"I'll kill you!" Ding Xuan clenched his teeth and glared ferociously at Wang Hao.

"Kill me?!" Wang Hao made a face of utter disbelief, then burst out into a hearty laughter before bringing his hand down onto Ding Xuan's face. "You?! You want to kill me?! Did all of you hear that? He said that he wants to kill me!""

"Hahaha..."

"Mr. Wang, don't mind him, he's just an idiot. Hahaha..."

The goons around Wang Hao burst out into taunting laughter.

"Hao, he looks really scary..." Jiang Yan shuddered and curled up in Wang Hao's lap like a helpless child. "Look at that face and those eyes of his; he obviously hasn't conceded defeat..."

"Then I'll break his legs and disfigure his face!" Wang Hao threw down viciously, then pointed at Ding Xuan. "Come, my men, break his legs for me!"

"Yes, Mr. Wang!" A gangster walked forward and grabbed a baseball bat, then sneered at Ding Xuan. "No matter what,

you shouldn't have irritated Mr. Wang. For that, who should die if not you?"

The gangster's voice had just ended when he raised the baseball bat high in the air.

Ding Xuan's pupils constricted, certain in the fact that he was done for!

"Mr. Wang!"

A cry rang out from the corridor and yet another gangster came rushing in with a disturbed expression on his face. "J-Just now, Mr. Yu called to ask if we captured a girl called Ji Youyou!"

Wang Hao's brows grew tight and an unhappy look flashed through his eyes. "What did Mr. Yu say?"

"Mr. Yu told us to hurry up and release Ji Youyou if she really is here!"

Wang Hao hesitated with a cold gleam in his eyes. He'd promised Wang Yanchao that he would do it; if he released Ji Youyou now, wouldn't he be breaking his word?

"Send someone to get Wang Yanchao and ask him what this is all about." Wang Hao

waved a hand and chased the lackey out of the room impatiently.

Only then did Wang Hao turn to look at Ding Xuan, squatting down and grabbing Ding Xuan by the hair to ask, "Did you do that?! I could never have imagined that you knew Mr. Yu!"

Ding Xuan glared at Wang Hao with overflowing hatred in his eyes.

Wang Hao chuckled. "You're not reconciled with it, are you? I have the numbersand!'m stronger; so what if you're not reconciled with it?! Do you think that you'll get away with this just because you called in a favor? Has Mr. Yu grown timid in his old age, that he doesn't even dare to carry out something as simple as this?! Let me tell you, I won't let anyone take Ji Youyou away today. It'll be my turn when Wang Yanchao is done with her!"

"Ptooey!" Ding Xuan's face was swollen all over, but he still took the chance and spat onto Wang Hao's face when the latter bent down.

"Cripple him!" Wang Hao screeched in anger and pointed toward Ding Xuan. "I want him dead!"

The lackey behind him charged forward, raising the baseball bat and bringing it down heavily onto Ding Xuan's legs.

"Argh!"

A tortured cry spread through every corner of the room. Unable to bear it, everyone turned their faces away from the sight.

Only Wang Hao watched intently without turning away and froze in shock when the tortured cry rang out. All he knew was that a flying dagger had glided from the corridor and buried itself in his lackey's wrist!

The cry had actually come from his lackey!

"Who is it?! Who dares to try that here?! Do you have a death wish?!" Wang Hao turned toward the door in indignation.

A young man with a sunny disposition, who was possibly a university student from the way he was dressed in a light blue T-shirt and a pair of jeans.

It was Tang Yin!

The first thing that Tang Yin saw when he walked in was Ding Xuan lying on the floor.

The sight pierced his heart like a knife.

"Are you alright?" Tang Yin walked over to Ding Xuan and grabbed hold of his arm.

Ding Xuan's face was swollen from all the bruises, so much so that his eyes were puffy slits and his mouth was a gash. Seeing that Tang Yin had finally arrived, he squeezed out the words rather indistinctly. "I'm fine. Quickly look for Ji Youyou!"

Tang Yin arched an eyebrow. "Yin Number One, hurry up and look for Ji Youyou! Yin Number Two, keep an eye on this bunch!"

Yin Number One nodded, then walked out of the room and kicked open each and every room, his eyes sweeping vigilantly for any sign of Ji Youyou.

Meanwhile, Tang Yin slowly stood up, boundless fury eating at his chest. With a face as dark as a thunderstorm, he grabbed a beer bottle lying near him and demanded, "Whoever laid a hand on him, stand out!"

Wang Hao was stunned for a second before breaking out into a grin. "And here I wondered who it was, turns out it's just the waiter from that small eatery! Back then, I

have ran into some unpleasant circumstances because of you; who'd have thought that you'd deliver yourself to me?!"

"Who hit him?" Tang Yin inquired again in an icy tone.

Wang Hao's face turned hard. "You're just a f*cking waiter, and you dare to ask all that?! Today, I'll—"

"Who hit him?!" Tang Yin roared at the top of his lungs.

"I'll murder you!" Wang Hao bellowed, pulling out the knife from his waist and lunging toward Tang Yin with it.

Tang Yin stood motionless, but Yin Number Two, who had been standing behind him, lifted a leg and kicked Wang Hao smack in the belly that sent him flying.

Wang Hao crashed into the wall with a loud thump and a muffled whimper.

All the witnesses around them stood rooted to their spots in disbelief.

It happened so quickly!

Yin Number Two had spent less than two seconds to unleash that kick and return to his original position!

Nearby, Jiang Yan trembled uncontrollably and shrank away in fear.

Furrows formed between Tang Yin's brows. When he saw that the gangsters around were behaving more meekly, he stepped forward, walked up to Wang Hao's side, then stooped down and patted him on the cheek. "Let me ask you again: who hit him?!"

Wang Hao roared with laughter when he saw Tang Yin's behavior. "I hit him! What are you gonna do about it?! Not only did I hit him, I'm going to cripple him later too! You dare to stick your nose in my affairs?! I have yet to get you back for the last incident; I'll take care of both incidents tonight—"

Without further warning, Tang Yin plunged the sharp end of the broken beer bottle into Wang Hao's belly.

Wang Hao felt a twisting pain in his belly and thundered, "Tang Yin, you're just a waiter, yet you dare to hurt me?! Do you know who I am?! Do you know who owns

this place?! And yet, you dare to injure me?! Don't even think about leaving this place alive!"

Tang Yin watched coldly as he extracted the broken bottle from Wang Hao's belly, then plunged it in once more.

Wang Hao roared in a mixture of fury and agony while his face had already begun to turn pale.

Tang Yin's face was grim. "Whether or not I manage to leave this place alive is my problem. But you, on the other hand, must die!"

Just then, Yin Number One called out from outside the door, "Young Master, hurry! Miss Ji Youyou is..."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"Look after Ding Xuan!" Tang Yin's heart leaped into his throat and he rushed into the corridor in Yin Number One's direction.

At this moment, Tang Yin was filled with fear and trepidation.

Over the last few days, Tang Yin had no choice but to admit that Ji Youyou had made her way into his heart, and that he indeed held her dear even if his feelings for her were still vague and budding.

If anything really happened to Ji Youyou, even Tang Yin himself couldn't promise what he would do.

"Young Master, over here!" Yin Number One called out loudly.

After rushing over quickly, Tang Yin pushed open the door at the end of the corridor and found Ji Youyou inside the room as he'd expected. To his dismay, she lay disheveled on the sofa in an unconscious state, with angry, swollen cheeks, tear stains at the corner of her eyes, and a ripped collar although not much had been exposed.

She looked as if she'd been fighting off whomever had been trying to force himself

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on her.

The flames of anger within Tang Yin's heart leaped up and he rushed forward to examine Ji Youyou more closely, and found that she hadn't been subjected to much more physical harm than the slap on her cheek.

Tang Yin hastily took off his jacket and covered Ji Youyou's front with it, then picked her up and carried her in his arms as he turned and walked toward the door.

"Wang Yanchao must be here; find him for me!" Tang Yin's face was as dark as a storm as he headed toward the room which he had left earlier.

Inside the room, Wang Hao had slowly straightened up, no longer doubled in pain, and he glared viciously at Tang Yin.

The crowd in the room immediately understood what had happened when they saw Ji Youyou in Tang Yin's arms.

Jiang Yan's face sported the most ugly flush, while Lin Chenfeng's expression shifted every so often. However, both of them just clenched their teeth and hid their faces, showing no inclination to explain

themselves.

Tang Yin placed Ji Youyou on the sofa and was just about to pull his hands away when he felt her grip on his wrist.

Looking down at the hand that grabbed his wrist, anger exploded in Tang Yin's chest when he saw that Ji Youyou's wrists were swollen, as if they had been squeezed so tightly that their blood flow had been compromised.

Endless rage burned within Tang Yin's chest, thereupon unleashing the wrathful monster in him. After all, how could he hold with Ding Xuan being beaten up like that and Ji Youyou being bullied and almost raped?!

By now, everyone in the room had their eyes on Tang Yin.

Tang Yin turned his head and grabbed hold of a baseball bat while he kept a cold eye trained on Wang Hao.

"Tang Yin, I'm warning you, you'd better get down on your knees and beg for mercy, maybe then I'll let you off," Wang Hao cackled and threatened with a forbiddingly menacing expression.

In response, Tang Yin raised the bat in his hands and brought it down heavily on Wang Hao's shoulder, whereupon the sound of bones breaking rang loudly in the room.

"Argh!" Wang Hao cried out in agony and curled up on the floor.

A small number of Wang Hao's underlings quickly lifted their chins to glare at Tang Yin with clenched teeth.

Tang Yin chucked the baseball bat, then swept a cold look over the room, and his face was flinty as he demanded, "Not happy?"

Yin Number One's eyes narrowed, killing intent brimming within his gaze.

Tang Yin laughed disdainfully and slapped the face of the goon closest to him. "You? Unhappy?! How dare you bunch terrorize the streets at an age when you should really know better?! Do you really think that you have nine lives?!"

"Tang Yin, don't you even think of leaving! You'll die here tonight!" Wang Hao continued bellowing.

With a forbidding expression, Tang Yin flicked his foot forward to stomp on Wang Hao's head.

"Tang Yin, how can you hit him—" Jiang Yan chose that moment to question Tang Yin in a wavering voice, though no one knew where she had gotten the confidence and courage to do so.

Tang Yin's hand whipped back only to fall onto her face in a hard slap. "As a student of Wuhan University, you actually conspired with outsiders to harm your own classmate!"

"Argh!" Jiang Yan cried out in surprise and fell to the floor.

Tang Yin grabbed her by the hair and gave her more than a dozen continuous slaps.

"Tang Yin, do you know what you're doing? Y-You're..." Lin Chenfeng's voice wavered as he took in the fact that Tang Yin was actually beating up his own classmates.

Tang Yin spun around and kicked out at Lin Chenfeng, landing squarely on him.

Lin Chenfeng flew backward and slammed into a coffee table whereupon his face

flushed scarlet.

Tang Yin walked up to him and grabbed hold of his collar. "You've been on my nerves for a very long time! I hadn't wanted to do anything to a small fry like you, but you've crossed the line this time!
Classmates?! Why didn't you remember that Ding Xuan was also your classmate while those men were beating him up?!
Why didn't you think that Ji Youyou was also your classmate while they were conspiring against her?! You bloody hypocritical dog, do you think that you'll still be able to escape this?!"

"Tang Yin..." Lin Chenfeng's face drained of color and he trembled uncontrollably in fear. He had never seen such a frightening look as the expression on Tang Yin's face at the moment; it sent shivers down his spine.

Tang Yin lifted Lin Chenfeng's head, then slammed it down hard against the coffee table, which responded with a loud crack and the glass on the coffee table took on a web-like, crazed appearance.

A deathly silence then fell over the room.

No one could have imagined that Tang Yin

could behave so violently and cruelly.

After tidying his clothes, Tang Yin slowly got up and turned to glance at Wang Hao.

Wang Hao curled his upper lip, still sputtering, "Tang Yin, you're done for this time!"

Tang Yin tipped his head and had just raised his hand when two men barged into the room, took one look at the situation and instantly put on cold, somber faces.

"Y-Young Master Tang!"

Tang Yin paused, then turned to look at the newcomer who had just spoken; he was roughly forty years of age with a bald head, wore a large gold chain around his neck, and had harsh lines deep-rooted within the set of his face.

"Young Master Tang, p-please have mercy!" Yu Chengguang swallowed hard, then hastily tried to approach Tang Yin.

Yin Number One put himself in front of Tang Yin and pushed Yu Chengguang away.

Yu Chengguang winced. "Young Master

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Tang, it's my fault, all my fault! My name is Yu Chengguang, and the turfs around here are watched over by my men. Please have mercy and let these bumbling fools go..."

"These are all your men?" Tang Yin's voice was deeper and more guttural than that of a demon.

"Y-Yes!" Yu Chengguang forced out a smile that made him look worse than a ghost. "Wang Hao is one of my men! Please forgive his trespasses..."

Tang Yin clenched his fists tightly.

"Hahahaha!" Wang Hao suddenly burst out into laughter, then spat out another mouthful of blood and spit before finally climbing to his feet with a hand against the wall. "Mr. Yu, you senile dog! Tell me, did you grow timid with age?! He's got you scared out of your wits with just two goons that he hired from God-knows-where?! Just get lost if you're not going to be of any more use, I have no further need of your support, and let me be clear: Tang Yin isn't leaving this place alive!"

"Wang Hao!" Yu Chengguang roared as his face flushed with anger and he glowered at Wang Hao. "What you've done today has gone completely against the code! Hurry up and apologize to Young Master Tang!"

"Apologize?! Hahahaha!" Wang Hao laughed raucously as a ruthless gleam flashed through his eyes. "Yu Chengguang, you're actually telling me to apologize to him?! What kind of trash do you have for brains?!"

Yu Chengguang glared at him with ferocity etched in every inch of his narrowed eyes and arched eyebrows. "Wang Hao, do you have a death wish?!"

"Death wish?!" Wang Hao stood against the wall, laughing wildly without inhibitions. "I'd say that I had a death wish if I'd gone on being your henchman! What have I gotten in the three years I spent being your henchman?! You've been as timid as a mouse, hardly the making of a great man! I would have been better off following a dog!"

"Very well put!" A round of applause rang out from outside the door, and a man with a bare upper body and a flowery pair of boxers walked into the room.

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Tang Yin narrowed his eyes a little when he saw the man in his thirties who had unconcealed viciousness in his eyes and a figure as swollen as a ball.

"Mr. Yue, just what do you mean by that?!"
Yu Chengguang demanded with hostility in his tone.

Yue Rui snickered and pushed Yu
Chengguang away. "Cheng, Cheng! It's
been so many years since your heyday,
and you really seem to be getting old; you
just keep stopping me whenever I want to
do anything in my own shop; you discredit
me, and you just keep getting in my way!
Wang Hao isn't bad, and we get along well,
so why don't you stand back like the
indisposed old man that you are, and stop
blocking our path to riches?!"

" Very good! It looks like you're going fully insubordinate!" Yu Chengguang clenched his teeth.

Yue Rui chuckled frostily, not even bothered to spare him a glance, turning his attention toward Tang Yin instead.

"Mr. Yue, he's the one who dared to stir up trouble in your shop! You can't let him escape!" Wang Hao stretched a finger out

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and pointed at Tang Yin.

A mocking smile hung on the corner of Tang Yin's lips; he hadn't expected to watch the inner strife unfold, but he didn't care about that. All he cared about was how these men would be held accountable.

He wouldn't leave if he didn't get a satisfactory explanation!

"Tang Yin, is it?" Yue Rui took a step forward.

Yin Number One hurriedly got in his way with his fists at the ready, prepared to take Yue Rui down at a single word from Tang Yin.

"Huh!" Yue Rui guffawed coldly. "You're even bringing your own hired gun around! Are the students nowadays all as swollenheaded as you? I really haven't seen anyone quite as arrogant as you in this area, but whatever it is you do outside, you shouldn't have tried it in my shop.

Shouldn't we talk about this?"

"Oh? You think so?" Tang Yin tipped his head.



Claim(8s)





"Huh! How very insolent of you!" Yue Rui laughed, rousing a bout of sycophantic laughter around him.

Yin Number One had held Wang Hao's men in check earlier, but their cheek seemed to have returned now that Yue Rui had appeared.

Yue Rui was their real boss although they followed Wang Hao in the day to day. Besides, even Wang Hao deferred to Yue Rui. Without Yue Rui, how could Wang Hao have dared to challenge Yu Chengguang?! Although Yu Chengguang hadgrown timid over the years, it didn't mean that his influence had disappeared. On the contrary, his name still wielded much influence in the area around Wuhan University.

"I don't like fighting and killing; I much prefer talking reason instead." Yue Rui looked coldly at Tang Yin, then took a round of the room, stroking the walls and patting a cracked coffee table before turning his head back to look at Tang Yin. "This coffee table was imported, and it was made entirely from diamonds; each costs more than 30 million. The paint I used for these walls was also imported, and it costs 20 million to repair a chip just



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the size of a fingernail. Look, you've destroyed so much of my property. Shouldn't you compensate me for all that?"

His words were laced with evil sarcasm and he evidently had no intention of just making Tang Yin compensate him with money. Rather, he wanted to paint Tang Yin in a bad light so that he could tear him down later.

Everyone in the audience knew that Tang Yin had rubbed a difficult character the wrong way, and that he would pay his dues even if he didn't pay with his life.

"Exactly, make him pay!" Jiang Yan stood up and pointed at Tang Yin like a fishwife despite her swollen cheeks, and howled at the top of her lungs. "I can testify that he smashed it all up! Make him pay for every single thing that has been damaged here!"

"That's right! Make him pay!" Lin Chenfeng spat out another mouthful of blood and glared at Tang Yin with absolute wrath in his eyes.

Tang Yin watched them as an icy feeling formed in his chest; these were his classmates, the people he hadn't been willing to get retribution from, the same

people who had turned their guns on him now that Yue Rui appeared to have the upper hand.

"How about it?" Yue Rui spread his hands, underlining the mocking smile on his face. "Everyone here is on my side. You ruined my property; shouldn't you pay for it? That's perfectly reasonable, isn't it?"

"Yue Rui, you may want to curb yourself, or you might not even know what hit you..." Yu Chengguang's face was cold as ice.

"Old fart, you just keep poking your nose in where you aren't wanted! Just get lost and die somewhere!" Wang Hao kicked Yu Chengguang in his belly. "I'll lay it out for you: even the heavenly kings won't be able to save Tang Yin if they come for him!"

Yu Chengguang was floored by the unexpected kick.

"Fine, you've got guts! I'll settle this with you once Young Master Tang's matter is over!" Yu Chengguang slowly climbed to his feet.

Wang Hao's face contorted fearsomely and he swung a hard punch onto Yu Chengguang's face. "Old fart, looks like

you want to die today!"

Who knew where the goons around him got their guts, but they turned and stomped on Yu Chengguang.

Tang Yin watched coldly, then suddenly gave a short burst of laughter before turning to look at Yue Rui. "You're being reasonable here?"

"That's right! I'm trying to reason things out with you here; how's that? I went pretty light on you, didn't I?" Yue Rui stooped down and made a strange guffaw at Tang Yin.

Tang Yin tilted his head and smiled.
"Indeed, you weregoing light on me. So why don't I show you some mercy as well? You hurt my girlfriend, my priceless treasure; your men drugged and slapped her, so why don't I make it simple and demand 100 million for that? Your men also beat up my good friend, the only good friend I really have at university, so why don't you give me 50 million in compensation? Do you think that's merciful enough for you?"

"Merciful?" Yue Rui stood flabbergasted for a moment before bursting out into

laughter. "100 million?! 50 million?! Are you f*cking mad?! Why don't you take a look at this place and who I, Yue Rui, am? You dare to try to haggle with me?!"

"Oh?" Tang Yin spread his hands. "You don't seem to have understood what kind of place this is and what kind of person I am either!"

"What a death wish you must have!"



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Yue Rui roared. His face, which had carried a smile not a moment ago, instantly contorted into a terrible scowl. "Since you have a death wish, don't blame me for this! Men, cut his leg off! I'd like to see whether anyone will dare to stir trouble on my territory after this!"

His goons quickly scrambled to follow his orders, already raising their weapons high in the air.

"Yin Number One, I want them alive!" Tang Yin barked as his face turned dark.

Yin Number One licked his lips and pulled a baton out from his belt, then delivered a kick to the man rushing straight at him before swinging the baton down heavily on the man's forehead.

Blood spattered everywhere, and the hooligan fell to the floor before he knew what hit him.

Yin Number One sent another goon flying with a kick, and the goon fell onto a television, which broke with a loud crack.

"You're done for, ruining so much of my stuff! You'll pay for this with your life!" Yue Rui howled with rage.

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Tang Yin's eyes were narrowed into slits. "Tonight, we'll smash the entire place up for you!"

"Men, come in!" Yue Rui sneered and flourished a hand.

With his words, the door to the private room was pushed open and a group of men, each armed with a machete, charged in.

The blades, prohibited by law, glinted dangerously under the lights. More than ten men circled Yin Number One, swishing and swinging their blades at him.

The students in the private room huddled on the ground with their hands pressed against their ears and screamed shrilly in fear.

When had they seen such scenes other than in the movies? This time, it was real, and blood was flying everywhere.

Tang Yin's face twitched as he watched, and he stretched a hand into his shirt to pull out a baton.

"Tang Yin, I'll send you to hell with my own hands!" Wang Hao roared with laughter

and hobbled over to him with a hand pressed against his stomach and the other holding a machete which he swung down at Tang Yin's head.

Tang Yin flung the baton out to block Wang Hao's attack, and abruptly flew backward from a kick.

"Young Master!" Yin Number One's face blanched.

Tang Yin rolled to break his fall and hastily hid Ji Youyou behind himself. The baton had parried Wang Hao's machete swing, but now he saw Wang Hao leaning forward with a malevolent smile and licking his lips cruelly. "Die..." He heard Wang Hao mutter.

Tang Yin barely had time to register the word when he felt a hard

"Kill him!" Yue Rui's face was cold and dark, and he let out a sinister burst of laughter.

Bang!

Just then, a huge crash rang out from the floor below them; the entire nightclub heard the thunderous crash.

"Yue Rui, you're done for!" Yu Chengguang sneered. He wore a terrible smile on his face as he reclined on the wall, as if he knew something that Yue Rui didn't.

"Who is it?!" Yue Rui's head swiveled to see the room door flung open by one of his underlings. "Mr. Yue, there are lots of men out there; the nightclub has been completely surrounded, and there are at least a thousand of them..."

"At least a thousand?!" Alarmed, Yue Rui swept a look over the situation in the room before rushing out into the corridor.

Just then, a figure flashed through the doorway and delivered a hard kick to Yue Rui's stomach, sending him flying back into the room.

Thirty-odd men in black walked into the room with weapons in their hands, which they swung at Yue Rui's men without a second word.

Yue Rui's men suffered quite a few blows before they realized what was happening, and they cried out in agony from the pain of their injuries, but the weapons continued storming at them without mercy.

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Yue Rui watched the men who had just crowded into the room, and his expression changed abruptly.

The men who had just entered the room were far more superior than the hooligans under his command; those men were all skilled fighters, and ruthless fighters at that.

Within a few short moments, the newcomers gained the upper hand, but the batons they wielded didn't stop, and beat Yue Rui's men till they fell to the ground, groaning and howling most distressingly.

How had so many men come out of nowhere?!

Within less than three minutes, Yue Rui's men lay sprawled on the ground, each keeping as silent as they could in spite of the countless broken bones amongst them.

The situation had changed so quickly; the newcomers had taken charge of the battlefield with an overwhelming advantage.

Yue Rui's expression was ugly; he held his breath as his eyelid twitched while his

stomach was a bundle of knots.

He'd been so sure, but he broke out in a cold sweat at the newcomers' arrival.

Yue Rui caught his breath as he lifted his head to glance at Tang Yin. This doesn't have anything to do with that brat, does it?

Yue Rui quickly cast the notion aside and parted the crowd in an attempt to make a run for it, but a figure already stood in the doorway.

Pei He!

Pei He's face was flinty and he stared at Yue Rui with a cold, hard glint in his eyes.

"M-Mr. Pei? Why are you here?" Yue Rui's face was covered in apprehension as he hadn't expected Pei He to appear there, of all places.

Was there anyone in Wuhan who didn't know of Pei He? He was almost a legendary figure within Wuhan, but most importantly, his path upward had been marked by countless battles.

Yue Rui truly hadn't expected that Pei He would turn up there.

"Mr. Pei!" Yue Rui trembled to his core, for he sensed the bloodthirst that filled Pei He's eyes.

The crowd was parted and the group of gangsters scattered completely, while Wang Hao, who had been kicked twice, lay curled up in a ball on the ground, oblivious to his surroundings.

"Young Master..." Yin Number One walked over. He didn't look best pleased, and he swung the tactical baton in his hands so that it rattled slightly as he took in the red, swollen patch on Tang Yin's face.

"Mr. Pei, why didn't you call ahead? It's a little messy around here, please come this way instead." Yue Rui made a gesture of invitation, and the foreboding he felt showed on his face.

Pei He pushed Yue Rui away, then turned to approach Tang Yin and bow slightly toward him. "Young Master Tang..."

Tang Yin nodded and rubbed at the red, swollen patch at the corner of his mouth as his eyes narrowed.

Pei He had finally come!

"Send Ding Xuan to the hospital first, and send some men to protect him!" Tang Yin instructed in a soft voice.

Pei He nodded and gestured to his men.

"Mr. Pei, I..." Yue Rui was taken aback as he hadn't thought that Pei He had come for Tang Yin's sake, nor that he would address Tang Yin so respectfully. A multitude of possibilities flashed through Yue Rui's mind in that instant, and he fell to the ground with a loud thunk. "Mr. Pei, I-I'm sorry!"

With that, Yue Rui abruptly gave himself two tight slaps.

The slaps echoed in the room.

Pei He's brow was tight as he shook his head, "Young Master Tang, he isn't one of my men."

"Mr. Pei, I've always seen you as my idol..."
Yue Rui's face twitched and he hastily said,
"Mr. Pei, this is all a misunderstanding!"

Wang Hao watched the scene unfold with trepidation. I was relying on Mr. Yue for support, but now, it looks like he can't be relied on either!

At that moment, Wang Hao was stunned, and alarms rang in his head.

Yue Rui is actually on his knees!

Wang Hao couldn't believe his eyes, and he shrank further and further away. Right then, he wished for nothing more than to be able to run out of the room and be free of the place.

"Young Master Tang, how should I deal with them?" Pei He inquired quietly.

"Pei He, you can't touch me! There's a big shot backing me, a big shot that you can't afford to rub the wrong way!" Yue Rui cried out wildly when he saw that Pei He was ignoring him.

Pei He lifted a foot and gave him a flying kick, sending him sliding a good distance away, into a coffee table.

With a loud crack, the coffee table, which had already been filled with cracks, shattered into smithereens from the impact of Yue Rui's body. The sound sent the students within the room into another frenzy of shrill screams.

Yue Rui hastily climbed to his feet and

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protested distraughtly, "Pei He, I know that you're good, but this isn't a place where you can do as you like. If you touch me now, you won't make it three days before someone cripples you as a lesson!"

Pei He frowned and a murderous storm brewed within his eyes.

Tang Yin waved a hand to stop Pei He and took slow, measured steps toward Yue Rui.

Yue Rui's face flushed angrily and he kept his eyes trained on Tang Yin. "You had better not touch me—"

Smack!

The sound reverberated as Tang Yin swung a hand onto Yue Rui's face with all the might he could muster even as a smile rose in his eyes. "Not touch you? Of course I can do that! How about this... borrowing your words, I too can be a benevolent man! As I said earlier, you beat up my friends, so don't you think that you should give some payback?"

"I..." Yue Rui gaped, and his face contorted.
"I don't know what happened, I really don't!
It was all Wang Hao! That b*stard, Wang
Hao, did all of it!"

Tang Yin's face was cold as a glacier as he slowly raised his head to fix his gaze on Wang Hao.

Wang Hao felt his blood run cold and drain from his face. "Tang Yin, I'm sorry! I had no idea that they were your friends! If I had known, I would never have dared to touch them in a million years! Give me another chance, I beg you! We can stop this feud and be friends, and you can look to me for anything, anything at all after this!"

Tang Yin walked over and squatted beside him, then patted his cheek. "Give you a chance?! Will I still be able to walk out of here if I do?!"

"Please, go ahead... You can do whatever you want!" Wang Hao hastily replied with pleading etched all over his face.

Pei He gave a look to his underlings, who walked up to Wang Hao and hauled him up and out of the private room.

"No! Don't!" Wang Hao screamed as if grasping at his last straws at life, then shouted out at Yu Chengguang at the top of his lungs upon catching sight of him. "Mr. Yu! Mr. Yu, save me, Mr. Yu! I'm one of your men! I beg you, please save me!"

Yu Chengguang just laughed chillingly in response as he leaned backward. He knew that he wasn't capable of putting a good word in. Besides, Wang Hao had hurt him to the core earlier, so there was no way he'd even try to help.

Tang Yin stood up and turned his gaze on Yue Rui. He was sure that Pei He had his ways to squeeze a good explanation out of Wang Hao. In fact, Pei He wouldn't be fit to occupy his position if he let Wang Hao weasel his way out of such a position without a scratch.

"Aaacckkkk!" A soul-piercing scream rang out from outside the private room, followed by the unmistakable crack of breaking bones.

Almost every face within the room turned ashen.

Wang Hao was ruined!

The situation had turned so abruptly and Wang Hao, who had been so high and mighty just a few minutes ago, was likely lying with his four limbs in a wrecked state.

Tang Yin tilted his head as he

contemplated Yue Rui,

Yue Rui's face was ashen and he trembled uncontrollably as his eyes darted around, not daring to meet Tang Yin's gaze.

Just then, Yin Number One walked into the room.

In his grasp, he held a boy who was clad in nothing more than a towel; it was none other than Wang Yanchao.

Wang Yanchao's knees grew weak once he entered the room, and he instantly fell to the floor. He'd been hiding in a private room not far away, so he knew everything that had happened within this room, but hadn't had the guts to emerge.

Wang Yanchao had been thinking that he would still have the chance to rape Ji Youyou as long as the drug's effects hadn't passed, and as long as Tang Yin and his lackeys were chased away. Who could have imagined that the situation would change so quickly and that Tang Yin's reinforcements would come in such large numbers?!

Yin threw Wang Yanchao onto the floor unceremoniously, and he clambered to his

feet, then tried to explain himself to Tang Yin almost on his knees. "Tang Yin, listen to my explanation, just hear me out!"

Tang Yin had a cutting expression on his face. "Which hand did you touch Ji Youyou with?"

"I really like her very much..." Wang Yanchao's voice trembled as he spoke.

Tang Yin took a step forward and grabbed Wang Yanchao by the scalp, his expression contracting as he demanded, "I asked you, which hand did you touch Ji Youyou with!"

"I..." Wang Yanchao was shocked, his face as pale as paper and trembling uncontrollably in fear. "I—My right hand!"

Tang Yin grabbed Wang Yanchao's right hand without a word, and trampled it under his foot.

"Aaaaaggghh!" Wang Yanchao's cries of agony instantly rang out. He'd always played the piano and as such, had taken great care of his fingers. Yet three of them had been snapped underfoot by Tang Yin's vicious stomp on his hand,

Tang Yin lifted his foot, then glared coldly at Wang Yanchao. "Did you touch her with your left hand?"

"My left hand..." Wang Yanchao repeated, still in a daze.

Tang Yin grabbed hold of his left hand, but didn't use his feet this time. Instead, he brought the baton in his hand down hard on Wang Yanchao's wrist.

Crack!

Wang Yanchao's eyes widened before he passed out from the pain.

There was nary a ripple on Tang Yin's face as he kept the baton and turned toward Yue Rui. "Mr. Yue, shouldn't you transfer the compensation to me...?"

"I..." Yue Rui's face turned gray and pallid.
"Tang Yin, I'm sorry. I know that I was
wrong, so please give me another
chance..."

"Do you mean to say that you don't have the money?" Tang Yin tilted his head and inquired,

150 million; he wouldn't be able to make

half as many cuts on Yue Rui, no matter how thinly he sliced the meat off.

"As per the code!"

Tang Yin narrowed his eyes and brandished a hand at Pei He.

Yue Rui's face grew white as a sheet and he cried out, "Tang Yin, please!"

Tang Yin watched as a group of men dragged Yue Rui out of the room, and finally turned his attention to Jiang Yan and Lin Chenfeng.

These two really aren't fit to be my classmates!



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Lin Chenfeng had been high-handed even when they'd both just enrolled in the university, but Tang Yin hadn't been willing to take him to task for it then as many of the things Lin Chenfeng had done hadn't intruded upon his rights, nor had he been willing to deal harshly with Lin Chenfeng. But now, Lin Chenfeng had really crossed the line.

"Tang Yin!" Lin Chenfeng swallowed and shakily forced out, "Tang Yin, we're all classmates!"

"We're classmates?" Tang Yin tilted his head, the fury within him bursting out with a vengeance. It might have been better for them if Lin Chenfeng hadn't brought up the fact that they were classmates, because he was now filled with disgust.

"Yes, that's right! We're classmates; I'll do whatever you say from now on!" Lin Chenfeng hastily replied.

Tang Yin laughed coldly and delivered a tight slap to his face. "You're not fit to be my classmate!"

"Yes, yes, yes! I'm not fit to be your classmate!" Lin Chenfeng, on the contrary from getting irked, nodded emphatically

while agreeing frantically with Tang Yin.

"Won't you f*cking stand for yourself?!" Tang Yin gave him another hard slap.

The class monitor who had held sway over the classroom was slapped into complete submission by Tang Yin. "I don't have a stand! I don't..."

Tang Yin withdrew his hand, then turned his head to glance at Jiang Yan.

Jiang Yan had gone white as a corpse from shock and fear and stood in a corner, hugging her arms to herself.

Tang Yin looked at her coolly before turning to pick up and place Ji Youyou on his back. "Break their arms and legs, then dump them at the police station; explain that they conspired with some gangsters to harm their fellow classmates, and make the university expel them."

"Tang Yin, don't!" Lin Chenfeng's face was filled with fear and regret.

No longer able to suppress the fear in her heart, Jiang Yan burst into tears with a loud wail, truly overwhelmed.

Several men stepped forward and grabbed hold of Lin Chenfeng and Jiang Yan's limbs, already raising their batons.

"Tang Yin, I was wrong. Give me another chance! We're classmates, after all..."

Jiang Yan pled with tears and snot dribbling down her face.

The batons swung down I

"Aaaaaggghhh!" Lin Chenfeng and Jiang Yan's terrifyingly sad and shrill screams of pain echoed throughout the nightclub like the squeals of a stuck pig.

"Smash this place up!" Tang Yin threw down before he left.

Pei He nodded and turned to give his underlings the relevant orders,

The Chinese Violet Nightclub was left dead in the water with Tang Yin's declaration.

The hundreds of men that Pei He had brought with him charged into the nightclub and smashed it up from the top floor to the bottom. As for Yue Rui's downfall, he was sure to end up with at least a couple of holes according to the

mafia code.

Tang Yin seldom cared about things like that, so he just stood with Ji Youyou on his back and waited in front of the nightclub's entrance for a few moments,

Pei He walked out of the nightclub and stood beside Tang Yin as he reported quietly, "Yue Rui squealed. Therehas been someone backing him, for one year now! The only reason he managed to gain a foothold here is because that person gave him the capital to establish this nightclub!"

"Did you find out whom it is?" Tang Yin's face was hard.

"I did! It's a woman bearing the Tang family name!" Pei He lifted his face to look straight at Tang Yin.

Tang Yin's eyes narrowed into slits as a cold smile played on the corner of his lips. "Looks like those cousins of mine have finally begun to make their moves!

Someone has been laying traps for me since the day I came to Wuhan University..."

"That makes sense!" Pei He nodded. "It was most likely just a coincidence that

Miss Ji was captured in this nightclub, because we wouldn't have been able to find them as they would have hidden their tracks more thoroughly otherwise..."

Tang Yin nodded and left for home with Ji Youyou on his back.

The events surrounding Ji Youyou had only been a coincidence, and he could never have imagined that they would stumble across such a large fish.

A woman bearing the Tang family name!

Tang Yin could figure out that the woman behind this was definitely from the Tang Family at the drop of a hat. Besides, she probably wasn't just responsible for Yue Rui's nightclub; the capital influx that Garden Jewelries had gotten was most likely her doing as well!

Tang Yin just couldn't be sure who it was, though he did know that she'd certainly created no lack of trouble for him.

Pei He watched Tang Yin leave, wondering whether or not to chase after him, but heaved a sigh and stayed rooted to the spot in the end.

Tang Yin carrying Ji Youyou on his back formed a lonesome-looking figure under the dusky yellow light of the street lamps.

They had just passed Wuhan University when Ji Youyou stirred on Tang Yin's back and murmured his name. "Tang Yin..."

"I'm here," Tang Yin reassured her, then chuckled.

Ji Youyou remained motionless, as if she had fallen into a deep sleep on his shoulder.

However, Tang Yin could feel the moisture seeping through his clothes on his shoulder, and it pulled at the most tender spot on his heart.

Ji Youyou wept silently on Tang Yin's shoulder, as if she was clinging onto her last shred of hope. Never in her life had she ever felt so secure or at peace as this moment.

Tang Yin had no idea as to what she was thinking, and he wondered whether or not he should charge her for carrying her all the way home as it wasn't an easy feat for him either.

Back at home, Tang Yin sent Ji Youyou to her room and shook his head, smiling, when he saw her half-closed eyes.

Ji Youyou was still the same as ever, but Tang Yin was no longer the same as before.

When he got back to his room, he dug out his phone and called a secret number.

"Investigate the Tang Family members' recent activities."

"Yes, of course!" The crisp reply rang out from the other end of the line,

Tang Yin hung up then lay in bed, staring absently at the ceiling.

Since his opponent had already bared his jaws, Tang Yin had no intention of turning the other cheek. In a major family like the Tang Family, a hint of kindness or weakness could result in death.

The next morning, Tang Yin woke up early, only to shake his head when he found Ji Youyou missing. He freshened himself up before heading toward the hospital.

Ding Xuan had undergone treatment last

night; most of his injuries were external, and none of them were major.

When Tang Yin arrived, Ding Xuan was lying in bed with a girl by his bedside, only around eighteen or nineteen years of age, who looked to be a university student as well.

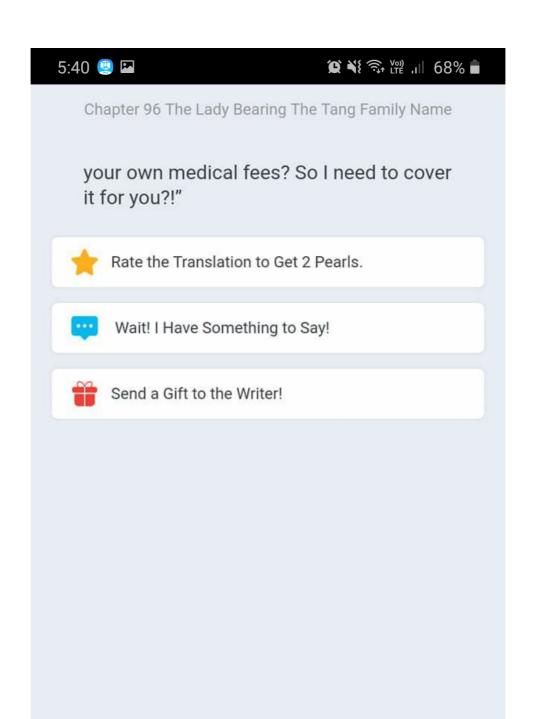
Was this Ding Xuan's girlfriend?!

Tang Yin's curiosity ran amok and he hung outside the door for a while.

Inside the room, the girl spoke, "Ding Xuan, I'm really disappointed in you. I hadn't thought that you would actually get into a fight with a bunch of gangsters..."

"I was helping my good friend out," Ding Xuan, on the hospital bed, found it difficult to explain.

"Helping your good friend out? Where is he now?" Fu Ying turned her face away in a huff, then coolly threw a barrage of questions at him. "What did you tell me yesterday?! Did you forget? You said that you would work hard, then marry me. Did you throw all that to the wind? Is this what you meant by working hard? Going out and getting into fights, unable to even pay for



Tang Yin paused in the doorway; his men should have taken care of Ding Xuan's medical fees, so why did Ding Xuan's girlfriend say that she covered it?

"Ying, I just didn't want my good friend to be burdened. Help me out on this, and I'll return it to you in a few days..." Ding Xuan spoke with difficulty around his swollen cheeks.

"You don't want your good friend to be burdened? Do you mean to say that you're alright with burdening me with it instead?! Can you or can't you cut it off with those so-called good friends of yours?!" Fu Ying's eyes popped out in disbelief as she stared at Ding Xuan.

Ding Xuan's face was ashen. "Ying, I promise you that I'll return the money within a week!"

"A week? Do you know how much your medical bills cost?! Your family was ruined like that, and you still dare to borrow money from me?" Fu Ying shook her head in disappointment, then stood up, "Ding Xuan, I'm sorry, but I don't think that things between us will work out if you carry on like this!"

"Ying!" Ding Xuan's tone grew urgent and he struggled to get up, but the severity of his injuries stopped him, and he could only lie there grimacing and gnashing his teeth. "Ying!"

"My mother will never agree to it!" Fu Ying shook her head and turned to leave.

Tang Yin was taken aback. Their parents have already met?!

Just then, footsteps rang out from behind, and a forty-odd-year-old woman with a flinty face walked in, frowning in surprise when she caught sight of Tang Yin, but didn't take further notice of him and just swerved around him into Ding Xuan's room.

"Mum, why are you here?!" At the sight of her, Fu Ying hastily walked forward and held her hand.

Zhao Qingmei's brows grew tight and she threw a look of disgust at Ding Xuan on his bed as she demanded in a voice barbed with annoyance. "Ying, who allowed you to come here?!"

Fu Ying winced, finding it difficult to answer.

"Who?!" Zhao Qingmei hissed.

Fu Ying's voice was brittle, as if she was about to cry. "Mum, Ding Xuan had an issue, so I just came over to visit him..."

"Who let you visit him?! He's just a mangy cur who only knows how to get into fights! Who allowed you to visit him?!" Livid, Zhao Qingmei stretched a finger out at Ding Xuan. "What good is he? Huh? I've told you to leave him umpteen times, why won't you listen?!"

Fu Ying's face was glum and she kept it lowered.

Ding Xuan hurriedly plastered a smile onto his face. "Aunt Zhao, I asked Ying to come. Please don't blame her..."

"You asked Ying to come?" Zhao Qingmei turned livid at Ding Xuan's disclosure and she turned a finger on him. "What right didyou have to ask Ying to come?! Ding Xuan, I'm warning you, don't think about it; Ying is way out of your league! And don't think we don't know your family's dirty schemes! Do you think you're a good match for Ying, with her looks, accomplishments, and family status?!"

Ding Xuan's face was a little dark.

Zhao Qingmei snorted and continued. "I had thought that your behavior would improve and that you wouldn't get into any more fights since you had gotten into Wuhan University, but it looks as if you didn't improve and went from bad to worse instead! Your family used to be an affluent family as well, so how did you become such a rabid, mangy cur?!"

Ding Xuan's face grew long. "Aunt Zhao, my familywill get back on our feet! I believe that you too know about the relationship between Ying and me..."

"Get back on your feet?! More like just drop dead! Get back on your feet, indeed!" Zhao Qingmei scoffed and pulled her daughter behind her as she looked straight at Ding Xuan. "If you really want me to approve of the relationship between you and my daughter, then come up with a bride price of 30 million, or just forget it!"

"I..." Ding Xuan's lips quivered.

Zhao Qingmei looked at him in disdain. "You don't have the money? Then don't act like you're a big shot; I don't have the time to fool around with you. Why don't you take

a look in the mirror? You're so poor that you can't even afford your next meal, and yet you still have your sights on my daughter?!"

The words had scarcely dropped from her lips when Zhao Qingmei dragged Fu Ying toward the door, muttering as she went. "I just f*cking knew that he was like that, doomed to be a no-account wretch for life; I'll commit suicide with a head butt if he really manages to come up with 30 million!"

Tang Yin stood in the doorway, and deep furrows took root in his brow as he took in the entire scene. He took a few steps toward Zhao Qingmei and blocked the doorway.

Zhao Qingmei faltered, and her face turned sour, "And where is this mangy cur from? Blocking the way? It's a civil society; could you be trying to barricade my daughter and I here against our wills?!"

Tang Yin tilted his head to watch her as he jeered, "I'm not brave enough to get in the way of a mangy cur!"

"What did you say?!" Irked, Zhao Qingmei lifted a finger toward Tang Yin. "Say that

again?!"

"Mangy cur!" Tang Yin sneered, then arched an eyebrow and taunted, "Why? You're not satisfied?! My good friend, Ding Xuan, may not have 30 million now, but I believe in him; let alone 30 million, he'll be able to come up with 300 million within less than three years time. But what aboutyou?!"

"What a braggart this guy is!" Zhao Qingmei dismissed Tang Yin with a scoff.

Wearing a smile and looking at her through tilted eyes, Tang Yin replied, "I never boast, and Ding Xuan has already received an offer letter from Zhong Yin Group for a general manager's position, so you should think properly about the future before you step out this door."

The instant Zhao Qingmei heard the name "Zhong Yin Group", her expression changed.

Zhong Yin Group was Pei He's company and was often in Wuhan City's limelight; how could she not have heard of it?

"Mum!" Fu Ying exclaimed somewhat beseechingly.

"Come on, let's go home! We're better off binging on TV dramas than listening to these hooligans talk big! If Ding Xuan manages to make it, then I'm going to work in the United Nations tomorrow!" Zhao Qingmei took a sling at Tang Yin and Ding Xuan, then pulled Fu Ying out of the hospital room.

Tang Yin sighed softly as he watched them.

There were lots of things that he couldn't change even if he really lent a hand; Ding Xuan needed to stand up and become stronger to stand straight and redeem his dignity in front of Zhao Qingmei one day.

Ding Xuan lay in the hospital bed with a face consumed by grief.

Tang Yin walked over, then patted him on the shoulder. "What's wrong?"

"Nothing! That? That was no sweat off my back!" Ding Xuan squeezed out a smile. "Bro, I've got amazing luck, surviving even this; there's sure to be something great waiting for me!"

Tang Yin felt wry amusement at Ding Xuan's words, then looked over his injuries

and sighed in relief as there appeared to be no severe injuries involving his bones or internal organs although there were many bruises on his skin.

"What was that earlier?" Tang Yin asked nonchalantly.

"What do you mean?" Ding Xuan tried to act the fool.

Tang Yin chuckled. "You don't see me as a brother?"

Ding Xuan's expression was stiff and smiled awkwardly. "It's nothing much, just a little bit of friction between my girlfriend's family and mine. What else could it be?"

Tang Yin studied Ding Xuan's face, saw his darting eyes, and knew that he wasn't telling the truth. Zhao Qingmei's tone of voice hadn't sounded as if she'd just been talking about some family drama, but something more profound and significant.

"Why are you looking at me like that?" Ding Xuan sighed.

Tang Yin stared at Ding Xuan without blinking.

"Why the f*ck are you staring at me that way?! I'm not a naked babe!" Ding Xuan growled, then attempted to turn away from Tang Yin, but the pain that flared all over his body made him shudder and squawk in pain.

Tang Yin shook his head and sighed quietly. "Do you like that girl?"

Ding Xuan's body quaked, and his face fell all of a sudden.

Tang Yin stood up and smiled at his friend. "If you like her, then go after her and get things done properly..."

Ding Xuan didn't reply, but his face was dark and long.

"If you don't like her, then there's nothing to it; I think she looks rather good, and must have quite a number of admirers. If you really aren't willing to get her back, then I can only say that I was mistaken about you," Tang Yin lamented.

"Tang Yin, some things aren't as simple as you think!" Ding Xuan heaved a sigh. He spoke in a solemn voice that he'd never used with Tang Yin before. "Fu Ying and I grew up together, but an incident

happened that left us all in this mess!"

"An incident?" Tang Yin frowned.

"Yes, a life-changing incident..." Ding Xuan exhaled and shook his head. "The incident had such an impression on me that my personality changed significantly..."

The more Ding Xuan narrated his past, the more troubled his expression grew, as if he was sinking deeper and deeper into guilt and regret.



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Tang Yin watched Ding Xuan's face without giving any further remarks. Perhaps the injuries that Ding Xuan had suffered this time had brought about a series of events, but the root of it all was still none other than himself.

"Ying and I grew up together... you could even say that we were childhood sweethearts!" Ding Xuan shared painfully.

Tang Yin tipped his head and studied Ding Xuan without saying a word as he knew that it wouldn't help the situation.

Sometimes, emotions needed to be overcome on one's own; it didn't matter what anyone else said as they couldn't truly hold sway over another's heart.

"When I was ten, my dad got into a car accident and the Ding Family collapsed..."
Ding Xuan punctuated his words with a small sigh and a shake of his head. "When that happened, my mum sold the house to cover our debts. We moved out of the neighborhood, and I never saw Ying again, at least until a few days ago, when I saw her at the Wuhan Foreign Studies University."

Tang Yin listened and nodded lightly.

Ding Xuan exhaled softly, and grief rose in his eyes. "I got into a lot of fights when I was a kid, and everyone around me saw me as a problem child; Ying's mother was prejudiced against me, and hated that Ying was friends with me then! Ever since that incident, though, I've almost never gotten into fights, and even yesterday's incident was because I had no choice!"

Tang Yin felt a twinge of guilt at his words. Yesterday, Ding Xuan had only gotten involved in a skirmish because of him, and wouldn't have lifted a finger otherwise.

"Tang Yin, I actually know that things between Ying and I will never return to the way they were!" Ding Xuan caught his breath heavily in remembrance of the past. "It was great while we were younger, but there are so many things to consider now that we've grown up!"

Tang Yin tilted his head to study his friend, then scoffed at him. "Or have you just grown into more of a coward?"

"Hmph!" Ding Xuan snorted contemptuously and turned his face away from Tang Yin, who just shrugged. "If you haven't, then why do you think that things are different now that you've grown up?"

"I've simply grown more materialistic!"

After a long pause, Ding Xuan shook his head and lamented, "Aunt Zhao may have disliked me back when I was a child, but she wouldn't have spoken to me like that since my family had still been in a position of strength. Now that the Ding Family is no more, there are lots of people who mock and jibe at our downfall, and watch us like we're just a comic strip; it's not unexpected for Aunt Zhao to sling rocks at me now that I'm in such straits!"

Tang Yin was silent for a moment before breaking out into a smile. "The Ding Family is no more?"

"The Ding Family is no more!" Ding Xuan repeated with a catch in his voice.

"There isn't even one man left?" Tang Yin tipped his head at him.

Ding Xuan's eyes widened before he collected himself and threw a dirty look at Tang Yin.

Tang Yin guffawed. "What are you looking at me like that for? Do you think you can pick a fight with me in your condition? Honestly, it sounds as if what you meant by 'The Ding Family is no more', is that

your father passed away and you lost your pillar of strength;

Ding Xuan wavered, and his puffy goldfish eyes stared unblinkingly at Tang Yin.

Tang Yin stood up with a smile. "The Ding Xuan whom I know would never have seen anyone as a mental crutch! If you feel that there is no longer anyone supporting you, then stand up and be a pillar unto yourself! The way I see it, the Ding Family hasn't fallen as long as there is still one man left standing; it may be a struggle, but at least there's still hope, is there not?!"

For a long moment, Ding Xuan stared at Tang Yin's face with a wavering gleam in his eyes. "It's too hard..." he finally sighed.

"Hard? Isn't that just to say that it's possible, that thereishope? If you don't even have hope, then, and only then, is it over!" Tang Yin shrugged and continued. "You can change a lot of things as long as you have the capability! What youshouldn'thave done when Ying's mother treated you like that, was looking toward her with a face full of despair. You should have picked up your 30 million and thrown it in her face and told her that her daughter was yours!"

Ding Xuan balled his hands into fists and clenched them tightly as he listened.

Tang Yin smiled at him. "Make your own decisions about your own life! If you've really thought it through, I'll give you the chance to prove yourself to Ying and her mother; let alone 30 million, you'll be worth more than 300 million or even 3 billion in three years' time! If you haven't thought it through, that's fine by me; you can watch her in the arms of another man, and the only thing that you'll be able to do about it is to suck it up, give her your blessing and wish her happiness!"

Ding Xuan stared at Tang Yin as turmoil swirled within his heart; he slowly clenched his fists and his face tightened into a fearsome scowl.

"Don't look at me like that!" Tang Yin smiled and threw up his hands. "I do have some secrets, but it won't do you any good to learn about them, and I must warn you that I can give you the opportunity and even a second chance if you fail! But if you're going to rely on me for everything, you'll be joining my camp, and you should know that you may lose your life if you lose!"

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Ding Xuan faltered and gritted his teeth as his eyes shone like beacons at Tang Yin.

Tang Yin shrugged his shoulders, then turned and walked out of Ding Xuan's hospital room.

A lot of things didn't need to be spelt out. For Ding Xuan's sake, he would provide some direction, but Ding Xuan's future ultimately depended on himself.

Outside the hospital, Tang Yin gave Pei He a call, asking him to meet with him at a café near the hospital.

Pei He immediately agreed and rushed toward the direction of the hospital.

Tang Yin stood at the hospital lobby for a long while before exhaling and turning to walk toward the café.

Ten minutes later, Pei He arrived with a light sheen of perspiration on his face from the haste with which he'd hurried over.

Tang Yin, who had taken a seat in a corner of the café, raised his eyes to look at Pei He and gave him a nod of acknowledgement.

"It's been such a long time. Have you thought it through yet? Are you joining the Tang Family's annual ball?" Tang Yin smiled and asked amicably.

Pei He took a seat and nodded solemnly.

Tang Yin placed his hands on the table nonchalantly, hiding the significance he placed on the matter. "If you choose this path... there is no going back! Your getting involved might be your ticket to great things, but it might also be your downfall!"

"I understand!" Pei He nodded.

Pei He knew the danger involved better than anyone, or he wouldn't have sought Tang Yin out in the first place.

Tang Yin saw Pei He's resolve and nodded. "Perhaps my coming to Wuhan was an opportunity for you, but it might also have been your misfortune."

Pei He's face was grim, but he stayed silent.

Tang Yin chuckled, then got to his feet. "If you've made up your mind, then don't look back! I'm not willing to deal with certain things, but sometimes, I have no choice

but to confront the matter! I will take back what's mine, and I'll decide my own destiny!"

Pei He gave a start; it took a long while before he gave a slight nod.

"Young Master Tang!" Pei He hurriedly stood up as he watched Tang Yin leave, and the expression on his face grew stiff and awkward. "There's a question I'd like to ask you!"

"What is it?" Tang Yin turned his head back to look at Pei He.

Pei He took a deep breath before asking, "Do you like Pei Ruo?"



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Tang Yin was stunned for a while before he asked with a smile, "Why are you asking that suddenly?"

"Because... Because Pei Ruo is my younger sister..." Pei He looked upset.

Tang Yin looked rather upset as well, as though he was forced to do something unsavoury. "Your sister... is great!"

Pei He was stumped as he digested what Tang Yin said, and he couldn't figure out if he was scolding him. At that moment, Tang Yin had already gotten into a cab while feeling speechless.

Although Pei He was good-looking as well, he had a blank expression, and it was a stark contrast compared to Pei Ruo!

Are these two actually siblings?

Tang Yin was wondering whether the past few days were a joke too, but he did not want to think further as he instructed the driver, "Jin Rong Street, please..."

The driver nodded and accelerated straight away.

Tang Yin appeared stern as he looked at

the blue sky through the window, but his mind was clearly elsewhere.

Jin Rong Street was filled with skyscrapers and beautiful women.

This street was Wuhan's essence, as it was the most influential location among Jiang Town's industries.

Tang Yin stared at the street and shook his head before making his way forward.

Tang Yin stopped in front of the tallest building for a moment and grinned slightly before marching into the entrance.

At that moment, a Land Rover made a turn swiftly from the mainstreet and zoomed past Tang Yin with an ear-splittingscreech.

Tang Yin was shocked to his core, but before he could snap back to his senses, the Land Rover's door opened swiftly, blocking his way.

A woman with heavy makeup stared at him in disdain from the car. "Why are you standing here? Can't you see that you are blocking my car door?!"

Tang Yin frowned at her with an indifferent

expression.

"She's talking to you. Get lost now!" A young man got out from the driver's seat. He was in his 30's, and he looked like a successful businessman in his smart suit.

Tang Yin cocked his head to a side and shifted away.

The woman then got out of the car before glaring at Tang Yin, and then she marched into the building while complaining loudly, "I am so unlucky to have bumped into a vermin. I've got his stench on me now!"

Tang Yin's expression soured, and he was about to give her a piece of his mind, but he lost the chance as the woman was long gone after entering the building.

Nevertheless, he remembered the woman's face vividly. After all, it was difficult to forget a woman who looked like a clown with such heavy makeup.

While entering the building, Tang Yin scanned his surroundings until he arrived at the reception. He smiled at the beautiful woman over the counter. "I'm going to level 88. Can you please notify them?"

"Level 88?" a shocked voice answered him.

Tang Yin turned around and came face-toface with the woman with heavy makeup, and his expression turned cold and detached instantly.

"Is any Tom, Dick, or Harry allowed on level 88 these days? According to Grade E arrangements, he should queue right here!" The woman smirked.

"Grade E queue?" Tang Yin snorted. He never queued up for anything throughout his life. Especially since this is my family's business, why do I need to queue up? Forget the fact that I have to queue up, why should I queue up in Grade E?

In the Tang's financial business, there were clear stipulations which segregated visitors' status according to their social standing. These queues were separated into five grades, namely Grades A to E. Tang Yin was asked to join the Grade E queue, which was clearly the lowest grade available. If someone from Grades A, B, C or D were to arrive after him, they would be placed in front of him in the queue.

"Yes, Manager Xue!" the receptionist replied with a smile without any further comments.

"You should feel honored to be placed in Grade E..." Xue Bai sneered at him before turning to leave.

"Bai, let's go. We are going to be late!" The young man from the car earlier waved at Xue Bai from afar while calling for her. "Why are you bothered with such vermins? There is no need to stoop to his level..."

"I just don't like seeing him around..." Xue Bai muttered while entering the elevator. She was still staring at Tang Yin coldly.

Tang Yin was furious, but the woman was already in the elevator.

"Sir, please wait at the queueing area for Grade E..." The beautiful receptionist smiled at him behind the counter. She did not explain further, but there was a trace of disdain in her expression.

Tang Yin tried his best to suppress his bubbling anger and nodded with a jeering remark. "Alright, then. I guess I have no choice but to queue in Grade E, since you guys are in charge here!"

The beautiful staff at the reception desk smiled at him, but her expression was significantly colder because she was too

lazy to attend to him.

Tang Yin turned around and headed to the Grade E waiting area to take a seat with a scornful smile plastered across his face.

At that time, Xue Bai and Geng Jian were already arriving at the 88th floor in the elevator.

They both had a somber expression while keeping their gaze ahead.

"Xue Bai, what do you think is the matter for President Tong to summon us formally?" Geng Jian asked Xue Bai hastily since they were arriving soon.

Xue Bai pursed her lips before answering, "How would I know? By the way, I heard that someone from the top management is coming! After all, with President Tong's status in the company, who else could get him to go with such a grand gesture?"

"That's true! The regional managers are back this time round, and they are all elites in our province..." Geng Jian agreed. "I heard that dozens of members of the board of directors are here too..." he added.

Xue Bai was astounded, and her expression became somber instantly.

Those from the board of directors are in a completely different league. I have to perform well this time, and I might just get the chance for a promotion.

Ding.

The elevator finally arrived at the 88th floor, and the two of them marched forward, leaving the elevator swiftly.

The both of them were stunned when they got out of the elevator. They were just discussing the board of directors in the elevator, but the directors were not the only ones present currently; several founding members were seated in the meeting room as well.

Xue Bai flashed a polite smile immediately while straightening her clothes before walking into the room calmly.

The founding members smiled the moment they saw them both. "Well, well, just look at our regional elite, Xue Bai. Such breathtaking beauty!"

Everyone laughed agreeably at his

comment.

Xue Bai smiled and maintained a respectful expression.

With a simple order from any of them, her hard work in the past four to five years would just go to waste. Hence, she had to handle the situation carefully.

Tong Junyou stood in the middle of the hall and glanced at them. He hesitated for a while before inviting them in. "Have a seat!"

Xue Bai and Geng Jian nodded before taking their seats in the corner of the room.

Tong Junyou looked nervous while he checked the time. "This can't be happening. He should be here by now!"

"Yes, he should be here. The meeting was scheduled at 9.00AM!" his assistant added at the side.

A trace of suspicion flashed across Tong Junyou's eyes when he spoke again. "Call the front desk and ask if anyone named Tang Yin came by..."

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His assistant nodded immediately and rushed out of the meeting room.

Xue Bai observed everything in silence while taking note of Tang Yin's name. I finally know who we are all waiting for, and so this is his name. Besides, from everyone's expression, she could tell that this person was someone significant. However, she wondered who this experienced person was to be so highly regarded.

After a few moments, the assistant barged into the room and whispered urgently, "The front desk said there's no one called Tang Yin waiting!"

Tong Junyou frowned before letting out a sigh. "In that case, let's wait for a while longer. It's not a big matter for him to be late, anyway! We have all been waiting for such a long time, so it doesn't matter if we wait for another few minutes."

Everyone exchanged glances before nodding lightly in agreement.

Although the meeting was scheduled at 9.00AM, almost everyone present had arrived by 8.00AM as a courtesy and to leave a good impression.

Bai Xue and Geng Jian might not know who they were waiting for, but the founding members were obviously in the know.

Xue Bai was confused when she heard that, so she looked around and found someone she knew. She then asked in a soft voice while smiling sweetly, "Manager Yu, who is Tang Yin?"

Yu Weiren's expression stiffened, and he laughed dryly. "He's a bigshot!"

Xue Bai glanced at his expression and understood suddenly.

Since Yu Weiren said that he is a bigshot, he must be someone important.

There are so many seniors willing to wait for him, so who am I to say otherwise?

The atmosphere in the hall felt slightly gloomy as no one was chatting; in fact, everyone was waiting in silence. After all, they couldn't begin to imagine who was the person they were waiting for.

At the same time, Tang Yin, who was waiting downstairs, was getting bored with every passing second.

He switched on the chatting app on his phone and started pestering Ji Youyou. He had nothing to do while waiting anyway, so he started texting Ji Youyou, asking her what were her classes for the day and whether the lecturers were doing a good job. Besides, he even asked if there were boys checking her out.

Ji Youyou would reply to him after class, but she kept her phone once her classes started, completely ignoring Tang Yin.

Tang Yin was rendered speechless by her response. He then checked the time and realized that he had been waiting for over two hours.

He had waited from 9.00AM until now, which was almost 11.00AM!

Isn't it time for lunch?

Tang Yin was stumped by his circumstances, and he stood up while checking the crowd who was waiting in front of him. He then turned around to leave the building.

Tang Yin left the building, whereas the crowd waiting on the 88th floor was still glued to their seats. So much time had

passed, and everyone was not sure what to do, and so their gaze fell on Tong Junyou.

Tong Junyou was helpless, and he glanced at Yu Weiren. "Ask Pei He if he could get in touch with Young Master. He should have arrived by now..."

"Alright!" Yu Weiren nodded hastily and whipped his phone out to dial Pei He's phone number.

In reality, Yu Weiren and Pei He had similar positions because the two of them had almost similar roles within the Tang family business. However, Miao Bai had nurtured Pei He, and so he was always focused on matters outside of the Tang family business. That was why he was not included in the Tang's core administration, otherwise he would have been present today too.

Once the call was connected, Yu Weiren spoke in hushed tones hastily, and he soon hung up on the call.

"President Tong, Pei He said Young Master came by at 8.30AM..."

"He came by at 8.30AM?" President Tong's

face turned slightly pale. "What is happening? Why hasn't he showed up if he was already here by 8.30AM? Call the front desk at once and ask them if anyone called Tang Yin has dropped by..."

"Yes..." His assistant rushed out quickly, looking extremely nervous as well.

Tong Junyou's expression was cold when he pointed at Yu Weiren. "Contact Pei He again and ask him for Young Master's contact..."

"Will do!" Yu Weiren answered nervously.

Bai Xue observed them while feeling bewildered, whereas Geng Jian, who was sitting beside her, asked her in confusion, "Young Master? Has Young Master Tang from the top management come by?"

Xue Bai's eyes gleamed brightly, but she shook her head. "I have no idea!"

"It must be him, then!" Geng Jian nodded and expressed his contempt. "He has no concept of time at all. I suppose Young Master Tang isn't all that great. He must be just another rich playboy! Perhaps he is just a Young Master in name but not in fact, so he might just be here to flaunt his

title. I don't think we have to worry too much about him!"

Xue Bai did not comment, nor did she answer him, but she disagreed with him in her heart. Even if Young Master Tang was here to flaunt his title, he had every right to do so, for he was in a different league altogether.

At that moment, Xue Bai patted her hair, trying to look her best while sitting demurely in her seat.

"President Tong, the front desk said there isn't anyone called Tang Yin..." The secretary was back again.

Tong Junyou's expression soured as he stared unblinkingly at Yu Weiren, who shuddered involuntarily. "Well... I got the number. It goes..."

"Give it to me. I'll call him myself!" Tong Junyou snatched his phone away and pressed the call button.

The dialing tone started...

After a few dialing tones, the call was connected, and there was a sharp and noisy background noise from the other end

of the phone call. It sounded as though the person was in a shopping mall, surrounded by a lot of people.

"Young Master..." Tong Junyou let out a sigh of relief because now that the phone call was connected, it meant that Tang Yin was safe and sound. "Young Master, I am Tong Junyou. May I know where you are now?" he whispered hastily.

"Ah? Mr. Tong?" Tang Yin greeted him. "What do you mean, where am I now?"

Tong Junyou struggled for the right words before asking hastily, "Young Master, didn't you say that you'll be here for this morning's meeting? We scheduled this earlier, but we have been waiting for you for the past two hours. Why aren't you here yet?"

"Oh... I'd arrived before 9.00AM, and I'd been queuing all along. It is still not my turn yet, and that's why I left to grab a bite..." Tang Yin explained.

"You're out to grab a bite? You were queueing?" Tong Junyou was stunned to silence. "You did not get to come up despite such a long wait?"

"That's right. I am in Grade E, so my queue takes longer..." Tang Yin replied steadily.

Tong Junyou's expression darkened in that instant. "Young Master, why would you need to queue? W-Well... W-Where are you now? I'll pick you up right away..."

Tang Yin was vague with his answer. "I think someone called Manager Xue told the front desk that I have to queue up... I'll go back and queue after my lunch. I should be able to meet you today, I think."

Tong Junyou looked exasperated, and his eyes turned red with anger immediately after he heard Tang Yin hang up on him!

Queue? Grade E?

At that moment, Tong Junyou felt like strangling himself...Manager Xue? Who is that?

Tong Junyou looked up abruptly and zeroed in on Xue Bai. Xue Bai is the only person called Manager Xue in our entire company...