Ji Ding was irritated but didn't say more.

"If he can't let go of Venture Capital Finance, he shouldn't dream of getting my daughter! I gave birth to Youyou and raised her. How could the Tang Family dream of marrying my daughter when they're unwilling to spend even a cent? Are they higher-up? Are they better than us?" Li Chengshuang mocked.

At this time, the butler walked in from outside. "Old Master, Madam, the Xie Family has arrived."

"They're here?" Li Chengshuang didn't expect her guests to arrive so soon. "Invite them in! Quickly!"

"Okay!" The old butler nodded and turned to walk out.

Ji Ding was in a set of new clothes.
After he tidied his bow tie, he looked more presentable now. The couple stood at the door and saw the old butler leading a group of people into the residence's backyard.

Li Chengshuang immediately changed into a smiling expression and walked forward. "Madam Xie, long time no see! You look even more radiant than the last time we met! Did anything good happen in your family that made you so happy?"

Upon hearing the praise, Madam Xie beamed. "Oh, that! Ansheng has finally established a career after staying at home for so long. I guess he's finally looking more promising now!"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Really?" Joyous, Li Chengshuang

"Ah... I almost couldn't recall that you have a daughter had you not mentioned it!" Madam Xie exclaimed.

"Yes, I went to Wuhan a few days ago and brought her back! Although I was rarely with her these years, she has grown into a young lady. Seeing that, I also feel heartened as her mom." Li Chengshuang had brought her guests into the living room and gestured at the sofa. "Make yourself at home. Have a seat, and I'll have someone bring us tea!"

"Okay!" Madam Xie nodded.

"Ji Ding, ask Youyou to come down and meet our guests!" Li Chengshuang turned her head to order her husband, who smiled and turned to go upstairs. The Xie Family's visit today was wholly arranged by Li Chengshuang to get acquainted with them. Ten years ago, the two families had a good relationship. The Ji Family grew leaps and bounds after they rode the commercialization wave in mainland China, and they overtook the Xie Family in terms of wealth and stature. Since then, the Ji Family and Xie Family interacted less because the former thought that the latter could not match their social status.

Who could have expected that someone from the Xie Family would be promoted to a ministerial role at the beginning of the year! The news was so shocking that a lot of people were stunned. It was indeed big news! As such, the Ji Family instantly reconnected with the Xie

Family and earnestly invited Madam Xie to visit their residence. However, the few invitations before were turned down by the Xie Family. It came as a surprise that they agreed to it this time.

"Youyou, are you done changing?" Ji Ding walked upstairs and saw Youyou hugging her knees. "Why didn't you get change? There are guests here. You are twenty years old. Why haven't you learned to help your parents out? Why are you so willful?" The sight of his daughter upset him.

Ji Youyou raised her head to see her father's stern face.

"Quickly get changed. If your mom comes up later, things would get worse!" Ji Ding finished his sentence

and turned to walk down the stairs.

Ji Youyou's body trembled, and she couldn't hold back her tears once more. Withstanding her fatigue, she walked toward the bathroom.

Downstairs, Ji Ding rejoined the group and smiled. "Youyou will come down soon."

"That's great!" Li Chengshuang nodded and turned her attention to Xie Ansheng, whom she reminded with a smile, "Ansheng, my daughter grew up in a place like Wuhan, so she is probably a little headstrong. Hope you don't mind!"

"It's okay!" Xie Ansheng smiled and shook his head.

"You can chat with her more when she comes down later. She has just returned here from Wuhan and hasn't adjusted to life in Beijing. It's hard for her to leave her friends in Wuhan too! Both of you are youngsters, so I am sure you will have common topics to talk about. By then, please help me to talk some sense into her!" Li Chengshuang entrusted the task to him.

"Alright, no problem!" Xie Ansheng nudged the rim of his glasses. He did not mind doing it for Li Chengshuang, who was now holding Madam Xie's hands in joy. "We haven't chatted with each other after all these years. Not long ago, I had mentioned to Ji Ding that we should take some time to sit down for a chat..."

"We're old friends anyway. There's no need to be so awkward with each other," Madam Xie smiled and responded.

A moment later, a soft patter of footsteps could be heard from upstairs. The footsteps were slow, and it was as if the person was moving tentatively or was trying not to disturb anyone.

Curious, Xie Ansheng raised his gaze to see Ji Youyou in a dress—a sight that made him pause in enchantment.

Ji Youyou was a glorious beauty, and her face was akin to a fresh lily out of the water. Although her body was not as voluminous and seductive as Yuan Zhian's, she displayed an Oriental charm that was more subtle and reserved. White lilies seemed to bloom by her feet

with each step she took down the stairs, attracting Xie Ansheng to stare at her.

"Youyou, come over and sit here." Li
Chengshuang felt gleeful after she
noticed Xie Ansheng's longing gaze at
Ji Youyou. The latter walked to the sofa
and sat down with a pair of red and
puffy eyes. She was silent and
expressionless throughout the entire
time, which made her look even more
pitiful and delicate.

"This daughter of mine is very emotional. After returning home, she still misses her life in Wuhan greatly and couldn't adapt to the life here in Beijing. That's why she didn't sleep well last night..." Li Chengshuang smiled and said to Xie Ansheng, "Ansheng, if you have

some time, why don't you bring Youyou out for a walk? Just a stroll in a garden would be great. Do help me to advise her!"

"Okay!" Xie Ansheng greeted the suggestion with joy before standing up in a hurry. "Youyou, let me bring you out for a walk!"

Confused, Ji Youyou raised her head and didn't know what to do.

"Oh, this child of mine! Go with him now!" Li Chengshuang was slightly displeased.

Thereafter, Ji Youyou turned and followed behind Xie Ansheng in a daze.

Xie Ansheng was totally pleased

because he had determined that Ji
Youyou was his type the moment he
saw her walking down the stairs. Also,
she was someone that made him fall in
love at first sight. Just when they
walked out of the door, Xie Ansheng
held out his hand to lock fingers with Ji
Youyou. "Shall we take a walk over
there?"



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