

Yunzhou.

The night breeze stirred up a multitude of ripples as it brushed gently across the lake.

And when it blew past the trees on both sides of the street, the leaves rustled in response.

After Ye Fan ended the call, the smile he had on his face when he was chatting with his wife vanished right away, and was replaced by an expressionless calmness.

“You really do care about her.”

Xu Lei had been listening to Ye Fan’s conversation with Qiu Mu-Cheng. Suddenly, she laughed lightly. Her tone was filled with envy when she spoke. After all, was this not a woman’s greatest happiness?

To have a man who would think of and show concern for her, no matter where she was.

Ye Fan smiled lightly and changed the topic.

“Miss Xu, if everything proceeds as planned, I will be leaving Yunzhou tonight. I hope you will help me look after Mu-Cheng. Also, please devote your attention to the prep work for Mu Fan Real Estates.”

Xu Lei nodded. A gentle breeze disturbed her forelock, and she lifted her hand to brush it into place. She was imbued with such elegance that she looked mesmerizing even when she was just brushing her hair. Many passersby even turned their heads to gawk at her beauty.

And yet, no matter how beautiful she was, her love for this man was destined to be a one-sided affair.

From the beginning to the end, Ye Fan had not looked at Xu Lei even once. He had only been looking calmly at wide expanse of mist-covered lake, while the brilliance of the night sky was reflected in his eyes.

“Have you really made up your mind to go?”

“Aren’t you afraid that it might turn out to be a one-way trip?”

“Chen Ao and Li Er can’t run away because

they are involved in this matter. But you can stay away. Why get yourself mixed up in this?" Xu Lei asked softly.

Ye Fan shook his head with a smile.
"Heavy is the head that wears the crown."

"Besides, this calamity that has befallen Jiangdong may have something to do with me. So I have to be the one to resolve this problem."

Ye Fan's low voice resounded softly across the mist-covered lake. However, just then, nobody could see the sinister look in his eyes.

Only moments ago, Han had already called to inform Ye Fan that Wu He-Rong was very likely someone sent by Chu Qi-Tian, the third young master of the Chu family.

From the very beginning, Ye Fan had suspected that avenging a long-ago grudge was not Wu He-Rong's only motive for crossing the ocean and returning to Jiangdong. Now it looked like his real motive was most probably to take control of Jiangdong first, and then help the third young master of the Chu family to get rid of Ye Fan. Therefore, Ye Fan had no other

choice but to participate in the duel at Mount Tai.

Otherwise, once Wu He-Rong controlled Jiangdong, everything he had built up here would have gone to waste. Also, his wife's and his mother's lives would be put at risk.

Xu Lei was suddenly stunned.

As she looked at Ye Fan's from the side, for an instant, she thought that the man standing before her was glowing softly under the moonlight. Especially after he had said "heavy is the head that wears the crown," she felt that there was a certain lofty quality about him that stirred her soul.

However, just as she was immersed in staring at Ye Fan, a graceful figure appeared behind him and started to walk quietly toward them. Xu Lei was slightly surprised when she saw the new arrival, and a serious expression came over her face.

Xu Lei's odd behavior attracted Ye Fan's attention and he immediately asked, "Mm? What is the matter with you?"

“Turn around and see for yourself. Your wife is here.”

Xu Lei smiled lightly and looked at Ye Fan. It was as if she was saying, “Good luck, you are on your own.”

What?

Ye Fan was surprised and immediately turned around to look. And, just as expected, he saw a frosty-faced Qiu Mu-Cheng.

“Mu... Mu-Cheng, why are you here?” For some reason, Ye Fan felt a pang of guilty conscience. Even though he had not done anything wrong, he was afraid that his wife might misunderstand the situation.

“Why did you lie to me?”

“You are obviously still in Yunzhou. And you obviously have not returned to the countryside. Why did you lie to me?”

Standing on the bank of Yunwu Lake, Qiu Mu-Cheng stared expressionlessly at Ye Fan and her chilly voice rang out immediately.

As the breeze stirred up ripples on the lake, it also brushed against Qiu Mu-Cheng's forelock, causing strands of her hair to flutter about all over the place.

She tried her best to suppress her emotions and keep her voice calm. But when she spoke, her voice could not help but tremble.

There was a pained look in Ye Fan's eyes as he tried to explain: "Mu-Cheng, I have my difficulties. I will explain things to you in the future, okay?"

"Difficulties?"

"Is she your difficulties?" In the end, Qiu Mu-Cheng could no longer keep her emotions under control, and she lashed out at Ye Fan while pointing at Xu Lei.

"In the past, I have wondered. Why did the top tycoon of Yunzhou, the president of Hongqi Group, lower her standards to work with a small company like mine?"

"At my grandmother's birthday, why did so many big shots come bearing gifts?"

"And at the jewelry exhibition, why did

Young Master Shen give away a diamond ring and express such goodwill?”

“So all that happened because of your so-called difficulties.”

Qiu Mu-Cheng laughed in a self-deprecating manner, and her eyes reddened as a look of unfathomable disappointment came over her beautiful face.

“To work like a pack animal for others, and risk your life for them.”

“Do you think I would be interested in a shallow glory like this?”

“Ye Fan, I have told you before. I don’t dislike you for your background and I don’t care if you are mediocre. You know what I hate? The fact that you are not trying to improve yourself and that you have abandoned yourself to degeneration.”

“Why? Why can’t you depend on your own efforts to make something of yourself?”

“Why did you have to go kiss up to those rich people? Why did you have to sacrifice your dignity in exchange for a pittance of

their favor and charity?”

“Don’t you find yourself pitiable?”

Qiu Mu-Cheng’s eyes had turned red. As she screamed in fury at Ye Fan, tears could be seen forming in her eyes.

She absolutely looked down on unmotivated people who had abandoned themselves to degeneration and given up on their own dignity.

She could tolerate Ye Fan being poor and mediocre, but she absolutely would not permit her man to be someone who curried favor with the rich and exchanged his principles for power.

Before this, she had not believed Su Qian’s words. But now that she was witnessing this scene with her own eyes, Qiu Mu-Cheng had no other choice but to believe her friend.

She finally understood. The glory Ye Fan had given her earlier was not self-earned; somebody had given it to him. The scenario was exactly how Sun Yu-Hao and company had described back at the Sheng Tian Restaurant.

Those big shots were not fools and there was no such thing as a free lunch. Ye Fan's sacrifices would have to match the gifts they had given him.

And the more gifts Ye Fan received from them, the more he would have to pay back later.

He might even have to give up his life.

The night sky looked so lonely, as a breeze stirred up ripples on the lake.

Qiu Mu-Cheng's eyes had already turned red, as she screamed at Ye Fan. And her angry voice, racked with misery, resounded through the air.

Ye Fan continued to stand there calmly, his face devoid of emotions. In the face of Qiu Mu-Cheng's anger, he suddenly broke into laughter; one that was filled with self-deprecation.

"Mu-Cheng, in your eyes, am I, Ye Fan, really this useless?"

"In your opinion, all my achievements were due to charity and favors given by others?"

Chapter 132 Am I, Ye Fan, Really This Useless?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“What other reason could there be?” Qiu Mu-Cheng retorted.

“Fine, if those achievements weren’t due to charity and favors given by others, then answer my question. Why did Master Li Er and the others come visit you at Dongyang Town?”

“Why did Hongqi Group select me to be their partner?”

“And why did Young Master Shen act so chummy with you?”

“If you had not sucked up to those people, then why would they shower you with favors?!!”

“You are just an unknown person from the countryside. During the past three years, you have not accomplished anything worthy of note. If you had not relied on somebody else, why would the Shens treat you with such respect?!!!”

Qiu Mu-Cheng’s eyes were red and she looked like she was ready to cry. But even so, her questions were articulate and they resonated with reasonableness. And as her words rang out on the bank of Yunwu

Lake, they attracted side glances from numerous passersby.

Ye Fan, on the other hand, did not say a word. He simply stood there as he looked indifferently at the tearful woman before him.

“Ye Fan, why don’t you say something?”

“Why aren’t you explaining yourself?” Just then, Qiu Mu-Cheng choked on a sob. She really wanted to be able to convince herself to believe Ye Fan.

But he remained as composed as ever. No emotion could be seen on his delicate face, as if it were a placid lake that was impervious to external disturbances.

He stood there and said nonchalantly:
“There is nothing to explain. One of these days, you will understand that I have achieved everything through my own efforts and no one else's.”

“That’s enough!”

“Even now, you are still being unrepentant?”

“Ye Fan, I am so disappointed in you!”

In the end, Qiu Mu-Cheng ran away after letting out a cry. In the instant she turned around, a trail of glistening droplets dispersed in the wind. But nobody saw that.

She was crying.

After Qiu Mu-Cheng’s disappointed departure, the place returned to its former calm.

The street lamps flickered and when the yellow light fell across Ye Fan’s body, it cast a huge shadow beneath him.

“Why didn’t you tell her?” Xu Lei’s melodious voice suddenly rang out behind Ye Fan.

She walked forward, her exquisite high heels clacking against the ground as a passing breeze stirred up her dark red hair. Tonight, she was wearing a short corset waist skirt. And peeking out from underneath it was a pair of glossy calves that exuded a heart-touching warmth.

Ye Fan looked at the mist-covered lake and

smiled self-deprecatingly. “What do you think I should tell her?”

“Should I tell her that I am the eldest son of the Chu family?!”

“Should I tell her how powerful the Chu family is?!”

“Should I tell her that I wasn’t depending on a woman but my father’s family?!”

Ye Fan sneered and his voice was filled with self-mockery.

If he had really said all that, then even he would look down on himself.

“A person’s family background is also part of his capital. It is the same thing as his talent or ability. Is that not so?” Xu Lei’s voice rang out slowly beside Ye Fan’s ear, like the chirping of a nightingale.

But Ye Fan shook his head and said, “To you, maybe it is so. But to me, the answer is a definite no.”

“One day, I, Ye Fan, will crush the Chu family beneath my feet!!”

Whoosh~

A biting cold gale suddenly blew across Yunwu Lake.

Ye Fan stood proudly on the bank and looked at the horizon from afar. His demeanor was filled with majesty and there was something about him that stirred the soul. In his eyes, one could see a look of firm resolution.

As she looked at the man standing before her, Xu Lei found herself lost in a daze once again.

Because at this moment, Ye Fan was exuding such a strong aura of unwavering pride that Xu Lei knew she could never hope to compare to him. She was shocked by this realization and could not help but wonder just what kind of person he was.

Flash~

Suddenly, a bolt of lightning flashed across the sky. Immediately afterward, the sound of thunder rumbled through the air. The sky turned darker in an instant.

Far away in the horizon, among the stars,

the clouds had begun to billow and roll across the sky.

It looked like a storm was coming.

Yunzhou, a villa in the eastern suburb.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was hugging a pillow as she sat dazedly on the sofa. Judging by the redness in her eyes, she had just been crying.

After leaving Yunwu Lake, she had come looking for Su Qian instead of going home.

The latter had just finished her shower then and, when she received her friend, she was dressed only in a thin gauze gown. At that moment, the sight of Qiu Mu-Cheng's misery had been the final straw that sent Su Qian into a rage.

"Damn it! Mu-Cheng, don't tell me you are still thinking of that country bumpkin?"

"I have already told you that he is not worthy of you."

"His family is poor and he was born in the countryside. A poor person like him lives in a different world from us."

“It is only natural for him to feel inferior in front of upper-society folks like us.”

“Once a person develops an inferiority complex, his personality will become twisted and he will go down the wrong path. In the end, just like Ye Fan, he will become someone else’s ‘white gloves,’ give up his dignity and risk his life as an errand boy for the big shots.”

“It is good that you now know what he is really like.”

“You have seen through his true colors just in time.”

“Listen to me. Find an opportunity and quickly divorce him.”

“Once I have my idol in my grasp, I will devote all my energy into helping you find a husband.”

“Trust me. With your looks and talent, you will definitely marry into a rich family and become a rich man’s wife.”

Qiu Mu-Cheng had already told her BFF what was going on with Ye Fan.

Just then, Su Qian was persuading Qiu Mu-Cheng to take this opportunity to quickly divorce the bumpkin, Ye Fan. She had never liked him.

“He is just a countryside bumpkin. He has no money or power. So how dare he even think about wooing our Mu-Cheng?”

“He is a toad lusting after a swan’s flesh! A dreamer dreaming a pipe dream!”

Su Qian was filled with disdain as she thought of Ye Fan.

However, Qiu Mu-Cheng was still feeling terribly upset. As she sat by herself on the sofa, she said nothing in response to Su Qian’s words. Her eyes were still red and nobody had any idea what she was thinking of at this moment.

“Ai, I have to hand it to you.”

“Is he such a big deal? Isn’t he just a country bumpkin?”

“Do you really have to get so down and upset over him?”

“Fine, I am not going to bother you

anymore. I have to go see my idol now.” Su Qian looked at the time. In the ordinary course of events, the male idol should already have started his performance around this time. But, despite a long wait, he still did not make his appearance.

“This is odd.”

“Why isn’t my idol here yet?”

“I think I did not hear the sound of his harmonica yesterday as well.”

“Cheng-Cheng, do you think my idol has already moved away?” When this thought entered her head, Su Qian immediately went into a panic.

“Cheng-Cheng, what should I do? In all these years, this is the first time I have liked somebody so much. It is a big world out there. If he is really gone, where can I go to look for him?”

It looked like Su Qian was really panicking. She sounded like she was about to cry.

“If you are afraid of missing this opportunity, then just go look for him,” Qiu Mu-Cheng said softly.

And Su Qian took her words seriously.

“Cheng-Cheng, you are right. When it comes to love, one has to take the initiative. If I keep on waiting like this, my idol will definitely pass me by.”

“I have made up my mind. Tonight, I will confess to him. And I will bring my ninety-nine love letters with me!”

Su Qian clenched her teeth and made a solemn vow.

These past days, she had poured almost all her secret love for the harmonica player into these love letters.

“I don’t believe that he will remain unmoved after seeing my sincerity.”

And then, without any hesitation, she walked out of the house while carrying the pink wooden box that contained all her love letters.

Qiu Mu-Cheng immediately cradled her forehead and warned her silly friend, “Ai, you haven’t changed your clothes?”

Left with no other choice, she hurried after

Su Qian and dragged her back into the house.

Half an hour later, both Su Qian and Qiu Mu-Cheng appeared before the entrance of the neighboring villa.

Su Qian had already painstakingly done her make-up and changed into an exquisite long dress. Just then, she looked like a beautiful and charming fairy princess. But even a fairy princess had things she was afraid of, so she had dragged her friend along to be her courage booster.

“No way no way. Mu-Cheng, I am too nervous. I think we should forget about this.” In the end, Su Qian had cold feet and wanted to run back to her house.

But Qiu Mu-Cheng dragged her back.
“Qian-Qian, have you forgotten what you just said?”

“We are already standing at his doorstep. The only thing left for you to do is to shoot for the goal. You can’t retreat now.”

“Go for it! You are the best!” Qiu Mu-Cheng said encouragingly.

Su Qian clenched her teeth again. “Mu-Cheng, you are right. I have crushed on him for so many days already. Even if I know I am going to fail today, I still have to let him know how I feel. I am going. Wish me luck!”

After her awe-inspiring speech, Su Qian lifted her leg... and put it back down again.

“Cheng-Cheng, let us go home. I am too scared to do this~”

“You~” Qiu Mu-Cheng was nearly driven mad by her friend’s cowardice.

While the two silly women were arguing in front of a stranger’s house, the hitherto closed door suddenly opened.

The light from inside the house spread out onto the street. And the two women froze on the spot when they saw the person who had just stepped out of the door.

Chapter 133 Confessing to the Idol



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“You are?”

A figure stepped out of the suddenly opened door.

The person was armed with a mop and wearing a faded army green short-sleeves shirt. On his feet were a pair of army walking shoes. He was unshaven and his hair was a shaggy mess that resembled a bird’s nest. Overall, he looked a little slovenly.

He blinked and looked doubtfully at the two exquisitely dressed beauties in front of him. And then he slowly queried them about their visit.

“I... I...”

Su Qian was instantly stunned, when she saw the middle-aged man standing before her. It was as if she was struck by a bolt of lightning. She could even feel her heart shattering into tiny pieces.

She had not expected her idol to turn out to be an unshaven and slovenly middle-aged man. At this moment, she was overwhelmed by the enormous gap between her dream and reality. Her eyes

reddened and she felt like bursting into tears.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was rendered speechless when she saw Su Qian's odd reaction.

She wondered if her silly friend was actually mistaking the middle-aged janitor to be the owner of this villa.

In the end, Qiu Mu-Cheng stepped forward and asked politely: "Mister, may I know if the former owner is in the house?"

"The owner?" The middle-aged man was taken aback for a moment. And then his face split into a smile. "Oh, you are talking about the young man who was staying here. He has already left. Probably moved to a new place. All his things are gone. I was told to come here and do some cleaning. They want to continue to rent this place out."

What?

"My idol has already left?"

"How come?"

"Where did he go?"

When Su Qian heard the news of her idol's departure, the tiny spark of hope that had arisen in her was immediately extinguished.

It was unexpected, but the worst-case scenario had happened.

In the end, that man had left this place.

She had never even seen what he looked like.

A romance had ended before it even had the chance to begin.

They had separated, never to see each other again, before she could confess her feelings to him.

At this moment, both Qiu Mu-Cheng and Su Qian had already returned to the latter's house.

Half an hour ago, Qiu Mu-Cheng had been the only depressed person in this room. But now, another heartbroken girl was keeping her company.

In all these years, this was the first time Su Qian had loved someone so much, the first

time she had written ninety-nine love letters and the first time she had plucked up the courage to go to a man's house in the middle of the night to confess her feelings.

But all these first times did not yield any results.

The flower had wilted before it could bloom.

The two BFFs shared such a close relationship; they even had their hearts broken at the same time.

But they probably did not know that they were grieving over the same person.

And the two beautiful maidens wallowed in depression for a long while.

In the end, Su Qian was the first one to perk up. "Hmph, so what if I just fell out of love? It is not a big deal. It doesn't mean I can't ever get married."

"Mu-Cheng, we are modern-day women, so we can't keep on feeling depressed. We have to pull ourselves together. Nobody is so important that the world will stop

spinning without him.”

“I have made up my mind. Let us go on a trip tomorrow.”

“Change our surroundings and change our moods as well.”

“And when we come back, we will start our new lives as brand new people!”

And so, Qiu Mu-Cheng jumped onto the idea after some egging on from Su Qian. She was prepared to go along with her BFF on this sightseeing trip. Both of them needed to relieve the pain in their hearts.

It was just the right time to go on such a trip anyway. In Qiu Mu-Cheng’s current state of mind, she was not in the mood to do any work anyway.

It was not a bad idea to go on a trip now.

Perhaps I should start a new life myself.

Perhaps her friend’s words had affected Qiu Mu-Cheng. She did not turn down Su Qian’s suggestion. This time they clicked.

That night, Qiu Mu-Cheng returned home

to pack her things. At the same time, she also applied for leave with the company and handed over some of her work to her colleagues.

The night passed by swiftly.

At the break of dawn, several luxury cars slowly rolled out of Li Er's villa in Yunzhou and then they started speeding when they got on the road. Finally, the convoy stopped beside Yunwu Lake.

Standing on the bank was a slim man with his hands clasped behind his back.

His gaze was deep as he stared at the mist-covered lake. He had been standing there throughout the night.

When they saw Ye Fan, Li Er and company disembarked from their vehicles and walked up to him. When they were beside him, they greeted him respectfully: "Mr. Chu, it's light already. We should be going."

For a long while, Ye Fan said nothing. In front of him, the surface of the lake rippled as it reflected the light of the rising sun.

The autumn wind caressed Ye Fan gently

and stirred up his forelock.

After a long moment, Ye Fan finally nodded his head and replied with a single "Yes."

Li Er and company then escorted Ye Fan respectfully into one of the cars.

However, before they could leave Yunzhou, Ye Fan told Li Er to turn around.

"Wait for me. I am going to see someone."

Liuyuan Residential District.

Dawn was breaking just then. The sky was only beginning to get light; a glimmer of white could be seen in the sky to the east.

The office workers had not gotten out of their beds yet, and only some morning joggers could be seen on the street. But more than a few households were lit up; they were obviously in the midst of breakfast preparations.

Ye Fan stepped down from the car, stood beside it and lifted his head to look at one household in particular.

Through the window, Ye Fan could vaguely see the peerlessly beautiful figure of a woman dressed in a thin night gown. She was clumsily boiling the milk and making her breakfast.

Ye Fan stood there and just looked. He did not pay attention to anything else but the graceful figure of the woman.

Just then, Li Er, who had already guessed what was going on, stepped forward and carefully asked the question: "Mr. Chu, why don't... you go up and say goodbye to Madam?"

Ye Fan shook his head and said, "There is no need to do that. I am satisfied with looking at her from here."

After he had spoken, Ye Fan turned around and entered the car.

"Li Er, let's go."

"Yes, Mr. Chu."

Li Er assented immediately and ordered his underlings to leave in their cars.

Whoosh~

The wheels spun and the roars of the car engines sounded just like those of a wild beast.

The convoy of luxury cars sped crazily along the road, and multiple beams of orange headlights cut across the sky like so many swords.

Far away in the horizon, the sun was rising in the east and the sky was blanketed with the rosy clouds of dawn.

As Ye Fan looked at the trees that were speeding past him outside the window, no one could see the light that was hidden in the depths of his eyes.

Three years of glory and dishonor. I have waited for this moment for three years already. I have the patience to keep on waiting.

Mu-Cheng, I will prove to you that I have the strength to protect you for eternity, even if I am only relying on myself!

Chapter 134 Is This the End, or a Beginning?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Liuyuan Residential District

Qiu Mu-Cheng had gotten up earlier than usual today. After all, not only did she have to prepare breakfast for her parents, she had also promised to set off with Su Qian at six in the morning.

“Mm?”

But just as she was heating up the milk, she sensed someone or something. So she immediately turned around to look out of the window.

At this moment, apart from several luxury cars that were just slowly rolling out of the residential district, there was nobody else around.

“Odd. Did I just imagine things?”

Qiu Mu-Cheng had really felt someone peeping at her. But now, it seemed that she had been overthinking things.

It looks like I really need to go on a trip to take me out of myself.

A short moment later, she put the finished breakfast on the table.

“Mom. Dad. I have warmed up the milk. You can just drink it once you get out of bed.”

“I have made arrangements with Qian-Qian. We are going to see a friend. It may take me a couple of days to get back.”

Qiu Mu-Cheng was dragging her luggage downstairs as she shouted out to her parents.

Su Qian had already parked her car downstairs and was merrily honking away. If Qiu Mu-Cheng delayed any longer, the silly girl was going to disturb the residents and arouse public anger.

“Qian-Qian, have you made up your mind? Where will we be going?”

At this moment, Qiu Mu-Cheng had already gotten into the car.

And Su Qian was speeding along the broad city streets in her white BMW 525Li.

At this time of the day, there was hardly any cars in the streets. There was nothing like the feeling of freedom and openness to put one in a good mood.

“Relax, I have everything planned.”

“This time, we are going to go up Mount Tai.”

“I always wanted to go when I was a student. But unfortunately, I went overseas before I had the chance to do so. Today, an opportunity has presented itself for us to visit the place.”

“After we have conquered Mount Tai, then we will have nothing to worry about when it comes to conquering men.”

Su Qian laughed smugly. The melodious music playing in the car sounded exceptionally cheerful.

“Also, Mu-Cheng. I heard from my father that they are holding a huge gathering around Mount Tai over these few days. Almost all the big shots in Jiangdong will be attending. For example, Master Li Er from our city, Master Lei San from Jingzhou and even Chen Ao of Jianghai will all be going to this event.”

“A grand gathering in Jiangdong where VIPs gather. There will be scions from influential families all over the place.”

“At that time, perhaps we will get lucky and meet the rich men of our dreams?”

Su Qian sniggered. Her nymphomania was acting up again.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was almost rendered speechless. “Qian-Qian, I am seriously doubting your motive in coming on this trip.”

“I think you are not going there to climb Mount Tai, but to find a hunk.”

“I think you ought to tame that unruly spirit of yours.”

Even though she had been seen through, Su Qian did not feel the least bit ashamed and she continued sniggering.

That thick skin of hers was on par with Ye Fan’s.

Qiu Mu-Cheng’s mood saddened the moment she thought of her husband.

A whole day had gone by already. Since their encounter at Yunwu Lake, Ye Fan had not called her once, let alone looked for her.

At this moment, she felt that she had been a little too hard on Ye Fan and started to blame herself a little.

She wondered if her words last night had been too harsh.

Although Ye Fan's actions had made her angry but, after some thorough thinking, it seemed that Ye Fan had done everything for her sake.

He had curried favor with Xu Lei because he wanted to improve her status in the Qiu family.

So perhaps it was also because of her that he was working as a "white gloves" for those big shots.

But Ye Fan, why can't you make something of yourself through your own efforts? Let everyone see you in a different light and let me be proud of you as well.

In the end, Qiu Mu-Cheng shook her head. She was thoroughly disappointed in him.

The wheels spun and the two beauties continued to drive toward Anning County, which was located at the foot of Mount

Tai.

Anning County had originally been an impoverished township at the foot of Mount Tai.

But due to its proximity to Mount Tai, tourism in Anning had flourished. Every year, the fame of Mount Tai would attract numerous visitors. And the arrival of those tourists had helped to promote the growth of local economy.

And so, Anning Township had become Anning County.

During the past few days, the county had gotten very lively.

Numerous luxury cars had gathered here. It was as if the leaders of Jiangdong had made prior arrangements to come here from all over the province.

Today, it looked like Anning County had become the center of Jiangdong.

VIPs who usually stayed out of the public's eye could be seen everywhere.

All the hotels and guest houses were

almost filled to capacity. Even the homestay inns were doing a roaring trade; you might not get a room if you went late.

“Mr. Chu, Mr. Chen and the others have already prepared a welcome banquet for you at Mount Tai Restaurant.”

“Also, we have prepared a room for you to rest in. You can go have a lie down at any time.”

When Ye Fan and his entourage arrived at Anning County, it was already noon.

Li Er acted according to plan and drove Ye Fan directly to Mount Tai Restaurant, where Chen Ao and company were waiting.

“Mr. Chu, long time no see. Are you doing well?”

“Hahaha~”

The moment Ye Fan stepped out of the car, Chen Ao and the other leaders stepped forward to receive him. Amidst the warm greetings, the leaders stretched out their hands for a handshake opportunity with him.

“You are too kind..” Ye Fan nodded, exchanged some pleasantries with the leaders and then walked into the restaurant.

“Damn!”

“Who is this young man?”

“Even Chen Ao of Jiangdong is acting so respectfully toward him?”

“Master Lei San of Jingzhou came out personally to receive him!”

“This is so awesome!”

“Exactly how powerful is he?”

The surrounding onlookers exclaimed feelingly as they looked at the young man who had received such a respectful welcome from the leaders of Jiangdong.

As for Ye Fan and company, they had already entered the restaurant.

“Nan-Nan, you go sit next to Mr. Chu. Remember to fill his glass.” Chen Ao smiled in greeting and told his daughter to sit next to Ye Fan.

An angry expression came over Lei San's face when he heard this. He had just managed to squeeze into a seat next to Ye Fan.

He thought that Chen Ao was playing dirty. The latter obviously had an ulterior motive when he told his own daughter to sit beside Ye Fan.

Perhaps Chen Ao wanted to make Ye Fan his son-in-law!

But even though he was inwardly cursing at Chen Ao, Lei San continued to maintain a smile on his face. He got up, gave up his seat to Chen Nan and self-consciously moved one seat away. After all, he was her elder. He was not going to disregard niceties and fight with her over a seat.

"Fan, we meet again."

After witnessing Ye Fan's prowess for herself, Chen Nan had become his fan girl.

Perhaps it was due to Chen Ao's influence, Chen Nan had always had an exceptional fondness for the martial arts and was an ardent fan of the fighting tournaments.

The Mount Tai Tournament was such a rare event so, obviously, she was not going to miss it. She even threw a tantrum and insisted on coming.

“At first, I didn’t want her to come.”

“But this girl, she kept saying that she wanted to come and cheer for Mr. Chu. I couldn’t stop her~”

Chen Ao laughed heartily.

Chen Nan tittered and said: “Our Fan is so skilled. He can definitely defeat Wu He-Rong. This is Fan’s moment of triumph, so I am definitely not going to miss it.”

“Moment of triumph?”

“Don’t you mean moment of shame?”

However, just as everyone was chatting away happily, a suited man walked into the room with his entourage.

The suited man had a sneer and an unfriendly expression on his face. And the moment he appeared, he put down Ye Fan unceremoniously.

Chapter 135 A Gathering of Bosses

When the assembled Jiangdong leaders saw him, they were immediately stunned.

This person was none other than the current top tycoon of Jiangdong, the head of the Zhao family, Zhao Wu-Ji!

He was an existence on par with the King of Jiangdong.

Why was he here?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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As the saying goes, two tigers cannot share the same mountain.

In Jiangdong, Chen Ao and Zhao Wu-Ji did not get along with each other. For the past ten years, the two had been competing against each other, both openly and clandestinely.

If it had not been for the appearance of Wu He-Rong, the two of them would never have gathered at the same place at the same time.

“Mr. Zhao, what is the reason for your sudden visit?”

With Zhao Wu-Ji’s arrival, the mood in the room turned heavy and the smiles vanished from the faces of the diners. At this moment, Chen Ao had a sombre expression on his face and, as he looked at the suited man, he questioned the latter coldly.

Zhao Wu-Ji shook his head with a smile. “Mr. Chen, there is no need to be nervous. I only came here to offer my greetings. And to see what sort of expert you have recruited to deal with Wu He-Rong.”

“And now I can see that he is just a brat who is still wet behind his ears.”

“Judging from his looks, I think he is only in his early twenties?”

“At his tender age, how strong can he be?”

“Mr. Chen, I don’t know if you have really strong nerves or if you are going for broke, but are you really going to entrust the survival of Jiangdong to a brat?”

“If you really can’t find anyone in Jianghai, tell me so. I can lend you my home security guard. It is a more reliable plan than getting some random brat to help you.”

“Mr. Su, don’t you all agree?”

Zhao Wu-Ji laughed mockingly and his entourage broke into hearty laughter as well. One by one, they chimed in supportively.

“That’s right, Mr. Chen. I really have no idea what is going through your head.”

“Even if you are just getting someone to make up the number, you should look for

someone a little tougher.”

“Just look at this guy. He is as thin as a bean sprout. I bet he will fall to pieces with just one slap.”

Zhao Wu-Ji and his entourage shook their heads as they looked disdainfully at Ye Fan.

“Zhao Wu-Ji, you watch your mouth!”

“Mr. Chu is not a person you can afford to insult!” Chen Ao said sinisterly as he stared coldly at Zhao Wu-Ji.

But Zhao Wu-Ji ignored the warning and laughed mockingly.

After that, he waved his hand and prepared to leave with his men.

But just before he left, with his back turned on the assembled Jiangdong leaders, he said sombrelly: “Mr. Chen, this Mount Tai Tournament is not just a challenge between Jiangdong and Wu He-Rong. It is also a challenge between us.”

“Let us settle ten years’ worth of grudges at the foot of Mount Tai.”

“If you lose, you have to give up Jianghai and leave Jiangdong.”

“We have been fighting with each other for so many years already. I really don’t want to be too ruthless to an old friend like you.”

Zhao Wu-Ji’s words swept through the room like a blizzard. And a change of expression came over the faces of the Jiangdong leaders.

Boom~

Just then, the sound of an explosion rang out from the doorway.

A black-clad old man standing beside Zhao Wu-Ji had just thrown a punch at the wall.

As the stone debris flew about, a hole could be seen in the cement wall. The old man had punched right through it. The wall was now full of crevices and even the steel frame inside was exposed.

“This... This...”

Everyone in the room was shocked. Lei San was so frightened that his eyes

bulged. Li Er was so startled that he sat up in a hurry. And Chen Nan's face paled immediately.

Contempt!

This was naked contempt!

It was clear that Zhao Wu-Ji was sending a message to Chen Ao through this action. And the message was, "The man you are depending on is nowhere near as good as mine."

Also, what happened next sent the Jiangdong leaders into the throes of rage. Not long after Zhao Wu-Ji's departure, he sent a man to deliver a coffin to Ye Fan.

"Mr. Chen, our family head has prepared a coffin for Mr. Chu."

"This is to save you the trouble of having to make a coffin for Mr. Chu when he dies during the tournament tonight."

"Hahaha, Mr. Chen, there is no need to thank us~"

After delivering his message, Zhao Wu-Ji's man swaggered out of the room.

In the room, Chen Ao and company glared angrily at the coffin. Just then, their expressions were as sombre as a graveyard.

“This Zhao Wu-Ji has gone too far!”

“He has no respect for us~”

“Somebody, take this coffin outside and burn it,” Chen Ao said angrily.

Lei San, Li Er and the others all had terrible expressions on their faces and, inwardly, they were boiling mad.

It was extremely unlucky to receive a coffin before a fight!

“Quick, take this unlucky thing and burn it!” Lei San shouted heavily.

But, just then, Ye Fan laughed and said indifferently: “Keep it. Maybe we will get a chance to use it later.”

Although Ye Fan’s tone was indifferent, who knew just what sort of sinister intent was hidden behind those words?

“Mr. Chen, let’s call it a day.”

“I am going out for a walk.”

After saying that, Ye Fan got up from his seat and left the room.

“Fan, wait. I will go with you.” And Chen Nan chased after him. Ye Fan was the only person present whom she could have a conversation with. After all, there was a huge age gap between her and the Jiangdong leaders. Only Ye Fan was in her age group.

After Ye Fan’s departure, the heavy mood lingered on in the room and did not disperse for a long time.

Many people in the room were starting to feel unsure. After a long moment of silence, they looked at Chen Ao and asked in a panic: “Mr. Chen, can we trust this Mr. Chu?”

An outsider might think that all the leaders in Jiangdong had come together to organize this Mount Tai Tournament in an united effort to deal with Wu He-Rong.

But, internally, the leaders of Jiangdong province were not as united as one might think.

On one side was Chen Ao's Eastern Jiangdong Faction and, on the other side, was the Western Jiangdong Faction led by Zhao Wu-Ji.

Ordinarily, both Chen Ao and Zhao Wu-Ji were equally prestigious; no one had the upper hand.

But now, it seemed that Zhao Wu-Ji wanted to have a showdown with Chen Ao at the tournament?

Chen Ao was burdened by worries from within and without. Nobody knew just how much weight he was carrying on his shoulders. But now that things had come to this, they had no other choice.

"We can only believe in Mr. Chu. We have no other choice."

"Now, let us wait quietly."

Chen Ao's words were faint and there was a sombre look in his eyes as he gazed out of the window.

Far away in the horizon, Mount Tai stood tall and imposing; it touched the sky and towered into the clouds.

In the heavens, the wind blew and the clouds billowed.

The battle had not yet begun, but things were already looking portentous!

“That Zhao Wu-Ji is the top tycoon of Jiangdong. The leaders of some of the western cities look to him as their leader.”

“All these years, they have been trying to remove my father from his position and take over Jiangdong completely.”

“This time, my father is facing problems from both within and without. Don’t you think he is shouldering quite a heavy burden?”

Ye Fan had already left the restaurant, and was walking along a bustling street with Chen Nan.

Although turbulent events were happening in Jiangdong, the grassroots residents were blissfully unaware of them. And Anning County remained as peaceful and prosperous as ever.

At this moment, worry was written all over Chen Nan’s pretty face. Clearly, she was

worried about her father and the Mount Tai Tournament.

Victory or defeat in this tournament would determine whether they lived or died.

“Don’t worry. I am here. Nothing will happen to your father.” But Ye Fan remained as composed as ever, as if he was not in the least bit disturbed.

Just as the two of them were strolling along the street, Ye Fan lifted his head and happened to see a beautiful woman standing before a stall. Just then, she was happily browsing through the trinkets on display.

Mm?

It’s her?!

Ye Fan was surprised.

What a freaking coincidence!

Chapter 136 Portents of Things to Come



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