

As Chen Hao walked with Qin Ya, he suddenly received a call from Li Zhenguo. "Young Master Chen, there's a VIP banquet being held tonight. I hope you will be attending, because the guest list includes an appraiser of antiques from Nanyang who can inspect your jade amulet, not to mention countless VIPs from Jin Ling city and even the province."

Li Zhenguo was now assisting him in tracking Yang Xia down. He'd mentioned this banquet to Chen Hao before, something about it being an annual occurrence for VIPs of various sectors in Jin Ling's economy. It wasn't something Chen Hao could easily refuse, so he agreed to attend.

Night fell as Chen Hao arrived at the venue, to discover that the place was indeed crowded; Huang Yonghao and Bai Xiaofei went there together with him.

The banquet was being held at the Mountain and River Villa, the only other villa in Jin Ling City large enough for major events, besides the Hot Springs Villa. It was owned by a forty year-old, middle-

aged man named Qi Wei who Chen Hao had met several times. However, because he was always too smooth with his words, Chen Hao's impression of him was not that good.

"Oh ho, it's Young Master Chen!" Qi Wei jogged over after spotting Chen Hao and the others. Many other VIPs at the banquet also walked over at this point, mostly to greet him.

"Hi, Mr. Qi!" Chen Hao simply smiled and counted that as a greeting. After that, Huang Yonghao instinctively weaved his way through the villa and found the foremost table to take a seat.

He'd just sat down when Qi Wei jogged over again. "Excuse me, Young Master Huang and Young Master Bai. You may not sit here today."

"Huh? What do you mean, Qi Wei?" Huang Yonghao froze. He'd attended this banquet countless times in the past and usually, the foremost table was reserved for his adoptive sister Chen Xiao. Therefore, as her adoptive brother, he was also entitled

to a seat here. The fact that Chen Hao was now the richest man in Jin Ling gave them all even more reason to sit here.

“Oh, it’s nothing. In the past, you sitting here would have been acceptable. However, since things have changed this year, you’re no longer allowed to do that,” Qi Wei said with a condescending smile.

Many VIPs from across the province had been invited to this year’s banquet, so it was inevitable that many of the wealthy businessmen on Chen Hao’s side crowded over to watch.

“Hmph, I didn’t want to sit here and look at that face of yours anyway! Fei, let’s sit somewhere else! Young Master Chen, you can sit here!” Naturally, Huang Yonghao was looking out for his adoptive brother, Chen Hao, who nodded in reply and prepared to take a seat.

“Wait!” Qi Wei spoke up again.

“What now?” Li Zhenguo and Zhao Zixing, who’d arrived earlier, were also walking over now.

“I’m afraid that not even Young Master Chen can sit at the foremost table this year!” Qi Wei said with a smile.

“Damn it, Qi Wei, are you out of your mind? Try saying that again to my face!” Huang Yonghao seized Qi Wei by the collar; this coward was being especially annoying today.

Qi Wei maintained his condescending smile and looked at Huang Yonghao, “Please calm yourself, Young Master Huang. I’ll say it one more time—not even Young Master Chen can sit here!”

“What do you mean by that?” the wealthy businessmen on Chen Hao’s side questioned, unable to tolerate this anymore.

“Nothing, it’s just that I have guests who are even more important coming here, and these seats are reserved for them.” Qi Wei shook off Huang Yonghao’s hand, shocking everyone due to the prominence of the foremost seat and what it meant.

“What’s going on?”

“It seems Qi Wei is forbidding Young Master Chen from sitting at the foremost seat!”

“Sh\*t, where did he get the audacity to do that? As the biological brother of CEO Chen and the heir of her business, he has every right to sit where she usually sat. The nerve of that Qi Wei!”

“Hmph. Well, what’s certain is that Young Master Chen has embarrassed himself today.” The guests started gossiping.

Suddenly, a vehicular entourage of seven or eight extra-long Rolls-Royce Phantom motor cars pulled up outside the villa. Then, a dozen bodyguards clad in black exited and assembled into two lines. The grand spectacle attracts everyone’s attention; even Chen Hao felt his gaze being drawn to the villa’s exterior.

Naturally, what happened next was a driver exiting his Phantom car and reverentially opening the back door. When a wealthy young man wearing a suit emerged with his hands in his pockets, the bodyguards all performed a ninety-degree bow in

pedestal! This is the first time I've officially set foot in Jin Ling, let alone attend the city's VIP banquet. You all are so welcoming!" Long Shaoyun smiled.

"Nonsense, Young Master Long! Please, take a seat!"

"Yes, Young Master Long. Who else is more suited to the foremost seat?" Many of the wealthy guests, including some of Jin Ling's own barons, agreed in a manner completely contradictory to their previous attitude.

Jin Ling may be home to some families like the Wang or Liu families, but none of them could even hold a candle to the Long family of Yan Jing. Rumor has it that the Long family have established their influence since the Qing dynasty, and that influence has not diminished at all.

"You're all being modest. I'm not the star of the show today, since I only came because my sister-in-law asked me to join the event!" Long Shaoyun chuckled.

"Sister-in-law? Could it be Young Master

Long Shaofeng's fiancée? I've heard about her, but I didn't know the engagement was confirmed!" Qi Wei asked with a wide smile.

"Exactly, Mr. Qi. Please take care of her!" With that, Long Shaoyun stepped aside as another driver opened the door to a separate car. This time, an extravagantly dressed lady emerged with a cute dog in her arms, flanked by two girls who looked like they were her servants.

"After you, sister!" Long Shaoyun smiled.

Under everyone's watchful gaze, the lady made her way to the foremost seat, shocking Bai Xiaofei and the others when they recognised her. By the time they'd all turned to look at Chen Hao with wide eyes, Chen Hao himself was shocked motionless; that lady was none other than the Yang Xia he'd been looking for.

For two days, Chen Hao had searched for Yang Xia, wondering what kind of person she'd become. Yes, she'd done many unforgivable things to him, but try as he might, his anger had never once turned to hatred.

He'd reminded himself over and over that Yang Xia was no longer the girl he knew during his first two years of university; she was a changed woman, and there was no need for him to hold back. But every time when he really needed it, he couldn't find it in himself to hate her. Instead, he remembered the time when they were still dating, and she never gave up on him no matter how poor he'd become.

After all, it was all too easy for Chen Hao to exact revenge on them with the power he held now. Take Yang Lu, for example. Today, he'd been perfectly capable of teaching her a good lesson, maybe even a permanent one. But he still couldn't do it.

Meanwhile, a corner of Yang Xia's lips lifted in a cold sneer when she spotted Chen Hao, and he got nothing more than a fleeting glance before she was guided by



Qi Wei to the foremost seat.

“I say, why are you all standing there and gawking at us? Your seats are over there! Of course, if you insist upon sitting here, I wouldn’t be able to stop you, Young Master Chen,” Qi Wei scoffed at Chen Hao, then pointed to the table next to the foremost one.

To anybody else, acquiring that seat would have been an honor. But to Chen Hao, it only meant he was being looked down upon, and that meaning was not lost on his increasingly agitated supporters.

In the meantime, the other guests were all watching the scene unfold with cold amusement. Chen Hao was smart enough to know what just happened—the Long family’s supporters far outnumbered his, and practically everyone who’d just greeted him warmly had been preparing for this humiliation.

As Yang Xia and Long Shaoyun sat, she smiled at Chen Hao with a gaze that seemed to say, “How does it feel to be humiliated like this?”

“Qi, you little—” Huang Yonghao was pissed enough that he’d turned pale. If it weren’t for Chen Hao restraining him, he’d have started a fight right then and there. Chen Hao, on the other hand, was trying to resolve the problem cautiously while he made his way to the second table.

“Hmph, how dare you try to beat me up! Truly, some people have no shame!” Qi Wei sneered.

But Qi Wei’s skin was thick enough that the next thing he did was to say, “Come, Young Master Chen! I’ll lead you there!” After that, Chen Hao and the others came to the second table.

Chen Hao was just about to sit when Qi Wei shouted again, “I’m sorry, Young Master Chen, but I’ve reserved this seat for a different wealthy businessman. You can’t sit here!”

With a snort, some of the guests burst out laughing.

Chen Hao took a deep breath and moved to the neighboring seat.

“I’m sorry, Young Master Chen, but I’ve reserved this seat too!”

Chen Hao shot Qi Wei a glare, then moved again.

“I’m sorry, Young Master Chen, but I’ve—”

Smack! Before Qi Wei could finish, Chen Hao’s hand landed on his face with a resounding smack; the impact of it was so forceful that Chen Hao’s hand stung and Qi Wei was sent tumbling to the ground with a hand to his burning cheek. Naturally, this loud slap also caught everyone’s attention.

“H-How dare you slap me?” Qi Wei said in disbelief, clutching at his swollen cheek. He was backed by Young Master Long, after all.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Qi. My hands were feeling itchy today, and I couldn’t help myself!” Chen Hao sneered.

Upon hearing those words, Qi Wei stood bolt upright and looked like he was about to retaliate.

“Hmm?” Chen Hao remained motionless, one hand still in his pocket. It took Qi Wei a while to realise the stakes at hand; no matter what anyone said, Chen Hao was still the richest man in all of Jin Ling and his sister was about as powerful as the Long family themselves. If he did retaliate, who knew how many Long families it would take to save his skin?

Besides, there was no way the family would risk alienating the Chen siblings over him. The thought of that sent shivers down Qi Wei’s spine. He’d been given a free pass to humiliate Chen Hao, but angering him further was something he could never afford to do.

“Is it alright if I sit here, Mr. Qi?” Chen Hao sneered, then shook his painful wrist and sat down in the seat he’d chosen earlier.

“Of course, Young Master Chen. Take a seat!” Qi Wei finally yielded.

Meanwhile, Yang Xia was looking at Chen Hao with surprise. To be honest, she’d always thought he’d remain the submissive, low-profiled boy she knew, but

of her, he immediately got on his knees and kowtowed! You're being too generous, Young Master Chen!" Huang Yonghao said.

To be fair, both men knew that Chen Hao was kind at heart, and that was exactly why they went out of their way to look out for him. He may have grown up with his sister, but he still treated them with a kindness that she certainly did not possess.

"That's alright, we'll talk about it later." Chen Hao took a tissue and began wiping his hands. "Now, I just want to—" He trailed off suddenly.

There was a woman standing near the washroom door, leaning against a wall with her arms crossed and a cold sneer on her face that was directed at Chen Hao. He had no idea how long she'd been watching them.

Chen Hao had planned to say he wanted to take care of Yang Xia first, but now that the lady herself was here, he didn't dare say anything.

## Chapter 306 Humiliation

Meanwhile, Huang Yonghao and Bai Xiaofei took one look at Yang Xia and turned to Chen Hao. "We'll wait outside, Young Master Chen!" After that, they left.



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