long shook his head and said, “Not yet.”

Qin Ming frowned. *Did I guess it wrongly? Anyway, it doesn't matter as it wouldn't affect what I'm about to do.*

Qin Ming asked Long to hand him the satellite communication device. Long put it in front of him after adjusting it.

Qin Ming then dialed Song Ying's phone and explained the situation. After that, he told her to contact the legal counsel from Lin Shenghui Tour Group and draw up a loan contract as soon as possible. He then told her to transfer twenty billion in his name to the company's bank account in batches to pay off the Lin family's liquidated damages and help them avoid lawsuits.

He looked as though he really had twenty billion, making the call in a calm and convincing manner.

However, everyone took out their phones and

saw no cell signal. How could he contact people outside the mountains?

“Keep up with your act. I don’t believe you.”

“You want to get rid of us with your act? Do you know how difficult it was for me to make my way here? There are three days left before the repayment date. I’m not leaving.”

“This guy’s acting is quite good.”

“Haha, does he plan to hide in Tuzhai to avoid us because he can’t afford the money?”

However, after they finished laughing, a villager suddenly ran over to Lin Yuan and said, “Sir, there is a call on the landline from our legal counsel. He said that Global Bank wants to give us a loan and needs your signature on the contract. There was also a person named Qin Ming who transferred twenty billion to our company’s bank account in batches.”

Lin Yuanwang was startled. Even if Qin Ming were bragging, there was no way his assistant and

his legal counsel would follow the act.

Lin Yuanwang looked at Qin Ming with mixed emotions. *Isn't he Mu Hairan's grandson-in-law? Isn't he rejected by the Mu family?*

Is he that powerful in the Mu family? Where did he get so much money?

Lin Yuanwang suppressed his emotions and asked Qin Ming politely, "Mr. Qin, may I borrow your satellite phone for a use?"

Qin Ming made a gesture for him to use it, and Lin Yuanwang took it quickly. With his trembling fingers, he immediately called the tour group and asked his subordinates to check the company's bank account.

There was really twenty billion in the bank account and it clearly showed that the amount was transferred in batches in Qin Ming's own name.

He truly had the money to carry his weight.

After Lin Yuanwang finished the call, he was in a daze for a moment.

Suddenly, he looked up and laughed.

He danced and went on to shake hands with Qin Ming, Zhang Quanzhen, Mu Xiaoqiao, and even with his daughter and the villagers. Everyone was a little scared by his behavior.

They wondered if Lin Yuanwang's erratic behavior was triggered by all that had been happening recently.

After Lin Yuanwang finished laughing, he took a deep breath and said, "Great! Everyone, listen. Chase all these creditors out of here. It is not time to make repayment yet. Now that I have money, I am not afraid of you people anymore!"

"Yes," the villagers answered. As soon as the villagers saw that Lin Yuanwang had recovered his former dominance, they also gained the confidence to drive out the bloodsucking creditors. With sticks and hoes, the villagers drove them out of Tuzhai.

Lin Yuanwang was behaving differently than before, and the creditors did not know what to make of it.

Has the Lin family been saved from danger and even revitalized?

Mr. Zhang muttered to himself, “How could this be? A live-in son-in-law of the Mu family actually has more money than us? It’s impossible. It’s absolutely impossible.”

Mr. Huang said in surprise, “Maybe he really is rich. Otherwise, how do you explain Lin Yuanwang’s sudden change in behavior? He was forced to commit suicide just now. Who is this Qin Ming? He gave away twenty billion just like that.”

Just as the crowd was busy tittle-tattling, Bai Haocheng regained his conscious at that time. While covering his head, he wailed in pain, “Ah, my head! I’m going to die! Qin Ming, you are dead! I want you dead! Ah! who spat at me? F**k. Why is the saliva bloody?”

Mr. He said regretfully, "Looking at Lin Yuanwang's reaction, he should have received the twenty billion as assistance already. How come I have never heard of this guy before? How is he so rich, yet there is no news of him at all? There wasn't such a person among the wealthy in the country at the last Hungry Ghost Festival."

Mr. Shao's face flushed as he said, "He is a live-in son-in-law, so why is he so rich? Isn't this embarrassing for us now? If news of this incident spreads out, how will we face other people? They'll know that we were defeated by his money."

Lin Yurou stepped forward in annoyance and announced, "The Lin family's beauty paste is only given to distinguished guests, not to troublemakers. Baiying, take everything back."

On the side, Baiying quickly did as she was told. Although she was old, her motions were as agile as Long. She rushed to Bai Haocheng, Mr. Zhang, Mr. He, and others and searched their pockets one by one. A while later, she retrieved five bottles of the precious beauty paste.

On the other hand, the bodyguards look tall and magnificent, but they can't keep up with her speed at all.

Even Long, who was standing next to Qin Ming, exclaimed, "Wow. This person looks old, but she has great speed."

Qin Ming asked, "Can you win her?"

Long said seriously, "Of course, Mr. Qin. You'll see soon what I'm capable of."

Zhang Quanzhen laughed and said, "It might not be the case. If you are in the ring, you may still win. However, if you are elsewhere, you may not, unless you have a gun. Lin Baiying is known to be the greatest sportswoman of our century. It's not so easy to defeat her, you know?"

Zhang Quanzhen's words fueled Long's arrogance, and he said, "Master Zhang. When I was carrying out missions all over the world, I met many strange people and saw many deadly tricks."

Qin Ming said, “Okay, let’s spar if there is an opportunity. Long can also avenge me for the incident at the airport gate, which greatly affected my mood.”

Baiying retrieved all the beauty paste in no time. She then presented them to Mu Xiaoqiao with both hands and said, “Ms. Mu, a distinguished guest like yourself deserves to enjoy the beauty paste. I hope you will stay young forever.”

Qin Ming murmured, “Did she hear what I said? Baiying sure knows how to please people.”

With Qin Ming’s funds and assistance, Lin Yuanwang became confident and drove out his creditors.

Qin Ming walked over to him and asked, “Mr. Lin, aren’t we letting them off too easily?”

Lin Yuanwang was taken aback and said, “We can’t keep them locked up, right? It’s illegal.”

Qin Ming laughed at his response. “We are all decent people. How can we do things that violate

the law? Anyway, I know how difficult the return journey is since I've experienced it before. There must be a boat and a local guide to leave by sea. There is also no cell signal here, and we can only contact the outside world with the landline in your village and my satellite phone, right?"

"Well..." Everyone's attention turned to Qin Ming's words. *What is he up to?*

Qin Ming smiled and said calmly, "What I mean is I have sent someone to deal with their boats just now. So they will better find an alternative way to return later."

Everyone was shocked. He already had it all planned out. The villagers all gave Qin Ming a big thumbs up.

Qin Ming smiled slyly. His plan was far more than that. The show had just begun.