

Zhuang Tang's comment shocked Gong Tian. He never thought that his master thought so highly of Han Jingru.

“Master, if I didn't let my guard down, he would never have defeated me,” Gong Tian said indignantly.

Zhuang Tang smiled contemptuously and said, “Remember how strong you were before you entered Apocalypse and compare it to him. Then you'll understand the difference.”

After pausing for a while, Zhuang Tang continued, “He is the only one in a few decades with such immense power even before entering Apocalypse. Can you imagine how quickly he will grow if he joins the Apocalypse?”

Gong Tian couldn't rebuke him. If he compared Han Jingru to his past self prior to joining the Apocalypse, he would likely just be an insect in Han Jingru's face.

“Master, we can't ignore the fact that this might be the limit of his abilities. Maybe he won't get

any stronger if he joins us,” Gong Tian said.

“Does lying to yourself have any meaning?”
Zhuang Tang scoffed.

Gong Tian's head drooped helplessly. He didn't want to admit that Han Jingru was stronger than him, but it was an irrefutable fact.

“If Master makes the move, killing him should be no problem,” Gong Tian said.

“Of course it wouldn't, but if the Apocalypse finds out, only death will await us. Besides, I don't have a grudge against him. Why should I kill him? The only thing I can do is to inform the higher-ups and let them decide what to do with Han Jingru.” Zhuang Tang made up his mind. He couldn't risk his life. The worst was he would lose a bit of money. There was no need to go through a forbidden route. If he wasn't careful enough, he might not even get the chance to regret his actions.

Gong Tian was indignant. In the ring, he treated Han Jingru like a piece of trash, but if Han Jingru

entered Apocalypse, he would be that piece of trash. He couldn't accept this difference in status it entailed. But he didn't have a right to question Zhuang Tang's decision.

The next day, Zhuang Tang and Gong Tian left the Nangong Family without leaving a message. The Apocalypse needed to decide for itself what to do to Han Jingru. Zhuang Tang had to go back to inform them first.

“Grandpa, what happened? Did they just leave like that?” After sending the two people off, Nangong Sun asked Nangong Bolin in confusion.

The person who used to stand beside Nangong Bolin was Nangong Yan, but now it was Nangong Sun. A change in status like this was pragmatic, and it was commonplace in the Nangong Family. Whoever was competent would gain Nangong Bolin's favor.

The old man smiled slightly and said, “The people running errands in the office, who do they belong to?”

Nangong Sun frowned. *Aren't those people just ordinary people? Why would he bring up something like this?*

“Grandpa, what do you mean?” Nangong Sun asked, perplexed.

“Think of that level as a company. Gong Tian runs errands for that company,” Nangong Bolin chuckled. Gong Tian's sudden departure didn't worry him. Instead, it pleased him because it meant that Han Jingru wasn't someone who could be dealt with the likes of Gong Tian. The errand boy must've left to let someone more powerful than him deal with it.

Undoubtedly, people were wiser the older they got, and Nangong Sun didn't even think of this possibility. This was because he subconsciously thought that Gong Tian was someone unsurmountable; maybe only by being in Nangong Bolin's position could one understand that there was always someone stronger.

That level was an untouchable presence. Gong Tian seemed to be very impressive in their eyes,

but in their circle, he was almost non-existent.

Nangong Sun finally realized what Nangong Bolin meant, but he felt even more anxious now. The more attention Han Jingru garnered, the more Nangong Sun felt that he couldn't control him.

At that moment, Nangong Bolin suddenly sighed. It was clear that only Han Jingru could bring the Nangong Family to greater heights. Even if he obeyed and was threatened by Nangong Sun right now, the threats wouldn't last forever. When Han Jingru reached a certain altitude, Nangong Sun's threats would mean nothing anymore.

To Nangong Bolin, the best way was for Han Jingru to join the Nangong Family. Unfortunately, he rejected him in front of everyone.

Nevertheless, this didn't mean that Nangong Bolin didn't have a chance.

He had never met anyone who doesn't like money. If he showed Han Jingru what it was like

to be rich, he believed that the latter would be intoxicated with the feeling.

Nangong Bolin met Han Jingru in the castle.

“If you still want me to change my surname, I advise you to call it off. I'm born a member of the Han family and I will die as one too,” Han Jingru said flatly.

“No, I just want your help. The Nangong family has some troubles with business in the U.S., and I hope that you can solve it for me,” Nangong Bolin said.

The U.S.?

Upon hearing those two words, Nangong Bolin immediately thought of Qi Bingying. He didn't know how she was doing. With Han Tong's help, the Qi Family's troubles should be resolved.

“Nangong Sun and Nangong Yan are your grandsons. Shouldn't they be the ones to solve it for the Nangong Family?” Han Jingru asked.

“Their abilities are not enough to solve this problem. I don't know how Nangong Sun is threatening you, but if you help me with this, I will help you back too,” Nangong Bolin said. The issue in the U.S. can be solved if he just randomly sent someone there, but Nangong Bolin hoped to send Han Jingru instead. His motive wasn't for Han Jingru to solve the issue there, but for the latter to enjoy life as a rich and powerful man. Maybe then would Han Jingru willingly stay in the Nangong Family.

Of course, Nangong Bolin's actual intentions were to groom Han Jingru to be the next head of the family.

Nangong Yan was Nangong Bolin's first choice for the next-in-line of the head of the family, but he was nothing compared to Han Jingru. It was meaningless to even compare them.

Nangong Bolin didn't care if Han Jingru didn't have the Nangong bloodline. He just wanted to witness the moment when the Nangong Family ascend to the pinnacle of the world while he was still alive. Only Han Jingru could accomplish

that.

“Are you for real?” Han Jingru asked. If Nangong Bolin helped him to rescue Han Xiang, a trip to the U.S. wouldn't matter.

“Of course. I'm sure that Nangong Sun wouldn't dare to defy my orders,” Nangong Bolin said.

“I agree,” Han Jingru said.

Nangong Bolin laughed. The life of the rich was addicting with no restraints. No one could escape the pull of money.

But Nangong Bolin underestimated Han Jingru. To the latter, the world's riches didn't mean anything compared to Su Yimo's delicate smile, and of course, Han Xiang's too.

When Nangong Bolin told the Nangong Family that he was sending Han Jingru to the U.S., Nangong Sun was flabbergasted. It was obvious that Nangong Bolin had an ulterior motive to groom Han Jingru.

“Nangong Sun, I bet you didn't see that coming. Your dog is valued so much by Grandpa. It looks like your position as the head of the family is about to be stolen away,” Nangong Yan immediately met up with Nangong Sun. As the saying goes, the enemy of my enemy is my friend. They both faced the threat that was Han Jingru. To Nangong Yan, he must work together with Nangong Sun to deal with their common enemy.

“Let's see if he dares to,” Nangong Sun said furiously. He didn't believe that Han Jingru would actually do it, because Han Xiang was still in his hands. The position of the head of the family was the only reason for keeping her alive.

“I don't know if he dares to do it or not, but isn't it obvious why Grandpa is sending him to the U.S.?” Nangong Yan asked.

“I don't want to talk to you.” Nangong Sun planned to find Han Jingru immediately. He needed to force him to reject Nangong Bolin.

But as he walked out of the door, he ran into

Nangong Bolin.

“Grandpa,” Nangong Sun greeted subserviently.

“Are you preparing to look for Han Jingru?”
Nangong Bolin asked.

Nangong Sun didn't dare to speak. At that moment, Nangong Yan approached Nangong Bolin and said, “Grandpa, let me handle the issue in the U.S., after all, Han Jingru is an outsider.”

“I'm warning both of you. If anyone dares to cause any trouble when he's there, I will absolutely show no mercy. If you want to get thrown out of the Nangong Family penniless, feel free to try,” Nangong Bolin warned sternly.



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Nangong Bolin's words made Nangong Sun and Nangong Yan realize how seriously he treated this matter.

The two men never would've expected that there would be an outsider vying for the position of the head of the family. Moreover, it was someone whom Zhuang Tang admired.

This was a near-fatal blow to them.

After Nangong Bolin left, Nangong Yan said to Nangong Sun, "Don't tell me you didn't dare to touch him. After all, the position of the head of the family can't fall into the hands of someone from the Han family."

Nangong Sun sneered, "If you want to target him, feel free to try. Grandpa has already said it very clearly. If you want to get thrown out of the Nangong family, don't drag me along."

"Nangong Sun, are you compromising? Have you thought of what would happen if the Nangong family falls into Han Jingru's hands?" Nangong Yan coldly asked. He didn't dare to do anything

on his own, but he could cooperate with Nangong Sun. And if anything bad happened, he could always put the blame on Nangong Sun. His plan was ingenious. Unfortunately, Nangong Sun wasn't fooled.

“I know what you're thinking about. Don't treat me like a fool,” Nangong Sun said contemptuously.

“We are brothers, and Han Jingru is just an outsider. Shouldn't we join forces now?” Nangong Yan didn't give up.

“Brothers?” Nangong Sun sneered, “You have the gall to talk to me about 'brotherhood' when you backstabbed me so many times? Nangong Yan, you really are shameless.”

Nangong Yan clenched his teeth. As the youngest of the three sons, he did a lot to curry Nangong Bolin's favor, and it was exactly why he was valued by Nangong Bolin. His past actions couldn't be denied. But he thought that they could let bygones be bygones because the biggest threat was Han Jingru. They couldn't just let the

Nangong Family fall into his hands.

“I'm sure that you are clear about Grandpa's instructions; I don't need to remind you of that. Think for yourself. If not, you'll just end up as Han Jingru's dog.” Nangong Yan left immediately after saying. He didn't need to dance around with Nangong Sun any longer. He believed that Nangong Sun would find him when he thought things through.

Nangong Sun was displeased as well. He absolutely didn't want the position of the head of the family to fall into Han Jingru's hands.

But Nangong Bolin already spelled things out very clearly, and Nangong Sun knew that he wasn't joking. His grandfather wouldn't go back on his words. If Nangong Bolin found out he was conspiring against Han Jingru, there was a huge chance that he could be swept out of the Nangong Family.

However, Nangong Sun couldn't accept this fact, too.

“Han Jingru, your daughter is still in my hands; I don't believe that you would dare to fight for the position with me,” Nangong Sun said furiously.

Han Jingru was summoned by Nangong Bolin to his study before he left the Nangong Family.

The study was a forbidden place in the entire Nangong castle; no ordinary person had the right to enter it. Those who could were definitely valued by Nangong Bolin, for example, Nangong Yan. He took pride in being able to enter the study.

But Han Jingru definitely didn't share the sense of pride. To him, the study was no different from a toilet; one was for private business while the other for the family business.

“This is my subsidiary card. You can use it to fly airplanes or set off fireworks. If there is anything in the world money can buy, this card can help you with it.” Nangong Bolin passed Han Jingru a card made from a special material, and the word “Nangong” was embossed on it. There wasn't any account number on the card, but there was a

string of strange symbols.

“Aren't you scared that I would waste your money away?” Han Jingru raised his eyebrows and asked.

“My only worry is you will spend too little,” Nangong Bolin smiled.

“If it's as such, I will accept it graciously. Don't worry, I will definitely make good use of this card.” Han Jingru kept the card.

“I have another request. You are not to go back to Yun City. Otherwise, our agreement will be voided,” Nangong Bolin said.

Han Jingru smiled. He had originally planned to go back there to visit Su Yimo to reassure her, but he never would've thought that Nangong Bolin would make a request like this.

“Why?” Han Jingru asked.

“There's no reason. You'll follow my instructions and I'll honor our agreement. Anything wrong

with that?" Nangong Bolin asked assertively.

Han Jingru's heart sank. The biggest opportunity he had to rescue Han Xiang was to rely on Nangong Bolin, so he had to follow the latter's request.

"There's no problem, but I don't wish to be threatened by anyone in this period of time, especially Nangong Sun," Han Jingru said.

"Don't worry. I won't let Nangong Sun do that," Han Jingru guaranteed.

There was already a car waiting for Han Jingru outside of the castle. He went to the airport shortly afterward.

U.S., the Chinese district.

After Qi Bingying returned to the Qi family, the troubles they faced were all solved with Han Tong's help. They even got into business together with the Han family. They were a presence second only to the Han family in the Chinese District.

Qi Bingying had no troubles or worries. The only thing that worried her was the abundance of admirers. She was tired of dealing with the men because none of them could ever compare to the knight in shining armor in her heart.

“Bingying, are you zoning out again?” Qi Donglin approached Qi Bingying and asked her amiably. He used to worry a lot before their troubles were solved, but he never expected all of that to be resolved after Qi Bingying's trip to Huaxia. The fact that they could have such a good relationship with the Han family was totally unexpected to Qi Donglin.

Qi Bingying shook her head at Qi Donglin once she snapped out of her reverie. The thing she was scared of the most was that once she was free, she would unwittingly start thinking about Han Jingru.

She had already heard from Shen Zhuoman that Su Yimo gave birth to a baby girl, and Han Xiang had been kidnapped. But Qi Bingying was very worried that she heard nothing about Han Jingru, even though something that serious happened.

Qi Donglin knew how much Han Jingru loved Su Yimo. He didn't go back to Su Yimo when his daughter was kidnapped, only meant that he was facing a lot of trouble at that moment. Otherwise, how could Han Jingru stand by?

“Nothing,” Qi Bingying shook her head and said.

“What do you mean, nothing? Ever since you came back, you always zone out on the couch. Your mom and I guess that you have fallen in love,” Qi Donglin said. His daughter was in a period where she needed the nourishment of love, but she didn't even look at her many admirers. It only meant that she already had someone in her heart.

Qi Bingying had a flash of anxiousness. She hid the fact that she liked Han Jingru very well, and she didn't dare to tell her father that. After all, Han Jingru was someone with an impressive background. She was scared that her father would berate her for it.

“No, I don't have someone I like. Dad, if you're so free, why don't you go fishing? Don't you love

to fish?" Qi Bingying asked.

"I am an experienced person," Qi Donglin sat beside Qi Bingying and lamented, "I had a phase just like you in the past when I liked your mother. I thought about her so much. When I couldn't see her, I could only daydream about her. But what good would it do if you don't act on it? If I didn't take the initiative back then, I wouldn't have had you."

"Dad, I don't want to listen to your love story. Please don't brag about it in front of me," Qi Bingying said helplessly. As a singleton, listening to others talk about their love life was painful enough, let alone listening to her parents' love story.

"Alright, I won't brag anymore. There's an auction the day after tomorrow. Go check it out if you're free. I heard that someone mysterious and powerful is gonna show up," Qi Donglin said.

Qi Bingying shook her head, disinterested. Auctions like those meant nothing to her. Those were just avenues for people to show off their wealth, and she couldn't spark her interest at the mention of a powerful figure.

Her every thought was occupied by Han Jingru, to the point where she wouldn't bother if the other man wasn't him.

“Oh right, remember to dress up nicely. What if the powerful figure takes a fancy to you?” Qi Donglin reminded.

Qi Bingying muttered inwardly. *How could that be possible?* It was impossible for her to like that person, no matter who he was.

Qi Bingying knew that she was enthralled by Han Jingru, and that was a huge sin from the very beginning. But even if she knew that it was wrong, she still wanted to continue sinning. She didn't even want to change. Even if no good outcome could ever come out from it, she still wanted to try.

The bored Qi Bingying still went to the auction, but she dressed very plainly and wore a baseball cap. She looked just like an ordinary woman, unnoticeable in the crowd. Her glasses concealed her extraordinarily striking looks as well.

“Bingying, why did you dress up like this?” Qi Bingying's mother Ouyang Fei complained when she saw her daughter.

“Mom, isn't this very normal?” Qi Bingying didn't think that there was a problem anywhere. She even thought that it was very liberating to not endure the lustful gazes from the men.

Ouyang Fei turned and glared at Qi Donglin. “Didn't you tell Qi Bingying that there is a powerful figure showing up today?”

Qi Donglin smiled helplessly. He said it clearly, and he even purposefully reminded her. It's just that Qi Bingying didn't want to follow his advice.

“This is your daughter, don't tell me you don't know what her personality is like? If I didn't babble that day and ask her to dress up nicely,

maybe she would've worn something nicer," Qi Donglin said.

Qi Bingying had dressed this way because her father had deliberately reminded her. It was a small rebellion.

Ouyang Fei sighed, "My good daughter, don't you know that many people are dying to meet this powerful figure? Look at those dolled-up women. They all want to be fancied by that person! Look at you, you're so much prettier than them. Why can't you just step up on my behalf?"

"Mom," Qi Bingying affectionately held her mother's hand and said, "How powerful the man is none of my business. Besides, the Qi family don't need to rely on someone powerful anymore."

Since cooperating with the Han family, the Qi family never needed to curry someone else's favor anymore. But this powerful figure was different. There was even a rumor that his presence would affect the whole Chinese District, and that piqued Ouyang Fei's attention. However,

she knew her daughter well, and it was well-nigh impossible to change her mind.

“Look at you, how can I not scold you? You're not young anymore. Aren't you gonna think about your future?” Ouyang Fei said helplessly.

At the mention of that topic, Qi Bingying quickly changed the subject. “Mom, the auction is starting. Don't talk about those depressing topics anymore. If you fancy anything there just tell me, I will buy it for you.”

There was a hint of pride in Ouyang Fei's bitter smile. If it wasn't for Qi Bingying, the Qi family's issues wouldn't have been solved. They wouldn't even have the chance to join this auction, let alone bid in one.

The Qi Family owed their bright future to Qi Bingying, so Ouyang Fei couldn't really find any fault in her.

“If you don't bring home a boyfriend, I'll just have to arrange a date for you,” Ouyang Fei said.

This scared Qi Bingying so much she didn't even interrupt her mom. She didn't have time to deal with her courtiers, how could she deal with a blind date?

As the auction started, there was an unusual phenomenon. No one was paying attention to the items on auction. Instead, they were all looking around as if they were searching for someone. Qi Donglin and Ouyang Fei were no exception.

Qi Bingying knew they were all looking for that mysterious figure, and she was slightly curious. *What kind of person must he be to pique everyone's interest? Everyone here is a powerful figure themselves, and they are all pretty wealthy.*

Don't tell me he really is an extremely spectacular character? If not, how can he garner so much attention.

A plainly dressed Han Jingru showed up at the auction.

To the attentive guard, someone like that would definitely not be allowed in the auction. But

when he wanted to stop him, Han Jingru pulled out an invitation card, and it stunned the guards.

As he opened the gold invitation card, the guard said fearfully, "M-Mr. Han, you're finally here."

"Am I late?" Han Jingru frowned. "I overslept because the hotel room's bed was too comfortable."

Han Jingru's living conditions were terrible in the Terra Prison and the Nangong Family. When he was suddenly moved to a comfortable environment, he couldn't help but oversleep.

"Can I still go in now?" Han Jingru asked.

The guard was scared out of his wits. A VIP like him could come and go as they please.

"Yes, yes. Of course, Mr. Han. Please follow me," the guard hurriedly said.

"Sorry for the trouble," Han Jingru politely said.

The guard was surprised. He had seen his fair

share of wealthy people. Most of them were condescending and arrogant, but Han Jingru gave him a very amiable impression. He didn't have the bossiness usually associated with wealthy people.

It seems that the real big shots don't put on airs and graces.

“Mr. Han, there are a lot of products from Huaxia in today's auction. If you like it, you can go backstage and pick the ones you want,” the guard said.

Han Jingru smiled gently and said, “This is unorthodox; doesn't it break the rules?”

“No, of course not. A VIP like you will definitely receive special treatment from us. My boss reminded me just now to give you special access once you arrive,” the guard said. Of course, the boss gave him permission to say something like this, if not how could he just give Han Jingru special treatment like that?

“No need. We make money to be spent, anyway.

I'll go through the normal flow of the auction like everyone else. May the best man win," Han Jingru smiled. If it was before, he would've gone backstage because he could send the Huaxia products back to where it came from, and save quite a fair bit of money.

But now Han Jingru was holding onto Nangong Bolin's card. Since someone wanted to foot his bill, wouldn't it be rude for him to not spend a lot?

The guard couldn't understand Han Jingru's intentions, but he could feel the latter's aura of wealthiness. *Maybe this is how being truly rich is like!* The guard had made some realizations. Even though most of the attendees were rich, their comportment wasn't comparable to Han Jingru's.

"Mr. Han, you're different from everyone else," the guard said.

"Oh?" Han Jingru was interested, "How?"

"You're richer," the guard smiled.

Han Jingru smiled too. He wasn't just rich; he was spending someone else's money, and that feeling was something ordinary people couldn't experience.

Spending someone else's money for their own pleasure; maybe only Han Jingru could understand the joy behind it.

“I enjoy hearing your words; I'll give you some tips,” Han Jingru joyfully passed a few notes to the guard. Naturally, the cash was Nangong Bolin's as well.

The guard received it in shock; it was even more than three months of his salary! That increased his admiration for Han Jingru.



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When Han Jingru appeared at the auction, his appearance went unnoticed. Those who were looking around gave him one glance before moving on to their next target.

After all, he wasn't dressed like a powerful figure. In their minds, the powerful figure should make a grand entrance with at least one assistant.

As the people weren't paying to the auctioned items, a lot of them weren't auctioned off. That was something the auctioneers didn't expect, so some higher-ups were getting anxious in the backstage.

Qi Bingying was treating the whole thing as a joke. They sensationalized this 'powerful figure' to increase the competitiveness of the bidding, but who would've thought it would end up like that.

“Mom, does your neck not hurt? What are you looking for? Maybe that person doesn't even want to come,” Qi Bingying said helplessly.

Ouyang Fei sighed. She came to take a glimpse

of that powerful figure, and now it wasn't going to happen.

“This young man looks unfamiliar; he doesn't look like he's from the Chinese District. Do you think he might be the powerful figure?” Qi Donglin saw Han Jingru and said in confusion.

Ouyang Fei shook her head to deny that possibility. “Since when powerful figures walked alone? He doesn't even have a bodyguard or an assistant.”

Qi Donglin nodded in agreement and said, “I guess you're right, but this guy looks quite handsome. His comportment is fascinating as well.”

Qi Bingying wasn't interested in any other men except for Han Jingru. Even when Qi Donglin said that, she didn't turn around to look.

Qi Donglin couldn't help but sigh when he saw no reaction from his daughter.

He didn't care about the background when he

looked for a potential son-in-law. He didn't mind, even if Han Jingru didn't look like a wealthy person. If Qi Bingying liked a man, Qi Donglin could still mould him into a decent-looking person, even if he was a beggar.

“Daughter, are you really not looking? He's much more handsome than the ones chasing you,” Qi Donglin said indignantly.

“Nope,” Qi Bingying rejected him without hesitation. She had already guessed that Qi Donglin wanted to pique her interest, so she didn't even turn back.

She knew her parents wanted her to marry as soon as possible.

Of course, marrying was no problem if the groom was Han Jingru. She wouldn't even hesitate. Unfortunately, how could something like that ever happen?

Ouyang Fei couldn't help but take a second look at Han Jingru, and she realized that the unremarkable man was quite handsome. His

looks and demeanor were both top-class. If he hadn't dressed plainly, he would definitely gain a lot of attention.

“Daughter, look. This guy really is not bad,”
Ouyang Fei couldn't help but say.

Qi Bingying's eyes were rolled back very far. *These two really take it very far to cooperate to find someone for me.*

“Mom, look at this necklace. Why don't I buy it and give it to you?” Qi Bingying changed the subject.

“If you miss out on this, you wouldn't see him again. Don't you trust my taste?”

Qi Donglin added fuel to the fire and said, “If someone gets to him first, don't regret it and don't blame us for not reminding you.”

“Don't worry, I won't blame you.” Qi Bingying raised her bidder card. *This necklace is not bad. I can give it to Mom.*

Qi Donglin and Ouyang Fei exchanged a helpless gaze and sighed at the same time.

They both knew that Qi Bingying already fancied someone else, and that was why she didn't care about her other courtiers. According to Qi Donglin's deduction, Qi Bingying had likely fallen in love with the one she worked with in Yun City. But didn't that man already have a family?

At that moment, other women had already started to approach Han Jingru. They strutted toward him to seduce him.

One was a blonde girl with a killer body. When she sat beside Han Jingru, a fragrant scent rushed to their noses. That fragrance had a special effect on men, and even Han Jingru couldn't help but took a few sniffs.

“Does a powerful figure like you always go alone? Isn't it too low profile?” The blonde woman whispered.

Han Jingru looked at his appearance and said,

“You can tell that I'm a powerful figure even when I'm dressed like this?”

“My eyes are sharp; I can tell you're rich with just one gaze,” the blonde woman smiled, and tugged gently at her clothes to reveal more cleavage.

Han Jingru sighed and said, “Frankly, the security guard is my relative. That's why I could sneak in here. Actually, I'm penniless. I just wanted to join in the fun.”

The blonde woman's expression changed instantly. It wasn't gentle and affectionate anymore. Instead, it was full of iciness.

She was trying her luck with Han Jingru. If he was a powerful figure, then she was in luck, but if he wasn't, she had nothing to lose.

And now that Han Jingru denied his identity, the blonde woman naturally lost all interest in him.

“You're a waste of my time,” she furiously said.

When he saw that the blonde woman was leaving, Han Jingru said, "Don't leave so quickly. Sit down and we can chat more."

"Hmph," the blonde woman snorted, "Why would I want to chat with someone as broke as you? My time is precious. How could I waste it on someone like you?"

"Pretty lady, don't say it like that. I was sitting here, and you approached me first," Han Jingru smiled.

The blonde lady retorted coldly, "I misjudged you. Are you really thinking of getting on my good graces?"

"I don't know if I'm thinking of that, but I'm sure many people are already in your good graces." Han Jingru said.

His words were very straightforward, and the blonde woman was even icier after that. She had sex with a lot of men before, but she wasn't about to let a loser like him teased her.

“Do you believe that I will leave you with a broken leg here? Your relative won't be able to help you,” the blonde woman threatened.

Han Jingru nodded. “I believe it; I have no doubts. I'm terrified; please show me mercy.”

The blonde lady smiled smugly. “Good to know that I can scare you. I won't bother with a loser like you.”

After which, the blonde lady returned to her own seat.

Han Jingru scratched his head. There was nothing in the auction that interested him. Since it wasn't his money, he needn't save it. Besides, this auction was pretty meaningless to him and continuing to wait would be a waste of time.

Han Jingru stood up and asked loudly, “Excuse me, are your items available for takeaway?”

The auctioneer looked at Han Jingru in confusion. He only heard of people taking away food, not items in an auction.

'Sir, what do you mean?" the auctioneer asked.

"Isn't that clear enough? How about I buy everything that's on auction today? How much would that cost? Is that clear enough?" Han Jingru smiled.

The auctioneer was dumbfounded. *Buy everything? Is this man for real?*

He had auctioned for long, but he had seen nothing like this before.

"Sir, this is not a place to be joking around. Please, sit down," the auctioneer said.

After which, scoldings from the higher-ups came from the auctioneer's earpiece, and they were flustered.

"He's the powerful figure for today! How could he be joking around? Apologize to him immediately."

The auctioneer's eyes twitched at their words. *He's the powerful figure!*

So it's true that he wants all these things to take away?

He was stunned for some time before he hurriedly asked, “Sir, are you sure?”

“I am,” Han Jingru said flatly.

The entire crowd erupted. Everyone looked at Han Jingru because it took a ton of money to buy everything. No one onsite could actually do it.

Qi Bingying was curious. *Why does this rich man sound so familiar?* She turned her head in confusion.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Recognizing that familiar face, Qi Bingying froze.

Him!

It is him!

What is he doing in the U.S?

She thought that she had mistaken someone else for him. Thus, she hastily rubbed her eyes before looking again. Confirming that it was Han Jingru, her instincts told her to rush over to his side.

However, she suddenly halted in her tracks.

Right now, she was in a mess. Underneath her cap, her hair had not been washed for a while. She had come here to kill some time. How would she have expected to meet him here?

If she had a second chance, she would definitely go all out on her attire.

It had been such a long time since they last met. She had to make sure that she looked perfect

before she presented herself to him again.

“Bingying, what's wrong with you? Are you feeling unwell?” Ouyang Fei asked with concern after noticing that she had been lost in a trance.

She absently nodded her head and quickly made up an excuse, “Mum, I have to use the bathroom.”

The moment she finished her sentence, she immediately sped off with her head hung low. There was no way she was going to let him see her in this state.

Heading straight for the washroom, she bumped into a woman of about the same build as her. Noticing her alluring clothes, an idea popped in Qi Bingying's mind. She then stopped the woman in her path.

“What do you want?” the woman asked impatiently. She was a distinguished lady of the upper classes. Facing a simply clothed Qi Bingying, she immediately felt a smug sense of superiority.

“I'd like to buy off your clothes,” she said casually.

The woman lifted her chin haughtily and scoffed, “Are you out of your mind? Do you have any idea how much these clothes cost?”

She proceeded to whip out a fat stack of cash from her purse and asked, “Will this be enough?”

Taken aback, the woman instinctively nodded her head. That sum of money was more than enough. The clothes she was wearing were nothing more but rip offs of the actual brands. They were definitely not worth the cash in her hands.

“If it's enough, then follow me to the washroom,” she instructed impatiently.

Without giving it a second thought, the woman did as she said.

Just as Qi Bingying was getting a makeover, Han Jingru was getting the auction company to lay out all the items they were auctioning today. He wasn't joking about bring home every single

piece of them.

Those who had thought Han Jingru was joking looked on in a daze. They never expected that he was actually telling the truth.

The blonde woman who had previously gone up to flirt with him was filled with regret now. His claim about being allowed in only because his cousin was the security guard was obviously a joke. From the way he had splurged on the auction, he was definitely a big shot.

If she had not been such a snob, she could have been in his arms now.

She shamelessly approached him the for second time, hoping to gain his favor.

She had absolute confidence in both her looks and figure. It wouldn't be a difficult job wrapping him around her finger.

With her most part of her chest revealed, she sashayed over to Han Jingru. She proceeded to give him a deep bow and show him the grand

scenery beneath her blouse.

“I am so sorry, Sir. I was being rude to you earlier,” she apologized sincerely.

Yet, he didn't even give her a glance. Her cheap flirtation was completely unattractive to him. And the face and figure she had such absolute faith in meant nothing to him.

“I don't think there was a problem with your tone,” he said calmly.

Hearing this, she panicked. She thought that he had been offended by her rude behavior, “Sir, I'm willing to do whatever it takes to make it up to you. I hope that you'll forgive me this one time.”

“How many men have you slept with?” he smirked.

The expression on her face immediately soured. She wasn't even sure of the number herself. Her body had been her only bargaining chip in getting her whatever she wanted; and that included the privilege to attend this event today. For that

reason, Han Jingru wouldn't even bother giving her a second chance.

“Sir, I'm not the kind of woman you think I am. I haven't even done it before. If you don't believe me, you can always put me to the test,” she offered.

He burst into a fit of laughter. *A woman like her hadn't done it before? This had to be the joke of the century!*

“Get lost and don't ever appear before me again. I'm not interested in a woman like you,” he said candidly.

The blondie never expected to be coldly rejected. Moreover, he had not looked at her any more than he had to. Gnashing her teeth in anger, she thought, *Is he just not interested in women? Otherwise, how could he reject her busty and curvy figure?*

Or was this all just a pretense for the crowd around them?

“Sir, if you need me at any time, you can give me a call. This is my contact number,” she offered him a card.

He coldly snapped, “Did you not understand what I had just said? Now, scram!”

The blondie fled the scene hastily. From his tone of voice, she knew that she had pissed him off.

He was a big shot that demanded the presence of all the businessmen in the Chinese community. She dared not offend him.

Witnessing the scene, Ouyang Fei's eyes were full of admiration. She told Qi Donglin, “This guy's not bad. He held his own in the face of carnal desires.”

“Men like him have no shortage of women. Maybe his standards are just too high,” as a man himself, Qi Donglin didn't think that Han Jingru was indifferent to women. He most probably rejected her because she wasn't good enough for him.

“Oh?” Her expression changed as she continued, “What about you? If this woman were to come running to you, would you reject her?”

He could almost whiff the danger in that question. Stammering, he quickly answered, “W... weren't we talking about him? Why did you suddenly bring the topic to me?”

“Oh, I'm just curious. Can you resist a woman's advances like him?” she asked seriously.

He quickly put his arm over her shoulders as he replied, “How can I be interested in any other women besides you?”

Ouyang Fei knew that all men were lecherous. She even knew about Qi Donglin's occasional mischief. In order to keep the family from falling apart, she had opted to stay mum on the issue as long as he knew his limits. What she had said today served as a little warning to him.

“Where's our daughter? She's been gone for quite long. Why isn't she back yet?” he quickly changed the subject.

She was quite puzzled about this too. *Everything was going quite well then until she suddenly had a change in expression. What happened to her?*

“Let me go check on her, just in case,” she said.

Nodding, Qi Donglin sighed in relief. If they had continued on that topic, he could forget about sleeping on their bed tonight.

Just then, several of the higher-ups in the auction company appeared. They approached Han Jingru and gave him a detailed description of the items he had bought, how much they were worth and how much he was going to have to pay. It was important for him to understand all that as this was no small sum.

“Just deliver these to my address. This is my card. Go swipe it,” he wasn't in the mood to listen to them droning on and he quickly interrupted them. After all, he wasn't spending his own money. There was nothing to get worked up over.

The several higher-ups peered at each other in exasperation. This wasn't a hundred or thousand

dollar item. Did he really not care about such a large sum of money?

“Mr. Han, are you sure that you don't want to know the total price?” one of the higher-ups asked again. After all, if he went against his word, they would be left with all items unsold.

“Are you afraid I could not afford these?” he asked with a displeased expression. One of his brows shot up and arched into a frown.

The man shook his head as he replied, “No, Mr. Han. That's not what I meant. Please don't misunderstand.”

“Very well then. I'll take my leave. Just deliver everything to my address. But be extremely careful when transporting these items. Especially those Chinese artefacts. I'll hold you accountable if any of them are damaged.” After that, he handed over his credit card and left.

When Ouyang Fei got to the washroom, she found Qi Bingying in a new dress. She was now applying makeup before the mirror. Seeing this, she laughed exasperatedly.

Women only put on their best look for the person they adored. What she was doing now clearly revealed that she was smitten with that man from before. Otherwise, why would she come all the way to the washroom to get changed and put on makeup?

“Isn't this a little too late? What didn't you do all this beforehand?” she teased.

However, she was too busy putting on her makeup as she ran through strokes and brushes across her face. She had to be done before Han Jingru left.

“But that guy is quite astounding. There was a woman who was trying to seduce him and he didn't even pay her a second glance. He's a good man,” she said approvingly. Qi Donglin had claimed that the woman was just not up to his standards. But from what she saw, his eyes barely

lingered on the woman. Thus, she disagreed with him and felt that he wasn't interested in such women instead.

Qi Bingying remained silent. But she knew that what her mother had said was true. Han Jingru had always remained faithful to his love, Su Yimo. That's why he hadn't even touched her. So, how could those cheap women even pique his interest?

“You better make full use of this opportunity. It has been my dream to have grandkids. And I'll only get the chance after you're married,” she said. She completely ignored the fact that her daughter had not replied to her.

Finally, she was finished with her makeup. She turned to face her and asked, “Mum, how do I look?”

A thin layer of makeup decorated her face. She didn't need much to look charming. This was the advantage of having a naturally gorgeous face. Many women needed to rely on makeup to bring out their beauty. But for her, she looked better

than most women just by taking off her glasses. With a little makeup on, she could easily stand out from the rest.

“You look gorgeous my dear. No one can be compared to you,” her mother assured.

However, she could not help but feel nervous. After all, they had not met in a very long time. She wanted him to see her at her best.

After making some final touches, she was finally done.

Ouyang Fei chided her, “You must be more confident in yourself. Even without makeup on, I'm sure that man will be smitten with you.”

She let out a long sigh as she thought, *If only that were the case. She had tried countless times back in Yun City but to no avail.*

She was able to steal the hearts of other men with a mere wink.

But capturing his seemed to be an uphill

challenge.

Back at the auction, the auctioneers had already packed up all the items. They were preparing to send them to Han Jingru's house. By this time, he had already left the place.

“Dad, where's that guy?” Failing to find him, she anxiously ran towards her father to ask him.

“Ah...” he sighed before continuing, “He's gone now. See, I told you to put on something nice before coming. And you refused to listen. Regretting it now, aren't you?”

Noticing her changed clothes and newly applied makeup, he instantly knew what she had been up to. Alas, she was too late.

The next moment, she felt her heart hollow itself out. Feeling disappointed, she stared at the seat he had been sitting on.

“But, you don't need to worry. I've asked the auctioneer. He told me his address,” he said smugly.

She shot an intense stare and demanded, "Dad, where does he live?"

"As a girl, you've got to be more reserved. Don't go looking for him so soon," he objected.

Only she knew how anxious she was. She was on the verge of tying him up to a bed tonight. After all, it wasn't easy seeing him again. She did not want to pass up this opportunity. Furthermore, she had many questions for him. For example, she wanted to find out more about Han Xiang and why didn't he return to Yun City.

"Dad, please tell me quickly!" she pleaded.

Ouyang Fei couldn't bear seeing her daughter in this state as she ordered her husband, "Tell her now! Can't you see how anxious our daughter is?"

He had originally wanted to tease her. But since his wife had spoken, he didn't dare to delay any further. Thus, he told her the address.

"I heard that he's the rumored big shot. So he

won't be leaving the U.S for a while. You would better make full use of this opportunity," he said.

She had an irresistible impulse to go meet him in that instant. However, she was also afraid he would reject her mercilessly if they met again. *On second thought, perhaps I shouldn't act so rashly.*

"Let's go home," she suggested.

Her parents, on the other hand, were quite puzzled with her sudden change in mood. *Why is she so peculiar today? She is so impatient for a second and suddenly so calm the next!*

How can her passion fade away so quickly?

Han Jingru wasn't staying in a luxurious villa nor a presidential suite. Instead, he had settled on a private residence on an ordinary neighborhood. These types of houses were not uncommon in the U.S. It could be classified as a villa as well, just that it wasn't really as opulent as others.

Back at home, a gorgeous dark-haired girl had been waiting for him at the doorstep for a while

now.

“My name is Yuan Ling. I'm your assistant,” she was sent by the company to assist him. Her main goal was to help him better understand the Nangong Family's situation in the U.S.

He nodded his head and instructed, “The auction company is going to bring over a batch of items later. Help me bring them into the house.”

However, Yuan Ling was a white-collar worker. Labor did not fall under her job scope. Furthermore, she was just a woman. Yet, Han Jingru actually asked her to carry out such a task!

“If you can't do it, then you needn't work with me anymore,” he continued before going into the house.

He knew that she was more than just an assistant. She was sent by Nangong Boling to monitor him. Thus, he had a terrible first impression of her.

She had no choice but to wait by the door. Though, Yuan Ling knew that he was doing this

to force her into leaving on her accord. However, the more he did that, the more she wanted to prove herself to him.

But when the truck finally pulled up with the items, she was dumbfounded.

What did he buy? They had filled about half the truck!

She would be tired to death if she really moved all those things into the house by herself!

Watching the workers bring down the items one by one, she approached one of them and asked, "Can you guys help me move all these items into the house?"

"I'm sorry. But we were only paid to send the goods here and unload them. Bringing them inside is not covered under the fee," he replied.

In the U.S, labor fees were exorbitant. Hence, additional charges would incur for jobs that were requested out of their job scope. Even if it was an extremely simple task, they would refuse to do it.

It was completely different from the scenario back in China.

She entered the house anxiously to find Han Jingru lazing in the living room watching television. She asked, "What did you buy? Why didn't you get the movers to bring them all the way into the house?"

"It wasn't that many. I just bought everything on auction," he said calmly.

She was flabbergasted. *That is so wasteful!*

"As for why I didn't get them to move the items in, I learnt that the charges are high. That's why I had them leave the items at the door. I have you, don't I?" he continued.

She gnashed her teeth together in anger. *He is obviously trying to make things difficult for me.*

Their fee is definitely peanuts as compared to what he had bought!

"You're really thrifty with your money, aren't

you?” she forced the words out through her clenched teeth.

“Thank you for the compliment,” he smiled.

Boiling with rage, she turned around and stormed out the house.

Looking at the load, she felt the despair swelling in her chest. Moving all those into the house by herself would be akin to putting her own life at stake.

However, she would not allow herself to be forced away by Han Jingru like that.

“I'll move them! What's the big deal?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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In Han Jingru's opinion, even if Yuan Ling didn't give up immediately, she wouldn't be able to persevere for too long. After all, she was just a girl. How would she be able to persist with such a labor-intensive task?

Alas, her determination exceeded his expectations.

As she moved the items into the house one by one, blisters started forming on her hand. However, she kept going.

This rather surprised him. He had never expected her to be so strong-willed. It seemed like the thought of giving up never crossed her mind.

With a towel, she started wiping off the blood that had erupted from her blisters. Witnessing this, he couldn't help but say, "Just give it up already. What's the point of torturing yourself like that?"

She hung her head low as her eyes started brimming with tears.

As a white-collar worker, she had never undergone such levels of hardship. The stinging pain coming from her hands felt as though they were getting repeatedly pricked by a needle. Furthermore, she had only brought in the smaller items. The bigger items were still waiting to be moved.

“I don't know what I did to offend you...” The moment she lifted her head, two streams of tears tumbled out from the corner of her eyes.

He shrugged his shoulders and replied, “I know what's your motive behind getting close to me. Nangong Boling wants you to keep an eye on me. He even wants you to give him a daily report of where I've been. Tell me, why should I keep you by my side?”

“I won't be able to secure my job if I don't listen to him! Do you want me to get fired?” she sobbed. She had indeed been tasked to do this. However, she was in no position to reject this mission. Thus, in her opinion, she was just following orders so as not to get fired. *Why did he have to make things so difficult for her?*

Pausing for a moment, he realized that he hadn't thought about this. *Looks like I have gone overboard in overcomplicating things for her. After all, she didn't have a choice in this.*

“Your stocking's been torn. Go get changed,” after that, he got to his feet and started moving the items.

Wiping the tears off her face, she looked down at her calf. However, she proceeded to walk out the door to continue with the moving.

“You don't have to show me mercy just because I cried. I don't need your sympathy either,” she said defiantly.

A wry smile crept across his face. *She is really hard to deal with. However, stubborn people like her had its' plus points too. After all, with her pretty looks, she could easily secure a good future. Yet, she seemed to be above doing that. That's why she is so hardworking.*

“Relax, I won't get rid of you. But next time, you better inform me before you report to Nangong

Boling," he said.

"You're not my boss. Why should I listen to you?" she protested.

"Must you defy me? I may not be your boss, but I've got lots of ways to get you fired. It's really easy. Do you want to try?" he threatened.

"No," she hastily conceded.

Although they hadn't had much interaction, he found this woman's character to be quite interesting indeed.

All of a sudden, he realized that she had become rather pleasant looking.

Of course, it wasn't like he fancied her or anything. He did not fall for women that easily. Instead, he felt that she had become worthy of his respect.

After moving all the items in, Han Jingru was rather tired. Lying on the sofa, he asked her, "Do you know how to cook?"

“My mission is to familiarize you with the company's situation. I didn't come here to be your maid,” she snapped whilst glaring at him.

“Have you considered sending your resume to other companies? Whatever would you do if you were to lose your job and income?” he threatened smilingly.

Gnashing her teeth together, she could feel the rage burning underneath her chest. However, she dared not go against his will.

“What do you want to eat?” she asked reluctantly.

He grinned, “I'll have anything as long as it's filling. I don't have very high standards.”

Storming off into the kitchen, she silently cursed him in her mind.

She cooked a bowl of noodles for him. The meal was bland and tasteless. This was because she had deliberately not put in any salt. However, he gobbled the meal heartily. Just like that, her little plot to get back at him was foiled.

“Aren't you going to eat?” he asked.

“I'll eat when I go back home,” she replied.

“Back home? How are you going to know what I'm up to every day if you don't stay here with me?” he laughed.

She stared at him and scoffed, “You can flush those dirty thoughts of yours down the drain. I'm not selling out my body.”

Drinking the last bit of soup, he said casually, “Honestly, I'm not really interested in you either. After all, I've got the cash. I can get any woman I want.”

She couldn't argue with his logic. They lived in a very pragmatic society. As long as he had money, women would welcome him with open arms. People like him never had a shortage of women.

“I hope you get AIDS soon,” she sneered.

Hearing this, he immediately choked on the soup and almost spat it out. *How dare she curse me? What a vicious woman!*

“You're a wicked woman,” he said.

A smug expression crept across her face. Although his words barely hurt her, they greatly satisfied her desire for revenge.

“Anyway, please stop making things difficult for me. Otherwise, I'll curse you every day,” she smirked.

He waved his hand exasperatedly and said, “I'll give you a chance to complete your task. Tell me about the company's situation.”

After he brought this up, her expression immediately became serious.

However, as she informed him of the situation, he could not help but start laughing. Indeed, there was an impending crisis. Yet, this could be easily solved by the Nangong Family's deep pockets. Thus, it looked like Nangong Boling's main goal in bringing him to the U.S was not to solve the company's problem.

“What are you laughing about? The company is in a life or death situation. How are you in the mood to laugh?” She couldn't comprehend his nonchalant behavior. Of course, she had no idea how powerful the Nangong Family truly was. After all, they rarely flaunted their prowess. Otherwise, those people on the Forbes list wouldn't even be able to make it onto the list.

“To you, it may seem like a huge problem. But to the Nangong Family, this is nothing but a trivial matter,” he said.

“Since you love bragging so much, why don't you try solving this problem?” she scoffed. Her first impression of him was that he was a wastrel. She couldn't imagine why Nangong Boling would send such a useless person. And now, her impression of him had just gotten worse.

He isn't only a wastrel. He is a wastrel who only knows how to blow his own horn.

“Tell the company's upper management that we'll have a meeting tomorrow. Oh, and invite the upper management of the companies that are

looking for trouble too," he said.

"Everybody from our company can make it. But it will be difficult to invite the upper management of those other companies though," she commented.

His eyes gleamed dangerously as he said, "If they don't come, I'll invite them myself. We'll see who's got the guts to decline."

Yuan Ling couldn't help but roll her eyes. *Does he really think he is somebody? So what if he invited them personally? What could he do if they refused to meet him?*

"Don't blame me for being a wet blanket. But you're just you. They might not even meet you when you go looking for them," she said.

"You can be rest assured. They'll definitely meet me. And they'll even kneel down when they do. Do you believe me?" he asked.

Without even pausing to consider, she immediately shook her head. *How could such a thing happen?*

“You've completely blown your horn away this time,” she scorned.

Han Jingru smiled, “Why don't we have a bet? If I win, you've got to put salt in your noodles the next time you cook for me. How about that?”

Her face immediately reddened. She hadn't expected him to see through her little ploy for revenge. This left her rather embarrassed.

Hanging her head low, she hastily protested, “Did I not put in any salt? I must have forgotten about it.”

He immediately burst into laughter. *Hmm... What an interesting character. It might be rather fun to keep her by his side.*

“Go home and rest. My nighttime activities are rather unsavory. I'm afraid you won't be able to stomach it,” he said smilingly.

Yuan Ling left feeling absolutely disgusted. She had seen too many rich men's sordid lifestyle. And her impression of Han Jingru was that he was a wastrel. Thus, she didn't doubt for a second that what he said could be just a joke. The only difference between them and him was that they did it behind closed doors. He was way more open about it.

But in her opinion, his openness was far more shameful. Playboys like him were much more brazen. Any woman who wound up with this man must have done so much harm in her past life to have met a despicable man like him.

But in reality, after she had left, he continued watching the television. He didn't partake in any sordid activities.

He was born into the Han Family of Yan City. His social status was definitely incredibly high. However, he wasn't addicted to sleazy lifestyles like other children of the rich. Ever since the day he had fallen in love, he had never thought of betraying the faith Su Yimo had in him.

No matter how entrancing the women he met were, he was convinced that they were nothing more than passers-by in his life.

As night fell, a suspicious figure paced around outside Han Jingru's house. She kept oscillating between the doorstep and the road. She looked like a burglar scouting out her target.

However, this burglar was unlike normal burglars. She didn't have her eyes on the fortunes that laid within Han Jingru's house. Rather, she had her eye on Han Jingru himself.

Missing him at the auction had left her with immense regret. After finding out his address, she could no longer resist the urge to meet him.

It had been a long time since they last met and she missed him so badly. The more she thought about him, the stronger the urge it was for her to see him immediately.

Hence, she had driven all the way over in the middle of the night.

But with it being so late, she had no idea what excuse to come up with when she saw him. That's why she started pacing around outside the house like a ghost.

Han Jingru, on the other hand, prepared to go to bed after watching the television till almost ten.

As he returned to his room and drew the curtains, he spotted Qi Bingying wandering on the streets. However, due to the dim street lights, he didn't get a clear view of her face. Thus he thought she was just a passer-by.

The moment he drew the curtains, it was as though an icy dagger had been ruthlessly plunged into her heart.

"Did he not see me?" she hissed through clenched teeth. She had hoped that he would recognize her through the window. That was why she kept wandering outside the door. However, he drew the curtains and took no notice of her.

Gnashing her teeth together, she muttered, "Aren't you worried of my safety?" The streets of

the U.S at night weren't as safe as Huaxia's. A robbery could take place at any time. Thus, she was quite upset that he had ignored her.

But in truth, he didn't even recognize her. He didn't know that he was friends with the person loitering outside his house.

However, there was a possibility that he would have pretended not to see her even if he really did. After all, he had always deliberately kept a distance between himself and her.

Fuming, Qi Bingying finally mustered the courage to march up to the front door and ring the doorbell.

Just as he had laid down and closed his eyes, Han Jingru heard the doorbell ring. He was quite puzzled. *Had Yuan Ling come back? She sure is dedicated at her job to have come back late at night to check on me.*

Exasperated, he got to his feet and opened the door. However, he did not see Yuan Ling. Instead, he was greeted with the sight of an angry

and homicidal Qi Bingying. This took him by surprise.

“Qi Bingying, what are you doing here?” he asked in shock.

She shoved him to a side and proceeded to walk into the house.

With her arms akimbo, she greatly resembled a tiger while asking in an accusatory tone, “Aren't you afraid that I'll be abducted by bad guys?”

“What do you mean?” He couldn't understand a word she had just said.

“How dare you ask me that? I've been pacing back and forth at your yard. How could you not see me? You're pretending that you didn't see me, aren't you? Do you have any idea how dangerous it is at night?” she cried as she gnashed her teeth.

He nearly burst out laughing.

Pacing back and forth? What was she thinking?

“Ms. Qi, since you came to look for me, why didn't you just ring the doorbell? You could have paced back and forth outside the door till daybreak tomorrow. And I still wouldn't have known that it was you,” he protested.

She was firm on the fact that that he had seen her and was pretending that he didn't. Thus, she wasn't ready to accept any such excuse.

“You can continue finding excuses but I won't believe you,” she pouted.

He shrugged his shoulders exasperatedly and said, “What's it got to do with me if you believe or not? I want to rest now. If you don't have anything else, you should get going.”

Hearing this, she flew off the handle.

“No! I won't go!” And with that, she headed straight for his room.

He followed her closely behind. But by the time he had entered the room, she was already lying on his bed.

“Ms. Qi, are you done fooling around?” he asked weakly. Whenever he faced this woman, he would feel a sense of helplessness. He could neither hit her nor scold her. The thing now was she had shamelessly decided to stay.

He could not accept her burdensome love. But even after countless rejections, she refused to give up. He was at a loss for how to deal with her.

“I'm going to sleep. Don't disturb me,” she turned to face him and shut her eyes. It looked like she wasn't going anywhere else that night.

He had only cleaned up one room ever since he came here. Since he could not get her to leave, he could only spend the night on the couch.

She had once said that if he ever came to the U.S, she would find a way to tie him to a bed. This goal had not changed. However, she had not brought along ropes tonight. Thus, Qi Bingying could only let him off tonight and prepare for tomorrow.

She felt right at home here. Taking off her

clothes, she dived into the bed without even bothering to lock the door behind her.

She wasn't afraid of him coming in. In fact, she was afraid that he wouldn't.

Alas, Han Jingru had no such intention at all. After closing his eyes for a while, he promptly fell asleep.

The next morning, when Yuan Ling arrived, she bumped into Qi Bingying.

She had been prepared to deal with whatever was left of last night's frenzy. But she still received a huge shock when she spotted her.

After all, Qi Bingying was a rather famous person within the Chinese community and Yuan Ling had seen her many times. Her countless suitors all came from extraordinary backgrounds. She could barely fathom how many girls were secretly jealous of her. In fact, Yuan Ling had even once imagined herself as her. *How would she pick from the hordes of wealthy suitors?*

She was a goddess that was desperately out of their reach. But Yuan Ling never would have expected her to appear in Han Jingru's house.

They had been alone in the house all night. She didn't even need to think to put together what had happened.

If those wealthy suitors of hers found out about this, they would be furious!

“Who are you?” Qi Bingying asked calmly when she saw her. She didn't feel the slightest bit anxious that Yuan Ling had seen both of them together. As for whether this would be leaked to the public, she was entirely not concerned with that. In fact, she very much wished that that would be the case. That way, she would no longer have to deal with those annoying suitors.

“Ms. Qi, I'm Han Jingru's assistant,” she said as she bowed her head.

Qi Bingying's eyebrows contorted into a frown. She knew what company Yuan Ling was from. *Why would she be Han Jingru's assistant?*

Unless there was some kind of connection between Han Jingru and the Nangong Family?

The Nangong Family had been boycotted by many Chinese companies recently, including hers. Thus, she was quite familiar with the Nangong Family's company.

Of course, her understanding was limited to what she could find out. After all, the Nangong Family had never revealed their true prowess in the U.S.

“He isn't here to help the Nangong Family, is he?” she asked.

Yuan Ling dared not speak. This was because she knew that she was one of the Nangong Family's many rivals. And she wasn't sure what kind of relationship she shared with Han Jingru.

Her hesitance to speak further confirmed Qi Bingying's suspicions. But she still wasn't sure of Han Jingru's connection with the Nangong Family.

After Han Jingru returned home from his morning jog, he found both women to be getting along quite nicely. He also saw the astonishment in Yuan Ling's eyes when she looked at him. It was as though she had been bewildered by something.

Deep down, she deeply despised playboys like him.

She had thought that he would at most invite some distinguished woman into his house to have some fun. But to find Qi Bingying here truly shook her to the core. After all, she was no ordinary woman. Being able to sleep with her meant that he was unique from others.

This was a rather weird conclusion that she had come to. Although she was a fellow woman herself, the difference in social statures had resulted in her opinion of Han Jingru to change.

“Have you prepared for the meeting today?” he asked.

“Everybody on our side had been informed,” she

replied.

He nodded his head before continuing, “And how about those people targeting our company? Did you make a list?”

She had anticipated this request. Thus she had gotten ready last night.

She took out a sheet of paper and on it was the list of all the company's rivals.

Scanning through the list, he realized that he did not recognize many of their names. However, the names Qi Bingying and Han Tong stuck out like a sore thumb.

“You've got a bone to pick with the Nangong Family too?” he asked Qi Bingying smilingly.

“The Nangong Family wants to become a superpower within the Chinese community here. Naturally, they need our permission. But alas, they aren't up to the challenge,” she replied.

Not up to the challenge?

If the Nangong Family were to hear about this, they would definitely burst out laughing. But this wasn't strange. They were a wealthy family that had largely kept to themselves. In their stead were multiple spokespeople across many different industries around the world. Thus, it was entirely logical for the public to have this misconception of the Nangong Family.

“Qi Bingying, you're really lucky to have met me. If it were someone else, the Qi Family would be doomed,” he said smilingly.

Her brows contorted into a frown. He was indeed capable of solving the Nangong Family's current predicament. But his tone seemed to be hinting at something else.

“What do you mean?” she asked.

Giving Yuan Ling a glance, he said, “You can go back to the office first.”

If Qi Bingying hadn't been there. Yuan Ling would have definitely been unwilling to go. But as she was fearful of her, she obeyed his

command and left.

After she was gone, Qi Bingying impatiently asked him, "Don't keep me in suspense anymore. If you've got anything to say, just say it."

"Everything you know about the Nangong Family is nothing more but the tip of the iceberg. The real Nangong Family is much more powerful than you can imagine," he revealed.

A brief smile touched her lips. She didn't believe what he had just said one bit. She replied, "If they are as powerful as you say, then why do they even need your help?"

"It's complicated. And I can't really tell you at this point in time. All you need to know is that it is really unwise to go against the Nangong Family. This family controls an entire island country. They're part of a staggering amount of industries all over the world. The reason why many people don't know about them is that they have always kept to themselves. They don't want the public knowing too much about them. Those tycoons on the Forbes List wouldn't even dream

of holding a candle to the fortunes they have amassed," he said with a smile on his face.

This greatly surprised Qi Bingying.

She knew that he would never make up such lies to fool her. Never would she have expected the Nangong Family to be so powerful!

"It doesn't matter how powerful the Nangong Family is. Now that you're here, I'll do anything you ask me to do," she said.

Hearing this, a wry smile formed across his lips. He knew her feelings for him. Alas, he could not accept them.

"I'm going to pay the Han Family a visit," he said.

She immediately blocked his path and said, "I've got some questions for you. I'll only let you go after you answer them."

"I don't hit woman. But that doesn't mean I won't be rough with them," he said flatly.

Unafraid, she countered, "If you dare to be rough with me, I'll just take off my clothes. Let's see if you dare to look at me then."

Surrendering to her unorthodox methods of questioning, he smiled wryly and replied, "Fine. Ask me what you want to know."

"Where have you been for such a long time? You didn't text; you didn't call. Yimo has already given birth to the baby and you weren't even back to Yun City. Han Xiang's been abducted and you're still in the mood to come here. Why?" she asked.

As she brought this up, a dark cloud passed his face.

Han Xiang's abduction had greatly angered him. There had not been a passing moment where he didn't want to save her. Alas, the time was not ripe. He dared not make his move too hastily.

"I can only tell you this. I'll torture her abductors to death slowly. I won't spare anyone who was involved in this," he spat coldly.

For some reason, when she met his cold and frigid eyes, she actually felt a little scared. Although she knew that he would never hurt her, she could not help but feel frightened.

“I've heard from Shen Zhuoman that Yimo is very upset now. She keeps getting lost in her thoughts these days. Why won't you go back to visit her?” Although she loved him, this did not deter her from being concerned with her best friend.

“Of course I would if I could,” he drew in a deep breath. If not for Nangong Boling's warning, he would have returned to Yun City a long time ago. He would have at least given Su Yimo a call.

But now, he didn't have a choice. He could only do exactly what Nangong Boling said to ensure Han Xiang's safety.

“The Nangong Family is making use of Han Xiang to threaten you?” She was unclear about the chain of events. But now that he had appeared in the U.S because of the Nangong Family, it wasn't hard for her to draw the connection

between them and Han Xiang. Otherwise, why would he be helping them all of a sudden?

“You're really clever. But it's best if you keep out of it,” he said.

Her heart sank. Things must have been really dire considering the fact that he had to deal with it in a serious and careful manner.

“You can be rest assured. I won't cause any problems for you. But if you ever need my help, I'll be there,” she offered.

“That won't be necessary,” he said flatly before leaving the house.

In his opinion, the more people got involved, the worse the situation would be.

Even though he didn't care about the Qi Family's survival. He wouldn't be able to ignore Qi Bingying if she was in a life or death situation.

Although he hadn't fallen for her, he could not truly disregard her feelings for him.

At the very least, he wouldn't let her come to any harm around him.

He sped off to the Han family house in a car.

Their house was completely different from his humble abode. It was clear how grand the architecture was just by standing outside.

And the whole villa belonged to the Han Family. In the Chinese community here, only they were able to afford such a place.

As he stopped the car by the gates, an unhappy security guard walked over and rapped the windows.

“This parking lot is reserved for the Han Family. Park your ass elsewhere,” he demanded.

However, he had no plans of moving his car. Ignoring the guard, he got out the car and said, “Go and inform Han Tong that I want to see her.”

Ever since Han Tong had returned to the U.S, she had quickly quelled all the dissatisfaction with

her. Of course, her methods were unscrupulous and unsavory, to say the least. Now, she had the biggest say in the Han Family. Thus, the guard's lips twisted into a cold smile when he heard what Han Jingru said.

“Who do you think you are? You want to meet Ms. Han? You're in no position to request an audience with a big shot like her,” he scoffed.

“Just go and inform her. She'll come to welcome me herself,” he smiled.

It was as though he had just heard a hilarious joke. *Ms. Han is the family head. Who would she need to welcome in personally?*

“Mate, you're probably one of Ms. Han's courtiers right? Your methods are a little different from the others. Even I haven't seen anything like them. But you're quite thick, aren't you? Do you think I believe you?” he laughed mockingly.

Courters?

This word sent him into a fit of laughter.

Perhaps Han Tong could capture the hearts of several men. But in his eyes, a cruel woman like her was hideous looking. Staring at her for too long made him feel nauseous.

“Since you refuse to inform her, I can only try calling her.” After that, he whipped out his phone.

The guard laughed coldly, “It's no use acting in front of me. You should just leave. Otherwise, don't blame me if things turn nasty.

After getting through on the phone, he told Han Tong, “I'm outside your house now. But your guard doesn't want to let me through. Looks like it's really difficult to meet you, Ms. Han.”

Hearing this, cold sweat started breaking out across Han Tong's forehead.

She feared Han Jingru the most. *What is he doing in the U.S all of a sudden? And*

why hasn't she heard about his coming?

“Wait for me. I'll go out right now to get you,” she quickly replied.

She couldn't have gotten to where she was today if not for Han Jingru. Han Tong had no idea that Han Li was already dead. Thus, she was afraid that her significance in the Han Family would rapidly decrease should Han Jingru choose to release him. And with her responsible for Han Jia's death, the entire Han Family would definitely turn against her.

As he hung up the phone, the guard warned him, “Are you still not leaving? Do you want me to make you leave?”

“Han Tong's on her way out. Why don't you wait a little longer? You might regret it otherwise,” he suggested smilingly.

Witnessing his confident demeanor, the guard's heart suddenly sank. *This guy here must be joking, right? If not, I will be so screwed!*

Staring at the main door, he started praying desperately that she wouldn't appear.

God, you've gotta help me.

It's obvious that God didn't hear his pleas. Because soon enough, Han Tong appeared. And she had even picked up the pace to show Han Jingru how important he was to her.

The moment the guard saw her, he immediately went into a daze. Both his legs started turning to jelly.

“How dare you stop my guest?!” she hissed through clenched teeth. If he were to become unhappy about this, she would have to figure out how to appease his anger.

The guard fell to his knees and apologized to Han Jingru, “I'm sorry. I was blind. It's all my fault.”

A brief smile touched his lips. He had no intentions of holding him responsible. He had no need to be petty with a small fry like him.

“Remember my face. Don't stop me again the next time I come,” he reminded.

The guard nodded his head profusely and replied, “I'll remember you! I'll remember you!”

Han Tong's eyebrows arched upwards. It seemed like he wasn't here on vacation. And he wasn't leaving anytime soon. This was definitely bad news to her.

“Do you have any reason for coming this time?” she asked.

The guard realized they had something to discuss and quickly scrambled away.

“Do you know about the Nangong Family?” he asked.

Han Tong was the cause for the problems they had been facing. She wasn't satisfied with how much control the Han Family had over the Chinese community. Thus, she had taken action against them. But never would she have guessed that a seemingly insignificant family like the

Nangong's would seek for Han Jingru's help.

He wasn't really anyone to her. In fact, she thought of him as a discarded pawn of the family who was completely useless. However, he had dirt on her. Hence she dreaded him.

“If you want the Nangong Family to be left untouched, I can put the word out. I can guarantee that the Nangong Family would grow much stronger after that,” she suggested.

He gave her a surprised look and asked, “Do you already have that much power?”

A smug expression flashed across her face. She was at the top of the food chain within the Chinese community. The present Han Tong commanded almost all the businessmen. If this was anything like ancient times, her words would greatly resemble imperial edicts. She enjoyed the sense of superiority that came with this privilege.

However, she was only high and mighty when facing others. She dared not pull off the same stunt with him.

“You can barely imagine how influential the Han Family is within the Chinese community here,” she boasted.

He pursed his lips in exasperation. Her arrogance meant nothing before the Nangong Family. If they wanted, they could destroy ten Han Families in an instant.

“You're really lucky to have met me. Not only did you manage to climb to the position of family head, you even had the chance to pull out from a grave mistake,” he said smugly.

If it had been Nangong Sun or Nangong Yan who came to the U.S, it would have definitely been over for the Han Family. Han Tong might have even lost her life.

However, she naturally didn't know how precarious her situation was. She just assumed that he was trying to scare her. This was so that he could prove to her how important he was. Thus, she was filled with disdain for him.

If he didn't have a hold on her, she would have

walked all over him a long time ago.

“I can give you whatever you want. You don't need to terrify me into doing so,” she said dryly.

“If you think I'm trying to scare you, then so be it. But you seem to be getting quite full of yourself before me, dog,” he coldly spat. *It seemed like she needs a reminder of who she really was. Did she really take herself to be the high and mighty Han family head?*

Her body shook visibly. Of course Han Tong had not forgotten about that. She just refused to admit it that's all.

She was the Han family head who controlled the Han Family!

But would she always only be a sniveling dog before him?

“Han Jingru, must you humiliate me like that? Are you not afraid that I'll retaliate?” she hissed through clenched teeth.

“A dog will always be a dog. The only outcome that awaits it after retaliating against its master is death,” he said calmly.

They were in the Han Family villa. Right now, she was dying to get someone out to murder him.

But she knew deep down that that was impossible. Even Han Long had died at the hands of him. The Han Family's bodyguards would certainly be no match for him.

And even if she did that, her position in the Han Family would be hung in the balance.

“What do you want me to do?” she conceded whilst lowering her head.

At that moment, there were many people looking at them from a distance. This included members of the Han Family and the bodyguards.

However, he replied dryly, “Shouldn't a dog kneel when it sees its master?”

“This is the Han family home,” she protested.

“Oh? Are you afraid of being disgraced, Ms. Han?” he asked.

Her dignity meant everything to her. Hadn't she clawed her way to where she was today to be superior to others?

If she were to kneel before him, how would she face the rest of the Han Family who witnessed this?

“Han Tong, do you think you have a choice?” he asked oppressively.

He was doing this so that she would be reminded of who she truly was. Otherwise, she would get lost in her delusions of power and no longer fear him.

Not far away, the members of the Han Family were abuzz with discussions of Han Jingru's identity.

They thought he was most probably one of Han Tong's suitors. However, that did not seem to be the case. After all, Han Tong had never been so

courteous to any of her suitors before. And she had personally come out to receive him. Not even the big shots in the Chinese community had received such treatment before.

“Who is this young man? Why is Han Tong treating him with utmost respect?”

“He looks like a boy toy. He probably lives off richer women.”

“I don't think so though. Have you seen Han Tong treat anyone so courteously before?”

“Ever since she became the family head, she didn't even bother to pay us any attention. She's a really temperamental woman. I hope someone gives her a good lesson.”

“A lesson? You've got to be kidding me. In the Chinese community today, who's in the position to give her a lesson? All those businessmen turn into smiling pushovers when they see her! They just can't wait to suck up to her.”

In the Han Family, there were those who were in

favor of her. And there were others who were secretly angry with her. This faction of people couldn't wait for Han Tong to encounter a setback. They desperately wished that she would trip up and fall off the position of family head.

Just as the air was buzzing with opinions, Han Tong suddenly sank to her knees before Han Jingru. This led to a huge shock among the onlookers.

“What's happening? Why is she kneeling on the floor?”

“Is this some kind of illusion? Is Han Tong really kneeling before someone?”

“Hole f***! Who is that young man? He actually got Han Tong to kneel before him!”