Ms. Li watched them as the amusement in her eyes became obvious and she nodded in gratification. "Youyou, we might really be related if you're from Yellow Ocean Village!"

"I'm sorry, but I'm not from Yellow Ocean Village!" Ji Youyou lowered her head and denied shakily.

Tang You knew that Ji Youyou was trying her best to suppress her tears from falling since she was grabbing onto his arm tightly, as if something bad was about to happen.

He still remembered that this was how Ji Youyou had held onto him—with the same force and same way—back when he went to Yellow Ocean Village to rescue her.

Ms. Li was obviously taken aback, thereafter she stood up slowly, with dissatisfaction coursing through her eyes. "I do not like liars!"

"I..." Ji Youyou opened her mouth a little before she sniffled and denied, "I'm not from Yellow Ocean Village!"

Ms. Li's facial expression darkened; it was obvious that she was displeased.

On the other hand, Tang Yin tightened his grip on Ji Youyou's wrist before looking up at Ms. Li as he said coldly, "Do you still need anything? If not, I hope that you can leave now!"

Stunned, Ms. Li's gaze landed upon Tang Yin, her eyes filled with arrogance. "You guys should be honored that I've come to this meeting in Jiangdong. Don't you think that it's rude of you to make me leave now?"

Tang Yin felt disgusted when he caught a glimpse of

Ms. Li's facial expression. "I don't really care about courtesy, as this is my private room anyway! My girlfriend seems to be upset ever since you came in, so I would have to ask you to leave!"

"Your girlfriend?" Ms. Li snorted before putting both her hands on her thighs. "Has it occurred to you that my relationship with Ji Youyou might be much closer than you think?"

"That's impossible..." Ji Youyou chided in before Tang Yin could say anything. "Tang Yin... Tang Yin is my only family!"

Ms. Li's face darkened. "Is this how you talk to your family?"

"Ms. Li!" Tang Yin slammed his fist on the table before pointing at Ms. Li. "I hope that you can control your attitude. I really don't know what I'll do if you keep this up!"

The control is the control of the contro

Ms. Li was dumbfounded, thereupon a wave of anger hit her from within.

"What do you mean?"

Tang Yin smirked and snapped his fingers.

Following that, the door to the room was pushed open, thereafter ten plus bodyguards filled the room and stood behind Tang Yin. All of them were staring emotionlessly at Ms. Li.

Ms. Li looked up and scanned her surroundings before bursting into laughter. "Alright! You can do what you want since this is Jiangdong Club's territory anyway. However, don't forget that the entire world does not belong to you! So what if you are Ji Youyou's boyfriend?"

Tang Yin gave Yuan Zhian a look. "Lock the doors, I want her legs broken!"

"You-" Ms. Li looked panicked.

Ji Youyou felt her heart drop. She immediately tugged on Tang Yin's wrist and shook her head.

However, Tang Yin's anger was still blazing. When Zhang Lu heard the commotion in the lounge, he immediately rushed in with a few men.

At the same time, Tang Yin's bodyguards were ready to make their moves.

"Hold up!"

Zhang Lu hurried forward and laughed nervously. "What happened? How did the situation escalate to this?"

"Nothing happened!" Tang Yin's face was steely.

"Hmph! I meant what I said just now; not everyone deserves to be her boyfriend!" Ms. Li glared at Tang Yin before heading outside.

Everyone in the lounge was dumbfounded, as most of them were still unsure about what exactly happened.

Trying his best to suppress his anger, Tang Yin turned around to face Zhang Lu. "I have other things to attend to, so I'll be taking my leave now, Mr. Zhang. I'm so sorry for today. I'll leave my secretary here so that you guys can continue the discussion with her!"

"Sure!" Zhang Lu nodded. He didn't bother trying to make Tang Yin stay because he knew that something probably happened.

Tang Yin then pulled Ji Youyou by her wrist and headed out.

Once they left the lounge, Tang Yin snaked his arm around Ji Youyou's waist, allowing her to lean on his shoulder as the both of them guickly left.

This scene was coincidentally witnessed by someone in the lounge.

Meng Wan felt like crying when she saw Tang Yin and Ji Youyou leaving together. She tried her best to suppress her tears even though they were already brimming around her eyes. In her hand, she was holding a report proving that she had been pregnant for three months.

Meng Wan had gone and gotten this report after that night with Tang Yin. She didn't know whether or not she should tell Tang Yin about this; she had brought along this report with her because she felt like it. In fact, Meng Wan had never thought of separating Tang Yin and Ji Youyou. After all, Ji Youyou was her only friend, hence there was no way that she would do that to her. However, she still really wanted to share this if she were to face Tang Yin.

Once Tang Yin and Ji Youyou had completely left her sight, Meng Wan looked down and went back to the sofa quietly, her eyes losing its spirit.

After bringing Ji Youyou out from the hotel, Tang Yin immediately drove them to their manor.

During the entire journey in the car, Ji Youyou curled up in Tang Yin's embrace with her head hung low, feeling extremely down.

Tang Yin sighed lightly, for he didn't know what to say. There was a high chance that the Ms. Li from

just now was Ji Youyou's mother. If Tang Yin could see that, surely Ji Youyou could as well.

From the woman's appearance, Tang Yin was sure that Ms. Li had been living well. Heck, she might even be very wealthy!

If that's the case, how could she let Ji Youyou suffer during her childhood while she enjoyed her life?

Is this a mother's behavior?

Tang Yin didn't understand why she did what she did because he wasn't a parent. However, he knew that Ji Youyou wouldn't have survived till today if it weren't for him. The stunt that she pulled when she tried to jump into the lake or when she was almost abducted at Yellow Ocean Village wasn't the life that any girl should ever experience.

All of these events had made Ji Youyou develop a sense of resistance toward her parents.

If it weren't so, she wouldn't have acted the way she did today.

After parking the car outside of the manor, Tang Yin got out of the car along with Ji Youyou.

Immediately, Cen Xia ran out and pounced on Ji Youyou. However, she gave Tang Yin a suspicious look when she noticed that Ji Youyou wasn't looking well.

Tang Yin sighed and patted her head before bringing Ji Youyou back into their house.

For the entire night, Ji Youyou sat by the window, not uttering anything.

Tang Yin wanted to console her, yet he didn't know

where to start. If he was in Ji Youyou's shoes, he wouldn't have forgiven her mother either.

After a bath, Tang Yin changed into his sleepwear and laid next to Ji Youyou.

Ji Youyou's eyes were tightly shut, as if she was making a huge decision. "Tang Yin, do you think that she's my mother?"

Tang Yin hesitated before nodding lightly. "It's very likely."

Ji Youyou stiffened before looking up with teary eyes. "If she's really my mother, why did she abandon me? Why did she leave me at Yellow Ocean Village and gave me to others?"



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.





Send a Gift to the Writer!

Tang Yin didn't know how to answer her. After all, he didn't know much about Ms. Li either. Nevertheless, it was obvious that she intentionally left Ji Youyou in Yellow Ocean Village and did not want to meet her all these years.

Ji Youyou's tears slowly slid off from the corner of her eyes as she curled in Tang Yin's embrace, looking broken.

Tang Yin held Ji Youyou tightly and sighed lightly.

"Tang Yin, do you think that... Maybe she had some difficulties back then?" Ji Youyou looked up and stared at Tang Yin tearily. "Do you think that... I went overboard today?"

Tang Yin smiled before patting her head. "No matter what you do, I would never think it's overboard!"

Ji Youyou nodded before snuggling against Tang Yin like a kitten.

Tang Yin stared at the ceiling, various thoughts coursing through his mind; Ji Youyou had always been an understanding girl, yet she was stubborn today, refusing to admit that she was from Yellow Ocean Village.

Even so, Tang Yin could understand why she acted that way. After all, all those years at Yellow Ocean Village had been nothing but a nightmare to Ji Youyou; she grew up with nothing close to parental love, and instead she was abused by her aunt and uncle. Just because Ji Youyou was prettier than her cousin sister, she was forced to wear a mask everyday. Also, she was almost raped by her uncle because of her beauty. Growing up in an environment like that, it was an understatement that she would develop some form of resentment toward her parents.

Ji Youyou was already nice enough to not confront them directly and only chose to deny it. If Tang Yin was in her place, he didn't know what he would have done.

For the entire night, Ji Youyou slept soundly next to Tang Yin, clutching tightly onto his arm. Even while unconscious, she was afraid of losing the only one by her side in this world.

The next morning after breakfast, Yuan Zhian went to present Tang Yin a document.

When Tang Yin scanned through the document, his face became slightly grim.

The document proved that Ms. Li was Beijing's Ji Family's head of the family, Ji Ting's wife. The both of them had been in control of the Ji Family for almost twenty years now with no children under their name.

YTC: mieyakoty 22

"I called Ji Yueshan this morning to get more information about this Ms. Li. According to him, Ms. Li disappeared for a period of time twenty years ago. If we were to trace it back, that would be around the time Youyou was born!" Yuan Zhian informed him dutifully.

Tang Yin nodded slightly. "It seems like she really is Youyou's mother, huh?"

"It seems so!" Yuan Zhian nodded.

Tang Yin broke their eye contact and sighed inwardly. He didn't know how to fix the conflict that almost happened between them yesterday. If that woman was really Ji Youyou's mother, they couldn't just avoid her forever.

"Let's drop this for now. Make the arrangements for

me and Youyou to get back to Wuhan tomorrow. I want you to stay in Shanghai temporarily for now. After some time, I'll send Ding Xuan over to cover for you!" Tang Yin commanded.

"Alright." Yuan Zhian nodded and left Tang Yin's room.

Tang Yin then stood up and looked out of the window to see Ji Youyou playing with Cen Xia on the lawn.

Perhaps Cen Xia already knew that Ji Youyou wasn't in a good mood, hence why she followed the latter around quietly and would occasionally hop around a little or tell some childish jokes.

Tang Yin's mouth curled into a smile. If even Tang Yin found Cen Xia mischievous and interesting, how could Ji Youyou not?

Looking away, Tang Yin went back to his seat, thereupon he started recalling all his achievements here in Shanghai.

The Yin and Duan Families were completely destroyed and most of their assets were now under Tang Yin. To be able to take down two of Shanghai's greatest families in just one month should already be considered as an achievement. Besides their family assets, the leftover pie of common interest had been shared during yesterday's meeting in Jiangdong. Moreover, Yuan Zhian also took over the Tian Family's Shang Qing Group.

Although Shang Qing Group announced to the public that Tian Wei from the Tian Family would be the new president, Tang Yin knew that Tian Wei wouldn't dare to hold out against Yuan Zhian.

As such, Tang Yin had no doubts about Yuan Zhian's

capabilities to manage Shang Qing Group.

In conclusion, Tang Yin really gained a lot from his trip to Shanghai this time.

During noon, Tang Yin went downstairs, then left the manor with Yuan Zhian and headed to the Hidden Bunker.

After reaching the Hidden Bunker's private parking lot and going through what seemed like a maze, they finally entered the place.

Dimly-lit lights illuminated the room, making the ambience sentimental.

The moment Tang Yin entered, he immediately spotted Shan Xuezhu in her wheelchair.

Shan Xuezhu's face looked unhealthily pale. Even so, she still gave a sweet smile when she saw Tang Yin.

"No sunlight again?"

"I still don't like the sun!" Shan Xuezhu scrunched her nose in disgust.

Tang Yin smiled before taking a seat opposite her. "I'm going back to Wuhan..."

"Okay," Shan Xuezhu answered and nodded heavily. "Don't worry about me, I'll be fine here! I'd notice if anyone comes over!"

Tang Yin only nodded; he felt more assured when it came to Shan Xuezhu.

"King, the Tang Family has announced this year's annual meeting's date; it should be on the 1st of January, the first day of New Year!" Shan Xuezhu continued.

Tang Yin frowned slightly before nodding.

"Will you be heading to Beijing?" Shan Xuezhu looked over at Tang Yin subconsciously.

"I might go there for awhile!" Tang Yin pondered before adding, "After all, there are only three regional managers in Greater China. I've already taken down the one in Wuhan; Han Qi from Shanghai is still a problem; the last one is in Beijing..."

"I see." Shan Xuezhu nodded slightly.

Tang Yin had a long conversation with Shan Xuezhu in the Hidden Bunker before he finally left.

This informant for the Kingdom of Darkness had stayed in Shanghai all along, never trying to get closer to Tang Yin but never straying either.

Tang Yin headed over to Yun Ding Corporation after leaving the Hidden Bunker.

Back when he first came to Shanghai, he had come to an agreement with Han Qi to get her answer before he would leave.

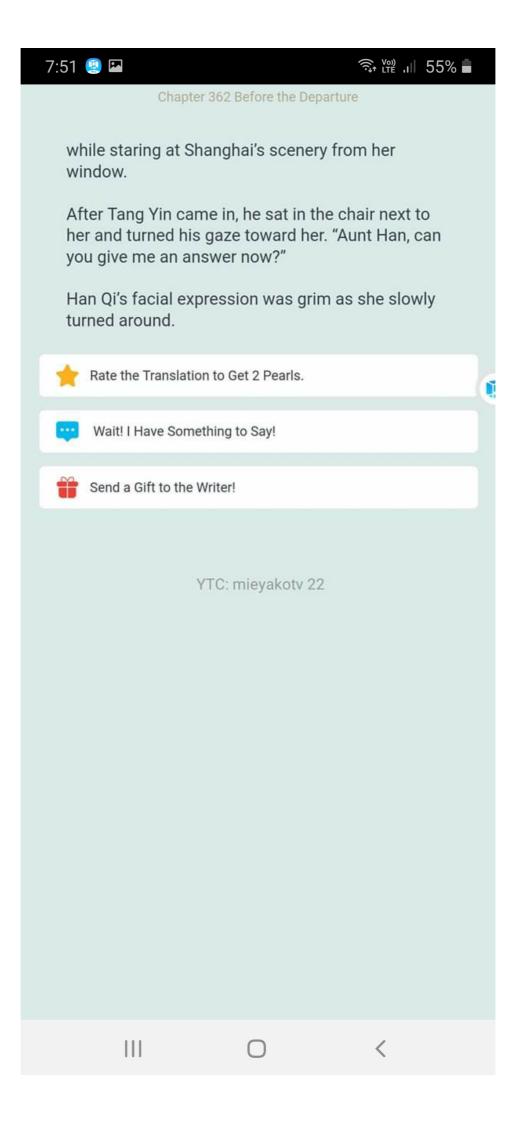
Now, it was finally time to talk to Han Qi.

After parking the car outside of Yun Ding Corporation, Tang Yin and Yuan Zhian entered the building.

Wasting no more time, they took the elevator up to Han Qi's office.

When they arrived, Han Siyu had her head lowered as she stood respectfully outside of the elevator before inviting Tang Yin into Han Qi's office.

At the moment, Han Qi was holding a wine glass,



Tang Yin stared at Han Qi, his heart dropping slightly; the latter's demeanor today was definitely not normal.

"Young Master, do you really want to know?"

"Yes, you have to give me an answer no matter what." Tang Yin chuckled.

Han Qi lowered her head, her voice sounding dejected. "I might have to disappoint you, Young Master!"

"That's fine." Upon hearing that, Tang Yin knew her answer right away. Although they weren't in a conflict, Han Qi had expressed her opinions through her attitude.

"I'm sorry, but it's not possible for me to be on your side! In terms of capabilities, you can't even compare to Tang Wei, and among the Tang Family, you aren't considered popular too! Moreover, when it comes to being ruthless, you can't compare to the Third Family! You can't blame me for this, Young Master. After all, the Han Family depends on me, hence I do not want to get involved in this!" Han Qi took a sip of her wine before chuckling sarcastically. "Young Master, I hope that you won't look for me after you leave today... After all, I do not want those behind me to get suspicious!"

"Are you sure that you won't regret this?" Tang Yin stared at her with an amused expression.

Han Qi shook her head. "I've thought about it for a long time, and I've weighed the pros and cons. Heck, I've even considered my relationship with you. However, I still can't convince myself to stand by your side. I don't know if I would regret this in the future, but at least I know for sure that I will not regret this for now!"

"Alright..." Tang Yin stood up. Though he acted like he wasn't fazed, he did feel slightly disappointed. "If I'm not wrong, it seems like you have reached an agreement with Tang Wei?"

Han Qi stiffened before nodding hesitantly.

"Well, I wish good luck to the both of us then!" Tang Yin smiled before heading out.

Tang Wei had already managed to get two of three regional managers in Greater China! For her, Tong Junyou had betrayed his family's rules and attempted to kill Tang Yin. Not only that, even Han Qi had chosen to stand on Tang Wei's side even after she had been by Tang Yin's side for a long time.

As such, Tang Yin couldn't help but admire Tang Wei's skills.

There were less than two months before the Tang Family Annual Meeting; it was time for him to make his move.

After leaving Han Qi's office, Tang Yin felt at ease. Although she had rejected him, he did not wish to put any pressure on her. After all, during his time in Shanghai, she had never tried to pull any dirty tricks on him, even though she wasn't a saint. Moreover, Tang Yin had a great impression on her back when he was a kid, therefore he wouldn't pull anything to ruin their relationship at this moment.

Although undeniably, Han Qi's decision had hurt him.

"What's wrong?" Yuan Zhian asked when she noticed Tang Yin's weird demeanor.

"Nothing. Get someone to arrange our flight back to

Wuhan tomorrow." Tang Yin let out a sigh to try to sooth his inner turmoil.

"Alright!" Yuan Zhian was smart; it didn't take long before she realized what happened. Hence, she did not probe further.

Feeling dejected, the both of them left Yun Ding Corporation and went back into the car.

At the same time, Han Siyu rushed into Han Qi's office.

"Aunty, you rejected Second Young Master?"

Han Qi nodded slightly, with one hand supporting her forehead.

"Why?" Han Siyu was surprised.

Han Qi looked up before explaining slowly, "We do not have the capability nor backing to risk everything! Although Second Young Master's performance has been more impressive recently, it is said that the Old Master is still biased toward the main family!"

"Didn't something happen to the Tang Family's Elder Master?" Han Siyu asked.

"You don't understand! As long as they're still alive, this isn't a problem! This is also why I chose to side with Tang Wei!" Han Qi pondered. "Although something did happen to Tang Family's main family, it's still more likely for the Old Master to pick Tang Wei instead! To Old Master and the main family, Tang Wei is just a tool so that the Tang Family falls to the main family in the end..."

Han Siyu was confused as to how much thought her aunt had actually put into this. Nevertheless, she

understood that there were many other issues beyond her imagination.

Naturally, Han Qi had her own reasons for her decision, and Han Siyu wasn't in any position to question her. However, Han Siyu knew that Han Qi's decision today would determine the Han Family's development in the future. If they were to pick correctly, the Han Family would be successful once Tang Wei reigned over the Tang Family. But, if Tang Yin were to end up reigning over the Tang Family, the Han Family would be destroyed.

Han Qi rubbed her temple and waved a hand at Han Siyu.

Seeing this, Han Siyu got the hint and left the office. However, she still felt a hint of worry.

On the other side, although Tang Yin was in a bad mood, he pretended to be relaxed when he arrived back at the manor.

Regardless of Han Qi's decision, he would never do anything to her. As long as she didn't try to pull any tricks on him, Tang Yin would never hurt her willingly.

Everyone in the manor was quiet that night. Even Cen Xia, who was usually very active, went back to her room early, as if she knew that Tang Yin was upset.

The next morning, Tang Yin drove Ji Youyou and Cen Xia to the airport.

Yuan Zhian went as well to send them off, and they reached the airport at the same time.

Once the convoy stopped, Yuan Zhian opened the car door for them.

They were taking Miao Bai's private plane this time, hence they didn't need to wait in line.

As they passed through their boarding gate, a few people from the Meng Family showed up from afar.

Meng Wan's gaze was distant as she watched Tang Yin and Ji Youyou leave.

"Let's go!"

Meng Cuiping urged coldly before heading to their boarding gate.

Meng Wan kept looking back as she walked, trying to spot that figure among the crowd. To her dismay, she had completely lost sight of both Tang Yin and Ji Youyou.

The plane then took off and landed in Wuhan Airport two hours later.

YTC: mieyakoty 22

Pei Ruo had already prepared a convoy outside of the airport while awaiting their arrival, and her eyes brightened when she spotted Ji Youyou and Tang Yin coming out from the airport.

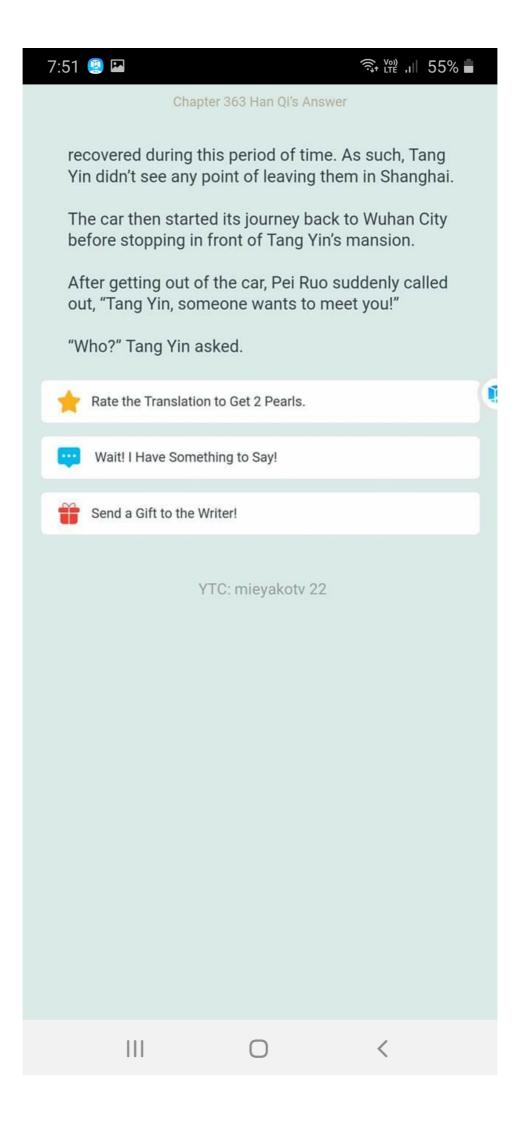
"Welcome back!"

Fully dressed in a working attire, Pei Ruo walked up happily and extended her hand.

Tang Yin chuckled. "Why are you being so polite?"

"Because I have to be!" Pei Ruo chuckled along before nodding at Ji Youyou. Then, she opened the car door and the few of them hopped in.

Hu Song, Fourth Madam Zhuang as well as Scorpio had come back to Wuhan together as well. Although they were injured pretty badly, they had slowly



"Shen Ruxin," Pei Ruo replied.

Tang Yin frowned slightly. "Why does she want to meet me?"

"I'm not sure, but she has come over consecutively for three days now. I'm guessing that she has some urgent matters that she needs you to look into," Pei Ruo suggested.

"Okay then. I'll contact her later on." Tang Yin nodded. He had no idea why the Young Miss of the Shen Family wanted to look for him. Could it be that she was depressed and wanted to vent because she couldn't get used to Wuhan University?

Tang Yin pondered before shaking his head and eliminating that thought. Shen Ruxin was from the military, and it was obvious that she had passed different psychological tests. As such, something like that was unlikely to happen.

Not bothering to think too much about it, Tang Yin went to send Hu Song and the others to the hospital after arranging a few men to clean the house.

After all, it was better for the trio to stay at the hospital to get more rest.

It took almost all day before Tang Yin managed to settle everything.

Before they went to bed, Tang Yin brought Ji Youyou to the study room; the both of them had already skipped almost one month worth of class from their course and this made them feel slightly stressed out.

Although Tang Yin wasn't too bothered, Ji Youyou was very serious about it.

The both of them tried their best to revise the whole night, but didn't manage to memorize much by the end of their revision.

The next morning, while the driver sent Cen Xia to kindergarten, Tang Yin and Ji Youyou hurried to Wuhan University with obvious dark circles under their eyes.

Just then, a military vehicle sped over from behind right when the both of them stepped into campus.

Tang Yin instinctively moved away, thereafter he saw Shen Ruxin getting out of the now parked car. "Tang Yin, I need you to come with me. There's something that I need your help with!"

Tang Yin was taken aback. "What is it? Why are you in such a hurry?"

"I don't have time to explain now, so just get into the car!" Shen Ruxin hurried over and grabbed Tang Yin's arms, then tried to push him into the car.

"Hey, hey, hey! What are you doing?!" Tang Yin was displeased. "Shen Ruxin, I'm just a student here! What do you want? I still have many assignments to catch up with, and I might even fail this semester if I skip any more classes!"

"Mr. Tang, please just come with us. We really need your help to solve this issue!" Just then, Shen Hanlin came down from the car as well and stared at Tang Yin respectfully.

Tang Yin finally understood when he saw the siblings' faces; it seemed like something serious had happened. If it weren't so, they wouldn't have come to see him. Moreover, they even came together this time.

"Go to class first; I'll be there as soon as possible!" Tang Yin waved at Ji Youyou.

Ji Youyou nodded and watched him leave.

In the car, Shen Hanlin sat in the driver's seat, his facial expressions cool and steely.

Shen Ruxin proceeded to explain, "Some commotion happened a few days ago; many of the military personnel started falling sick..."

"The 'Lethal Black Orchid'?" Tang Yin's eyebrow rose.

Shen Ruxin nodded, her face tensed.

Tang Yin sighed lightly. He knew that the Shen Family had probably come looking for him due to the 'Lethal Black Orchid'. If it weren't so, Shen Congwu would never have bothered asking him for help.

The car went on the highway before speeding to the military hospital.

Since Shen Hanlin had connections, they were led to the surgery room right away after reaching the hospital.

At this moment, many people were waiting outside of the surgery room.

Shen Congwu was sitting on a chair, and his face was dark as if he owed someone a few million.

Wang Deyou, on the other hand, was as busy as a bee, with sweat beading all over his forehead. However, he was absolutely lost. After Shen Hanlin's case the last time, Wang Deyou realized that their hospital was not capable of treating poisoning

cases like that. Even after getting into the same situation today as before, he still wasn't able to subdue it.

"It's been three days. Can you do it or not?" Shen Congwu was slightly annoyed from watching Wang Deyou running back and forth.

"It should be fine! Come on, let's experiment then! Maybe this would make you guys remove your toxic trait as well!" Wang Deyou tried to joke.

"You said that to me three years ago, yet you hadn't thought of any solution! I'm telling you, Wang Deyou! If you can't get anyone to remove the toxins, you should just stop being the dean!" Shen Congwu exploded.

Anxious, Wang Deyou hurriedly said, "O-Of course I can. Just give me one more week to get it done!"

"Father!" Shen Ruxin rushed in. "Father, Tang Yin is here! Let him in!"

Shen Congwu looked up and glanced at Tang Yin once before snorting. "Who gave you the permission to bring him here?"

"Father, Tang Yin is the only one who's very experienced in poisons. You should let him try! I'm sure there's still hope!" Shen Ruxin put forth anxiously.

Shen Congwu ignored her and turned to Wang Deyou. "Wang Deyou, are you sure you have a way?"

"Yes! I do!" Wang Deyou insisted stubbornly.

At this point, it was too late for Wang Deyou to take a step back. If he really said that he had nothing right now, he can't be sure what Shen Congwu would

do to him.

"You'll treat them then! Don't go around getting help from others!" Shen Congwu demanded angrily.

Wang Deyou's face wavered, thereupon he slowly turned and went back to the surgery room.

"Father, Tang Yin is here! You should let him try!
Maybe it might even work! Doctor Wang has been
trying to save him for three days now, but there's still
no hope even at this time! Do you really trust his
words?" Shen Ruxin asked.

"I don't need his help!" Shen Congwu's face remained cold as he rejected.

Tang Yin was taken aback; he didn't expect Shen Congwu to refuse his help.

Although Tang Yin was displeased that he was forced here by Shen Ruxin, he still wished that he could be of help deep down. After all, he couldn't very well ignore it when it came to the matter of life and death. However, Shen Congwu's attitude really caught Tang Yin off guard.

"Father, it's been three days! The hospital can't even solve this! What are you even thinking about?" Shen Ruxin accused.

"I'm the commander! You must listen to me!" Shen Congwu glared at Shen Ruxin.

Tang Yin sighed before taking a step forward and advised, "Mr. Shen, maybe you should let me have a quick look since this is urgent now! I have some basic understanding toward the Lethal Black Orchid anyway, maybe I could be of help? This is a matter of other people's lives, and we should take this seriously instead of acting on our emotions!"

"Acting on my emotions? Tang Yin, do you really think that highly of yourself? Do you know who you are talking to?" Shen Congwu looked up. "Are you criticizing me now?"

"That's not what I meant. I just wanted to tell you that I'm faster, and thus I can solve this issue faster, so why not?" Tang Yin questioned rhetorically.

"Who do you think you are?!" Furious, Shen Congwu pointed at Tang Yin. "Are you a doctor? Are you a specialist? Tang Yin, I'm only saying this once: stop acting in front of me! Do you think that your bullsh*t would work on me? I've been in the military for more than ten years now! If my wife hadn't let you get involved back then, do you think that I would let you touch Hanlin?!"

Tang Yin stiffened and his eyebrows knitted together, then he sighed softly.

To be honest, there wasn't much misunderstanding between Tang Yin and Shen Congwu, but the Shen Family had always thought that Tang Yin was just out to take advantage of them. Even so, Tang Yin had never really been bothered by it. However, Tang Yin was lowkey frustrated this time because of Shen Congwu's actions.

"Mr. Shen, if I don't go in now, the lives of all these people might be at stake!" Tang Yin didn't wish to watch people's lives fade away.

"Tang Yin!" Shen Congwu exploded as he stood up and pointed at him. "Do you really think that you're the only one who can manage to treat people, and that others are useless?!"

Tang Yin was struck still at Shen Congwu's words.

"Father, why are you still doing this considering everything that has happened?!" Shen Ruxin cried out.

"As I said, I'm the commander; I'm responsible if anything happens! I don't believe that a large hospital like this can't do better than a nameless boy!" Shen Congwu raged, then stood up and pointed straight toward his daughter. "I'm ordering you to leave this place right away, or be penalized according to military law!"

"Father!" Shen Ruxin stomped her feet.

Tang Yin tugged at Shen Ruxin's wrist, indicating for her to step aside. "I know about this poison very well; it needs to be relieved by bloodletting. However, there's a misunderstanding between Mr. Shen and myself, so I need you to go and tell Wang Deyou about it."

Shen Ruxin was seriously ticked off, but she still nodded. "I will. Thank you so much!"

"It's nothing!" Tang Yin nodded, then watched on without moving an inch from his spot.

Just then, the doors to the operation theater were flung open, and Wang Deyou hurried out in a panic. "Shen!"

"What happened?" Shen Congwu stood up hastily.

"It's taking too long; one of them has already succumbed!" Wang Deyou looked miserable.

"Succumbed?! Wang Deyou, isn't this your bread and butter?! It's been three days, yet you haven't managed to cure a single one! How do you still have

the nerve to show your face?! Tell me—you receive such a large salary every month—aren't you ashamed of yourself?!" Shen Congwu was enraged; he hadn't thought that such a major hospital would actually be incapable of coming up with a cure.

Tang Yin sighed lightly as he listened to Shen Congwu, then nudged Shen Ruxin with a heaviness in his chest.

Only then did Shen Ruxin come back to her senses. "I know how to treat them! I know!"

"How do I cure them?" Wang Deyou no longer cared about others' opinions at this point; curing his patients quickly was his main priority.

"Bloodletting! The poison needs to be purged by bloodletting! That's the only way!" Shen Ruxin declared loudly.

Wang Deyou stomped his foot and retorted, "Iknowthat bloodletting will purge the poison. The question is, how exactly do I do that?!"

"Lance their heels and force the poisoned blood to leave their bodies!" Shen Ruxin piped up again.

"According to Western medicine, the more conventional method would be to perform an exchange transfusion, and more quickly, the better," Tang Yin added.

Wang Deyou's eyes lit up as if he had struck gold, and he hastened back into the operation theater.

Shen Congwu's gaze darted toward Shen Ruxin for an instant, before snorting and turning his face away. At this moment, he couldn't bring himself to look at Tang Yin's face; the sight of it filled him with revulsion.

Tang Yin shook his head as he watched from a distance. He had always known that Shen Congwu was headstrong, but he hadn't thought that the man was actually so mule-headed. Granted that there were disagreements between the two of them, but it wasn't like they couldn't be resolved; Shen Congwu was just being as obstinate as a pig.

"That's my father's personality for you; don't mind him," Shen Ruxin turned around and spoke to Tang Yin embarrassedly.

"That's alright. The most important thing is that they're cured." Tang Yin nodded with a smile. He didn't think much of it, other than feeling slightly displeased with Shen Congwu.

"Thank you!" Shen Ruxin rearranged her hair and forced a smile onto her face. "I heard that you've been to Shanghai lately. How was it? Did everything go smoothly? My mom was asking about you when you weren't around, and she told me to invite you over for a meal if I saw you!"

"No problem. I'll join her when I can." Tang Yin smiled warmly as he recalled the bossy, slightly draconian Mrs. Shen. They had met under dramatic circumstances, but that didn't mean that there was any drama between the two friends now.

The corridor grew busy as they conversed.

Under Wang Deyou's various instructions, the hospital staff began leaving and entering the operation theater.

After all, Wang Deyou was a skilled physician; he knew what to do with just a light nudge in the right direction from Tang Yin. At the very least, he was far more experienced compared to Tang Yin when it came to the field of medicine and saving lives.

The lights in the operation theater flickered on once more, and the sight allowed the onlookers in the corridor to breathe more easily.

Shen Congwu folded his arms and threw a look toward Tang Yin and snickered, "Dr. Wang found a way to counter the poison when he came out earlier. Looks like he was right! A hospital is a hospital after all; they don't need anyone's meddling advice!"

"Father, Tang Yin was the one who came up with the idea!" Shen Ruxin glowered at Shen Congwu.

Shen Congwu rebuked Shen Ruxin harshly. "Shen Ruxin, looks like you've forgotten yourself! You are a soldier and a warrior; not a bootlicker and a sycophant!"

"I'm neither anyone's bootlicker nor a sycophant; why are you insulting me like that?!" Shen Ruxin demanded, aggrieved.

Shen Congwu snorted. "Don't use your mom's tricks on me! Don't you think I know what Tang Yin is up to? I do owe him my thanks for helping your brother the last time, but I believe that Wang Deyou would have handled everything professionally even without him around!"

Shen Hanlin was mortified by his father's words. After all, he had been filled in about most of what had happened back then after regaining his consciousness. Who knows what would have happened if Tang Yin hadn't agreed to help at that time?

Shen Ruxin was about to argue with Shen Congwu, but Tang Yin held her back.

Tang Yin smiled as he shook his head at Shen Ruxin without saying a word. Perhaps that was just how

Shen Congwu was made; he certainly wasn't charming, but Tang Yin didn't mind it.

"Father, I've got some things to do. I'll be leaving now!" Shen Ruxin turned on her heel and dragged Tang Yin out of the hospital.

After all, why should she hang around if she wasn't welcomed?

"Father..." Shen Hanlin hesitated for a moment before voicing his opinion. "Father, we really do owe Tang Yin our thanks!"

"What do you know?!" Shen Congwu glared at Shen Hanlin for a moment before turning his gaze away frustratedly.

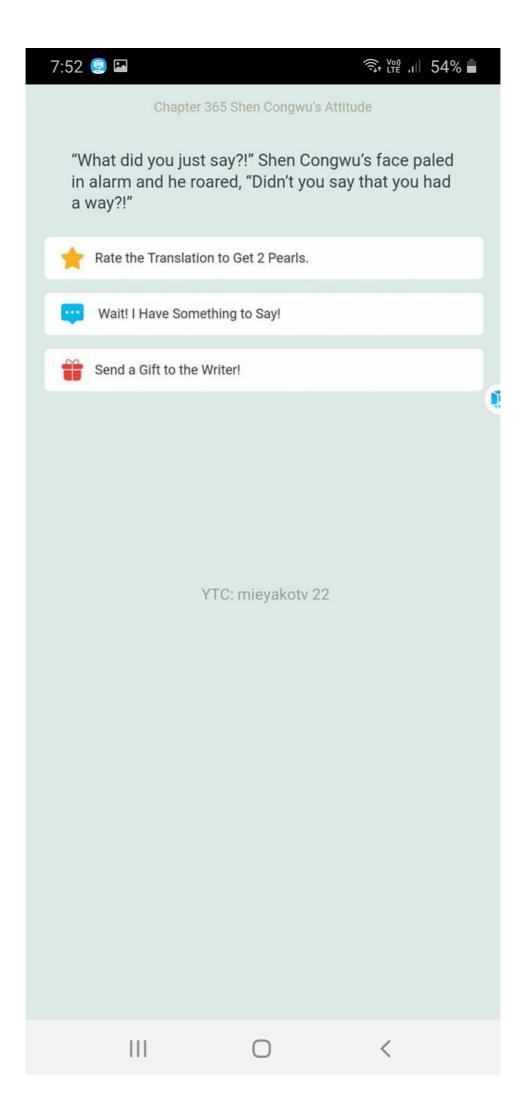
Lowering his head and sighing softly, Shen Hanlin watched Shen Ruxin walk away and didn't utter another word. How could he not understand Shen Congwu after all these years? Shen Congwu's first impression of Tang Yin had been cemented, and nothing anyone could say would change his mind about the latter.

At that moment, a commotion erupted from inside the operation theater.

Shen Congwu hastily raised his head and looked straight at the operation theater's doors. "What's going on?!"

Everyone was puzzled, but they could only wait with their hearts in their throats, as they didn't dare to inquire for fear of disturbing the medical personnel.

The doors to the operation theater swung open once again, and Wang Deyou shuffled out with an ashen face and croaked with a tortured voice, "Commander, w-we lost another one!"



"I..." Wang Deyou stamped his foot fretfully. "I didn't have enough time! If I'd had more time and started the treatment even just two minutes earlier, the patient would have made it!"

"Wang Deyou!" Shen Congwu exploded and glared viciously at Wang Deyou. "You said that you could cure them earlier; are you saying otherwise now?! Let me ask you then: what of the last patient? Can you cure him?"

"The last patient..." Wang Deyou slumped against the wall in distress. "I'm afraid that the last patient's condition will deteriorate as well!"

"You—" Shen Congwu paled with rage, thereupon he staggered backward. "Bloody hell, Wang Deyou! You're an inept doctor! What you did... What you did was blatant disregard of human life!"

"Commander, this has nothing to do with me. There wouldn't have been a problem if you had let Tang Yin do his thing!" Wang Deyou was equally peeved. "Tang Yin is more familiar with the poison than we are; he would have done it far more quickly, and perhaps the poison wouldn't have been able to infiltrate the patients' organs then. In fact, I wanted to ask Tang Yin to help out, but you wouldn't allow him to!"

"You—" A vein popped out and pulsed on Shen Congwu's forehead.

But it was too late for words now. Tang Yin had left, and the patient in the operation theater was doomed to die.

Shen Congwu trembled all over as the strength drained from his body at that thought. Thereupon, his field of vision dimmed, and he couldn't catch his breath.

"Commander!"

"Father!"

The people around Shen Congwu swarmed toward him and kept him from falling to the ground.

"Quickly, carry him into the operation theater!" Wang Deyou urged. After taking one glance at Shen Congwu's complexion, he instantly knew that the latter's condition was serious.

Shell-shocked, Shen Hanlin immediately ran into the operation theater after hastily placing Shen Congwu on his back.

Then, he carefully laid his father on the operation table, cold sweat already beading on his brow. "Dr. Wang, what's going on?! What on earth happened to my father?!"

"It's not serious; there just wasn't enough blood flow to his heart, that's all. I'll resuscitate him right away; he'll definitely be alright!" Wang Deyou declared, then shooed Shen Hanlin out of the room. Wang Deyou had experience with Shen Congwu's condition and was sure of his skills in that arena. Besides, Shen Congwu's ischemic attack had occurred less than a minute ago.

Shen Hanlin walked out from the operation theater and hurriedly gave Shen Ruxin a call, yet he dared not inform Mrs. Shen about the incident.

Shen Ruxin, who had only just bid Tang Yin goodbye, traced her steps back toward the operation theater, and a sense of panic unfurled within her as she stared at its closed doors. "What went wrong? What happened to father? Wasn't he fine just a minute ago?!"

Shen Hanlin sighed and narrated everything that had happened since his sister had left, then clawed at his own head in frustration.

Shen Ruxin stood dumbly on the spot, not knowing what to say.

Shen Congwu had been this way his whole life; a herd of bulls couldn't sway his mind even if they tried. Luckily, it wasn't anything serious, and since medical intervention had been given timely, nothing dire had happened.

By then, Tang Yin had already gotten into a cab and was oblivious of Shen Congwu's condition. Even if he had known, he probably would've just mused about it.

In any case, Shen Congwu had collapsed inside the hospital; there wasn't anything for Tang Yin to worry about.

YTC: mieyakotv 22

Tang Yin took the cab directly to his university, then made his way toward the lecture hall and took a seat beside Ji Youyou.

The classroom was far less crowded than before; it wasn't just Ding Xuan who was absent, even most of those who had made fun of Ji Youyou before this were nowhere to be found

At long last, the classroom was peaceful and silent after so many quarrels and spats.

Both Tang Yin and Ji Youyou spent the afternoon cramming, and the latter took another trip to Honghong Education with Tang Yin trailing along later in the evening.

Ji Youyou was still working part-time for the company after all; she would be amiss if she didn't

report in.

The sky had already fallen dark by the time the young couple stepped out of Honghong Education.

October was coming to an end, and the days were already significantly shorter.

They had just reached the mansion when they saw a fleet of cars pull up in front of their home.

Tang Yin frowned as he watched an attendant pull open a car door a distance away, only to see Ms. Li from Shanghai, Li Chengshuang, emerge from the car.

Ji Youyou grew nervous and unsure as to how to face her mother, and so she clutched onto Tang Yin's wrist as her heart raced.

"Can we talk?" YTC: mieyakotv 22

The corner of Li Chengshuang's lips tweaked upward by just a hair as she gazed at the young couple.

Tang Yin hesitated for a moment, but nodded his head after glancing at Ji Youyou. "Come in!"

"Great!" Li Chengshuang nodded, then gave her bodyguards some instructions before following Ji Youyou and Tang Yin into their mansion.

Li Chengshuang had barely stepped into the mansion when her brow knitted and displeasure flashed through her eyes. The décor in the mansion wasn't to her liking, and her already poor impression of Tang Yin sank even further.

Unaware of this, Tang Yin watched as Ji Youyou walked up the stairs with her head bowed, and worry

glimmered in his chest.

"Have a seat."

"Of course!"

Li Chengshuang took a seat, whereupon Tang Yin poured a cup of tea and delivered it to her.

Li Chengshuang chuckled. "I admit that I've underestimated you back in Shanghai. I hadn't thought that the Young Master of the Tang Family would actually be with my daughter!"

Tang Yin's expression didn't even shift the slightest as he sat down directly opposite her. "Is that all you came here to talk about?"

"Well, no!" Li Chengshuang smiled wryly as she reclined on the sofa. "I'm sure that you've investigated around, and know that I'm Youyou's biological mother. She and I are bonded by blood; that's undeniable!"

Tang Yin held Li Chengshuang's gaze steadily without replying.

"Youyou may already be eighteen years old, but the relationship between her and myself is still second to none!" Li Chengshuang declared with mockery on her face as she watched Tang Yin. "I admit that I haven't spent much time with her, and our mother-daughter relationship has had its share of rough patches, but as her mother, I feel that I've done right by her."

"I don't know what you mean by having done right by her as her mother." Tang Yin leaned backward onto the couch.

Li Chengshuang smiled and spread her hands. "I've

given my fair share for Ji Youyou to grow up into who she is today. I've sponsored her living expenses —every single penny she's spent—secretly. Every stitch on her back, every trace of makeup on her face, and every book in her bag belongs to me!"

Tang Yin's face hardened in a flash. "You sponsored her?"

"What did you expect?" Li Chengshuang angled her face at Tang Yin scornfully as she jibed snidely at him, "I know that at this stage, the two of you probably think heaven and earth of your puppy love, but let me warn you that no matter what, Youyou is still my daughter! I came here today to bring her home, and to order the two of you to break up. I don't think that she's ready to be in a relationship yet!"

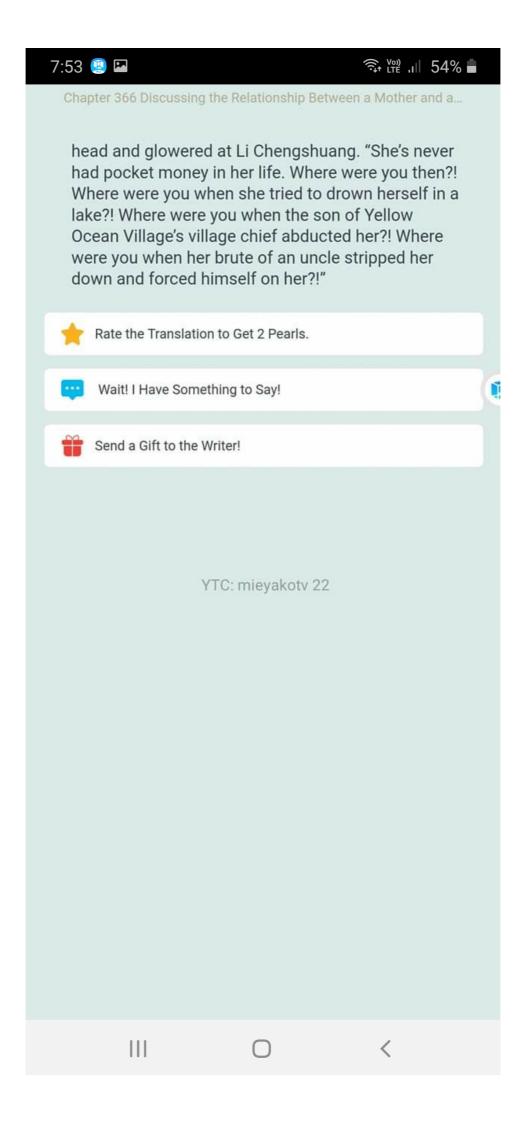
Tang Yin was so angry that he burst out in a paradoxical laughter instead. "Do you really think that she'll leave with you?!"

Li Chengshuang paused in surprise before her face darkened angrily. "I have no idea what you're talking about! I'm taking Youyou away, and I'm not here to waste time arguing with you. The only reason why I bothered to tell you so much is because I wanted you to know that even the Tang Family will have to defer to me even if they want to stop this from happening."

"You have no right to take her away!" Tang Yin objected frostily as he got to his feet.

Li Chengshuang straightened her knees as well as she arched her brows. "Who says that I don't have the right?! We're bonded by blood; I'm her mother!"

"You say that you're her mother, but do you know what her life was really like?!" Tang Yin cocked his



"W-What did you say?!" Li Chengshuang jumped to her feet, and her expression darkened so much that it resembled a thundercloud. "That's impossible! I've been giving my younger sister money for Youyou's upkeep every month since I left; there's no way she would have lacked anything!"

"You can investigate whether Ji Youyou had a hard life or not on your own!" Tang Yin's eyes glimmered with dislike. "It's not just a matter of money, but also of her safety! She had been abused since childhood; that's why she's so quiet and timid now! Also, if it weren't for my bodyguard, Ji Youyou would have been raped by your brother-in-law! If I hadn't gotten there in time, Ji Youyou would now be the daughter-in-law of the Yellow Ocean Village's village chief!"

"That..." Li Chengshuang swayed as the color drained from her face and she collapsed back onto the sofa. "That's impossible! I told my sister that they would receive compensation every year... And Zhang Han, that b*stard, how dared he do such a thing?!"

Tang Yin watched Li Chengshuang with ice in his eyes as he burst out at her. "I don't know what happened for you to leave Ji Youyou in Yellow Ocean Village, but there's no way I'll ever agree with what you've done!"

Li Chengshuang abruptly raised her chin. "You came from a large, important family as well; you should know about the Ji Family's problems. Youyou's father and I would have lost out on a lot if anyone had found out that our first child was a girl!"

"You left Ji Youyou in that hellhole for profit?! How cruel of you!" Tang Yin turned on his heel and walked upstairs. "Whatever I just told you, you can find out for yourself. Since you're already in Wuhan, why don't you make a trip to Yellow Ocean Village

and visit your sister's family in jail? If you're still thinking of getting Youyou back, then let me tell you, that the debt of giving her life without raising her is considered void with the severance of a finger, and I, Tang Yin, will willingly cut off a finger to return to you and the Ji Family in Ji Youyou stead! But if you want to take her away, then you'll need to get her agreement first!"

Tang Yin's voice trailed off as he disappeared upstairs.

Distress ate at Li Chengshuang as she watched Tang Yin's figure disappear from view, and she stormed out of the mansion.

If it was really as Tang Yin said, then the Ji Family really owed Ji Youyou for their neglect, and neither of her parents would be able to explain themselves to her.

"To Yellow Ocean VIIC: mieyakotv 22

Li Chengshuang's face grew stormy as she climbed into her car and ordered her chaffeur.

The chauffeur nodded, then pressed down on the gas pedal and sped toward Yellow Ocean Village.

At the same time, Tang Yin, who had only just gotten to the second floor, found Ji Youyou curled up in a ball, sobbing wretchedly into her knees by the landing.

Ji Youyou had probably heard everything from his conversation with Li Chengshuang earlier, especially the latter's admission that she and her husband would have lost a lot of privilege if anyone had found out that their firstborn, Ji Youyou, was actually a daughter.

Tang Yin didn't understand it, and there was no way Ji Youyou did either.

Tang Yin patted Ji Youyou on the shoulder after watching her sob for a while, then helped her back to her room.

If Li Chengshuang and her husband had left Ji Youyou in Yellow Ocean Village under strenuous circumstances, Tang Yin would have understood, but for profit? That was just inexplicable.

Tang Yin stayed back to comfort Ji Youyou for a long time before she drifted into a deep slumber. Only then did he turn and leave her bedroom to go to the study.

Tang Yin had fallen so far behind on his studies over the last few days that he was feeling the pressure.

The next morning, Ji Youyou was still in low spirits.

Tang Yin's heart ached for her, but he didn't know how else to cheer her up. When it was almost time for classes, he received a call from Pei Ruo.

Tang Yin was filled with mixed feelings after their conversation.

Yellow Ocean Village had been turned upside down last night; Li Chengshuang had harshly punished even the culprits in jail for tormenting her daughter.

Pei Ruo didn't know the specifics, but she did know that Yellow Ocean Village had been next to destroyed, and that word of Li Chengshuang's fury had spread all over Wuhan.

Tang Yin put his phone down, then sighed softly before turning to accompany Ji Youyou to Wuhan University.

It took three days for Tang Yin to make Ji Youyou's emotions stable again.

Li Chengshuang didn't appear during those three days, possibly because of Tang Yin's tirade that night, but also perhaps the high-and-mighty mother felt guilty now that she found out about how Ji Youyou had grown up.

On Sunday morning, Tang Yin turned up at Venture Capital Finance.

Venture Capital Finance was now operating well, and had expanded significantly under Pei He's expert guidance.

Tang Yin sat in the meeting room and felt satisfied with the reports Pei He gave him. Pei He was familiar with the way things were done in Wuhan after all; with Tang Yin's support, Pei He was dominating the market mieyakoty 22

Tang Yin knocked the table lightly with one hand as he gave Pei He instructions in a soft voice. "Make preparations to join the Tang Family Annual Meeting with me on New Year's Day."

Pei He's nerves tightened. "Alright, I understand."

"Okay. Is there anything else?" Tang Yin inquired.

"No, there isn't anything else on my part, but Pei Ruo seems to have something to report," Pei He replied.

Tang Yin nodded and watched as Pei He left, after which Pei Ruo entered through the door with a small smile on the corner of her lips.

"Mr. Shen has decided to join the International Jade Carving Competition which will be held in Beijing in just a few days time," Pei Ruo announced.

"Oh?" Tang Yin paused. "When is it?"

"About a week from now. He may need to bring the piece that you consigned him to make, so he requested me to ask your permission," Pei Ruo stated quietly.

Tang Yin nodded. "No problem. You're coming to Beijing with me, so get ready."

"To Beijing?" Pei Ruo wavered.

"Yes, we're going to Beijing." Tang Yin exhaled and his eyes flashed.

The purpose of Tang Yin's trip to Beijing was to confirm whether the final regional manager in Greater China was on his side before he attended the Tang Family Annual Meeting. It was a matter that he couldn't afford to take lightly as it could make the difference between who would be the next leader of the Tang Family.

Tang Yin headed toward the hospital after exiting Venture Capital Finance.

Tang Yin hadn't visited Ding Xuan since returning to Wuhan, firstly because he didn't know how to face his friend, but also because he didn't want to disturb Ding Xuan's rest.

The car glided smoothly into the hospital's parking lot. After stepping out of his car, Tang Yin self-consciously took a place in the furthest corner of the elevator.

The elevator rose to the first floor, where its doors opened to let in two women who looked to be hospital nurses.

Tang Yin kept silent and pulled himself even further

backward.

The two nurses glanced at Tang Yin before turning their heads away, thereupon one of them quietly muttered, "Have you heard about the patient in room 1820 on the eighteenth floor? The one called Ding Xuan!"

"The one who's always in intensive care?" the other nurse double-checked.

"Yes, yes. That's the one. I saw his chart on the doctor's desk yesterday. Guess what?"

"What is it?"

"He can't get it up anymore!"

"Seriously?!"

"Of course I'm being serious!" The nurse let out a sputter which gave way to a giggle. "Would I lie to you about something like that? I even heard that his girlfriend is on the verge of breaking up with him!"



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

|||

Ding-dong!

The elevator doors slid open right on the eighteenth floor.

The two nurses got off the elevator and walked toward the duty room.

Tang Yin's face was dark as he slowly trudged out of the elevator with anxious thoughts flying all over his head.

If it really was as the two nurses had said, then hadn't he ruined Ding Xuan's entire life? Such a thing would never have happened if he hadn't sent Ding Xuan to Shanghai. To tell the truth, Ding Xuan's injuries were far more severe than the average man could handle; he had suffered four broken limbs in addition to a heavy blow to the chest.

Tang Yin lifted his face, feeling lost as to what he should do.

"Tang Yin?" Fu Ying just happened to be walking over from the far end of the corridor.

Tang Yin, jolted back to his senses, squeezed out a smile. "I'm back from Shanghai, so I came over to visit Ding Xuan. How has he been lately?"

"Down in the dumps. Go ahead into the room!" Fu Ying uttered.

Tang Yin's heart sank. He walked over to the door, pushed it open, and saw Ding Xuan sitting in a wheelchair, staring vacuously out of the window.

There was nothing out there, but the view seemed to fascinate Ding Xuan.

Tang Yin opened his mouth several times as he

stood behind Ding Xuan, but he just didn't know what to say. If Ding Xuan's manhood had really been injured, then it was a matter of life-changing importance; Tang Yin didn't even know whether Ding Xuan had a chance of recovery.

"Tang Yin? Why are you here?" Ding Xuan hastily turned his head when he finally caught sight of Tang Yin's reflection in the window. "When did you get here? Why didn't you say anything?" he exclaimed in delight.

Tang Yin's gaze had been fixated on Ding Xuan ever since he entered the room, and he could feel the strain behind the latter's smiling eyes.

"Sit down! Sit down and chat with me!" Ding Xuan pointed at the bed, gesticulating in excitement. "Turn my wheelchair around; it's difficult for me to talk to you like this!"

Tang Yin walked over and wheeled Ding Xuan around as per his request.

"Miss Pei Ruo told me about what happened. She said that you slaughtered those men. Sweet! I was really glad to hear the news!" Ding Xuan waved his arms as the smile on his face grew even wider. "Do you know? I would have gone with you if I hadn't gotten hurt. Who would dare to stand up against us if the two of us reigned over Shanghai?!"

Tang Yin suppressed the grief in his heart and put on a smile as he nodded. "That day will come! It will!"

"What's wrong? Are you in a funk?" Ding Xuan burst out laughing when he saw the disquiet on Tang Yin's face. "I'm fine even though I was severely injured; why are you in a funk after performing such a feat?! Be happy. I now understand that there's nothing

worth despairing about in this world. And if there is, I'll face it with you; we're as good as brothers, after all!"

Tang Yin was touched by the infectious laughter on Ding Xuan's face.

"Well? Aren't you going to give me a round of applause after I said all of that?" Ding Xuan roared in raucous laughter which was reflected on his face. "You have no idea how I've been bored silly, cooped up in this place. If I could get out and take a walk around, I would call a bunch of chicks, go on a trip with them, and flirt with them along the way..."

Just then, the door was pushed open, and two nurses walked in, with one of them carrying an IV bag in her hand.

The two nurses were slightly taken aback when they saw Tang Yin in the room, but there wasn't even a flicker of embarrassment on their faces. Instead, they frostily directed their attention toward Ding Xuan. "It's time to set a new line. Stretch your arm out!"

"I'll say! Y'all need to be a little more gentle!" Ding Xuan chortled loudly as he leered at the nurses lasciviously. "I'll have no choice but to punish you guys if you make this hurt again!"

The two nurses' expressions were anything but pleasant, and they turned and walked away without sparing Ding Xuan a second glance after setting the line.

Tang Yin felt wretched, thereupon he heard one of the two nurses snickered as they left, saying, "He's still putting on a facade! What does he have to show now that he's impotent? What can he even do if I strip naked and lie on his bed?!"

"Hahaha! Never mind him, but if you do strip naked, don't you think that I can handle you even if he can't?"

Ding Xuan pretended as if the nurses hadn't said anything after they left. "Those two little nurses just don't know how to go with the mood. Come, let's continue with our talk!"

"How long has it been?" Tang Yin asked quietly.

"How long has what been? What nonsense are you talking about? Though, I can tell you one thing: I've recently discovered a restaurant which makes the most authentic Wuhan cuisine!" Ding Xuan chortled.

Tang Yin slowly straightened and got to his feet, then placed a heavy hand on Ding Xuan's shoulder as he swore through gritted teeth, "Don't worry! I'll make sure that you're alright!"

"I'm alright now, and very fine indeed!" Ding Xuan declared, laughing as if he didn't have a care in the world.

Tang Yin closed his eyes, then spun around and strode out of the room.

"Tang Yin, let's eat together before you leave!" Ding Xuan called out from behind him.

Outside the hospital room, Tang Yin felt his heartstrings tremble, and his fists clenched tightly like vises. He would have found it easier to take if Ding Xuan had shown any pain, hatred or anger, but the latter's feigned nonchalance jarred him like the taste of concentrated tonic syrup.

Tang Yin knew very well that besides not wanting him to worry, his friend also wanted to save some face. After all, such news—if it were to be said aloud

-would crush the last few bits of Ding Xuan's pride.

Tang Yin stood in the doorway for a lengthy amount of time before finally turning his head, only to see Ding Xuan sitting with his head lowered back in the room.

Large beads of tears dripped down his face, and his hands, which couldn't even clench tightly, clutched desperately onto the sides of his wheelchair as tightly as they could, as if it took every ounce in his body to do so.

Tang Yin couldn't understand the intense emotions that Ding Xuan must have felt, but he could see the defiance within his eyes.

He watched Ding Xuan from the doorway for a second before turning to leave; every moment he spent there was a weight on his heart. No matter what he told himself Ding Xuan had ended up like this because of him.

Outside the hospital, Tang Yin exhaled heavily before starting his car and speeding off toward the mansion he called home.

However, a red Ferrari came charging at him the moment he drove out of the hospital gates.

Tang Yin hurriedly rotated the steering wheel, but the opposite Ferrari was going too fast, and the two cars collided with a loud bang before stopping by the roadside.

Tang Yin pulled open his car door with a flinty expression on his face and glared at the opposite Ferrari warily.

The driver's door to the Ferrari flung open, thereupon a teenage girl who looked to be around eighteen

years of age strolled out. Star-shaped stickers embellished her cheeks and thick eyeliner hemmed her eyes, while her hair was a multi-colored mess that resembled a cockerel's tail. She was decked out in a dress that was neither long enough to be proper, nor short enough to be suggestive. Overall, her appearance gave off a weird vibe.

"Are you Tang Yin?"

Tang Yin tipped his head and stared at the girl in surprise.

"Hey, I'm asking you a question! Are you Tang Yin? Answer me!" Tao Qingfan pointed a finger at Tang Yin and demanded in a voice laced with annoyance. "You are Tang Yin! I've seen your biodata, so I know! Let me tell you, I'm from Beijing's Yang Family. I heard about your visit to Shanghai, and I know that you're definitely going to Beijing soon! However, you don't need to go to Beijing anymore; I'm here on behalf of my father to tell you that we won't be on your side, so just forget it!"

"Oh?" Tang Yin folded his arms, his lips curled into a smile. "I don't believe I know what you're talking about!"

"I said, stop dreaming about what doesn't belong to you! The Yang Family won't be on your side, so stay away from us, you hear that? Don't even think of begging my father for his help, you sniveling dog!" Tao Qingfan lifted her chin and looked down her nose at Tang Yin.

"I don't really know what Yang Family you're blabbering about, but I do know that you won't be able to just walk away from this today!" Tang Yin shrugged and glanced at his wrecked car before digging out his phone.

"I won't be able to walk away? Just who do you think you are? Do you think you're all that just because you're from the Tang Family?!" Tao Qingfan curled her lip exaggeratedly as she folded her arms and walked up to Tang Yin, her lips setting in a cold, hard smile. "So what if you're from the Tang Family?! Aren't you just a dog now?! I'm informing you in no uncertain terms right now that my father has chosen to support someone else in the Tang Family, so don't even think about it!"

The corner of Tang Yin's lips twitched, but he paid the girl no further attention and swiftly made a police report instead.

"What are you doing?! I'm talking to you! Are you deaf, or are you mute?! Are all the people from the Tang Family so rude?!" Tao Qingfan hit the roof when she saw that Tang Yin was ignoring her and pointed directly at his face with an outstretched finger as she snapped at him. "Hurry up and find a way out of this mess, or you might end up losing your life when you lose out in the fight to take over the Tang Family, and when that happens, you'll get the Yang Family killed along with you!"

Tang Yin cocked his head to one side as he regarded the girl. "You know quite a lot!"

"I'm a member of the Yang Family, so of course I do! Why? Are you scared?" Tao Qingfan cast a disdainful and slightly disparaging look at Tang Yin. "I knew that you were a spineless twerp; you don't even have the guts to face me, and you still want to compete for the leadership of the Tang Family?! Ptooey!"

Tang Yin retorted, "And why should I face you?"

"I'm standing right in front of you; whom else would you face if not for me? You look like a man, but you

haven't got the balls. I'm warning you: don't go to Beijing, or you'll be put in your place!" Tao Qingfan shoved Tang Yin with contempt dripping from her eyes. "You're utterly useless! What gives you the guts to go up against Miss Tang?!"

Tang Yin stumbled two steps backward, but the roguish look on his face grew more blatant. He had pent up a lot of negative emotions while visiting Ding Xuan, and the loli-like squirt in front of him piqued his interest.

Out of nowhere, Tao Qingfan sprayed a mouthful of saliva onto Tang Yin's chest.

Tang Yin lowered his head to study the damage for a significant amount of time, then raised his gaze and saw the scorn in Tao Qingfan's eyes before she spun on her heel and strode back toward her car.

Just then, the sound of police sirens reached them from what seemed to be a short distance away.

Tao Qingfan had just gotten into her car, thereafter she popped her head out of the window. "You're just like a dog that's dreaming of challenging its owner for her food!"

Tang Yin made his move quickly, pulling open the driver's door and grabbing a hold of Tao Qingfan's wrist.

"What are you doing?! Do you know whom you're raising your hand against?!"

"You hit my car, and you think you can just walk away?!" The mockery on Tang Yin's face was intense.

"I hit you?!" Tao Qingfan laughed mirthlessly. "I only hit a dog. They can't charge me for that!"

"Get out of the car!"

"The girl inside the car, get down from your vehicle immediately!"

The police, who had finally arrived, watched Tao Qingfan warily.

Tao Qingfan was pissed. "You actually called the police?! You're such a wimp, yet you still dare to covet the Tang Family?! Miss Tang Wei is a hundred times better, you know?!"

Tang Yin shrugged, unconcerned about her opinion.

"Get out of the car!"

A policeman roared once again.

Tang Yin stepped aside with his hands in the air and his head cocked to one side while keeping an eye on Tao Qingfan.

Tao Qingfan flung the door wide open and got down from her car resentfully, not forgetting to roll her eyes at Tang Yin whilst doing so. "I really ran into a moron. What is there to report about such a small incident?! What the f*ck is all this fuss about?! I should have checked my luck today before I left the house!"

"Put your hands in the air!"

Two policemen stepped forward and brought Tao Qingfan to one side.

"What happened?"

"She crashed into my car, and then threatened me. I had no choice but to make a police report." Tang Yin spread his hands. "I'll ask my lawyer to come over,

and I'll only talk as per what she allows."

"I'm bringing you in to get your statement first."

"Tang Yin, are you still a f*cking man?! Where are your balls? You're actually kicking up a fuss over such a small matter?! I wonder if you squat down whenever you pee!" Livid, Tao Qingfan cursed at Tang Yin. "You probably come from a family of wimps!"

"I won't be answering any of your questions." Tang Yin chuckled, already getting an idea of how the girl worked.

The Tang Family's assets in Beijing were managed by Tao Huaisheng, and the girl in front of him, Tao Qingfan, was his only daughter. Tang Yin had intended to visit Beijing in a few days' time in order to ask Tao Huaisheng about his stance as the regional manager; he hadn't expected Tao Qingfan to come to Wuhan.

Perhaps Tang Yin would have thought more highly of Tao Qingfan if she had come to Wuhan more prepared, but the way she had charged at him and then insulted as well as berated him without any reinforcements showed that she was no different than any other simple-minded delinquent girl.

The two of them were each escorted into a police car and driven to the police station.

Tang Yin gave Pei Ruo a call to bring her up to speed on what had happened, then fell into deep contemplation. He didn't know whether Tao Qingfan had come to Wuhan of her own accord, or under her father's instructions. From what she had said earlier, she, and likely her father, already had dealings with Tang Wei. If that was true, then Tang Yin would need to tread carefully.

Tang Wei's influence had actually infiltrated Greater China to such an extent?

While Tong Junyou had been loyal to Tang Wei, Han Qi had changed sides to become her follower as well. If even Tai Huaisheng was on Tang Wei's side, then Tang Yin would be left with almost no space to maneuver.

However, whether Tao Qingfan had come of her own accord or under her father's instructions still remained a mystery.

Soon after, Tang Yin was quickly led into the police station.

Having rushed over, Pei Ruo arrived in less than twenty minutes, and she proceeded to file some relevant paperwork.

"What on earth just happened, and just what was that girl thinking, showing up in Wuhan to find trouble with you during such a sensitive period?!"

Tang Yin didn't really get it either. "I can't be sure myself!"

Pei Ruo was silent for a moment; she knew what Tang Yin was implying, and so she comforted him quietly. "Perhaps it wasn't done under Tao Huaisheng's say-so. Based on what I know of Elder Miao, he always keeps an ace under his sleeve; I think that Tao Huaisheng may be the trump card that Elder Miao is hiding!"

Tang Yin sighed, the burden on his shoulders weighing down especially heavily on him today. His heart had sunk when he saw Ding Xuan's condition earlier during the day, and Tao Qingfan's appearance had cast an even darker shadow over his heart.

Tang Miao had set a trap for Ding Xuan—causing the latter to have been severely injured by Duan Jincheng—in the name of the fight over the Tang Family's leadership. It's likely that the others around me: Pei He, Pei Ruo, and even Ji Youyou will face even greater danger in the future!

"Tang Yin, don't blame yourself too much!" Pei He consoled him, laying a hand on his arm as she spoke softly to him. "No matter what happens in the future, we'll face it together. All of us made this choice, didn't we? Whether me, my brother, Ding Xuan, or Ji Youyou, all of us made the choice of our own accord! The path may be full of hurdles and pain, but none of us regret our decision!"

Tang Yin hesitated, only then realizing that back at the hospital, Ding Xuan's face had shown no trace of faint-heartedness, but only vehement defiance.

I'm their leader; how will they face the future if I back down now?

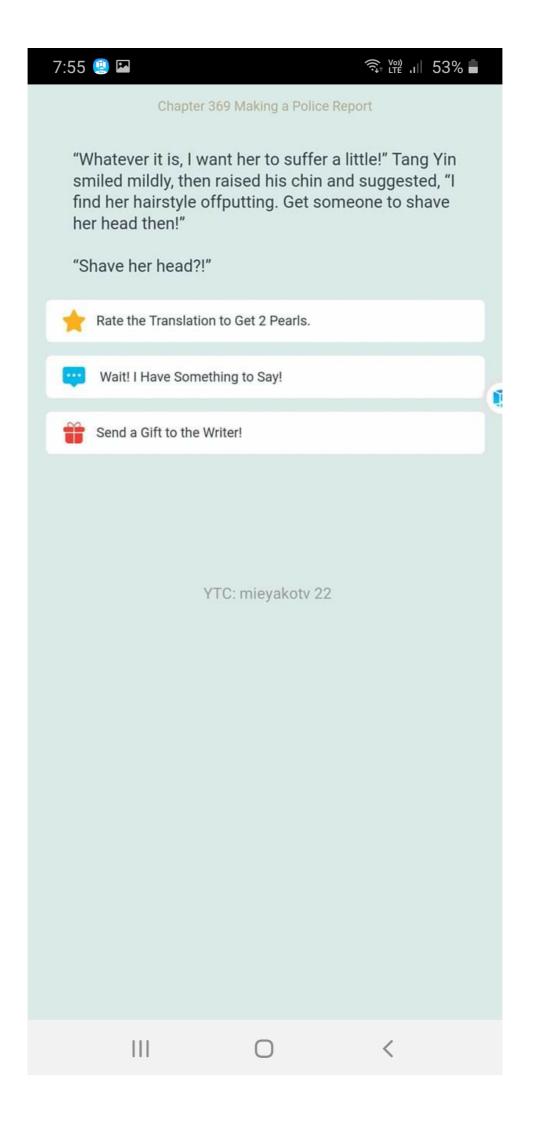
"Get a grip of yourself. All of us believe in you!" Pei Ruo urged as she tugged Tang Yin's wrist lightly but firmly.

Tang Yin smiled as he turned his head to fix his gaze on Pei Ruo. "I have a girlfriend, you know..."

Pei Ruo paused for a moment before erupting into a bout of giggles that made her quiver like a branch of blossoms in a violent wind. When it had abated, she whispered quietly in his ear, "That's alright. All I need is to be able to accompany you throughout this stage in your life; that'll be enough for me!"

Tang Yin sighed inside, incapable of how to thank her that could express the depths of his gratitude.

"What do you plan to do with that little girl?"



"Yes, shave off her hair!" Tang Yin pursed his lips and smiled.

Since Tao Qingfan dared to come to Wuhan, Tang Yin no longer needed to hold himself back. Even if Tao Huaisheng was really caught by Tang Wei's men because of this incident, Tang Yin would never regret it.

Some things had to be done!

Meanwhile, Tao Qingfan was shouting furiously in the interrogation room.

"I know him! I was just joking with him... Are you going to send me to jail for this too? You idiots! Your pea-sized brains are only capable of thinking nonsense!"

"Watch your manners!" the two police officers said coldly.

YTC: mieyakotv 22

"Who do you think you are? Do you think that I will really mind my manners just because you told me to do so? I'll be as rude as I want! I'm warning you. Let me go right away, otherwise I will teach you both a lesson!" Tao Qingfan raised her head arrogantly.

Upon hearing that, the two police officers stared at her furiously.

"What's with that look? Are you getting mad? Do you really think that lowly dogs like you are able to do a thing to me?" She smiled contemptuously. "Do you know who my dad is? Even the mayor of Wuhan isn't qualified to receive my dad, let alone you two lowly policemen!"

Slam-

One of the policemen finally snapped and slammed

his palm on the table.

Tao Qingfan sneered even more, "What's the matter? You don't want to admit it, do you? You think that you are a respectable official, but in reality you are just lowly guard dogs! Your living depends on rich taxpayers like us! Let me go right away or else!"

The two police officers gritted their teeth, but they managed to control their anger due to their good upbringing.

At this time, the door to the interrogation room was pushed open.

A police officer in his forties walked in and said softly, "Let her go. She didn't do anything wrong!"

"Let her go?" The two policemen were taken aback.

"Yeah, it's just a civil case. We should let them solve it themselves in private!"

Upon hearing that, Tao Qingfan looked at the three people contemptuously. "Didn't I tell you? I can leave as I wish! Did you idiots really think that you could stop me? Look at yourselves! Do you really think that someone like you can stop me?"

The two police officers clenched their fists angrily as they stared at Tao Qingfan with gritted teeth, but there was nothing they could do.

Tao Qingfan sneered and stood up before turning around and walking towards the door. "So what if Tang Yin called the police? He still can't hurt me the slightest bit. That coward! He has given up on butting heads with me, hasn't he?"

Listening to Tao Qingfan's words, the expressions of the officers of the police station soured.

Tao Qingfan sneered as she shook her body in celebration. She even took a picture and posted it on her social media before walking outside the police station.

She had acted like this many times before, but still no one in Beijing dared to utter a single word to her. Naturally, she thought no one in Wuhan would dare to go against her too. Besides, she hadn't told them who her father was yet. If she did, all these people would definitely kneel down and beg for mercy!

What if they took me into the police station? I could still leave if I wanted!

I can show off about this next time!

"What a bunch of idiots!" Tao Qingfan sneered and walked out the entrance of the police station.

The police officers watched her furiously, bitterness filling up their hearts.

At this time, a group of gangsters rushed over from the street, screaming loudly as if they were trying to vent out their emotions.

Tao Qingfan glanced at them and sneered, "What a bunch of idiots!"

"Who are you talking about?"

"Hey, watch your mouth!"

"What's the matter? What's wrong with me calling you guys 'idiots'? You are all acting idiotically, so why can't I call you so?" Tao Qingfan sneered.

"Let's beat her up!"

"How dare you! I am Tao Huaisheng's daughter. Who

would dare to attack me?" Tao Qingfan was a little flustered and immediately shouted.

"I don't care whose daughter you are. Don't even think about leaving today!"

"Yes, let's beat her up!"

Seven or eight punks rushed up and held down her head.

"How dare you! This is the entrance of the police station. Do you really have the guts to stir up trouble here?" Tao Qingfan panicked.

However, the seven or eight punks didn't care about this at all and dragged her out by her head.

"Help! Police, hurry up and come out! What are you idiots doing? Can't you see that someone is robbing me?" Tao Qingfan yelled and screamed with a frightened expression on her face.

The policemen in the police station pretended like they didn't hear her at all; they didn't even want to come take a look.

Tao Qingfan yelled loudly, but still she was unable to resist as she was held down by the seven or eight gangsters.

"Shave off her hair! She looks like a disgusting feather duster..."

"How dare you touch me! My dad is Tao Huaisheng and I am Tao Qingfan. If you dare do anything to me, I'll kill you all..." Tao Qingfan shouted.

Buzz buzz buzz-

Soon after, someone took out a hair shaver and

pushed it up Tao Qingfan's colorful hair along the scalp.

"Y-You're all dead meat!" Tao Qingfan shouted. Feeling a chill on her scalp, tears started streaming down her face.

When had she ever suffered like this in Beijing? As long as she mentioned her father's name, no one dared to oppose her, let alone a group of punks!

"How dare you do this to me!"

Several people grabbed her hair and started shaving away.

Amidst their laughter, Tao Qingfan was shocked to find that the cockscomb hairstyle she was so proud of was shaved off by them; not even the slightest bit of stubble was left.

"Ah—! I'll kill you all! You're all dead meat!" she finally lashed out.

Upon hearing her words, the seven to eight punks laughed loudly before scattering and disappearing without a trace.

Tao Qingfan was furious as she pointed to her surroundings and cried loudly, "Can't you all see that I'm being bullied? Why didn't you come over and help me?"

The people around just took a glance at her before turning around and leaving.

"Damn it! Damn it!" Tao Qingfan shouted frantically.

Meanwhile, Tang Yin happened to pass by in Pei Ruo's car and stopped in front of Tao Qingfan. He looked at her with a smile. "You look more pleasing

to the eye now after the haircut!"

"Tang Yin, it must have been you who did this! You despicable assh*le! How dare you laugh at me now?" Tao Qingfan couldn't stand Tang Yin's gaze.

Tang Yin just shrugged in response and stepped on the accelerator, quickly driving off.

"Ah—!" Tao Qingfan shouted. Then, she took a glance at the police station behind her before turning around and rushing toward it. "Damn it, don't even think of running away. No one who has angered me has escaped my wrath before!"

Tao Qingfan shouted all the way to the police station, dishevelled, "Come out, you lowly dogs! I want to make a police report!"

Two police officers walked out; they happened to be the two who were interrogating Tao Qingfan.

"Make a police report? Why?"

"Are you blind? Didn't you see me being bullied? I want to report them—!" Standing in the main hall of the police station, Tao Qingfan let out a high-pitched scream.

"Then, please fill out this form and go back to wait for an update. We will notify you when we find any clue!" One of the police officers took out a form and placed it in front of her.

"You b*stards!" Tao Qingfan was furious and raised her hand to slap the police officer. The slap echoed throughout the police station. "Believe it or not, I'll make them fire you from the police station!"