

DAMN IT!

The girl didn't seem to be aware of this situation. Instead, she grabbed his shoulder and smugly asked, "Are you still trying to run?"

Han Jingru felt his breath hitch in his chest as he subconsciously twitched his nose.

It was only then that the girl noticed that something was resting on her chest. When she took a closer look, she screamed again and hurriedly stepped back.

"YOU!" The girl was so angry that she couldn't say anything else as she gestured wildly at Han Jingru.

Helplessly, he raised his hands to indicate that the situation had nothing to do with him.

The girl, however, thought otherwise. She thought that this unknown man had taken advantage of her. Seething, she raised a hand and looked as if she wanted to slap Han Jingru in the face.

Given that this was a misunderstanding, his expression became sullen when he realized that the girl intended to slap him.

“It’s not my fault.” said Han Jingru coldly.

The girl was stunned for a moment. *So he can talk! He was lying to me!*

Naturally, this made her even angrier, and whatever inhibition she might have had immediately left her.

In a flash, Han Jingru caught the girl’s wrist before it hit his face. “You’re a member of the Nangong family, I assume.”

The girl glared at him and gritted her teeth. “You knew, then? Yet you still lied to me and took advantage of me?”

“I apologize, but you don’t interest me in the slightest, nor do I have the intention of taking advantage of you.” Han Jingru sneered.

“However, before you hit me, I’d suggest asking for Nangong Boling’s permission. Let him decide

whether or not you have that right.”

When the girl heard this, she actually laughed out loud.

“Do you know what my relationship to Nangong Boling is?” asked the girl.

“Your father?” Since Han Jingru had to make a guess, this seemed to be the most plausible where her age was concerned. After all, if she were a mere plaything of his, she would not have been granted access to this place.

Even if she was his daughter, she was likely an illegitimate child at best.

“Ah, so you aren’t as dumb as you look. With that being said, do you think I still need to ask my father for permission to hit you?” There was no mistaking the arrogance in her tone. Not only did her father own this island, but she was also his most beloved daughter.

Han Jingru shook off the girl’s hand and said, “Even your father wouldn’t have the balls to act

so insolently with me.”

The girl laughed. She had to give this brat some credit for really knowing how to brag. Her father was the absolute master of this island, but he would somehow cower in the face of this idiot here? This had to be some kind of joke.

“Wow, you really are something. Who taught you how to bullsh*t your way through situations like this?”

“Well, to find out whether or not I’m actually bragging, why don’t you go and ask your father?” As soon as he finished speaking, Han Jingru turned on his heel and departed without a word. He had no desire to associate himself with this person.

The girl gritted her teeth in anger. This was the type of stubbornness that she could not bear. *That f*cking brat, ignoring me on my own goddamn island!*

“Just you wait! You’re not leaving this island alive!” She exclaimed at his retreating figure and

left in a huff.

Han Jingru smiled faintly. If she had indeed gone to Nangong Boling, he could almost predict the outcome that would soon follow.

If Nangong Boling were to find out who exactly she offended, there was no telling what he would do to her.

Besides, what kind of status did an illegitimate daughter like herself even have?

Even someone as powerful and respected as Nangong Boling could not compare his status with that of Han Jingru.

The girl rushed towards Nangong Boling's residence. It was a small villa facing the sea, yet it was his favorite place to live in. The villa was expertly designed to best ensure the personal safety of Nangong Boling. It also had the best scenery on the island. Every morning, Nangong Boling would have a cup of coffee on the balcony and enjoy the sea breeze in peace.

As she approached the villa, she stopped herself again, knowing that he did not like to be disturbed for no reason. Thus, she could only wait for Nangong Boling to be finished with his morning routine.

It was normal for Nangong Boling to only appear after ten o'clock at least, knowing that he savored his quiet moments of solitude.

Today was different, however. Han Jingru was supposed to help him locate the spies on the island. Since the matter was of great importance to him, Nangong Boling decided to forego his morning coffee routine today.

After he got dressed, he then walked out of the villa.

“Ya’er? What are you doing here?” asked Nangong Boling puzzledly when he noticed the girl standing outside.

Hearing her name called, Ya’er immediately showed him her tear-stained face. She had planned and played the part of an aggrieved

woman quite well.

“What’s the matter? Did someone bully you?” asked Nangong Boling with a gentle smile. She was his favored daughter, after all. And since she was a girl, it was only natural that she deserved more protection.

“I wasn’t just bullied, Father. This person has no respect for you either!”

Upon hearing these words, Nangong Boling suddenly found himself at ill-ease. This was his island! Who would dare offend him?

Of course, this was under the assumption that it was someone apart from Han Jingru.

“What happened?” Nangong Boling could sense that something was not right. At the same time, he was frantically praying that this had nothing to do with Han Jingru. Nothing good could come out offending someone like him.

“Early this morning, I went to the beach and saw a stranger. I wanted to tell him off, but I never

thought that he'd ignore me! He even went as far as to say that you would be afraid of him too!" Ya'er began her tirade tearfully and paused for dramatic effect. "How can there be someone as defiant as that brat on our island?"

At this exact moment, Nangong Boling knew who his daughter was referring to. A trace of anger flashed in his eyes.

What happened next wiped the smug look off Ya'er's face.

Nangong Boling immediately raised his hand and gave his daughter a hard slap.

"Father, why did you hit me?" The sting of the slap left a ringing in her ears still as she looked at him incredulously.

"On this island," said Nangong Boling through gritted teeth. "You can offend anyone except him."

Ya'er was dumbfounded. Could this brat be so powerful that even her own father dared not lift a

finger against him?

“Come with me and immediately apologize to him. If he doesn’t forgive you, then you are hereby banished,” said Nangong Boling coldly.



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Nangong Boling's words had left Ya'er completely stunned.

She had met a completely unknown brat in her own home.

To her, this person was playing some kind of horrible trick and did not even deserve to leave the island alive. After all, this was the property of the Nangong family.

But she never imagined that things would turn out to be this way.

“What are you doing? Hurry up.” Nangong Boling commanded her coldly when he noticed she was frozen in place.

Forget my daughter. Anyone who offends Han Jingru will suffer the same fate.

Han Jingru was the one person that Nangong Boling could not afford to offend. With his power, Han Jingru could easily wipe out the Nangong family, and nobody could do a thing about it.

“Father, why should I apologize to him?” Ya’er could not fathom the rationale behind his seemingly unreasonable request. For one, he was a brat who was throwing his weight around in her own home! Even if the brat were somehow special, could he be as powerful as the Nangong family?

Her protests only served to fan the flames of Nangong Boling’s anger.

Why?

*Do you need a f*cking reason?*

Han Jingru was a deity in the flesh. What right did mortals have to negotiate with God?

“I don’t care if you’re in the right. You made a mistake by provoking him, so now you must apologize. Do you really think that the Nangong family can just willfully offend anyone they meet?” asked Nangong Boling coldly.

Ya’er was silent. *Has it not always been this way?*

The Nangong family is the largest private entity that controls the world's economy. Don't we have the right to do whatever the hell we want?

“No, I refuse,” said Ya’er through gritted teeth. She didn’t want to embarrass herself in front of that brat.

Hearing her refusal, Nangong Boling’s face became even more frosty. He walked over to Ya’er and grabbed her by the hair. At the moment, it seemed that she was no longer being treated as his most favored daughter, or even his own flesh and blood.

“Do you seek the destruction of the whole family? No, I won’t let you do this.” Nangong Boling held her by the hair in a vise-like grip and dragged her along to look for Han Jingru.

No matter how she struggled and she shouted in pain, Nangong Boling did not waver.

Ya’er suddenly seemed to realize the gravity of the situation. Nangong Boling had never treated her like this harshly before. She also

acknowledged that the Han Jingru was not someone to be reckoned with.

“Father, let go of me first!” cried Ya’er.

Nangong Boling pretended not to hear, and did not respond at all.

Along the way, they ran into other members of the Nangong family. A lot of them were confused about the situation, but nobody dared stop Nangong Boling or ask about what happened.

Quite simply, while the Nangong family were the rightful owners of the island, they would not exist as they are today if not for Nangong Boling.

Therefore, Nangong Boling never had the need to explain himself.

On the island, nobody dared to offend or even go against Nangong Boling.

Soon, whispers were heard around the household.
“What’s going on?”

“Ya’er is his most favored daughter. What did she do to make him so angry?”

“Who knows? The girl is too spoiled for her own good, so she must’ve f*cked up big time.”

Soon, the entire family learned about what happened to Ya’er, but nobody knew why.

By the time Nangong Boling dragged Ya’er to the VIP residence, the whole family was in a whirlwind of gossip.

They had not seen Han Jingru in person, but everyone knew that a very esteemed guest had arrived on the island and was now living in an area that had not been used before.

They deduced that Ya’er had someone offended the distinguished guest, drawing the ire of Nangong Boling. This made everyone wary and at ill-ease.

“Kneel,” said Nangong Boling sharply after he let go of Ya’er’s hair. He had no desire to investigate the situation any further because he had made a

judgment call. He knew who was right and who was wrong.

Given Han Jingru's status and capabilities, it seemed impossible that he would go out of his way to provoke Ya'er. Ya'er, on the other hand, was the type to hide behind the prestige of the Nangong family and offend people.

Ya'er's expression was unwilling and unyielding all the same. She was his most favored daughter! How could she be expected to just kneel?

To make matters worse, everyone else in the Nangong family already knew about this disgraceful incident. Her many siblings would laugh at her. How was she going to maintain what was left of her dignity?

"Dad, can't you save me some face? If I make such a public apology, how am I to continue living on the island?" Ya'er looked at him as piteously. She was hoping that he would relent and feel sorry for her.

However, Ya'er could not imagine the extent to

which Nangong Boling had been serious about his threat of expulsion. Nangong Boling had no intention of letting her stay after this.

“Don’t worry. After today, you will be banished. You won’t have to face the people making fun of you,” said Nangong Boling mildly.

Ya’er’s eyes widened in shock. She initially thought that he was saying those things to frighten her. Seeing his demeanor now, however, she could tell that he was being absolutely serious.

Just then, she felt her soul leave her body. Her eyes, once spirited, were now dead and dull. She knew that if she left the Nangong family, she would be nothing. Even her survival in the future would be a monumental problem.

Without the protection of the Nangong family, how would she survive alone?

“Father, please, I was wrong! I know that I made a mistake! Please give me another chance!” The panic had already set in as Ya’er knelt and

begged for mercy.

Nangong Boling's indifference remained unwavering despite her cries.

Ya'er was his daughter, plus she was his favorite.

But if it involved Han Jingru, it did not matter who it was.

She's just a daughter. One of many. It's not like I'm lacking in offspring, anyway.

Just then, Han Jingru had finally returned to his residence after his morning walk.

When he noticed Nangong Boling and a kneeling Ya'er from the distance, a ghost of a smile came upon his lips. *Well, Nangong Boling, you seem to work quite efficiently.*

However, this is Ya'er's own doing. If she hadn't gone and complained to him, how would Nangong Boling have found out so quickly?

Nangong Boling walked towards Han Jingru and took the initiative to apologize first. “I have failed to discipline my daughter. That’s why she is so defiant.”

Han Jingru glanced at Ya’er, who had been scared silly by the whole incident. “Well, that has to do with your family. I’m not surprised that your daughter developed this attitude since she can afford to.”

Nangong Boling was unsure of what that sentence meant. He could not determine if Han Jingru were asking him to be held accountable for this.

Under such circumstances, Nangong Boling could only decide on a punishment himself. That way, Han Jingru could put the matter behind him.

He was about to speak when Han Jingru interrupted him. “I’m leaving today. The ones responsible for these brands should also go to Yun City, with your permission. Their presence is needed to develop the west district. As for your spy problem, I’ll have that sorted out as soon as

possible.”

“Very well,” replied Nangong Boling. These were small matters, after all. Nangong Boling had also prepared his own measures to catch the spies.

After lunch, Nangong Boling assembled all the core personnel on the island, including his subordinates and the members of the Nangong family. A crowd soon gathered in the guards’ training grounds.

There was a simple explanation as to why he called for them. Nangong Boling could not even trust his relatives. With too many people vying for his position, the emergence of these spies came as no surprise. After all, some were waiting to see him dead so they could squabble over the family property.

The square was densely packed with hundreds of people, all with equally puzzled expressions on their faces. Nobody knew why Nangong Boling had gathered them there today.

“Did something happen? Why did he summon so

many of us?”

“Apart from the members of our clan, look at who the others are.”

“No way, even the top brass is here. Is something big going to happen?”

“Who knows, maybe it’s related to Ya’er. Didn’t you hear? She offended his esteemed guest!”

“I heard she had to kneel. It must’ve been very serious!”

Just when the speculation was going around like wildfire, Nangong Boling appeared. Soon, a pin-drop silence enveloped the square.

It was at gatherings like this that Nangong Boling’s power could truly be ascertained. Regardless of what everyone’s status was, the people gathered there looked up to Nangong Boling with great respect and awe.

“I think you all know what happened last night,”

Of course, everybody knew about the skirmish that happened last night. But it was nothing new, so they did not worry about it too much.

However, this was different. The situation last night was by far the most dangerous assault they had experienced. If not for Han Jingru, there was no telling what could have happened.

“These people know where Nangong Island is. Do you know what this means?” continued Nangong Boling.

No one dared answer this question because they all understood the implications. They also understood why he gathered them here.

This was a witch hunt. He was looking for spies, and everyone present was a suspect.

“For so many years, I’ve been on the lookout for spies, but there are always some rats who manage to slip through the cracks. People have been leaking information about us and the island to the outside world. These people may be embedded deep in our ranks, or maybe the lot of you are

very confident in your abilities as sleeper agents. Today, I intend to expose you for what you are.”

While speaking, Nangong Boling paid close attention to the changes in everyone’s expressions but did not harbor too much hope in that. After all, if a few simple words could expose these spies, then how did they manage to stay hidden for so long?

Han Jingru and Xiao Long were observing from the shadows. They had yet to make an appearance.

Something about this hunt for spies made Xiao Long think the situation was odd.

Nangong Boling had been so committed to this but failed to weed out every spy. How could Han Jingru manage what the other man could not?

“Boss, can you really expose the spies? Do you have some kind of weird X-ray vision?”

Han Jingru did not have X-ray vision, but he had something close enough. He was able to

manipulate his spiritual sense to infiltrate the consciousness of any ordinary person. All he needed to do was use this ability at will, and everyone's thoughts would be exposed.

“Are you still thinking about how you're going to whisk that woman away?” asked Han Jingru with a grin. “Did you catch feelings or something?”

Xiao Long's eyes widened. When he learned that the woman might die because of him, he had since been ruminating over how to save her. However, he had been unsure of how to broach the topic.

How did Han Jingru manage to see through my thoughts?

“How did you know?” asked Xiao Long, his expression incredulous.

Han Jingru shook his head and did not explain much. “Be careful. Even if you manage to save her, you cannot control such a woman. The life she desires is something that the Nangong family can provide, but do you think you're up to the

task?”

You want me to compete with the Nangong family?

Xiao Long was someone who had no status or power. He could not even reach the standard of being relatively well-off, so how was he going to compete with the Nangong family?

“Are you kidding me, Boss? There’s no way I compete with that!” said Xiao Long with a pained smile.

“Even if you save her, she won’t be grateful to you. If anything, she’ll hurt you sooner or later.”

Xiao Long understood this, but he was reluctant to see her die on the island because of him. Even if he could not pursue a relationship with her, he was still willing to take her away and give her a chance at a better life. To him, this was still better than feeling guilt over her death.

“Boss, I am very self-aware. How could she possibly fall in love with me? It’s just that I don’t

want her to die.” said Xiao Long.

Han Jingru could not be bothered to pry into his true thoughts. Doing so repeatedly would harm Xiao Long’s health.

“If you really feel that way, then I can take her away,” replied Han Jingru.

“Thank you, Boss.” Xiaolong looked at Han Jingru gratefully.

Nangong Boling’s speech had just ended, so it was time for Han Jingru to take the stage.

Han Jingru came to Nangong Island as a distinguished guest, and not many people have actually seen him.

So when a youngster appeared, many people were puzzled, wondering whose child it was. Was he lost?

Nangong Boling waited for Han Jingru to take his place next to him. “This is a VIP guest of mine. He will help me locate the spies.”

VIP guest? That little brat is an esteemed VIP guest? Everyone gaped upon hearing Nangong Boling's words.

They had no idea what was so special about him. *How could someone like him be Nangong Boling's VIP guest? He looks nothing different from any other ordinary kid. Why is he treating him with such respect?*

It was all the more confusing when Nangong Boling entrusted him with the responsibility of finding the spies.

Regardless of their distrust of Han Jingru, no one dared speak their mind because they had no right to object to Nangong Boling's decision.

Even if he were to do something as absurd as entrusting the responsibility to a dog, they could only take his words seriously and nod in agreement.

Hidden amongst them were the spies, who couldn't help sneering internally.

They thought Nangong Boling was organizing this meeting because they had carelessly left traces behind. Now, it turned out that he resorted to seeking help from a little brat. What a joke!

Initially, they were a bit worried. But now, they started putting their mind at ease, letting their guard down. *Even Nangong Boling can't discover our identity, let alone a little brat like Han Jingru.*

“Jingru, thanks a lot for offering to help.”
Nangong Boling expressed his gratitude to Han Jingru.

The latter nodded and then started sauntering across the crowd. On the surface, he was strolling aimlessly, but little did they know he was actually using his mind-reading ability, invading their mind with his spiritual sense when he walked past them. No one could hide their inner thoughts from him.

It was an interesting experience. During the process, he found out that many of them were dissatisfied with Nangong Boling. Some even wanted to overthrow him and take over his

power.

Occasionally, he came across some freaks with twisted minds who were sexually attracted to their own family members. *Are they starting to show signs of moral turpitude after having stayed too long on the island?*

Right then, Han Jingru suddenly halted his steps in front of a man.

That man was Nangong Boling's subordinate whom he valued a lot; he had a great deal of trust in him.

“Why are you staring at me? Do you think I'm a spy?” The man was composed as he spoke.

“Are you not?” Han Jingru asked rhetorically.

With his expression as calm as before, the man snorted, “Huh! How ridiculous! I have been serving Mr. Nangong for ten years. No one ever doubted my loyalty. Do you think anyone will believe you?”

“You must have something to do with yesterday night’s attack. I guess you have a special way of communicating with the outside world. Let me guess, is it hidden in the Daonan Maple Forest?” Han Jingru said smilingly.

Upon the mention of Daonan Maple Forest, the man’s expression changed drastically. Han Jingru caught him off guard as he didn’t expect him to know about his secret in the maple forest.

“You... You’re talking nonsense!” The man was visibly panicked.

“We’ll find out if I’m talking nonsense after we check the maple forest out.” As soon as Han Jingru finished his words, Nangong Boling had come up to him.

He never doubted Han Jingru’s judgment. Although his henchman was accused of being a spy, there was little to no change in his facial expression.

He uttered blandly, “You’ve worked for me for so many years. I never expected you would be a

spy.”

With panic written all over his face, the man cried out, “Mr. Nangong, I’m not! He must have seen it wrongly! It’s not me! You shouldn’t believe him!”

“Well, the answer lies in the maple forest, and we’ll see about it. Let’s go!” Nangong Boling gave the final word.

To him, Han Jingru was a deity whose judgment was unquestionable. At this point, he was more than certain that the man was a spy. Now, he only needed to find the evidence.

“Fine! I’ve got nothing to fear as I’ve done nothing wrong!” The man still clung to the hope that Han Jingru wasn’t able to find his communicator.

Death would be his only outcome if they found out about his identity as a spy. Hence, he would never admit it unless and until they found the evidence to prove him guilty.

Nangong Boling looked at Han Jingru since the latter was the one who got to decide whether they should go to the maple forest now.

“There’s no rush. He’s not the only spy here. Wait till I identify all of them, then we can proceed to the next stage.” With that, Han Jingru continued to make his way among the crowd again.

At that moment, even those who were not a spy were anxious, fearing that Han Jingru would suddenly stop in front of them and accuse them of being a spy. If that happened, they could in no way disprove the allegation since Nangong Boling trusted Han Jingru wholeheartedly.

But of course, Han Jingru wouldn’t make a false accusation against the innocent for no reason. After all, these people were not his enemy.

Just then, he once again stopped in front of a person. At that instant, Nangong Boling lost his grip of composure, his face contorted with rage. It turned out that that person was none other than his younger brother!

“He is...?” asked Han Jingru, looking at him questioningly.

Nangong Boling uttered through gritted teeth, “Nangong Boyi! You’re my brother! I never thought you would betray me!”

Glaring at Han Jingru, Nangong Boyi looked as if he was offended. “You little brat! That’s nonsense! You said I’m a spy, but do you have any evidence to back your words?”

“There’s no need to rush. I will definitely show your true colors.” With that, Han Jingru continued moving forward. In the end, he managed to identify a total of ten spies.

Before this, Nangong Boling had never suspected these people because they were all either the members of the Nangong family or his trusted aides who had serviced him for years.

“You can dismiss the rest of them,” said Han Jingru.

Nangong Boling did as he said, waving his hand

dismissively at the others. All of them were relieved when they were allowed to leave because they all knew very well that death was awaiting ahead of those spies.

Facing the ten people, Han Jingru said smilingly, “Now, it’s time to search for your communicators. Don’t worry. I can guarantee that I will find them all.”

His smile was devilish and cruel in their eyes. If he really found their communicators, Nangong Boling would kill all of them for their betrayal without any hesitation.

Nevertheless, they put their faith in luck, thinking Han Jingru would fail in finding the communicators. Since all the communicators were hidden in the huge maple forest, it was not an easy feat to find them unless he turned the entire island upside down.

But soon, they realized luck was not on their side.

As soon as they entered the maple forest, Han Jingru walked straight toward the hiding spot of

one of the communicators as if he knew it was there from the beginning. Their faces fell upon seeing his ability to locate the communicator accurately.



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After ascertaining the owner of that communicator, Nangong Boling shot him dead on the spot. At that instant, the remaining nine people's expressions turned pale.

They realized they were doomed. Although they had no idea how Han Jingru found out about their identity, he proved that it was just a matter of time before he found all of their communicators.

Among them, Nangong Boyi was the one who regretted it the most. As Nangong Boling's brother, he could've enjoyed a lavish lifestyle for the rest of his life. But now, he had ruined everything and might even lose his life because of his betrayal.

He could only get rid of Nangong Boling if he wanted to take over the Nangong family. At this moment, only did he realize that he was dicing with death all this while.

"Boling!" He suddenly kneeled in front of Nangong Boling. With a remorseful expression on his face, he begged for mercy, "Boling, I know I messed up, but please give me another chance!"

Nangong Boling's face was grim. His ruthlessness and decisiveness were the very reasons he could lead the Nangong family to where it was today. Therefore, he wouldn't show mercy to anyone who dared betray him, even if it was his own brother.

He said coldly, "Everyone must pay for their mistakes. There is no exception, even if you are my brother."

Terror crept onto Nangong Boyi's face upon hearing his brother's words. All he wanted was a chance to redeem himself, but Nangong Boling made it clear that he wouldn't spare his life.

In a panic, he pleaded, "Boling, I'm your brother! Can't you forgive me for just once? I know, I'm an idiot, and I shouldn't have betrayed you, but we're a family! How could you kill me?"

Nangong Boling curled his lips into a distant smile but remained silent. *Family? If you really regarded me as your family, you wouldn't have betrayed me in the first place.*

Right then, Han Jingru asked, “Do I still need to find all the communicators to verify the truthfulness of my judgment?”

The coldness on Nangong Boling’s face was replaced by a sign of respect for Han Jingru. There was no need for Han Jingru to do that since he never doubted his judgment anyway. Thus, he decided not to take up any more of his time.

“There is no need. Thank you so much for your help,” he said.

Then, Han Jingru ordered, “Arrange a flight for me. I want to leave as soon as possible.”

“Yes.” He replied reverently.

During their exchange, Nangong Boyi and the others were surprised by Nangong Boling’s humble attitude as they knew he was never a submissive person. *Why is he treating Han Jingru with such respect? Could it be that that little brat has a higher status than the Nangong family? It can’t be! It’s impossible that there would be a more powerful and prominent family than the Nangong family.*

Han Jingru cared little about their speculation about his identity, and neither was he concerned about their doomed future.

He left the place as soon as he heard Nangong Boling's reply.

The only reason he helped Nangong Boling to identify the spies was that the Nangong family could be of use to him. Or else, he wouldn't even bother to meddle in this matter.

Although he had no idea about what was engraved on the monument, his instincts told him that it might be the key to defeating Qilin. The monument was of utmost importance to him, so he couldn't afford to let anything happen to Nangong Boling since the latter was the guardian of the monument.

On his way back to the villa in the VIP area, he came across Xiao Long and that woman.

Although Xiao Long had decided to bring the

woman with him, Han Jingru could tell that that woman was disdainful of Xiao Long. Most probably, these two would part the moment they left Nangong Island. He wondered if this would break Xiao Long's heart.

Xiao Long was a hooligan, but Han Jingru knew he was pretty much a newbie when it came to love. A woman, especially a pretty woman, could easily sweep him off his feet.

Currently, this was the exact situation that Xiao Long was facing.

Not only that the woman was beautiful, but she had been intimate with Xiao Long. To her, her relationship with Xiao Long was nothing but a deal to get what she wanted. Han Jingru was afraid that Xiao Long would lose himself in the sweet fancies of love and eventually end up with nothing but a broken heart.

“Boss.” Xiao Long trotted toward Han Jingru the moment he saw him. Fortunately, love and that woman's beauty had not blinded him to the extent of prioritizing his woman over his boss.

Han Jingru informed him, “We’re going to leave shortly.”

Xiao Long’s heart skipped a beat, and he unconsciously glanced at that woman. “Boss, can we bring her along?” he asked.

The woman, too, was aware that this was a life-and-death question for her, knowing that she would probably end up living a hard life if she was to continue staying on the island. Thus, she had made up her mind to leave with Xiao Long. But of course, she would part with him after that since she never wanted to have anything to do with him in the first place.

“Sure. But have you fallen in love with her?” Han Jingru asked.

With a wry smile, Xiao Long gave him a put-off. “Boss, I’m only a hooligan. How would she have eyes for someone like me? According to what she said, her family is rich. She was sent to the island because her family wanted to cozy up to Nangong Boling. It’s impossible that she would take a fancy to me.”

Han Jingru spoke up, “You didn’t answer my question. But anyway, you don’t need to belittle yourself. If her family really valued her, they wouldn’t even send her to the island. Probably, she is just the illegitimate child of a rich family.” Although Xiao Long didn’t admit it, he knew his worries had materialized.

If Xiao Long didn’t have feelings for that woman, he wouldn’t evade his question.

“Boss, why do you say so?” asked Xiao Long. He was bewildered as he couldn’t figure out how did Han Jingru come to that conclusion.

With a faint smile, Han Jingru explained, “If her family really valued her, they wouldn’t treat her as if she was an object, trading her for their benefit. If she were your daughter, would you send her away to someone just to suck up to that person?”

“Of course not!” Xiao Long replied firmly. If he had a daughter, he would regard her as a precious gift from God. There was no way he would let her become someone else’s maid for his own

benefit.

“That’s right. Even you wouldn’t send your own daughter away, let alone the rich.”

Xiao Long nodded in agreement. *Aww, she must be a poor illegitimate child abandoned by her family.*

He couldn’t help feeling sorry for her. *If it wasn’t for me, she could’ve stayed on the island. It’s all my fault! I’ve ruined her life!*



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Luckily, Han Jingru had no idea of Xiao Long's inner thoughts, or else he would give him an earful for blaming himself though it was in no way his fault.

Since that day the woman set foot on the island, her fate was no longer in her hands; she had lost the right to decide how she wished to live. It was not Xiao Long's fault that he chose her, but rather, it was her who decided to take the risk. Therefore, she should be the one to bear the consequences.

It was not long before the helicopter was ready to take flight.

Nangong Boling managed to get rid of all the spies in the shortest time possible before he came to see Han Jingru off.

None of the spies survived, including his brother.

"I hope we could meet again soon," he said, looking forward to unlocking the Ether Realm. He knew if they got to meet again next time, it would be his opportunity to enter that place.

Han Jingru replied impassively, “It won’t be too soon because I don’t have a death wish yet.”

Nangong Boling managed to hide his surprise upon hearing Han Jingru’s words. He had seen him demonstrating his great power before, and he knew how powerful he was. One could imagine how dangerous Ether Realm was if even a man like him couldn’t guarantee to survive from that place.

In Xenos, Han Jingru was invincible as he was the only person who ever reached the Alpha Stage. Nevertheless, Qilin’s power still posed a threat to him.

He was undoubtedly the strongest fighter among men, but Qilin’s formidable presence was an insurmountable hurdle to him.

Nangong Boling asserted himself, “I will wait for you.”

Han Jingru waved his hand dismissively before he boarded the helicopter.

On the other hand, the woman was rather doubtful of Han Jingru's identity. She knew he was Nangong Boling's honored guest, but the latter's attitude toward him pointed to the fact that he was not in any way an ordinary VIP.

She became even more confused when she noticed a hint of fear for him in Nangong Boling's eyes.

The Nangong family was the strongest among the prominent families in the world. As the head of the Nangong family, why would Nangong Boling fear him?

Could it be that this little brat is powerful enough to intimidate Nangong Boling?

The helicopter headed toward the nearest island country from Nangong Island. It was a country under the Nangong family's control.

Since the helicopter had a short flight range, they needed to take a long-haul transit flight in this island country.

The plane was already on standby. After they boarded the plane, the woman couldn't help fixing her gaze on Han Jingru as she was curious about him. She had no idea why Nangong Boling valued him so much.

At the same time, she was wondering if she could make use of him for her own benefit. If she had a bargaining chip, her family could no longer treat her as their tool.

Han Jingru, who was resting, could sense her staring at him, but he pretended as if he didn't notice it. He was unwilling to have any interaction with her.

Nevertheless, his act of ignoring that woman didn't discourage her at all.

When the woman left her seat to sit beside him, he knew he must deal with her once and for all.

Before she even started to speak, he beat her to it. "Are you curious about my identity?"

"As far as I know, Nangong Boling is the most

powerful person in this world,” the woman stated.

He uttered smilingly, “But you think I’m more powerful than him?”

The woman replied, “No, there’s something more than that. I noticed he is fearful of you.”

Her shrewdness was beyond Han Jingru’s expectations. It was true that Nangong Boling was fearful of him, and it was normal for a mortal to have fear, or rather, respect for a deity.

Nevertheless, he would not reveal his identity to her.

“Even Nangong Boling is fearful of me. Do you think I will let you have your way by telling you my identity?” he asked.

The woman was at a loss for words. Indeed, she had no right to inquire about Han Jingru’s identity.

Still, she was reluctant to give in. “But I’m your

subordinate's woman!"

Han Jingru chuckled at her brazen remark.

Xiao Long, too, looked shame-faced. Even though he was Han Jingru's subordinate, he had no right to know about his boss's secret, let alone his woman.

"Boss is trying to get some rest here. We shouldn't disturb him." Xiao Long rose to his feet as he urged the woman to stay away from Han Jingru.

Although he took a fancy to her, he still had some sense. He wouldn't allow her to ruin the relationship between him and his boss, let alone betray Han Jingru because of her.

The woman clenched her teeth. She knew Xiao Long had feelings for her and that if they became a couple, there would be a higher possibility of her getting Han Jingru's help.

Nevertheless, Xiao Long was only someone's petty subordinate. If she had a choice, she would

never be with someone like him because that would mean degrading herself.

She went back to her seat and closed her eyes to rest.

It was a silent journey. At the second transit airport, Xiao Long bade her farewell and left her with his contact number. That was a chance he took on their relationship.

Meanwhile, in Longyun City, Mo Lan had helped Han Jingru establish his office building. The signage of Dynasty at the entrance of the building was huge and eye-catching.

The citizens in Yun City were curious about Dynasty's background. Not only did it possess the financial ability to buy up an entire office building, but it also had Mo Lan to help with the purchase its purchase.

They believed the owner of Dynasty must be a powerful and influential person because not every Tom, Dick, and Harry could ask Mo Lan for a favor in Yun City.

Meanwhile, in the Su family's villa, Old Master Su gathered everyone for a meeting.

It was sure that the emergence of Dynasty would have an impact on the market. Even though they still had no idea of the industries the company is involved in, they must take everything into consideration by coming up with countermeasures in the face of the possible threats posed by Dynasty's sudden establishment in Yun City.

Of course, it would be best if the Su family could become Dynasty's business partner.

In the meeting room, the Su family members all looked sluggish, slouching in their seats. They straightened up the moment Old Master Su showed up.

After he took his seat, Old Master Su cut to the chase. "I bet all of you have heard about Dynasty setting up its office in Yun City."

“Father, now everyone in Yun City is talking about its establishment. Of course, we’ve heard about it.”

“I heard Mo Lan was the one who helped with the purchase of the office building. He even evicted all the other companies in that building.”

“The owner of this company must be no ordinary man when he could make Mo Lan work for him.”

Everyone spoke up in the meeting, except Su Wenlun, who held the lowest status among Old Master Su’s sons. Although Old Master Su wanted to promote him, being a mediocre person, he never made any contributions to the company. Thus, his opinions carried little weight.

“Father, do you know which business sector is Dynasty involved in?” asked Su Wenyi.

Old Master Su looked worried. “We still haven’t received any news about it. But from its great fanfare of buying an entire office building, I’m afraid it will have an impact on various industries and even the whole Yun City.”

Hearing that, his children fell into silence.

If Dynasty were involved in the building materials industry, it was inevitable that the Su family would take a beating. The Su family members wouldn't want this to happen.

Just then, Su Wenlun broke the silence when he asked meekly, "Father, what should we do now?"

His siblings couldn't help giving him the side-eye as if he had asked a stupid question. They thought there was no place for a useless man like him to speak in the meeting since he couldn't offer any help at all.

"Wenlun, don't speak out of turn! It's not like you can help anyway."

"That's right. Can't you just keep quiet and listen to Father?"

"Or do you have any better suggestion?"

Su Wenlun uttered through gritted teeth, "Since this is a meeting, everyone has the right to speak

up. Every one of you can speak, then why can't I?"

With a condescending smile, Su Wenyi rose to his feet and started pouring scorn on his brother, "Wenlun, of course, you have the right to speak. But do you think your "precious" opinion could be of help to the company? For all these years, did you make any contributions to the company?"

His acerbic remarks hit Su Wenlun where it hurt. It was true that he never had any achievements in the company. This was the very reason why the Su family had low regard for him.

"Enough! This is not a place for you to bicker!" Old Master Su reprimanded them coldly.

In the face of their father's anger, Su Wenyi reluctantly sat back down while Su Wenlun kept his mouth shut.

Then, Old Master Su began expressing his thoughts on this matter. "Although this is a crisis for the Su family, it can be an opportunity for us as well. Dynasty might want to collaborate with

local companies to gain a foothold in Yun City. If we get to become its business partner, it will be beneficial to the Su family's future development."

Yet, his children were uninterested, thinking that his thoughts were unrealistic. Since Dynasty was such a huge company, even if it were to collaborate with local companies, the Su family stood no chance at all.

"Is anyone willing to take charge of this matter?" he asked.

In an instant, Su Wenyi and the others kept their heads down to avoid making eye contact with their father. They were afraid he would entrust this impossible mission to them.

Seeing their reaction, Old Master Su couldn't help sigh internally. *A company will be doomed if its employees are unwilling to take responsibility.*

He asked again, "So no one is willing to take on the responsibility?" The discontent in his voice was hard to ignore.

Still, no one dared answer him.

Right then, Su Wenlun bit the bullet and stood up.

Su Wenyi and the others were dumbfounded as they had no idea what he was trying to do. *Is he going to stretch his body in the middle of the meeting?*

Su Wenlun made up his mind to take up the gauntlet. “Father, I wish to have a try. Let me do it.”

The whole meeting room fell into silence as they never thought Su Wenlun would volunteer himself. *Is he an idiot? He must be out of his mind!*

Su Wenyi mocked, “Wenlun, are you kidding me? Do you really think you can do it?” He thought Su Wenlun was biting off more than he could chew when he offered to accept the task that everyone had no confidence in accomplishing.

“Then are you going to do it?” Su Wenlun retorted.

Su Wenyi was left red-faced as his brother’s question put him in an awkward situation. He was unwilling to accept this unenviable task himself. Not only must he humble himself to please the people from Dynasty, but most importantly, he couldn’t get any benefit from it.

Su Wenlun continued to grill him, “If not, then why can’t I do it?”

Su Wenyi gritted his teeth, glaring at him. The hatred in his eyes was barely veiled. He wanted to refute him, but that would mean stirring up trouble for himself.

“Fine, since you think you can do it. But I’ll wait and see you fail!” Su Wenyi blustered.

Since Su Wenlun was the only one who volunteered, Old Master Su could only entrust the task to him. “Wenlun, I’ll leave it to you then. The company will give you its full support.”

“Thank you, Father. I will try my best.” Su Wenlun promised.

“Well then. We’ll end the meeting here.” With that, Old Master Su took the lead to leave the meeting room.

As soon as Old Master Su vanished from sight, Su Wenyi walked toward Su Wenlun as he intended to pick a fight with him. Although the latter was his older brother, he treated him with no respect at all.

He mocked sarcastically, “Well, it looks like my dear brother has successfully stolen the thunder today. You’ve really surprised me by accepting this unenviable task. Don’t tell me you really think you can do it.”

Su Wenlun stated calmly, “It’s still too early to come to a conclusion.”

Su Wenyi suddenly burst into laughter and then continued to provoke his brother, “You should at least know your place. Aren’t you aware that you’re the most useless person in the entire Su

family?”

Regardless of his scornful remarks, Su Wenlun was unperturbed. All he cared about was to prove his ability, and this was a golden opportunity for him to do so.

If he could secure a contract with Dynasty, he would have a say in the company. By then, Su Wenyi could no longer look down on him.

He held a confident expression as he spoke, “We’ll wait and see! Father will be impressed if I manage to secure the contract. By that time, I will be promoted while you will become my underling, just like how it used to be when we’re little.”

Su Wenyi was enraged when his embarrassing past was brought up.

“Don’t you ever forget how you used to hide behind me whenever we’re fighting with the others. I am your older brother, and I will always be.” With that, Su Wenlun left the meeting room.

Clenching his fists, Su Wenyi threatened through gritted teeth, “Su Wenlun, I will not let you succeed. Hmph! Let’s wait and see then. I’m not afraid of you.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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When Han Jingru finally arrived in Yun City, Dynasty had become the talk of the city. He was not surprised at all; from the moment he decided to re-establish the company, it was only a matter of time before this happened.

He rushed to school as soon as he got off the plane. Although it was not a long stay on the Nangong Island, the whole trip took up almost ten days, including the time spent on the road. He really missed Su Yimo a lot when he hadn't seen her for so many days.

“Boss, you're waiting for sister-in-law again, huh?” Xiao Long asked smilingly. Now, he finally knew that Su Yimo was the person his boss liked, not Qi Bingying. Although he still couldn't understand why Han Jingru would have eyes for the average-looking Su Yimo, it was not his place to question it.

Han Jingru nodded in response. He didn't object to the way Xiao Long addressed Su Yimo since it was just a matter of time before they became a couple. Although he knew this was unlikely to happen in the near future, he never stopped

hoping for it.

Of course, he never intended to wait until Su Yimo turned eighteen to confess his feelings for her. Yet, now it was not the right timing either as he was still unsure if he could beat Qilin. Or else, he would've long gone to the Restricted Area of Apocalypse.

Xiao Long was curious as he voiced his concern, "Boss, I heard there's a lot of people looking for you. I wonder how they will react if they know you're here in front of a school." Although Dynasty was yet to be officially established, the company had stolen the Tian family's spotlight in becoming the most trending topic in Yun City.

In the whole of Yun City, only Dynasty was capable of having such a huge influence.

Raising his brow, Han Jingru uttered smilingly, "Did you forget that you're the one who's the CEO?"

Xiao Long was shocked that Han Jingru really wanted to make him Dynasty's figurehead.

He was distressed by his boss's decision since he was nothing but a hooligan. Despite being Han Jingru's subordinate, he was still a mere country bumpkin. He had not the slightest idea how he was going to deal with those representatives from other companies. Besides, he was inexperienced with the daily operations of a company.

He was ill at ease at the idea of it. "Boss, you must be kidding me. There's no way I can become the CEO."

With regards to the issue of appointing the CEO, Han Jingru had given some serious thought to it. He even thought of traveling to Bin County to ask for Tang Cheng. Nevertheless, he changed his mind eventually because he thought he could train his current subordinate to take on the task.

After all, be it Qin Fu from Yan City or Tang Cheng from Bin County, both of them had experienced failure before. They only found their road to success after they met him.

As with Xiao Long, Han Jingru believed if he gave him an opportunity and put enough pressure

on him, he would have an equal chance of succeeding. No one should deny his potential before he was even afforded a chance to prove his ability.

“From now on, I will send you to the Tian family to learn to become a CEO,” he said.

Xiao Long was at a loss. He knew Han Jingru was resolute in making him Dynasty’s CEO.

Nevertheless, it took time for him to accept the sudden change of his identity from a hooligan to the CEO of a huge company.

Although he was fearful of the unknown, he was determined not to disappoint Han Jingru.

After much consideration, Xiao Long made up his mind to accept the challenge. “Boss, I will try my best to adapt to my new identity, and I won’t let you down.”

“Everyone plays a different role in different stages of life. It is not that difficult to take up a new identity. Remember, you don’t need to be

afraid of anyone. Just treat those business owners like they are insignificant people, and you will be able to deal with them with ease.” Han Jingru paused for a while before he continued, “Regardless of their identity, they are just mortals. They won’t bite, so you need not be afraid of them.”

He reassured Xiao Long to put his mind at ease, but that was all he could do for him. It was up to Xiao Long to change his mindset.

A determined gleam flashed across Xiao Long’s eyes. “Boss, I think I got it.”

At this moment, the school bell chimed. Out came the rowdy students who started filing out in groups from within the school gate.

Han Jingru spotted Su Yimo and Qi Bingying. The two were chattering happily as they walked out. It seemed like they had become good friends.

Qi Bingying couldn’t help curling her lips into a smile at the sight of Han Jingru; his return was a surprise to her.

When she was about to run toward him, it suddenly hit her that Han Jingru was here for Su Yimo, not her.

Her heart sank at the thought while the smile on her face disappeared.

“Yimo, I’ll be going now. See you tomorrow!”
She bade Su Yimo goodbye.

Having no idea of the turmoil in her heart, Su Yimo replied smilingly, “See you tomorrow!”

Qi Bingying turned and left without greeting Han Jingru.

Han Jingru, too, pretended as if he didn’t know her at all when he made his way toward Su Yimo.

“Why are you here again?” Feeling shy, Su Yimo lowered her head to avoid making eye contact with him.

Her face flushed a crimson red, which reminded Han Jingru of their first encounter.

He answered, "I was away from Yun City for the past few days, and I'm finally back today."

Su Yimo was curious and maybe even a little upset when Han Jingru didn't appear the past few days. She was delighted when he explained to her the reason for his absence.

Just then, the resounding voice of a man rang out. "Yimo, who are you talking to?"

In an instant, a hint of panic flashed across Su Yimo's eyes.

Han Jingru cast his eyes over her shoulder. He couldn't help smiling when he saw Su Wenlun walking toward them. *Isn't that my future father-in-law?*

"What's going on here?" Su Wenlun asked, looking warily at Han Jingru.

Shaking her head anxiously, Su Yimo told Su Wenlun, "It's fine. Dad, why are you here?"

Her father glared at Han Jingru. "I'm warning you to stay away from my daughter! Otherwise, I'll take you out if you insist on bothering her!"

The latter shook his head helplessly and replied with a sheepish grin, "Su Wenlun, what do you mean by bothering her? We're friends!"

As a result of the teenager's odd way of addressing him, Su Wenlun frowned. What surprised him the most was the boy knew him.

The Su family's current status wasn't as prominent as it used to be in Yun City. With a handful of business partners, one would hardly consider them members of the upper echelon. Many simply deemed Su Wenlun as another ordinary man.

"Do you know me?"

Han Jingru stated, "I have heard of the Su family from Yun City. Despite the limited outreach, you

have the reputation for being one of the reliable suppliers for building materials.”

Su Wenlun was flattered by his words. The positive remark was a boost of confidence for the family business.

“I can offer you a great opportunity for your expansion,” Han Jingru added.

Su Wenlun had always wanted to prove himself worthy, especially in front of his colleagues. However, as an individual, he had limited time and resources. In spite of having the motivation, he couldn't achieve his goal.

With that being said, he thought the time for him to prove himself had finally come when he heard Han Jingru's offer.

“What is it?”

“Have you heard of Dynasty?”

Su Wenlun smiled. Naturally, every corporate player in Yun City had heard of Dynasty.

However, nobody was aware of their actual field of operation.

“Who doesn't? Does it belong to your family?”
He laughed.

To be precise, Han Jingru was the sole proprietor of Dynasty, but he would never tell Su Wenlun the truth.

He had long gotten used to playing the role of a sleeping partner in the company. Therefore, he wished to avoid getting himself involved in complicated situations.

“I don't, but I have some insider news.”

Su Wenlun's eyes widened in disbelief when he heard Han Jingru's words. The corporate players of Yun City had been speculating about Dynasty's nature of business because they wished to collaborate with the corporation.

Since the former had just volunteered to negotiate with its representative, he would love to figure out Dynasty's upcoming plan to gain the upper

hand.

Nevertheless, he refused to believe a teenager could figure out the internal affairs of Dynasty.

“Dynasty has just been established. Only a few in Yun City knows of the organization's internal plan. What makes you think you're one of them?” Su Wenlun countered.

“I'm a good friend of the owner. Actually, we're best friends,” Han Jingru explained confidently.

Su Wenlun's heart started racing because the young man seemed to be telling the truth.

He desperately needed insider news to put him in an advantageous position.

“Do you have anything on your schedule tonight? Why don't you drop by our place for a meal?” Su Wenlun asked.

Han Jingru peeked at Su Yimo from the corner of his eyes. He finally had the chance to dine with her. Although they wouldn't get to spend time by

themselves, he would settle for less.

“Sure!” He asserted without a second thought.

“Great! Here's the address! I'll be anticipating your arrival tonight!”

After Su Wenlun handed over the address to the young man, he brought his daughter back. He had butterflies in his stomach and couldn't wait for dinner time to come sooner.

If Han Jingru could provide him with useful insider news, he could finally prove himself a worthy member of the Su family. He wouldn't allow such a fantastic opportunity to slip by his side.

“Yimo, what do you know of your friend?” On their way home, Su Wenlun asked Su Yimo because he wanted to get to know Han Jingru better.

Since the teenager was a friend of the owner of Dynasty, Su Wenlun thought the boy was a renowned figure as well.

However, apart from Han Jingru's name, Su Yimo was clueless about his details.

“Dad, I merely encountered him for a few times before,” she told her father the truth.

“A few times? Why is he willing to tell me such an important thing when you have merely encountered him a few times?” Su Wenlun lost himself in a train of thoughts. Seconds after he sorted out the things in his mind, he added, “Although I'm against the idea of you getting into a relationship with another man due to your age, I don't think it's an issue if he's serious about you.”

“Dad! What are you talking about?” Su Yimo was rendered speechless by her father's words because she had no intention of getting into a relationship. Although she enjoyed being around Han Jingru, she never thought of taking their relationship to the next level.

Most importantly, Su Yimo was conscious of the rationale behind Su Wenlun's action—her father wanted to leverage her relationship with Han Jingru to win him over.

“You know what? I have boasted to my colleagues that I would seal the deal with the representative from Dynasty! If I can't live up to my word, they'll make fun of me.” Su Wenlun heaved a long sigh of despair when he recalled his impulsive decision during the previous conference with his colleagues. Hours after he returned to his senses, he knew it would be close to impossible for him to strike a deal. Those affiliated with Dynasty would never appreciate the offer from the Su family when the mysterious figures of the corporation could deploy bigshots, such as Mo Lan at ease.

In fact, he couldn't even get to request an audience with the owner of Dynasty, let alone strike a deal with such an influential corporation.

When he was about to give up, things took a turn for the better—one of Su Yimo's friends turned out to be a close acquaintance of the owner of Dynasty.

Therefore, Su Wenlun changed his mind because he needed to win Han Jingru over. He was certain he could achieve his goal and seal the deal with

Dynasty on behalf of the Su family if his daughter were in a relationship with Han Jingru.

“Dad, I don't care what sort of bet you have with your colleagues! You shouldn't use me as your tool!” Although Su Yimo was young, she saw right through her father's plan. Along with her peers, they were exposed to all sorts of things nowadays. Therefore, they were conscious of the working principle of the cruel, harsh world.

“Can't you do me a favor? Do you really want others to humiliate me? Do you know why Su Ruijin and Su Huiqi won't stop picking on you? It's because I'm a nobody in the company. If I'm able to strike a deal with Dynasty, no one will look down on me anymore! They will have to stay away from you as well!”

Su Yimo had a troubled look when she heard her father's words. Whenever they returned to her grandmother's place, their relatives would boycott them because of his lack of achievement.

She was also afraid that she couldn't be of much help because Han Jingru and she were just

friends.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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When Su Wenlun caught a glimpse of his daughter's puckered face, he couldn't bear to force her. Since Han Jingru was joining them for a meal in the evening, he would probe further during the meal.

After they reached home, Su Yimo returned to her room and finished her homework while Su Wenlun started preparing the ingredients for the meal.

Meanwhile, Jiang Yan was out for mahjong sessions with her friends. After she got married to Su Wenlun, she had never once stepped into the kitchen, let alone prepare their meals.

Jiang Yan resented her husband. She had married him for his family's wealth, but he turned out to be an outcast, shattering her dream of living a prosperous life.

Nevertheless, she still held a glimmer of hope for Su Wenlun because of the Su family's building materials trade. In the event of her in-laws' death, she could still get her hands on a small fortune.

To maintain their relationship, Su Wenlun would give in to her absurd requests and put up with her outbursts. His behavior was another contributing factor Jiang Yan hadn't filed for a divorce.

At seven o'clock in the evening, she finally returned home. Despite having a great mahjong session with her friends, her expression darkened the moment she stepped into the house as though her family were indebted to her.

“What's with the feast? Have you hit the jackpot? Aren't you afraid of wasting the food? Do you have any idea how much it cost us to make ends meet every month?” When Jiang Yan saw the dishes on the table, she started complaining about the extravagance. While she didn't have to waste her time cooking, she wouldn't condone others wasting the family's money.

A woman with a peculiar persona, she would rather lose a fortune at the gambling table than splurge on her loved ones. Her family's financial condition was never her concern. She would go to great lengths to doll herself up ostentatiously, showing others her best side of hers.

In fact, Jiang Yan would force her husband to turn to his family for a handout when she ran out of money.

“I prepared a few extra dishes for a guest who will be joining us for dinner tonight,” Su Wenlun explained.

“Oh? It seems like someone has been doing well lately, huh? How dare you invite others over without my consent? Su Wenlun, are you trying to defy me?”

As the breadwinner and the head of the family, he was also a henpecked husband. Her constant abuse often left him without a shred of dignity.

Instead of getting upset by her harsh words, Su Wenlun replied with a grin, “I didn't ask for your consent this guest is very important to me.”

“What? Is he going to bring you a fortune if you treat him a meal?” Jiang Yan replied contemptuously. Money was the only thing she cared about.

Su Wenlun shook his head and told her what happened in the conference room a few hours ago.

She felt enraged after she figured out the truth.

Occasionally, she would talk about Dynasty with her friends during their mahjong sessions. They were amazed because Mo Lan had shown up and purchased an entire building on behalf of the mysterious corporation.

She couldn't believe her husband had the audacity to volunteer himself for such an impossible task. It was only a matter of time that they became the laughingstock in the family again.

Crossing her arms out of frustration, Jiang Yan reprimanded her husband, "Su Wenlun, have you lost your mind? Are you aware of the reasons no one from your family has volunteered themselves? You're the dumbest man I have ever met!"

"I know! They don't dare to volunteer because they know they can't possibly achieve it!"

“How dare you reply to me in such a righteous manner? Since others are aware of this, what makes you think you can? When have you turned into such an arrogant man? What the hell has gotten into you?”

Initially, Su Wenlun thought Jiang Yan would praise him and show her support. To his surprise, she blamed him for being a reckless man.

The henpecked man couldn't hold back his anger anymore.

He always tried his best to tolerate her, but she had crossed the line this time.

Su Wenlun gritted his teeth and rebuked, “Jiang Yan, I don't expect you to offer your help, but you shouldn't look down on me like those selfish guys! You're my wife! Do you think you can get away unscathed if I fail? You have no choice except to rely on me if you wish to live the carefree life you desire!”

His rare display of anger dumbfounded Jiang Yan. This was one of the few times he seemed to

be infuriated for real.

Nonetheless, she wasn't intimidated by her husband's response at all. She would never allow him to challenge her authority in the family.

“Why are you raising your voice at me? Are you trying to say I have been living off you all this while? Seriously? Do you think a mere few thousand can fulfill my needs? If I don't work hard and win some money from my friends, we might be starving now!” Jiang Yan rebuked with a horrendous look.

Su Wenlun started panting heavily because she had misrepresented the facts. Although his income could barely sustain the family's lifestyle, he was their sole source of income. Jiang Yan wouldn't get to join her friends for mahjong sessions if it weren't because of him.

Suddenly, Su Yimo walked out of her room.

She had long gotten used to her parents' relentless conflicts.

“Hurry and wrap things up, okay? Han Jingru will be reaching soon,” she announced.

When her father heard her words, he finally regained his composure. He couldn't afford to embarrass his family and himself in front of an outsider.

“This is my one last chance to turn the tables as a member of the Su family! You better stay out of this!” Su Wenlun warned Jiang Yan.

The latter was baffled because her husband had no intention of backing down.

Consequently, she knew she had to take things seriously as he seemed to be telling the truth.

Does that mean Su Wenlun may get the chance to prove himself and change his pathetic fate? If that's the case, I will get to live a carefree life soon!

Money was the only thing that kept her mouth shut. Since she was one of the beneficiaries of his action, she stopped picking on him.

She started thinking about different ways to deal with Su Wenlun should his plan backfire.

The moment someone knocked on the door, Su Yimo rushed over and answered the door to welcome their guest.

Han Jingru didn't show up empty-handed. Instead, he brought along a few gifts with him. Although those weren't luxurious items, they were sufficient to prove his sincerity.

On the other hand, Jiang Yan, who had been anticipating his arrival, was disappointed the moment she saw the teenager. She couldn't help but think Su Wenlun was joking with her.

How the hell is this brat going to help him seal the deal with Dynasty? He's merely a teenager; a minor!

She suppressed her frustration and did her husband a favor by concealing her emotions to save his pride.

“Welcome, Jingru! Come, join us! The dishes are

ready!” Su Wenlun greeted Han Jingru enthusiastically.

It had been some time since he last returned. Therefore, Han Jingru felt sentimental all of a sudden as he recalled the things he went through the first time he dropped by Su Yimo's place, including everyone's arrogant attitude.



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Han Jingru felt a sense of relief. Jiang Yan's displeasure was written all over her face, but Su Wenlun and Su Yimo treated him courteously. Since he was reborn, he wouldn't allow others to humiliate him and take him lightly anymore.

Although Jiang Yan looked down on Su Wenlun and thought he wouldn't be able to strike a deal with Dynasty, she got her hopes high because she would have to rely on him to achieve the carefree life she sought.

Initially, she couldn't wait for Han Jingru's arrival, but the moment he showed up, she got disappointed because she deemed the teenager in front of them useless.

She thought the feast was a waste of ingredients. A three-course meal would be more than sufficient.

After she got up from her seat, she rushed over to her husband's side and pinched his ear right in front of their guests. "Su Wenlun, are you kidding me? Do you really think he's able to help you seal the deal with Dynasty?"

Jiang Yan voiced out her doubts in front of Han Jingru and didn't bother to speak in euphemism at all.

Usually, her husband would tolerate her absurd behavior. He wouldn't even mind being ridiculed by her. However, he couldn't stand it anymore because she had humiliated him right in front of the person who might connect him to the representative from Dynasty.

Most importantly, he was afraid Han Jingru would be infuriated by his wife's belittling remarks.

Su Wenlun demanded, "Remove your hand."

His wife had never taken him seriously. Thus, she remained unfazed.

"Su Wenlun, are you trying to order me around? Ha! I will never give in to you! What are you going to do about it?" Jiang Yan behaved like a shrew, relentlessly ridiculing her husband in front of the youngsters.

Su Wenlun took a deep breath and collected his thoughts. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity he couldn't afford to miss. Therefore, he would never allow Jiang Yan to offend Han Jingru. If she ruined his only chance to turn the tables, his life would be over.

Seconds after he made up his mind, Su Wenlun raised his hand and slapped her arm.

His wife released the grip from the excruciating sensation on her arm.

When she was about to throw a tantrum, Su Wenlun warned her indifferently, "If you don't behave yourself, scram at once. This house belongs to the Su family. I won't allow you to have your way here."

Jiang Yan was taken aback by her husband's words. Over the years, she had gotten full of herself because he would rarely talk back, let alone raised his hand on her.

It was evident she didn't expect he would rebuke and resort to violence for a stranger.

A sense of insecurity overwhelmed her when she saw the ferocious glare in Su Wenlun's eyes. Her husband seemed to have morphed into a different man, emanating an intimidating presence.

“Su Wenlun, I dare you to repeat yourself?” Jiang Yan refused to back down from the challenge.

Finally, he unleashed the frustration he had been keeping to himself over the years and yelled, “This house belongs to the Su family! If you have anything against us, why don't you leave us alone?”

The enraged man finally reclaimed his honor as the head of the family.

If Han Jingru wasn't around, Su Wenlun might opt to keep things to himself. However, since he had the chance to change his pathetic life, he chose to stand up for himself for once because he desperately needed the opportunity.

Su Wenlun knew should things turn out well at the end of the day, Jiang Yan would return to him in the near future. After all, she was a gold digger

—nothing fascinated her more than money.

Even if he failed to achieve the fame and fortune, he wouldn't need her by his side anymore because he could easily get his hands on any women he desired.

“Su Wenlun, have you lost your mind? How dare you treat me like this! I won't forgive you for hitting me!” She immediately reached out to claw at his face.

The observant man reacted accordingly and stopped her, returning the favor with a slap on her face.

The sound echoed in the living room.

Han Jingru peeked at Su Yimo's response. To his surprise, she showed no signs of interfering or stopping them.

*Does that mean she has long gotten used to this?
Does she not care about her parents' relationship?*

Meanwhile, Jiang Yan cupped her swollen cheek

as her eyes bulged in disbelief.

Throughout the years, Su Wenlun had to deal with everything himself because she wouldn't play the role of a mother and a wife. Thus, she had long gotten used to living with a henpecked husband.

When she felt the tingling sensation on her face, Jiang Yan knew it wasn't a hallucination. Su Wenlun had morphed into another man overnight, behaving like the head of the family he should be.

“If you're willing to join us, feel free to stay. However, please leave us alone and stop getting in our way if you think otherwise.” Su Wenlun pointed at the entrance. Since things had gotten to the point of no return, he had nothing to lose. Her attitude over the years had driven their relationship to the brink of destruction. He wouldn't mind filing for a divorce.

The humiliation was too much for her to bear. “You better remember your words, Su Wenlun! If you don't get down on your knees and beg for mercy, I will never return!”

She left right after she made herself clear, but her husband had no intention to stop her at all.

Similarly, Su Yimo didn't look at the departing woman as though she couldn't be bothered by her mother's departure too.

After Su Wenlun took a deep breath, he forced a smile and told Han Jingru, "I'm so sorry you had to witness that."

The latter diverted his attention and said, "It's fine. Look at the dishes you have prepared. Everything seems so delicious. I can't wait to try them out!"

"Oh! Let's dig in!" Su Wenlun suggested.

Throughout their meal, except for the insider news of Dynasty, Su Wenlun talked about all sorts of things. He was afraid Han Jingru would be displeased if he cut right to the point. On top of that, it wasn't appropriate to bring up such a heavy topic while they were having their meal.

Suddenly, Han Jingru asked, "Have you heard of

the west district?”

“Of course. It has been a deserted area for years. There are many abandoned factories there. The government showed their interest to redevelop the area, but no one wanted to be part of the initiative. Therefore, it remained a deserted area throughout the years. It would be tough to attract new players into setting up factories there.” A decade ago, Yun City was well known for being an industrial zone, but the last global financial crisis had led to the closure of the factories' operation. None of them could sustain their operation because of the limited demands. Whenever Su Wenlun recalled the past, he couldn't help but feel sentimental.



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Back in the day, he had witnessed the fall of the factories and the desperate countermeasures the operators had to resort to in order to stay in the industry. They went around, begging others for a chance for collaboration, or a joint venture with a third party. It was one of the darkest periods in Yun City's history. In fact, the Su family's building materials trade was adversely impacted as well.

He snapped out of the sentimental moments and returned to his senses because he found it odd for Han Jingru to mention the west district out of the blue. *Does that mean Dynasty is going after the plot of land in the west district?*

“Dynasty isn't going to reestablish the factories in the west district, is it?” Su Wenlun directed a rhetorical question at Han Jingru. The factories were long abandoned and would require a huge capital to re-establish a new industrial park. The fortune that was associated with the major plan would allow Su Wenlun to prove himself worthy amongst the Su family.

“It has nothing to do with the factories,” Han

Jingru replied nonchalantly.

Su Wenlun frowned. Apart from establishing an industrial zone, he couldn't think of anything else that could contribute additional value to the plot of abandoned land.

“If it's not an establishment of an industrial zone, what could it possibly be? I can't think of anything else that's going to bring value back to the plot of wasteland.”

“The west district is going to become the new central business district, Yun City's center of economy.”

Su Wenlun was dumbfounded yet amused by the absurdity of Han Jingru's reply. Redeveloping the west district into a metropolitan area was mission impossible!

There was no way Yun City's economy could fulfill the requirements of turning the west district into a central business district.

No matter what sort of grand plan Dynasty had, it

would merely turn into another well-developed wasteland because Yun City was nothing but an eighteenth-tier city.

“Are you sure your friend is going to do that? Isn't he aware of the issues? To be honest, the city lacks the capability to function as a central business district.” Su Wenlun shook his head helplessly.

“Of course, it's impossible with just Yun City alone. However, it would be different if we can attract the interest of foreign investors.”

Han Jingru's boastful words sounded unreliable in his ears. It wouldn't be tough to attract the interest of foreign investors, but it would be a challenge to gain their trust. There literally wasn't anything that could pique the interest of foreign investors due to the city's limited potential.

With nothing to gain, it would be a reckless decision to invest in Yun City.

“Jingru, I'm afraid your friend is a tad bit too naïve,” Su Wenlun blurted out his thoughts.

“Actually, you're underestimating his capability. You think he's naïve and can't achieve the goal of developing the west district to bring in globally renowned brands from all around the world. The moment he introduced these brands to one investor in the region, it will cause a chain reaction that's beyond your imagination. Soon, Dynasty Mall, the largest mall in the Asia-Pacific region, with all the globally renowned brands, will be built in the west district,” Han Jingru replied with a bright grin and a determined look.

Globally renowned brands? The brands have their own flagship stores established in first-tier cities all around the world. Not even second-tier cities could attract the interest of these representatives. Why would they want to set up their stores in an eighteenth-tier city?

Although Su Wenlun had his doubts, judging by Han Jingru's expression and tone, the teenager seemed to be telling the truth. If that were the case, his friend really could turn the impossible into a reality.

It would be great news for Su Wenlun because

the development of an entire district would require a lot of building materials. Coincidentally, the Su family was a supplier for building materials. Should they seal the deal with the representative of Dynasty, they would be one of the first-tier families in Yun City.

Once Su Wenlun thought of the possibilities, he couldn't suppress his excitement anymore.

He gasped in shock and asked after he caught his breath, “You're not kidding me, are you? Are you sure your friend can pull off such an impossible feat?”

“Within three days, the regional representatives of the brands will reach Yun City to discuss the terms and conditions of the agreements with the person in charge of Dynasty. Why don't you wait another few days and see for yourself?” Han Jingru suggested with a smile.

Su Wenlun gulped as a numbing sensation ran down his spine because Yun City would never be the same if Han Jingru was telling the truth.

“J-Jingru, I-I'm sure you're a-aware of my family's trade.” the former stuttered.

“I do.”

After Su Wenlun took a deep breath, he asked, “If you can help me seal the deal with Dynasty, I'll give in to whatever demands you have in store for me. How does that sound?”

He knew nothing he had nothing to offer to Han Jingru. However, he couldn't allow the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to slip by his side. He had to give it a shot; it might be his only chance to turn his pathetic life around.

“I believe you're aware there are a lot of companies out there that are far more capable than your family.”

“I do! Although the Su family isn't the best in the industry, I can assure that we are the most reliable business partner! As long as Dynasty is willing to work with us, we promise to seal the deal at a profit margin that's below the average market rate!”

“Are you in a position to make such an important decision?” Han Jingru queried because he was aware Su Wenlun was but a small fry.

He couldn't possibly decide for the entire management team. Nevertheless, Su Wenlun ensured Han Jingru it would be fine because the former was certain his father would make the same call.

Although sealing the deal at a profit margin that was below market average would impact the Su family's revenue, they could gain more than financial gains, including fame and authority if they could be a part of the development team.

Once they were acknowledged as a member of the upper echelon, they could easily generate a fortune whenever they wanted.

Therefore, Su Wenlun was certain his father would give his consent and adhere to the demands of the representative of Dynasty.

“Don't worry! You have my word!” Su Wenlun asserted seriously.

“Actually, it's my friend's company that we're talking about. He has the final call to decide if he wants to work with you and your family. I'll set you up for a meeting in person and have you deal with him yourself.”

“Y-Yes, t-that will be fine! I really appreciate your help and time for arranging the session and telling me the insider news!” Su Wenlun said sincerely because there should only be a mere few in Yun City who knew about the mind-blowing news.

Su Wenlun and the Su family had the advantage of being one of the selected few. Perhaps, they could seal the deal with Dynasty before the appearance of their peers and competitors.

After Su Wenlun finished the meal, he headed out before cleaning up because he would have to talk about the deal with Dynasty with his father. Since he had promised a profit margin that was below market average, he would have to work out the details with his father.

Meanwhile, Han Jingru stayed behind and cleaned up with Su Yimo.

She did it effortlessly in a few minutes as though she had gotten used to doing house chores.

“Have you always been handling the house chores?”

“My mother doesn't do anything when she's home. She spends most of her time bullying my father, so I have to help him and share the burden.”

Han Jingru chuckled because Su Yimo seemed to have enough of Jiang Yan.

That must be the reason she didn't bother to poke her nose into her parents' fight or her mother's departure.

Perhaps Su Yimo had long wished for Su Wenlun's retaliation against Jiang Yan.

“Do you think I should help your father?” Han Jingru asked.

His bluntness shocked her.

She might be young, but she was appreciative of her father's hard work. If the man wanted to be a key member of the family, he would have to seal the deal with Dynasty.

Su Yimo knew Han Jingru had a say in the matter.

“Are you serious when you say the owner of Dynasty is your friend? You're not bluffing, are you?” she replied with another question.

Han Jingru smiled. “Of course! Why would I make something up? If I can't set them up for a meeting in person, do you think I have the audacity to promise your father?”

“I don't think you're making something up, but I know you're keeping something from us. What is it?” She had a hunch that he was the sole proprietor of Dynasty, and his so-called friend didn't exist.

Her confrontation rendered him speechless. He

was certain she had her suspicions.

No matter what, he wouldn't admit that he was the owner of Dynasty.

“I'm a minor. Do you seriously think I'm the owner of Dynasty when I can't even register for a business legally?” Han Jingru countered with a sheepish grin. “Besides, do you really think I'm that capable?”

Su Yimo frowned. She couldn't verify her hunch because she didn't have the proof to back her statement.

“Why are you holding out an olive branch to my family?”

“I did it for you.” Han Jingru didn't hide his affection for her. Although his confession might backfire, he found it unnecessary to lie. After all, he would have to do it someday in the near future.

“Why?” Su Yimo was confused.

“Will you believe me if I say you're my future

wife?”

Su Yimo giggled. “Are you going to tell me reincarnation is a thing? I'm not a fool, okay? I won't be deceived by your words easily!”

Han Jingru shook his head helplessly. While most people thought of reincarnation as a myth, he had experienced it firsthand.

Things would never be the same because he could change the outcome of the events he had gone through. He would get to spend his life with Su Yimo without humiliation from his previous life.

“I'm telling you the truth! You may not believe me now, but I have faith you'll soon figure out what I meant!” Han Jingru asserted with a determined look. He couldn't rouse her memory because she hadn't gone through the things in this life yet.

If he could find Fu Yao's energy bead and merge it with Su Yimo to let her glimpsed into their past, he could prove he was telling her the truth.

“Have you told anyone what you have just told me?”

“No!” Han Jingru said without hesitation. It wasn't a pickup line that he could flaunt.

“I must admit your version of the story is quite intriguing, but don't you think Qi Bingying is a better candidate?” Su Yimo asked.

He frowned at her question. Evidently, she knew they were friends. However, Qi Bingying had been avoiding him the whole day. So how could Su Yimo have known?

“We're acquaintances,” Han Jingru explained.

“It's an undeniable fact that's she far prettier than me.” Su Yimo blinked innocently.

Qi Bingying was indeed pretty, and she would grow into a gorgeous woman. Even if Su Yimo were to magically morph into a diva, her looks still couldn't rival Qi Bingying's beauty.

No woman could replace Su Yimo in Han

Jingru's heart, no matter how beautiful she was.

All he felt for Qi Bingying was guilt. He would never fall for her.

“You're not supposed to measure our relationship in such a manner, okay? Have you forgotten I told you that you used to be my wife in my previous life?” Han Jingru asked.

Su Yimo pursed her lips. *He's such a great storyteller; it's so convincing.*

“I'll consider it if you're able to do my father a favor.”

He smiled. It was the best outcome out of the worst possible situations after his confession. He was glad she wasn't particularly against the idea of taking their relationship to the next level.

Helping Su Wenlun was a piece of cake. An instruction from Han Jingyu was all it would take to onboard him as a member of the development team.

“Don't worry! Since I'm around, it'll turn out just fine!”

“Of course, you're the boss,” Su Yimo replied nonchalantly.

He knew it was a double innuendo to trick him into telling her the truth, but he behaved as though he didn't hear it.

While they were cleaning the table after their meal, Su Wenlun had made his way back to the Su family's place.

Old Master Su enjoyed brewing a cup of tea, spending his idle time in the courtyard during the evening. He had always been a huge fan of the bright full moon.

“Dad.”

Old Master Su heaved a long sigh after sipping his tea. He placed his cup aside before asking, “What's wrong? Have you regretted your decision?”

“No! I have great news for the family!” Su Wenlun exclaimed in excitement.

His father, who had his eyes shut tight all this while, widened his eyes in disbelief because he didn't he would receive positive feedback from his son so soon.

He never held any hope for Su Wenlun to achieve such an impossible feat. To his surprise, his son seemed to have made it.

“What sort of news are you talking about?”

“I haven't sealed the deal with the representative of Dynasty, but I have some insider news that will give us an advantage! I'm sure we'll be able to gain the upper hand!”



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Old Master Su's curiosity was piqued by the insider news Su Wenlun had acquired. He beckoned his son over to join him.

The latter could barely conceal his joy at having the chance to join his father. All along, Old Master Su disliked others interrupting him while he was indulging himself in the evening. He enjoyed sipping his cup of tea by himself, appreciating the sense of serenity that was brought along by the session.

“Are you sure the news is reliable?” he queried, still in disbelief that Su Wenlun had pulled off the seemingly impossible feat. With his son's capability, Old Master Su had his doubts about how his son had gotten his hands on the exclusive insider news.

Su Wenlun had ruled out the possibilities of it being a hoax. Han Jingru had nothing to gain by lying. Therefore, he decided to share the news with Old Master Su.

“Dad, don't worry. It's from a reliable source. In fact, the news has something to do with us!” Su

Wenlun announced.

The patriarch frowned. The only thing that concerned their family was the business. *Is Dynasty looking for a supplier for building materials?*

“Stop keeping me in suspense! What is it about?” he asked anxiously.

“Dad, do you remember the wasteland in the west district?”

Old Master Su nodded in anticipation of the remaining news.

Meanwhile, Su Wenlun took a peek at the pot of tea that was on the table. Immediately, Old Master Su served his son a cup of tea.

Su Wenlun was thrilled and finished it the moment he took it over from his father. He added, “Dynasty's first project is to develop the west district!”

Once again, his father frowned. That area was

nothing but a plot of wasteland; even the government could do anything about it. Old Master Su couldn't comprehend the benefits with the development of the west district.

Is Dynasty going to re-establish an industrial park in the west district? Does the corporation possess such capabilities to attract the attention of other entrepreneurs to set up their factories there? It's going to take more than a mere one or two factories to revive the wasteland.

“What do you mean by developing the west district?” Old Master Su probed further.

“They want to turn it into Yun City's new central business district! In short, the west district will be a brand new metropolitan!” Su Wenlun explained the details of the news.

Old Master Su was dumbfounded for a few seconds. Then he waved his hand in disbelief—a reaction his son had shown Han Jingyu a while ago.

Are they seriously trying to turn the west district

into the new CBD? It's just a dream from a fantasist corporation?

Theoretically, Yun City could barely sustain the demand towards a metropolitan area.

Although Dynasty had the intention to inject the capital required to develop the west district, Old Master Su thought the project was undoable because of the city's limited resources when the supply exceeded its demand.

“You're not being tricked, are you? Yun City is merely an eighteenth-tier city. Even if the city has a brand new metropolitan area, it won't be able to sustain itself for long because of the limited economic stimulus. How exactly will the district be developed?” He couldn't help but doubt the authenticity of the insider news his son had brought along with him.

Nobody knew a thing about Dynasty's financial status. He refused to believe someone would invest in a plan with a limited revenue.

The owner might be a man with deep pockets, but

he would be wasting his money in vain should he commit himself to such a foolish plan.

“Dad! I'm not even done yet!” Su Wenlun served himself another cup of tea to moisturize his throat before adding, “Dynasty Mall, a brand new mall will be built in the metropolitan area. It will be the largest mall in the Asia-Pacific region, garnering the attention of consumers from all around the world with globally renowned brands. In other words, Yun City's consumers won't be the only source of income for the metropolitan area; consumers from all around the world will push Yun City's economic growth to a new high!”

Old Master Su chuckled. While it sounded like a flawless plan, it didn't make any sense for globally renowned brands to set up shop in a city with little to offer.

“I think you're being deceived by the so-called reliable source of yours.”

It was his chance to prove his worth in the family. Su Wenlun was suddenly agitated by his father's refusal to believe in him.

“Dad, I'm telling you the truth!” He enunciated each word with such conviction.

“Do you really think Yun City—an underdeveloped eighteenth-tier city—has what it takes to attract those globally renowned brands? Why?” his father countered.

Su Wenlun was at a loss for words because he lacked the concrete proof to show his father.

Since Han Jingru had assured him that was the plan and the regional representatives of the globally renowned brands would arrive in Yun City within the next few days, he was certain it was the truth. Otherwise, a few days later, his lie would be revealed.

“Dad, the representatives of the brands will be reaching Yun City to conduct due diligence soon! We must take the lead and have a say in the development team! Since a new metropolitan area will be established, you should have a better understanding of the demand for building materials better than me, right? We need to seal the deal with Dynasty before our competitors

figure out the existence of the plan!” Su Wenlun tried his best to persuade his father.

If it was the truth, Su family indeed had the advantage of being the limited few who knew the plan. However, if it turned out to be a blunt lie, they will be disappointed.

Regardless, it would be worth a try, since they had nothing to lose.

“I'll get someone to monitor the inbound passengers over the next few days. As for the collaboration with Dynasty, let's discuss it with the others during tomorrow's morning meeting.” Old Master Su announced his plan.

Su Wenlun got worked up again. He would have to disclose the details of the plan with his colleagues during the meeting. The news might be susceptible to mass disclosure if others knew and they would lose their advantage.

“Dad, I don't think it's necessary to expose our plan to such risks. What should we do if someone leaks it to a third-party?” Su Wenlun asked with a

concerned look.

“It's an internal discussion with the key members of the family. Why would they disclose confidential information to outsiders? Besides, if we want to secure the deal with Dynasty, we can always use an extra pair of hands to work out the details. If there's nothing else, you should return home.”

Su Wenlun's heart sank. If his cunning brother, Su Wenyi, figured out Dynasty's plan, he would definitely volunteer himself and snatch the credit from him.

Since Old Master Su had made up his mind, Su Wenlun had no choice but to leave as instructed.

On his way home, he couldn't help but heave a long sigh of despair. He regretted informing his father about Dynasty's plan.

The next morning, Su Wenlun rushed over to the company because he was afraid he would miss out on the conference. Since it was his only chance to change his pathetic fate, he couldn't allow anything to go wrong.

Old Master Su had informed others of the meeting, but none of the attendees were as anxious as Su Wenlun.

By the time Su Wenyi reached the conference room, he noticed Su Wenlun had already arrived ahead of the designated time.

Su Wenyi started ridiculing his brother with a contemptuous smirk. “Wenlun, you're always the first to show up, but why are you the last on the contribution list? Can you do something to prove yourself worthy yet?”

Su Wenlun shook his head, paying no heed to his brother's sarcastic remarks since he had long gotten used to it. In the past, he couldn't retaliate because of his limited capabilities and contributions towards the company's success.

“Su Wenyi, can you show some respect as my younger brother? Do you enjoy picking on me? Soon, I will hold a different position in the company! I'm afraid you'll have to flatter me when the time comes!”

Su Wenyi held on to his stomach and laughed out loud. *I will have to flatter him soon? What kind of bad joke is this? Everyone in the company knows you're a loser! Even the junior executives think so!*

“Wenlun, have you lost your mind? Why are you uttering such nonsense early in the morning? Do you really think I need to butter you up? Are you aware of the position you're holding in the hierarchical structure?” Su Wenyi thought his brother had suffered a concussion.

“We shall see. As soon as the conference begins, you'll know my contributions and the things I have achieved,” Su Wenlun replied nonchalantly.

Su Wenyi frowned at his brother's rare display of self-confidence.

Does that mean he has achieved something great? Did he seal the deal with Dynasty? How? It has merely been a day since we assigned the task to him!

Although Su Wenyi deemed it impossible, he felt a sense of insecurity deep down. If Su Wenlun kept his words, he would be promoted to a higher position that could be a huge threat to him.

No! Even if he reaches an agreement with Dynasty, I need to something fast! I can't allow him to have a say in the company!

The key members of the Su family showed up one after another when it was about time for the meeting. Old Master Su was the last to show up. As usual, he had his tea with him as he strode into the conference room casually.

Old Master Su couldn't live a day without his tea. If he couldn't get his daily dosage of the beverage, he would feel awful.

“Dad, why are we holding a conference this early today? What is it about? Is it something big?” Su

Wenyi couldn't wait to figure out the things that were in store for them.

After Old Master Su took a peek at Su Wenlun, he announced, "Indeed, I have gathered all of you here to talk about a major issue that's going to influence the operation of our company from now onwards."

When Su Wenyi caught his father's gaze at Su Wenlun, his heart skipped a beat. Although he suspected his older brother might have reached an agreement with Dynasty, he refused to believe it.

However, Old Master Su's response and attitude showed otherwise.

Su Wenyi gritted his teeth to suppress his frustration. All along, he had been oppressing his brother. Therefore, he couldn't allow the latter to change his fate. No matter what, he was determined to the man at the bay.

"Dad, what is it about?"

“Uncle, have we reached an agreement with the representatives of Dynasty?”

“Seriously? Did he achieve the impossible?”

Everyone in the conference room had always perceived Su Wenlun to be a wimp. They couldn't believe he achieved the seemingly impossible feat.

“As of now, we haven't sealed the deal with them,” Old Master Su said.

Su Wenyi heaved a sigh of relief when he heard his father's words. Su Wenlun was never known for being a capable man. Therefore, it wouldn't be much of a surprise if he couldn't seal the deal with Dynasty on behalf of the company. Instead, they would be taken aback if he managed to prove them wrong.

Old Master Su went on, “Although we have yet to reach an agreement with them, Wenlun has gotten his hands on important insider news that will allow us to gain the upper hand in the negotiation with Dynasty. As of now,

representatives from other companies aren't aware of it yet.”

Su Wenyi's heart skipped another beat when he heard this announcement. “What sort of news, Dad?”

“It's the mission and vision of Dynasty!”

Su Wenyi frowned. Such confidential information was limited to selected high-level personnel within the organization.

As of a few days ago, Dynasty had announced itself as a listed company. No one had ever seen their staff, let alone the owner behind the mysterious corporation. He couldn't figure out how Su Wenlun got his hands on the confidential information.

“Dad, are you sure you're not deceived by Wenlun? How did he manage to figure out such important information when Dynasty has yet to commence operation?” Su Wenyi looked at Su Wenlun while voicing out his doubts.

Old Master Su had a similar doubt when he heard about it last night. He couldn't help but suspect the authenticity of Su Wenlun's words. Up until the very second the conference was conducted, he still held his doubts. Nevertheless, he decided to proceed with the preparation, just in case it wasn't a baseless rumor.

“Let's put that aside for the time being. We need to get ourselves ready since we know of their plan. Even if it's merely a rumor, we have nothing to lose. However, if it's true, we have much to gain,” Old Master Su explained.

Since his words made sense, Su Wenyi couldn't think of better words to rebuke his father. He directed another question at the latter. “What is it about?”

Old Master Su looked at Su Wenlun and gestured him to announce the details. He wanted his son to receive the credit for bringing them this news.

For the first time in forever, Su Wenlun was given the chance to speak up during the conference. He finally felt appreciated and knew

it was merely the first step of his life-changing plan. From now onwards, he would gain an increasingly crucial role in the company.

He cleared his throat before sharing what he knew with the rest of his family.

Doubts and concern were written all over the faces of the attendees when they heard of Dynasty's plan to develop the west district into a brand new metropolitan area. They thought the mysterious organization's first endeavor would end up miserably with an enormous loss.

Unable to fathom the reason behind the decision, they thought the owner of Dynasty was a fool. Moreover, it would be close to impossible to attract the interest of globally renowned brands to set up their store in such an underdeveloped city.

“Wenlun, where the hell did you get such absurd news? Most importantly, why have you fallen for it? Although Dynasty could deploy Mo Lan to do their biddings, do you really think the owner of the mysterious organization wields influence over Yun City to the extent of a global scale? You

must be kidding me, right?” Su Wenyi asked rhetorically with a scowl. Yun City was but a speck of dust compared to the global market.



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