Chu Ling said this with a face full of sadness, helplessness and self-deprecation.

Lin Wenjing's heart clenched. He held Chu Ling's hand and said, "Chu Ling, you don't need to go to General Manager Wang anymore. Now, I have the ability to protect you!"

Chu Ling scoffed. "What ability do you have to protect me? Is it all just lip service, or are you going to get 20 million?"

Lin Wenjing got carried away and took out the card from his pocket. "I really have 20 million! Chu Ling, there's 20 million in this card right here. I can really protect you!"

However, Chu Ling didn't seem the slightest bit happy. Instead, her expression turned even colder, and her eyes filled with even more hatred. "Lin Wenjing, not only do you change my impression of you every day, you challenge my tolerance every day too!"

"Chu Ling, I'm not lying to you! There really is 20 million in this card, and if you don't believe me, let's go to the bank together." Lin Wenjing held Chu Ling's hand again, but Chu Ling flung his hand off violently. "Lin Wenjing, enough! You're a piece of garbage, and you can't even get a job. You live off of everything I earn, and I've never said anything about that. Seeing as

you've never forced me to have sex with you, I still have an ounce of respect for you. But right now, that last ounce of respect for you is completely gone! Do you know how much 20 million is? You will never earn this amount of money, not even in ten lifetimes!"

When Lin Wenjing heard this, his heart clenched painfully in his chest and he breathed with difficulty. He bit his lip hard and kept convincing himself that Chu Ling was only saying such hurtful things because she didn't know his true identity, and thus misunderstood himself. These weren't Chu Ling's actual feelings for him!

He really wanted to force out a smile like he did before, but he found out that his facial muscles were helplessly frozen, and he couldn't control them at all.

Maybe because she realized she had said something too mean, Chu Ling took a deep breath and softened her tone. "Okay, Lin Wenjing. Let's part ways on good terms. Let's go to the Civil Affairs Bureau and get a divorce right now. If you're willing to do this, at least we can stay friends in the future. This card has two million on it, and it's from me to you. Thank you for doing so many chores for the Chu family these last four years."

As she spoke, Chu Ling took out a card from her bag and shoved it into Lin Wenjing's hand. "The password is your birthday. Two million isn't a lot in Hua City, so I suggest that you return to the countryside, stay thrifty and get a wife. This should be enough for you for the rest of your life."

Lin Wenjing held onto the card in his hand and felt extremely heartbroken. He felt as though his soul had been sucked out. After a long time, he lifted his head and looked at Chu Ling. In a weak voice, he said, "Chu Ling, we've been married for four years. To you, am I only the Chu family's servant?"

It might be because of Lin Wenjing's devastated, pathetic appearance right now, but Chu Ling's heart suddenly started to hurt when she looked at him. She couldn't bear to look at him directly and lowered her head, avoiding Lin Wenjing's gaze. Her eyes were starting to water too.

After being married for four years and spending all those years seeing each other every day, Lin Wenjing had left a mark on Chu Ling's life. It was a lie to say that there were no emotions that came with that. Even a pet dog that you owned for four years brought emotions along with it, let alone a living, breathing human being. Even though Lin Wenjing was slightly

useless these last four years, he really took immense care of Chu Ling in their days together. She still remembered how she fell very sick one night two years ago. Lin Wenjing had taken care of her, himself not having slept for two days and two nights.

Actually, she had already gotten used to Lin Wenjing's presence. If it weren't for this incident, she wouldn't have minded spending the rest of her life with Lin Wenjing. However, there was no 'if'. This was her future, and she had to live it out.

"Yes." Chu Ling forced herself to say this, her tone practically frozen.

TARUN KALICHETI

Lin Wenjing's tears started to flow against his will. He clenched his fists tightly, sinking his fingernails into his flesh and then letting go, as if he had used up all the energy in his body. He answered, "Okay, I agree. Let's get a divorce."

When she heard Lin Wenjing's answer, Chu Ling let out a sigh of relief, but started feeling strangely empty inside.

A divorce was their ideal ending.

The parents-in-law weren't at home today. Chu Ling suggested for the two of them to go and have a meal together as sort of a farewell meal



to commemorate their soon-to-be-over marriage. Lin Wenjing agreed.

Chu Ling drove, and they didn't go very far away. She stopped at a high-class restaurant not far away from the Civil Affairs Bureau.

This was a silent meal, and the both of them didn't speak. Their hearts seemed to be counting down to the last second of this marriage of theirs.

After they finished eating, they paid for the meal and walked out of the restaurant, preparing to go to the Civil Affairs Bureau. Suddenly, a figure emerged right in front of them, walking in their direction without looking where she was going. She bumped into Lin Wenjing and nearly fell down.

"Hey, watch where you're going, will you? If you ruined my handbag, you wouldn't be able to pay for it even if you went broke!" a forceful voice shouted. When Lin Wenjing took a proper look, the speaker was a heavily made-up woman who was rather plump, cursing at Lin Wenjing while jabbing her finger at his face.

Lin Wenjing frowned and was just about to retaliate when Chu Ling said in surprise, "Han Xuejuan, is that you?"



"Chu Ling?" The other woman's face looked a little uncomfortable.

"Yes. We haven't met in awhile, right? To think that we would meet here today," Chu Ling said politely.

Han Xuejuan and Chu Ling were high school classmates. They used to be close, but after they graduated, they barely contacted each other. That was because Han Xuejuan really disliked Chu Ling. Wherever Chu Ling was, Han Xuejuan would just be an insignificant extra. Chu Ling obviously didn't know about this, and she thought Han Xuejuan was still the same old classmate from before. So, she reached out and took Han Xuejuan pulled her hand out of Chu Ling's grip.

Chu Ling was taken aback. She couldn't understand why this classmate with whom she had been quite close to was so cold now.

Han Xuejuan looked at Lin Wenjing and sized him up. When she saw Lin Wenjing dressed head-to-toe in cheap clothes, her eyes flashed with disdain. "This is?"

Chu Ling said without thinking, "He's my husband."



Right after she said that, she started to regret it. She was right about to get a divorce with Lin Wenjing, so how could she still say he was her husband?

"Ah, so this is your husband! He's quite the looker, and he's pretty handsome. What is he working as?" Her voice carried an obvious hint of pleasure at Chu Ling's pain. She couldn't believe that the most beautiful girl in school back then would end up marrying a poor loser.

This made Chu Ling feel even worse. In front of outsiders, Lin Wenjing was always the one thing she found hard to bring up.

"This..." TARUN KALICHETI

When Han Xuejian saw that Chu Ling was stuttering and finding it hard to speak, of course Han Xuejuan understood. She started smiling so widely that it was crooked. "He's not jobless, is he?"

Chu Ling laughed drily as a form of confirmation. She wanted to change the topic, but Han Xuejuan didn't let her. Han Xuejuan was kind of weirdly obsessed with talking about it, which made Chu Ling feel regretful and awkward. They should have gone and gotten the divorce straight away. Why did they had to have a farewell meal?

"Han Xuejuan, enough about me. We haven't met in so many years. Have you gotten married yet?" Chu Ling stood in the center, blocking Lin Wenjing from sight. Food was deemed as clean as long as its preparation wasn't seen.

Han Xuejuan immediately got excited. This was exactly what she had been waiting for Chu Ling to ask. "I did. I got married last year! It was held at Hilton, and one table cost ten thousand. It was crazy expensive. Sigh! I'm not as pretty as you are, so I didn't marry someone as well-off as you did. My husband's just a small boss with a net worth of tens of million or so. Right, isn't your husband jobless? He can work at my husband's company. Seeing as we're classmates, he'll arrange affigher pay for him."

"Thank you for your kindness, but we have our own arrangements," Chu Ling declined, her expression stony.

Just then, a voice sounded from behind Han Xuejuan. "What are you all talking about? Who's about to come to my company? Who is this?"

A fat man who didn't even reach 170cm in height walked over, his large belly leading the way. He was stout all over, and his head was balding. He looked to be almost forty years of age, and when he saw Chu Ling, his eyes lit up. His narrow, small eyes were glowing with a

perverted gleam.

Han Xuejuan was extremely happy and held onto his arm affectionately, purposely whining sweetly. "Sweetie, you're just in time. This is my high school classmate, and her husband lost his job recently. Isn't your company low on staff? He can go over to your company to work."

The couple were showing off their wealth crazily in front of Chu Ling in a strangely creepy way, using another method to scoff at this useless man of Chu Ling's. This made Chu Ling extremely unhappy, but she couldn't really do anything about it because they weren't wrong.

"Han Xuejuan, I'm rather busy, so I'll be heading off first." After a while, Chu Ling really couldn't stand it anymore and pulled Lin Wenjing with her, wanting to escape.

Han Xuejuan blocked Chu Ling's way and smiled. "Hey, we finally met after so long, so why are you so eager to leave? Let's talk for a little longer! That jewelry store in front is having a sale. If two married couples come in and buy jewelry of the same cost, then they'll get 33% off! Let's go together!"

"Huh? There's no need for that. I don't have any plans to buy jewelry," Chu Ling quickly refused.



The Chu family was in a financially dangerous situation, and all of the savings she had were already used to pay off some debts. She was extremely poor now, so how would she have the extra money to buy jewelry?

However, the more she refused, the more inviting Han Xuejuan was. She tugged at Chu Ling, not letting her go. Chu Ling wasn't someone who could say no to others, so she looked at Lin Wenjing helplessly for a helping hand. Hopefully, Lin Wenjing could read the situation and find an excuse to escape in order to avoid further embarrassment.

However, Lin Wenjing's following words made her even angrier. "Sure" The Been wanting to buy some jewelry for Chu Ling anyway!"



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Chu Ling's face turned pale at once. She was seething with anger as she cursed Lin Wenjing in her mind. If they were alone, she would really like to give him a slap!

"Look, even your husband has said so. You can't turn me down. Let's go in and pick some jewelry. Recently, a diamond necklace has caught my attention. The price is quite affordable. It costs just over a hundred thousand!" said Han Xuejuan with a grin so wide that her eyes were barely visible.

Lin Wenjing had been thinking of buying some jewelry for Chu Ling for quite some time now. Throughout their 4 years of marriage, he had never given her a decent gift. Now that he had some cash and an opportunity had arisen, he would not let it slip. Moreover, he had a little scheme. He wanted to salvage his marriage with his sincerity.

Chu Ling was on the verge of crying. However, Han Xuejuan was too enthusiastic with her invitation. As she couldn't turn Han Xuejuan down, the only thing she could do was to walk into the jewelry shop. She let out a long sigh. Lin Wenjing was indeed the scourge of her life. Even though they were getting a divorce soon, he had still managed to embarrass her.

When Lin Wenjing finally caught up to her, Chu



Ling stepped on his foot forcefully. "Look at what you've done! Will you die if you fail to shame me for one day?"

Chu Ling was wearing high heels. Therefore, Lin Wenjing was suffering an excruciating pain from the blow. He nearly jumped out of pain. "Chu Ling, don't worry. This time, I will not embarrass you."

"Lin Wenjing, can you please stop talking big?" asked Chu Ling in disbelief, her face filled with resentment.

Holding Li Feng's hands, Han Xuejuan strutted into the shop ostentatiously. She said to the salesperson, "Hey, is the promotion you mentioned to me last time still valid?"

That salesperson answered, "Good day to you. Yes, the promotion is still valid. Two legally married couples who buy the same piece of jewelry would be entitled to a 23% discount. Is any or our jewelry to your liking?"

A mysterious smile revealed itself on Han Xuejuan's face. She said to Chu Ling, "Chu Ling, as you are not wearing anything on your hands, not even a diamond ring, you may choose first. Since we were classmates, I will pay for anything you choose. This way, you can save a lot. How about that? Am I not a nice friend?"



"Xuejuan, to be frank, business has been slow and I can't afford such pricey jewelry." Chu Ling almost gritted her teeth in order to force out that sentence. She had exerted all her strength in saying a sentence as simple as that. For someone as arrogant as her to utter something like that was akin to taking her life.

Han Xuejuan let out a laugh and continued, "Hey, Chu Ling, stop joking. Everyone in our class knows that you come from a rich family. Everyday, you were chauffeured to school. If you are complaining about being poor, then us ordinary folks would be eating dust! After so many years, the business of your family can only get better."

TARUN KALICHETI

Every word she uttered was like a needle poking on Chu Ling's heart. Chu Ling's face gradually turned as pale as a sheet.

Li Feng, who was standing beside them, added, "Exactly. What's more, isn't your husband a very rich man? Why can't you fork out just over a hundred thousand to purchase some jewelry? Oh right, Xuejuan. What's the price of that diamond necklace you're interested in?"

Han Xuejuan replied, "The original price is 219,800. With the discount, the price is reduced to less than 170,000."

"Less than 170,000? It's cheap. Anyone who buys it is getting a good bargain!" Li Feng said after letting out a hearty laugh.

As a lucrative deal was on the horizon, the salespersons of the shop immediately surrounded them and showered them with praises.

The only thing Chu Ling felt at the moment was embarrassment. She wished she could find some place to hide herself. She had never been humiliated this way before in all her life!

At that moment, a voice was heard loud and clear. "170,000. It is indeed a good price."

Everyone turned around to look at the person who was speaking so boastfully.

It was Lin Wenjing. All smiles, he held Chu Ling's hands and continued, "My wife, you've forgotten something. Some time ago, I bought some shares in the primary market, and the share price has just hit the surge limit. This time, I profited several millions. It's more than enough to buy ten of these diamond necklaces."

Chu Ling was caught in a daze. When did Lin Wenjing learn to buy stocks? Before long, she realized he was bluffing.

Obviously, Han Xuejuan and Li Feng didn't believe him either. They thought that Lin Wenjing was just being pretentious.

"Wow, I can't believe you earned several millions from stocks! How impressive! In that case, you should buy the most expensive item from this shop!" Han Xuejuan urged with a crafty smile on her face.

"It's not what you think..." Chu Ling anxiously offered an explanation. However, Han Xuejuan didn't give her the chance to elaborate. She forthrightly told the salesperson, "What is the most expensive item you have here?"

The salesperson adopted an even more respectful demeanour and said, "Madam, you are here at the right time. Our headquarters just transferred a limited edition diamond necklace to our branch yesterday. The necklace is designed by a reputable jewelry designer. A total of 999 diamonds were used to embellish the necklace, representing an everlasting love. Therefore, the name of the necklace is 'The Heart of Eternity'."

"The Heart of Eternity'!?" Han Xuejuan exclaimed in shock. "Is that 'The Heart of Eternity' which got onto the hot search list on Weibo earlier?"

"Yes." With pride, the salesperson continued, "It's a limited edition and there are only nine pieces in the world. The necklace is extremely precious and valuable. We managed to get only two pieces with great effort all because our boss is on good terms with the jewelry designer."

Han Xuejuan's eyes lit up at once. Immediately, she said, "Show it to me now."

Soon, the salesperson took out two exquisite boxes with caution. One could easily feel that everyone in the shop was holding their breath as they were looking forward to catching a glance of the necklaces.

TARIN KALICHETI

Even Chu Ling's vision was attracted to the boxes. Some time before, she had caught sight of 'The Heart of Eternity' when she was scrolling on Weibo. The necklace was very beautiful. She took a liking to the necklace as soon as she lay her eyes on it.

Never had she thought she could have the chance to witness 'The Heart of Eternity' with her own eyes. Her curiosity was piqued.

The salesperson opened the boxes to reveal the necklaces. They were looking brilliant and dazzling, and they were indeed beautiful. Every single piece of diamond looked as though they

had come alive. Different shades of lustre emanated from different angles.

Han Xuejuan came to her senses and asked Lin Wenjing, "What do you think? Can you afford 'The Heart of Eternity'?"

Lin Wenjing did not answer her. Instead, he asked Chu Ling, "Chu Ling, what do you think of this necklace? Do you like it?"

Chu Ling was still marveling at the beauty of the necklace. In a daze, she nodded forcefully and blurted, "I like it!"

With a smile, Lin Wenjing said, "Okay. Let's buy it."

Thereafter, he asked the salesperson to wrap it up.

The salesperson probed cautiously, "Sir, are you sure you are buying the necklace? As the necklace is a limited edition, the price is 2,388,888..."

At the mention of the price, the rest of the customers in the shop exclaimed in shock. This was a necklace with the price tag of over two million. It was exorbitantly priced. That amount of money was enough to purchase a property in the city center!

Lin Wenjing nodded his head and confirmed, "I am sure. Please wrap it up."

Suddenly, an idea hit Lin Wenjing. Meaningfully, he said, "By the way, is the promotion applicable to 'The Heart of Eternity' as well?"

The salesperson nodded her head in affirmation.

Lin Wenjing said to Han Xuejuan, "Chu Ling and I are going to take 'The Heart of Eternity'. After you guys have chosen your item, we can settle the bill together."

Han Xuejuan and Li Feng's faces turned grim. They could not afford to fork out such a hefty sum at the moment.

Lin Wenjing continued, "Li Feng, Han Xuejuan, are you guys not able to afford 'The Heart of Eternity'?"

Han Xuejuan acted like a cat who had just got its tail stepped on. Agitatedly, she countered, "What nonsense are you talking about? Is it even possible that I can't afford the necklace? The company owned by my husband reaps a profit of several millions each year. He can easily use two million to buy me this necklace. As for you, you're wearing clothes from the market, and you can't even land a job. Can you



fork out two million? I bet you don't even have twenty thousand with you!"

With the discount, the total price of the two items came up to almost two million.

It went without saying that Lin Wenjing would not argue with her. With a subtle grin, he said, "I'm sorry to disappoint you, but I really can fork out the money."

"You're speaking as if it's the truth. I dare you to pay for it now!" Han Xuejuan's face was full of disdain. She was sure that Lin Wenjing was just a pauper.

Lin Wenjing immediately saled to the salesperson, "Is payment by credit card accepted here?"

With an endearing smile, the salesperson replied, "It's accepted. However, as you guys are taking the promotion, the two items have to be settled in one single bill."

"Fine by me." Lin Wenjing averted his gaze toward Han Xuejuan before asking, "Have you guys decided? Should we settle the bill together?"

The couple exchanged glances between themselves. Both of them were sure that Lin



Wenjing was just putting up an act. Scornfully, Li Feng spoke, "I am okay with settling the bill together. Do I look like I'm afraid of you?"

After fishing out their bank cards, they made their way toward the cashier to settle the bill. The notification beep signaled that one of the payments was accepted. It was immediately followed by another beep representing the rejection of another payment.

Li Feng was caught in a daze at the moment. How could his payment go through? There were only tens of thousands in his bank account. Could his client have transferred payment to his account early? That did not bode well. He needed that money to full his company. If that money was used to pay for the necklace, he would suffer a great loss!

Panicked, he asked, "Why is my payment accepted? Refund the money to me now. I've paid with the wrong card—"



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The salesperson interrupted him. "So sorry sir, your payment did not go through."

"What?" Li Feng was taken aback by what he heard. His payment failed. Therefore, the one who successfully made the payment was...

In a sudden motion, he turned to look at Lin Wenjing.

No way. It could not be him. How could such a poor guy fork out two million?

The salesperson continued, "Mr. Lin has successfully made the payment. Mr. Li, the balance in your bank account is insufficient, therefore the payment "has failed."

Everyone was shocked upon hearing the salesperson. They all stared at Lin Wenjing in surprise.

"This is impossible!" shrieked Han Xuejuan immediately. "There must be a mistake. He is jobless. How could he have two million in his bank account?!"

The salesperson maintained the smile on her face and said, "I didn't make a mistake. Mr. Lin has indeed successfully made the payment. We have the record in the day-book."

Thereafter, she printed out the receipt and handed it to Lin Wenjing with both of her hands. Respectfully, she said, "Mr. Lin, please sign on the receipt."

Nonchalant and carefree, Lin Wenjing signed the receipt gracefully. Then, he said to Li Feng with a smile, "Director Li, why has your payment failed? Aren't you the director of your company which is earning millions in profit a year? Are you sure you don't even have two million in your bank account?"

Li Feng felt awful. It was as though he had just eaten sh*t upon listening to his words.

"Mr. Li, please provide tas with another bank card with sufficient balance," the salesperson said to Li Feng as she took the point of sale machine.

Everyone in the shop was looking at him.

Gritting his teeth, he was looking extremely grim. His fingers were trembling slightly.

When everyone saw that he did not intend to take out his card, they started to exchange opinions among themselves.

"Is it possible that the fat guy has no money to pay?"



"Judging from his look, it seems like it. He acted like a rich guy just now. As it turns out, he is just another pretentious guy. It's disgraceful."

"Exactly. He is ugly and pretentious. Whoever is married to him has the worst luck in the world."

"Haha, in my opinion, his wife and him are a perfect match. Didn't you see how arrogant his wife was just now? She acted as though her husband had hundreds of millions. In truth, he is just a pauper. It's hilarious."

The voices of the people making sarcastic comments got louder and louder. Li Feng and Han Xuejuan could hear them clearly. They got extremely upset and uncomfortable.

Han Xuejuan could not stand the humiliation any longer. She had gotten the rare chance to vent out her anger at Chu Ling. In the end, she was the one who got humiliated. She felt it insulting and unfair, and she raised her voice to counter their comments. "Hey! What're you guys talking about? Do you guys have proof that my husband is poor? What he earns in a month is more than what you guys earn in a year. What right do you guys have to laugh at him?"

"Hehe, since your husband is that impressive, just let him settle the bill. Mr. Lin is waiting for



you guys to make the payment after his payment is done."

"Exactly. You're just talking big. If your husband is really as impressive as you claim, just make the payment. Anyone can brag. What a jerk."

Han Xuejuan's entire face reddened with fury. Holding Li Feng's arms, she said, "Li Feng, just settle the bill to show these poor losers that we can afford it! It's only two million. You could easily earn it back after two or three months!"

However, Li Feng was not taking any action. His brows were creased together as his face turned gloomier.

TARUN KALICHETI

"Enough," Li Feng said and flung her hands away. "I am not going to fork out two million just to buy some damn jewelry for you."

Han Xuejuan widened her eyes in surprise. "Li Feng, what do you mean by that? You promised to buy jewelry for me!"

Li Feng said, "Can't I regret my decision?"

"You!!" Han Xuejuan's eyes turned bloodshot.

The expressions of the rest took a turn. They stared at her with their eyes filled with mockery, enjoying their misery.



The salesperson frowned and reminded, "Please make the payment within ten minutes. Otherwise, you will not be entitled to the 23% discount."

With a smile, Lin Wenjing said, "Director Li, it seems like you can't fork out two million. From what I've heard, I believed you would have at least hundreds of millions in your bank account. I assumed you could easily manage a payment of as much as 20 million anytime!"

The corners of Li Feng's mouth twitched. He felt awful as he was being ridiculed by Lin Wenjing. As much as he wanted to rebut him, he could not utter any words. He had only himself to blame Toll being boastful.

"Hmph, it so happens that I have forgotten to bring my bank card that has sufficient money in it. Do you think I really can't afford two million?" retorted Li Feng in an attempt to maintain his ego.

"Is that so? May I know the balance in that bank card you used earlier? Shouldn't a big shot like you have at least five hundred thousand in your account?"

Li Feng was triggered by Lin Wenjing's arrogant look. He blurted, "Of course I have five hundred thousand. I have a million in that card!"



Immediately, Lin Wenjing continued cunningly, "That's more like it. It seems like Director Li is really a rich guy. Any one of your cards could easily contain a million."

"Of course!" Li Feng had yet to realize that he was being tricked by Lin Wenjing until he heard what was said next. "In that case, please execute the promise you made earlier. The party who failed to make the payment would have to compensate the other party for the loss suffered for not being able to enjoy the promotion. The amount is not a big sum. The difference is just a bit over four hundred thousand. Since we are friends, I will round up the figure. You will only have to pay me a sum of four hundred thousand. Ein Wenjing put on a shrewd smile.

Realization dawned upon Li Feng. He cursed himself deep down inside for falling into Lin Wenjing's trap!

"This..." stuttered Li Feng. It was impossible for him to pay four hundred thousand to him for nothing.

Lin Wenjing continued, "Is it possible that Director Li, who is so rich, can't even afford four hundred thousand?"

This scumbag! He is going all out at mocking



me. Li Feng had never been humiliated this way before throughout his whole life. At that juncture, his face turned pale. He cursed inwardly, You win this time! Then, he made a dash out of the jewelry shop. As he was rushing out, he tripped over the threshold at the entrance. With a plop, he fell to the ground and became the laughing stock of everyone in the shop.

Han Xuejuan's face turned as pale as a sheet. It never occurred to her that the incident would end in this way. Intense embarrassment spread through her entire body. Her body shook uncontrollably.

Her already feeble Will colinpletely crumbled when she caught sight of Chu Ling's face that was filled with sympathy toward her. She broke into tears. Without bidding farewell, she fled the scene.

The corners of Lin Wenjing curled upward slightly. Finally, he had manned up in front of Chu Ling. He believed he would be able to make a dent on Chu Ling's impression of him.

Carefully, the salesperson asked Lin Wenjing, "Mr. Lin, are you still buying the two diamond necklaces?"

"I am buying the necklaces. Why not?"



"In that case, Mr. Lin, now that you're lacking a partner, you will not be entitled to the promotion. You would have to buy the necklaces at the original price. In total, the two necklaces would cost 2.6 million..."

Lin Wenjing nodded his head before replying, "2.6 million it is. I will pay by card."

"As you have already paid two million earlier, all you have to do now is top up another six hundred thousand." The salesperson's heart was racing fast. After all, she was dealing with a tycoon.

The rest of the salespeople were envious of her.

TARUN KALICHETI

However, when Lin Wenjing made the payment, the notification showed that it had failed.

Huh? What had happened? He remembered clearly that he had twenty million in his card.

Only then did he realize he had taken the wrong card. That card was given to him by Chu Ling. The card had two million inside. The password was his birthday too.

Just as he was replacing the card, Chu Ling said, "Lin Wenjing, are you trying to embarrass me again?"



At the sight of Chu Ling's intimidating face, Lin Wenjing knew that he had made a blunder. Anxiously, he offered an explanation. "Chu Ling, please listen to me. This is just a misunderstanding. I have taken out the wrong card. I have another one—"

"That's enough!" Chu Ling exclaimed almost hysterically. The volume of her voice attracted the attention of the tourists ambling outside of the shop.

"I made great effort to ask for that two million from the Chu family as your alimony. Are you going to humiliate me by spending all the money in this way?" Chu Ling's eyes were swollen with redness. Her eyes were glued on Lin Wenjing.

Lin Wenjing felt a numbing sensation all over his scalp. In trepidation, he continued, "Chu Ling, please listen to me. I am not trying to humiliate you. I have really taken the wrong card. I have twenty million in this card here!"

Chu Ling stared at him with her eyes filled with extreme coldness and intense resentment. "It's better to marry a dog than you!"

Lin Wenjing's entire body shivered. An excruciating pain formed in his chest and he felt it hard to breathe. Chu Ling's words were



like a dagger that pierced through his chest forcefully.

Despite his pale face, he still tried very hard to squeeze out a smile. "Chu Ling, please don't say such a thing to me. You will be deeply upset when you find out that you've misunderstood me all along one day..."



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Although Lin Wenjing was smiling, he looked even more awful than he was crying.

An eerie silence hovered over the whole scene. Everyone else was puzzled. What was going on?

Most of them sympathized with Lin Wenjing as they could feel the sadness in him.

Nonetheless, Chu Ling remained cold and aloof. On top of that, she believed Lin Wenjing was just putting up an act. Her resentment toward him grew even more intense. "Don't worry. I will never be sad because of you!"

Lin Wenjing held his head low. Unexpectedly, tears trickled down his face uncontrollably.

Chu Ling scoffed without any sympathy. Coldly, she told Lin Wenjing that she would be waiting for him at the Civil Affairs Bureau. After that, she left the shop in her high heels.

"Mr. Lin, are you still going to make the purchase?" asked the salesperson cautiously after a short pause. She took extra care with her volume as Lin Wenjing looked like he would crumble to ashes in any minute if she raised her voice any louder. Lin Wenjing looked like he was in an extremely vulnerable state now. It was as if he was made of glass, and he would break into pieces by a soft blow.

Dejectedly, Lin Wenjing replied, "Just refund the money through the same payment method."

"Well, okay..."

The bank card from Chu Ling felt extremely heavy in Lin Wenjing's hand. He had no idea how he made it to the Civil Affairs Bureau. It was as though his soul had left his body.

At the sight of Lin Wenjing reaching the Civil Affairs Bureau, Chu Ling took out the divorce agreement and handed it to him without further delay. Frigidly, she said, "Sign it."

The pen in Lin Wenjing's hand weighed like a ton. He wanted to to divorce him. He was willing to do anything for her in return.

After living together for four years, Lin Wenjing had fallen irrevocably in love with Chu Ling.

Chu Ling's signature was already on the divorce agreement. It was signed simply without any hesitation. Obviously, she had no lingering feelings for him.

Lin Wenjing felt that he was a joke. After inheriting fifty billion from his family, he thought that he could make Chu Ling the happiest woman in the world. In the end, it was just his



wishful thinking. Chu Ling did not give him a chance at all.

He took a deep breath. Just as he was gritting his teeth and getting ready to sign, Chu Ling's phone suddenly rang. "Hello. What did you say? Something happened to my brother? Okay, I will be there as soon as possible!"

Chu Ling's face was filled with anxiety. She had no time to handle the divorce with Lin Wenjing. Hastily, she left the Civil Affairs Bureau.

Lin Wenjing was in a befuddlement. Did something happen to Chu Ling's brother?

He responded rapidly. Miffediately, he caught up to Chu Ling and inquired, "Chu Ling, what happened to your brother? Is he okay?"

Anxiously, Chu Ling said, "I don't know the specifics. My mother told me on the phone that Chu Zhe has offended a big shot and he is in captivity. I have to check on him now!"

Chu Zhe was Chu Ling's brother, and he was still pursuing his tertiary education. He seldom returned home and was always seen having fun outside. With that kind of personality, Lin Wenjing always knew that he would get himself into trouble sooner or later.



After giving it a thought, Chu Ling made a call. "Hi, Zhang Hairong. Are you available now?"

At the mention of Zhang Hairong's name, Lin Wenjing's face turned rigid.

Before long, Zhang Hairong's voice could be heard from the other side. "Chu Ling, I am having a meeting with my client. However, if you need my help, I can postpone the meeting."

Chu Ling could not help but feel touched by his words. Zhang Hairong had been pursuing her for many years. However, she always kept a distance in order to be faithful to Lin Wenjing. Now, it seemed like Zhang Hairong was a much better man than Lin Wenjing!

She quickly briefed Zhang Hairong about the incident and said, "Zhang Hairong, you don't have to come if you are busy."

Zhang Hairong deliberately sounded as though he was upset by her words. "Chu Ling, what nonsense are you talking about? Any problem of yours is mine, and I treat your brother just like my own. I can't let him be in trouble without offering any help. I will rush over there now!"

Deeply moved by his words, Chu Ling said, "Zhang Hairong, thank you."



As she hung up the phone, Lin Wenjing had an awful expression on his face. He could not help but say, "Chu Ling, you don't have to ask some outsider to help your brother. I could settle that."

Just as Chu Ling began to relax, her mood immediately turned foul upon listening to Lin Wenjing's words. She found the sight of him vexatious. As she was too preoccupied just now, she didn't notice that she had somehow allowed Lin Wenjing, who was a good-fornothing, to get involved in this.

"Lin Wenjing, I noticed that you are good at nothing except for bluffing! Even my father has no means to appease the big shot. What could you possibly do to settle the problem?" challenged Chu Ling with a chortle.

As Lin Wenjing was about to offer his explanation, Chu Ling once again continued impatiently, "Shut up, please. I don't want to hear your voice! Please don't follow me to where I am going next. I wouldn't want Zhang Hairong getting the wrong idea about us."

With his head held low, Lin Wenjing's hands were balled into fists. As he was feeling extremely distressed, his fingernails almost cut into his own flesh.



Chu Ling sped through the journey. She reached her destination within twenty minutes.

"Chu Ling, why are you here so late? We're so worried."

At the entrance, the in-laws, Chu Zhenyao and Liu Qiaozhen, immediately approached Chu Ling.

Chu Ling asked, "How's the situation with my brother now? Where is he?"

Gritting his teeth, Chu Zhenyao answered, "That bastard had no idea who he was mingling with. He offended someone from the Lin family, and now he is captured by them." They asked for ten million as ransom in return for Chu Zhe's release."

"What did you say?! Ten million?" exclaimed Chu Ling in shock.

Looking bitter, Chu Zhenyao continued, "It's indeed ridiculous. Judging from the tight financial status of our family, it's impossible for us to fork out ten million."

"They are obviously blackmailing us. Can't we make a police report?" said Chu Ling angrily.

"Chu Ling, don't be silly!" said Chu Zhenyao with



dismay. Immediately, he covered Chu Ling's mouth and gave his surroundings a scan to make sure nobody had overheard her. After making sure the coast was clear, he released his hands on her face. Apprehensively, he continued, "They are the Lin family, the most powerful family in Hua City. The extent of their power and influence is so far-reaching that it is terrifying. Just a simple instruction from them could get our family destroyed for a hundred times! If we were to make the police report, any hope to see Chu Zhe again would be dashed. On top of that, making a police report would not help, seeing that the Lin family is so powerful."

Chu Ling widened her eyes in surprise and asked, "Is the Lin Tarnify that powerful?"

Intense vigilance could be detected in Chu Zhenyao's eyes. "Their power is as vast as the boundless sea."

Suddenly, Chu Ling remembered that Lin Wenjing had the surname of Lin too. He might be related to the Lin Family... She quickly brushed away the thought as it started to germinate in her mind. She mocked herself and wondered what on earth she was thinking. Why would Lin Wenjing, that good-for-nothing, had anything to do with the high and mighty Lin family?

Chapter 9 Offending the Lin Family

Liu Qiaozhen asked anxiously, "In that case, what should we do? We can't report it to the police, nor can we fork out ten million. Are we going to let Chu Zhe be tortured by them and do nothing? I can't stand it! I can't!"

Chu Ling's eyes swelled. As she was just about to speak up, the revving of a car engine could be heard from afar. A short while later, a yellow Lamborghini executed a brilliant drift before pulling up beside Chu Ling.

"Chu Ling, so sorry I am late."

A good-looking and suave man got out of the car. The man was none other than Zhang Hairong. Looking Tike a don'illieering boss of a company, he made a really brilliant entrance. The girls around him were all infatuated with him. Even Chu Ling's heart started beating faster. At that moment, Zhang Hairong was indeed very attractive.

At the sight of Zhang Hairong, Liu Qiaozhen was all smiles. "Hi, Hairong, it's you. I'm glad that you're here. We finally have some hope in rescuing Chu Zhe now!"

The longer Liu Qiaozhen looked at Zhang Hairong, the more she liked him. He was much more excellent than Lin Wenjing, that good-fornothing man. She should have asked Chu Ling



to marry Zhang Hairong right from the start!

"Yes, Aunt Liu. After Chu Ling called me, I immediately rescheduled with my client and rushed over here at the fastest speed I could manage." As he was saying, he turned to peek at the Lamborghini proudly. In actuality, he had rented the car from a rental company just for the sake of being pretentious. He drove a BMW in reality.

Upon listening to his words, Chu Ling's face was slightly blushed.

"By the way, Uncle Chu and Aunt Liu, what happened to Chu Ling's brother?" asked Zhang Hairong confidently." He was Tather influential in this region. Moreover, Chu Zhe was merely a university student. He bet Chu Zhe had only offended some rich classmates of his or some gangsters. How big of a trouble could he have gotten himself into?

However, right after he got to know from Chu Zhenyao that Chu Zhe had offended the Lin family, his face immediately turned pale.

Damn, the Lin family was the most prominent family in Hua City. Even if he got a hundred times stronger, he could never afford to offend them!



He regretted offering his help. If only he knew they had offended the Lin family, he would not have made this trip there.

Chu Ling sensed his distress. Gritting her teeth, she asked, "Zhang Hairong, even you have no means to rescue my brother?"

"Exactly, Hairong. You have such vast connections. Can't you help Chu Zhe?" asked Liu Qiaozhen nervously.

Chu Zhenyao let out a long sigh before speaking solemnly, "The Lin family is the most prominent family in Hua City, and they are extremely powerful. We shouldn't put Hairong in a dilemma. Fathers are to blame for their sons' fault. It's my fault for failing to educate Chu Zhe properly. I should shoulder the responsibility and help Chu Zhe myself. I am going to kowtow to every single member of the Lin family. I will stay on my knees for as long as I can in hopes that they will change their minds!"

On the spur of the moment, Zhang Hairong gave a forceful slap on his thighs before pledging, "Chu Ling, Uncle Chu and Aunt Liu, please don't be worried. I won't fold my hands and do nothing! I can say with confidence that I am quite influential in Hua City. I believe the Lin family will give me face!"

"Really?" Chu Ling's eyes brightened up at once.

Both Chu Zhenyao and Liu Qiaozhen got very emotional. "That would be great! Hairong, we will remember your favor!"

Zhang Hairong was very pleased to hear their gratifying words. Distracted by Chu Ling's gorgeous face, he blurted, "However, I have a condition. I hope Chu Ling will go on a date with me after I successfully helped Chu Zhe."

He regretted it the moment he said it. Why did he speak his thoughts out loud?

As expected, the gratification on Chu Ling's face disappeared by a great degree upon listening to his words. She was slightly offended by the idea. It was as though Zhang Hairong was threatening her to go on a date with him. His noble image was substantially affected.

Both Chu Zhenyao and Liu Qiaozhen frowned slightly as well.

"Okay." Chu Ling nodded her head. "If you are able to rescue my brother, I will go on a date with you," she said.

Zhang Hairong quickly clarified, "Chu Ling, please don't get the wrong idea. I was just



kidding. Even if you had not agreed to go on a date with me, I will still help your brother."

Chu Ling forced out a smile. "Well, even if you hadn't brought it up, I would still gladly go on a date with you."

She was about to lose her purity because she had already agreed to offer her body for the sake of her family. Therefore, the idea of going on a date with Zhang Hairong did not bother her.

In his car, Lin Wenjing was observing Chu Ling and Zhang Hairong from afar. They were talking to each other affectionately like a couple. He was uncomfortable and restless deep down inside. After mulling it over, he was still bugged by the sight. Therefore, he decided to follow them in case he could offer any help.

Chu Ling and the rest had arrived at a classy billiard club. As soon as they entered the club, they saw Chu Zhe kneeling on the ground. He had been severely beaten up as his face was swollen and full of bruises.

At the sight of Chu Ling, Chu Zhe immediately shouted in grievance at the top of his lungs, "Chu Ling, help me!!"

As soon as his voice trailed off, he fell to the



ground after being kicked by a young man beside him. The young man yelled viciously, "If you shout one more time, I will kill you!"

Liu Qiaozhen always doted on Chu Zhe. At the sight of her son being beaten up so severely, she was overwhelmed by worry and distress. Tears started streaming down her face. "Chu Zhe, my son..."

She wanted to run over to her son, but she was held back tightly by Chu Zhenyao. He warned in a low voice, "Don't be reckless. Are you trying to get Chu Zhe killed?!"

Liu Qiaozhen soon realized that the group of young guys in from of ther were not to be trifled with, especially the one who was playing at the billiard table leisurely. Judging from his domineering aura, he was probably the leader of the group. He must be the young master of the Lin family.

Chu Ling took a deep breath before coming forward and said, "Bosses, my brother Chu Zhe is still immature, and because of that, he has offended everyone here. Please be magnanimous and forgive my brother! We, the Chu family of Hua City, would be extremely grateful!"

"Hey, it's a pretty lady. She is rather good



looking!"

"I had no idea that Chu Zhe, that piece of trash, has such a beautiful sister! Haha."

At the sight of Chu Ling, the guys all put on a flirtatious and frivolous look. They started whistling.

Some of them even wanted to lay their hands on her body. She was so terrified that she hid herself behind Zhang Hairong. "Hairong, save me!"

Zhang Hairong could not utter a word to describe his hardship. Recognition dawned upon him. All of the guys there were big shots whom he could not afford to offend. Every single one of them was capable of destroying him with ease, especially the young guy who was playing at the billiard table. He was one of the Lin family. His name was Lin Ximiao, and he was the most powerful figure within the group.

He had met Lin Ximiao once last month. Even his father had to be submissive and respectful to Lin Ximiao, not to mention him as the son.

As much as he loved to show off, he knew his worth. His pathetic status meant nothing to Lin Ximiao. It was impossible that Lin Ximiao would change his mind because of him.



Moreover, once he offended Lin Ximiao, he would be finished.

At this juncture, he started to get cold feet.

However, Chu Ling had asked for his help. Under the influence of male chauvinism, he decided to be Chu Ling's guardian angel. With his head held high and his chest puffed up, he said, "Stop what you're doing."

"Who are you? How dare you order me to stop?" rebuked a rich young master while pointing at Zhang Hairong's nose.

Zhang Hairong gulped. That little courage he managed to gather With great effort dissipated all at once. He took out some cigarettes from his pockets and handed one of them to the rich young master. Humbly, he introduced himself. "Boss, my name is Zhang Hairong. I am the son of Zhang Yan, the President of Hongyang Group. I mingle in Hua City too."

"Hongyang Group?" The rich young master frowned dubiously. He turned around to quiz the rest of the group. "Hey, have any of you heard of Hongyang Group before?"

All of them shook their heads in denial. They had never even heard of the company. This put Zhang Hairong in a very awkward situation.



Hongyang Group that was owned by his family was indeed just peanuts to this group of young masters. To them, it was just a small company.

"I don't care whether you are from Hongyang Group or Liyang Group. Stop beating around the bush. Pay us ten million, and you may bring Chu Zhe home. Get out of here if you don't have the money," the rich young master exclaimed haughtily.

Zhang Hairong assumed an even humbler attitude. "Boss, Chu Zhe is my brother-in-law. He is not a smart guy and he haD no idea who he was dealing with. Please enlighten me. What exactly has he done to offend you?"

The rich young master refrained from losing his temper after seeing Zhang Hairong's humble attitude. With a harrumph, he said, "Your guess is spot on. That piece of trash was way too arrogant. Just because he was drunk, he thought he was on top of the world. He didn't say sorry after bumping into Young Master Lin. Moreover, he was rude after that. Let me be clear. If you guys don't pay us 10 million by today, his hands will be chopped off!"

Upon listening to his words, Liu Qiaozhen could not help herself but reproach, "All he did was be slightly rude to all of you. Do you guys really have to beat him up like this? On top of that,

you guys are asking for ten million. Why don't you guys just rob the bank?"

Lin Ximiao, who was playing at the billiard table, spoke up. "You're right, I am robbing you. What are you going to do about that? Your son was very bold to call me a bastard. Now, I am raising the stake. Ten million can't solve the problem. You guys have to pay me twenty million. Of course..."

At that moment, Lin Ximiao put on a wicked smile before continuing, "You guys could report this to the police. Let's see whether it will work in your favor. However, I am giving you a heads up. Once the police report is lodged, I will no longer be satisfied with the body off his hands. I will take his life!"

Chu Ling and the rest shivered upon hearing his threat.

Zhang Hairong had been gulping all this while. He regretted coming here. Just as he was about to shun his responsibility, Lin Ximiao curled his forefinger inward a couple of times and said satirically, "So, you're Zhang Yan's son. Come over here."

"Young Master Lin..." Both Zhang Hairong's legs were trembling. However, he didn't dare to stay still. At that moment, his face became as pale



as a sheet.

Zhang Hairong walked over to him. Just as Lin Ximiao was patting his shoulder and was about to whisper something to him, footsteps were heard from the entrance. A man walked into the club.

The man was none other than Lin Wenjing.

At the sight of Lin Wenjing, Lin Ximiao, who was still very arrogant seconds before, immediately put on an entirely different expression. He actually put on a respectful look!



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