

"Is he courting you?" asked Ye Fan curiously after Yang Xiao stepped into the room for his interview.

Lin Yu-Han nodded. "I suppose so. But he's not my type. He's not a good man and he'll do anything to get what he wants. I've turned him down many times but he just doesn't know when to give up."

Lin Yu-Han seemed really exasperated.

Some women might enjoy being courted and viewed courtship as something they could brag about but to Lin Yu-Han, Yang Xiao's courtship had merely been the cause of many headaches.

"Why are you asking about that instead of preparing for your interview?" Lin Yu-Han glared at Ye Fan suddenly before piling advice on him again. "Remember what I told you. Those are words of experience. Even if you were to fail this interview, the experience will still come in handy for your next interview. Alright, I'm going to be up soon. I'll head over right now. You should get yourself ready too. Let me leave you with a word of advice. Keep hope alive and you'll never feel despair. Let's give our best!"

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Lin Yu-Han waved her fists playfully at Ye Fan, then walked away with a smile.

The interviewer had called her name and told her to head to the waiting area.

Ye Fan was simply an acquaintance whom she had had a brief conversation with.

She had extended a helping hand to Ye Fan because she had witnessed the others laughing at him and had felt sorry for that.

That was akin to her smoothening out the creased blades of grass that had been trampled by someone else every time she passed a patch of grass.

She would forget the blades of grass that she had aided and exactly how they had looked like moments after.

Similar to her passing encounter with Ye Fan, they would never meet again.

Of course, never in her wildest dreams could Lin Yu-Han have imagined whom she had just shown kindness to.

“What an interesting young woman,”

murmured Ye Fan as he watched Lin Yu-Han walk away, before shaking his head and smiling to himself.

After that, he decided to leave and look for his mother.

It was then that Yang Xiao appeared again. He was done with his interview.

"I'm warning you, punk. Stay away from Yu-Han. She's my girl. Don't you dare touch her!" threatened Yang Xiao with a look of hostility on his face.

Ye Fan simply shrugged. He gave him a faint smile, then turned away.

"You don't believe me, do you? Do you really think you're going to pass the interview, that maybe you'll become coworkers with Yu-Han, and that you'll end up as lovers in the end? Well, dream on! Only two candidates are going to pass the interview today. One of them is going to be me and the other one, Yu-Han. The rest are simply wasting their time. You're one of them too," said Yang Xiao smugly as he stuck his hands into his pocket. His voice was dripping with disdain and mockery.

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Ye Fan had been ready to leave when he heard that. He froze in his tracks instantly.

He turned around again. "Is that so? You seem really confident of your chances. The hiring exercise has barely begun. It seems too early to tell who's going to get the job, don't you think?"

Yang Xiao burst out into laughter. His laughter was filled with mockery. It was as if he had just heard the funniest thing.

"Do you not know or are you really that stupid? Do you really think the workplace is just like school? That everything boils down to grades and rankings? Let me tell you. Ability is secondary when it comes to the real world. It's the people you know who makes a difference," Yang Xiao said smugly. He sounded like a priest preaching the gospel and the eternal truths of the world to Ye Fan.

"Is that so? Well, you must know someone really important then," Ye Fan said.

"But of course!" said Yang Xiao proudly. "I hope the shock doesn't kill you. My best friend's father is the head of the human

resource department for this company and the general manager of this company is my best friend's uncle. The person who owns the Mufan Group is related to my best friend. They're cousins. I can go where I please in this company. Besides, I've passed a message to my best friend. He's going to make Yu-Han my personal assistant. She's not going to get hired if she turns down the position."

The look in Yang Xiao's eyes was smug. He looked at Ye Fan as if he would an insignificant ant.

"So? Are you mad? Think the world cruel and reality unfair? That it's nothing you think it is? Well, what's the point of you being mad? This is life. It's cruel and it's not fair at all. You have to either be rich or know people who are. People like you who aren't rich or know people who are rich are destined to be losers. You'll never get anywhere in life. Listen to my advice. Pack up and get out of here. You're just not meant to have some things in life," said Yang Xiao arrogantly and with an air of superiority.

He clearly thought that he was better than Ye Fan and it showed in the way he spoke

and behaved.

Honestly, his arrogance was not without basis.

After all, his best friend held an important position in this company while the upper management of the company was filled with his best friend's relatives.

With his connections, he could look down on anyone in that room without repercussion.

Yang Xiao had expected the young man before him to fly into a rage after he had shared the dirty secrets behind the hiring exercise. He had expected the young man to feel outraged and indignant.

Instead, he was surprised by how calmly the young man had taken in his words.

No hint of emotion had rippled across his eyes in spite of what Yang Xiao had said.

He was displeased.

This was like landing his fist on air.

It gave him no satisfaction at all.

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“Hey, aren't you mad at all? After hearing everything that I've told you?” Yang Xiao frowned.

Ye Fan simply laughed softly. “Mad? Why should I be mad?”

“You...” Yang Xiao nearly blew up when he heard what Ye Fan had said.

He clenched his fists, then glared murderously at Ye Fan.

“My best friend holds an important office in this company. His father is the head of the human resource department. The decade of work you poured into your studies is nothing compared to that one single friend I have. No matter how hard you work, you'll simply be relegated to the sidelines while I take the centerstage. The connections I have will easily get me the job that you can only dream of having. The girl that you're in love with will fall into my arms. Doesn't thinking about that make you mad?”

Yang Xiao clenched his jaw as he spoke.

He couldn't understand why he was the one getting steadily angry as he spoke when his words were meant to provoke the young man in front of him.

Someone who had no idea what was going on might mistake Yang Xiao as the one who was suffering discrimination.

"Forget it. You're just an idiot. I shouldn't waste time getting mad at you. Get out of here right now."

Having thought it through and vented his anger, Yang Xiao decided to leave Ye Fan alone.

He had yelled at him enough. He was ready to leave.

He did not expect the young man to turn towards him after he had told him who he was and whom he knew. Instead of being subdued, the other man looked at him with a hint of faint of contempt in his eyes.

"Well, you seem to know quite a few important people. The management of this

entire organization are relatives of your best friend. I suppose you do have the right to brag about it and do whatever you want.”

“Glad you know that!” Yang Xiao’s lips twisted with a smug smile. He seemed to think that Ye Fan had finally realized who he was up against and was beginning to feel afraid.

Ye Fan seemed oblivious to his words. He simply looked at Yang Xiao and continued talking. “But do you have any idea who’s standing in front of you right now?”

“In front of me?” Yang Xiao froze when he heard what Ye Fan had said. He didn’t get it at first and instead looked all around him before his eyes fell on Ye Fan. “Are you talking about yourself?”

He burst into laughter instantly.

“That’s interesting. A poor kid like you sure know how to put up a fine act. Well, why don’t you tell me who you are?”

Yang Xiao stared at Ye Fan as if he would an idiot, the look in his eyes taunting and jeering.

In fact, he found himself a seat, sat down, grabbed the cup of tea on the table before him and began sipping the tea.

He was going to see what the young man was going to come up with next.

“Well, so, who are you, Mr High and Mighty?” asked Yang Xiao derisively.

Ye Fan smiled. “I’m your best friend’s cousin and the guy who owns the Mufan Group, Ye Fan!”

That was why some folks should keep their mouths shut. In case they gave someone else a heart attack. Yang Xiao spat out the tea he had just drunk when he heard what Ye Fan had said.

“What did you just say? Did you just say that you own Mufan Group?” Yang Xiao widened his eyes and stared unblinkingly at the calm young man before him.

He looked like an absolute idiot.

“Are you out of your mind? Why didn’t you tell me you’re his dad instead? You? The guy who owns this place? I’m the idiot if I believe

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your words!”

Yang Xiao seemed absolutely tickled.

He cursed at Ye Fan while laughing mockingly.

He had been wondering what kind of trump card Ye Fan had hidden up his sleeve.

It appeared that the guy was simply an idiot.

Yang Xiao knew that his best friend’s cousin was the equivalent of an emperor in Jiangdong.

Everyone important in the province and across the cities in Jiangdong treated him as their lord and master.

A powerful man like that was probably living it up in his luxurious residence. He wouldn’t be hanging outside like Ye Fan.

Even if he were to make an appearance in Fenghai, they would have cleared the building for him. The upper management of Mufan Group would be out welcoming their lord and master. There would have been a grand ceremony.

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Besides, no one that important would be dressed like Ye Fan. His clothes were plain and shabby.

There was his age too.

Ye Fan was a young man who was his age. How could someone as young as he be the person running a multi-billion corporation?

Only a fool would believe his words!

Yang Xiao found Ye Fan's words ridiculous.

He seemed to wish to make a fool out of Ye Fan. He began shouting. "Come on, everyone, come take a look! This guy is saying that he owns Mufan Group, that he's the boss running everything. What a joke!"

Yang Xiao pointed at Ye Fan and laughed so hard that he could hardly stand straight.

He had never met such a clown in his entire life.

"What the hell?"

"He's really something, isn't he?"

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“He isn’t afraid to say anything, that’s for sure.”

“I suppose he’s too young and naïve to be afraid.”

“Those are bold words coming from someone who’s here for the hiring exercise. Isn’t he worried that someone might throw him out?”

“Well, I suppose he can’t help himself.”

“Losers like him probably get their kick out lying like that. That’s they only way they can feel alive.”

“No one else’s going to spare him a second look otherwise.”

“What a tragedy.”

Once again, Ye Fan had become the center of everyone’s attention.

Everyone began whispering around him. Their mocking, condescending tones grated on the ears.

Ye Fan had become the laughing stock in

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everyone's eyes.

But he seemed unfazed by their mockery and doubt.

Throughout it all, he remained strangely self-assured and composed.

It didn't matter that he was the target of everyone's scorn and mockery.

"Why, don't you believe me?" he simply asked.

"Only an idiot would believe you! Do you think that I'm a kid who's easily deceived?" Yang Xiao barked out a laugh. "Well, if you really have guts, you won't stop at bragging in front of us. Do it inside, in front of the managers. Do you have the guts to do that?"

"I plan to," laughed Ye Fan softly. Everyone stared at him in shock as he headed for the interview room.

"My god."

"He's going to do it, isn't he?"

"Has he gone off the deep end? Does he

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really think he's the boss?"

Everyone was dumbstruck.

Yang Xiao hadn't meant it seriously. He had simply been taunting Ye Fan.

He had thought that the young punk wouldn't dare to cause such a scene.

He had made a terrible mistake.

"He's really an idiot."

"He's going to be thrown out of the room."

"This isn't a place where he can do whatever he pleases."

"He's asking for it."

"Yes, he deserves what's coming for him."

Everyone sniggered amongst themselves and waited eagerly for Ye Fan to be thrown out of the room.

Compared to the ruckus outside, the room was eerily quiet.

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A row of interviewers was seated in the room and asking the interviewee a list of questions that they had prepared prior to the interview.

These interviewers were in their forties. Most of them had many years of experience and had seen their share of interviewees. They were clearly experts who possessed unique skills when it came to selecting good staff.

That had been why the management had chosen them to be in charge of this hiring exercise.



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