

As soon as she spoke, Yun Muqing felt a numbing and comfortable sensation on her sole. She shivered and couldn't help but moan out of pleasure.

Enjoying herself, she shut her eyes, quietly enjoying this aching yet comfortable rhythm. This lasted for a whole four to five minutes. Then, she took a long breath, and it was as if all the bones in her body were much lighter.

"Mmh, it's very comfortable. D-Don't stop. Harder," said Yun Muqing softly with beads of sweat on her pretty face. As soon as she spoke, she suddenly realized the ambiguity of her words and she blushed again.

This as*hole is probably snickering to himself, ready to laugh at me, Yun Muqing thought. But, when she glanced at Chu Feng, she felt surprised and touched.

At that moment, Chu Feng was using both his hands to hold her dainty foot. Gently yet expertly, he massaged the acupuncture points of the leg. His strong face was especially serious as he concentrated and he did not shift his focus at all, let alone showing any sort of expressions that showed signs of dirty thoughts.

Yun Muqing suddenly felt guilty and touched because of this guy.

"The sole is a human body's reflex arc. The acupuncture points on a person's foot reflects the condition of the person's internal organs. If I were to press your Taibai point [1], Zhongfeng point [2],

and Xingjian point [3], you would feel a strong aching. This means that your spleen, stomach, and liver are not in good shape. Furthermore, there is too much dampness [4] inside your body.” Chu Feng frowned. With a critical tone, he questioned, “You are so young, so why is your body so weak? If this were to continue, you’ll be falling sick often when you become an old lady.”

“You are the one who’s the old lady,” Yun Muqing said shyly as she smiled. Next, she said lightly, “I had no choice. After Duo Duo was born, I was chased out of the Yun family. To make a living, I often worked overtime and pulled all-nighters. I worked as a waiter in cafes, ate cold food, and had been drenched by rain several times. After a while, I became like this.”

Chu Feng suddenly stopped; his heart was full of sorrow and guilt.

This silly woman, how did she spend the past five years? How much did she suffer?

“Chu Feng?” Yun Muqing was slightly stunned. She said shyly, “Sorry, I shouldn’t be telling you all these. Actually, I’m better now. All that was in the past.”

“It’s me who should apologize,” Chu Feng said with a low voice. “I should have joined you and Duo Duo earlier, then you wouldn’t have to suffer so much.”

Yun Muqing was suddenly stunned, and a layer of tears covered her eyes; she felt touched.

As Chu Feng massaged her, he said with a matter-of-fact tone, "Tomorrow, I'll go to the Chinese medicine store to buy herbs that would remove dampness and boost your blood count. From today onward, you must massage and soak your feet, so that you can recover your health. Do you understand?"

"Mm hmm, I hear you." Yun Muqing obediently nodded her head. A warm sensation rose starting from her toes, which spread into her heart; she felt very touched.

"Chu Feng, why? Why do you treat me so well?"

Chu Feng raised his head and said gently with a smile, "Because you are my wife."

Yun Muqing blushed and she hurriedly rebutted, saying, "It's fake. What we are now is all fake. We are just pretending to be husband and wife."

"All you have to do is say the word, and the fake would become real at any moment," Chu Feng said affectionately as he stood up and bent slightly, rubbing Yun Muqing's shoulders.

They looked at each other. At this moment, it was as if they had a lot to say, and yet they didn't need words...

Yun Muqing's heart thumped violently. She felt conflicted yet touched. She slowly closed her eyes and raised her chin, her red lips burning. She was like a woman on her wedding night; a wife that was shy yet full of anticipation. She was playing hard to get, yet welcoming his advance at

the same time.

Thump! Thump! Thump! Chu Feng could hear his own violent heartbeat. His throat felt dry and he took a deep breath. Suddenly, with rough movements, he squashed her delicate body under his and landed a passionate kiss on her red lips.

When love was deep, there was no need for an expression, and there was no way to block it.

Ring! At that critical moment, a ringtone pierced through the air like thunder on a clear day. Suddenly, the confused Yun Muqing returned to her senses. She widened her beautiful eyes and hurriedly pushed Chu Feng away. Bashful, she trotted away as she quickly left the room.

T-This... D*mn it.

[1] The Taibai point is an acupuncture point on the spleen meridian.

[2], [3] The Zhongfeng point and Xingjian point are acupuncture points on the liver meridian.

[4] Dampness refers to water retention in terms of Chinese Medicine. Health in Chinese medicine hinges on striking a balance between all the elements in a person's body; a high proportion of water in the human body is a source of illness. The patient would feel bulky and sleepy all the time if he or she is 'damp'.

Chu Feng was extremely furious that he could eat someone alive. He thought of kicking the bed to release his anger but he worried his kick would wake his daughter who was asleep, so he hammered his thigh angrily.

After coming out of the bedroom, Chu Feng straightaway answered Luo Gang's call. With a gloomy face, he said crossly, "Luo Gang, I want your head on a platter if the matter that you wish to report to me now is not important enough!"

Err... On the other end of the line, Luo Gang broke out in a cold sweat. The man was absolutely clueless about what he had done which greatly upset his boss.

So, Luo Gang went straight to the point. "Feng, it's about your younger sister, Zhou Ying. She was slapped by a member of the Sun Family and they snatched all the jewelry you gifted her."

What? Chu Feng's eyes flickered with coldness after he heard Luo Gang's report. The wicked fiery venereal desire within him vanished without a trace as rage and gloom overwhelmed him.

Without any delay, Luo Gang immediately sent a video clip to Chu Feng.

It turned out that Luo Gang's men were on an undercover mission in the shopping mall this morning. Coincidentally, they came across the dramatic conflict between Zhou Ying and Tang'e. Since they knew the relationship between Zhou Ying and Chu Feng, they recorded the video and showed it to Chu Feng just so the latter would be

clear with the situation.

So she thinks my younger sister is unworthy of those jewelry that were worth a few million, huh? How dare she slapped her after she took away the jewelry I gave her and even scolded and called her a b*tch!

“Well, well, what a ‘nice’ mother-in-law she is!” A cold menacing look flashed across Chu Feng’s eyes as he was engulfed in a burning flame of rage.

He was busy choosing lavish gifts for Zhou Ying so as to marry her off with dignity, while the Sun Family from her husband's side was treating her like dirt.

“Feng, the Sun Family really went too far. My men would have taught those bastards from the Sun Family a lesson if they weren’t on a mission. Who the heck do they think they are?” Luo Gang snapped furiously. He felt angry for Chu Feng.

Chu Feng did not lose his composure although he was in rage. His eyes flickered as he said coldly, “I’ve warned Sun Mingxuan before, if he dares to mistreat my younger sister, I’ll make his family pay for it! But apparently, my warning fell on deaf ears, Sun Mingxuan allowed Tang’e to slap and insult Zhou Ying in public. He did not do anything to protect her. I think the Sun Family must have some prominent figures who got their back this time.”

Luo Gang, who was on the other end of the phone, said solemnly, “Yes, indeed. According to my

investigation, Sun Mingxuan's grandfather, Tang Taishan, previously served as the Lieutenant Governor of Jiangbei. Even though the old man was retired, he still has quite some influence and connections in the political world. For instance, the current mayor of Jiangling City, used to be his secretary. The mayor used to be under his guidance. As the Lieutenant Governor for a province, he could be considered a Second Ranked statesman [1], or even half a Provincial Governor. Plus, he is protected by a big fish—the mayor of Jiangling City. Basically, the man can do whatever he wants in Jiangling.”

Chu Feng replied with a flat and unemotional voice, “No wonder my warning was useless against Sun Mingxuan. It seems they want to warn me not to overstep the mark.”

He smirked in disdain, fully displaying his ability and desire to retaliate against the Sun Family. It seems I'm being too low-profile that they forget who led some three hundred thousand men, risking their lives to maintain the peace of the nation for them. I'm being too kind that they forget they mustn't mar the pride of the person nicknamed Ashura, who slaughtered and completely wiped out the whole Western Underworld!

“Luo Gang, contact the military theater at Xi Ye, bring my General uniform over here as soon as possible!” Chu Feng stood tall and upright while overlooking the busy and brightly lit city. “On the wedding day of the Zhou Family, I wish to go in person and support my younger sister.”

“Yes,” Luo Gang answered solemnly.

Former Lieutenant Governor of Jiangbei? A Second Ranked statesman? The famous Tang Taishan who trained a lot of political apprentices? Chu Feng smirked while slowly spreading his palms. “Let’s see whether he is ready for my challenge.”

With a simple slap, the number of Second Ranked statesmen he managed to ‘kill’ was probably greater than Tang Taishan’s age.

Suddenly, dark clouds covered the night sky and wind howled roughly through the air. It seemed something big was going to happen in Jiangling City!

* * * * *

Early in the morning the next day. Chu Feng was busy preparing breakfast for the whole family in the kitchen. Suddenly, Yun Muyu screamed and dashed anxiously downstairs, without having any shoes on her feet.

“Ah! Oh my god, guys, big news! Big news!”

[1] The Qing dynasty, much like previous dynasties, used an "official rank" system . This system had nine numbered ranks, each subdivided into upper and lower levels, in addition to the lowest "unranked" rank: from upper first pin, to lower ninth pin , to the unranked , for a total of 19 ranks. The Rank used in this story appears to imply that the position one holds in the time of the story would be equivalent to the Rank that

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was being used in the ancient times.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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With her bulging eyes, Yun Muyu waved her cell phone excitedly in front of Chu Feng and Yun Muqing. “Guys, you know what? The most precious and expensive wedding dress in Jiangling, the ‘Moonlight Goddess’, was sold last night! Oh my god!”

Chu Feng calmly glanced at Yun Muyu’s cell phone. The news about a mysterious millionaire who bought the extravagant ‘Moonlight Goddess’ wedding dress at the cost of four hundred million went viral on the internet and television reports.

The news shocked the entire Jiangling overnight. Everyone was speculating about the identity of the mysterious millionaire who possessed the money and ability to purchase the expensive wedding dress.

After all, the VL Group had some strict rules and regulations for the purchase of the ‘Moonlight Goddess’ wedding dress. Not only did the buyer need to have four hundred million, he or she needed to possess some level of influence and extraordinary background in order to purchase the dress. Otherwise, the company would not sell the dress to the buyer.

Because of the rules and regulations, there were only twenty of the limited edition ‘Moonlight Goddess’ wedding dresses available in the market. Until now, only five were sold. Each of the dress owners were extraordinary and powerful VIPs.

Yun Muqing also took a quick glance at the news while responding plainly with an ‘oh’. She

continued having her breakfast elegantly. “It was sold. So?”

“So? My god! Muqing, how can you guys be so calm right now?” Yun Muyu almost lost her mind. She continued frantically, “We’re talking about the ‘Moonlight Goddess’ wedding dress now! This is the dream of billions of young girls out there—and it was just sold to some mysterious guy! Aren’t you guys curious about the person who bought it? Don’t you guys feel excited at all? Oh, I wonder what he looks like. Is he handsome? Is he tall? He must be a charming gentleman!” Yun Muyu’s face was full of admiration as her eyes twinkled with longing and envy.

Yun Muqing rolled her eyes in annoyance. She thought, That charming gentleman of yours is currently preparing breakfast right in front of you!

Chu Feng touched his nose while clearing his throat uneasily. “It’s just a wedding dress. It’s not a big deal. Let’s have breakfast!”

“What? Just a wedding dress you said?” Yun Muyu shrieked with her high pitched voice. She glared at Chu Feng angrily. “This is the ‘Moonlight Goddess’ wedding dress! Every young girl dreamed of wearing it! Let’s put it this way, shall we? Chu Feng, if you can afford to buy a ‘Moonlight Goddess’ wedding dress, I won’t mind the loss of being your mistress!” Yun Muyu waved her hand dramatically. “Muqing and I will sleep on the same bed with you, how about that?”

Chu Feng almost slipped and fell; although he knew Yun Muyu was a naïve and insensitive girl,

Chu Feng never expected such outrageous words coming from her mouth.

Yun Muqing almost choked on her food. Embarrassed and annoyed, she glared at Yun Muyu. “Stop talking nonsense in front of Duo Duo. You’re setting a bad example for her.”

Yun Muyu pursed her lips. Duo Duo is a cheeky and bright little fellow, she doesn’t need me to set bad examples for her. I bet she can learn all those by herself.

“Yeah, that’s right! I disagree.” Duo Duo raised her chubby little hand and protested. She pouted her lips and said quietly, “Aunt Muyu, if you want to sleep with Daddy too, then the three of you are going to make so much noise at night that I can’t sleep properly. Mommy was screaming and yelling last night. She made so much noise that I can’t even sleep.” With her cute and innocent face, Duo Duo blinked her large bright eyes. “I heard some words like ‘that feels so good’, ‘don’t stop’, ‘harder’ and all those weird words. Aunt Muyu, do you know what those mean?”

Both Chu Fang and Yun Muqing completely freaked out.

Yun Muyu’s jaw dropped. An unusual look of curiosity flashed through her beautiful eyes as she inspected Chu Feng and Yun Muqing carefully from head to toe. “Muqing, Chu Feng, sounds like there IS something going on between you two. Wow, it seems you guys are getting along pretty well and quick. Now, that’s exciting!”

Chu Feng was speechless; he quickly grabbed a piece of bread and stuffed it into Yun Muyu's mouth.

Yun Muqing blushed. Annoyed and embarrassed, she grabbed Duo Duo by her ear and scolded, "How would a little kid like you know something like this? Stop talking nonsense when you don't know anything!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“N-Nothing happened between us. Chu Feng was just giving me a massage and a foot bath...”

Duo Duo resentfully waved her small fists as she retorted, “I’ve never lied. You’re framing me, Mommy!”

“That’s right, sister. Don’t make her apologize for some mistake she didn’t make!” Yun Muyu hugged Duo Duo in her arms and her face was filled with excitement toward gossip. “Duo Duo, I’ll treat you to a cup of bubble tea. You can tell me about everything that happened last night, okay?”

“Okay!” The little girl nodded happily and betrayed Yun Muqing without a second thought.

“Hey, come back, both of you.” Yun Muqing stomped her legs furiously. “What an ungrateful girl!”

Chu Feng was extremely speechless. She truly was his biological daughter; she was an expert in annoying people.

Soon, Chu Feng and Yun Muqing were the only ones left in the dining room; the atmosphere was a little awkward, yet there was definitely something between the two of them.

Chu Feng coughed twice to break the silence, then he said, “Muqing, regarding what happened yesterday, we...”

“Did anything even happen to us last night?!”

Yun Muqing interrupted him instantly in a cold

tone. She had a murderous aura, and it seemed like she would break Chu Feng into pieces if he said another inappropriate word. The situation seemed to be extremely dangerous.

Chu Feng blinked his eyes and immediately explained, “I’m referring to the foot massage and the foot bath yesterday. Let’s do them in the living hall next time so that the others wouldn’t misunderstand us.”

“Thank goodness you understood that.”

Yun Muqing then gave a snort of annoyance. The chilly and murderous aura that emanated from her faded away slowly. Her beautiful face flushed and she left with her head lowered.

Chu Feng sighed helplessly. “It’s so difficult to be a man.”

He had a simple breakfast as he wasn’t in the mood.

Ring! At this moment, his phone rang—it was from Ryan, the president of VL Group.

“I’ll be departing personally according to your request, Lord Ashura. The Moonlight Goddess will definitely be handed over to your sister.”

“Okay, thanks a bunch.” Chu Feng was moved as he replied courteously and hung up the phone.

“Zhou Ying will be married tomorrow.” Chu Feng casted his glance to a point far away as images of the little crybaby flashed across his mind.

NH

When Zhou Ying was younger, her hair used to be tied up into two braids on both sides of her head and she would run all over the place with him.

Ten years had passed in a blink of an eye.

The little girl back then was now a slender and beautiful woman, and she was about to start her own family.

“Congratulations on your wedding, girl,” Chu Feng mumbled softly. Behind the tough expression of his was a hint of pride and dominance. “I’ll be there very soon.”

This time, with all the honor and merits I had accumulated after ten years of being in the army, you would have a wonderful and glamorous wedding, and I would make you the happiest sister ever...

The Sun Family booked the entire hall in the fifth floor of New Century Hotel, Jiangling City; it was unusually busy and noisy.

It would be Zhou Ying and Sun Mingxuan’s big day the next day; the relatives and friends of the Sun Family gathered to discuss the details of the wedding.

Zhou Lie never enjoyed such hypocritical gatherings, hence Zhou Ying attended the gathering alone.

Everyone seemed to be beaming with joy at the

dinner table, except for the bride, Zhou Ying. She should be the happiest person among all, but she seemed a little unhappy and her head was lowered at all times. Her beautiful face was filled with gloominess and disappointment.

On the previous day, Tang'e snatched dozens of her jewellerys gifted by Chu Feng worth three million. Thereafter, she bought her a few second-hand diamond rings and necklaces, as if she was donating to a beggar.

Those second-hand jewellerys were worth less than five thousand.

What upsetted her the most was the fact that her wedding dress was a low quality piece rented from a photography studio.

The pure and white wedding dress seemed to be yellowing due to multiple washes, and it was full of the irritating smell of disinfectants. There were stains of vomit caused by people who were drunk, and they couldn't be removed. It was disgusting to even look at it.

When she thought about having to wear these low quality items to her own wedding the next day, Zhou Ying felt extremely upset, aggrieved and disappointed...

Was this the wedding she had been longing for? Was he truly the future husband that she wanted?

She wanted to lean on someone's shoulder and cry her heart out right now.

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“Have you heard the news? The Moonlight Goddess from the VL Group was purchased by a mysterious magnate!”

“Ah, wasn’t it sold for 400 million? It was an ultimate treasure with a limited quantity of less than 20 pairs! That was a sky-high premium wedding dress. Oh gosh!”

“400 million for a wedding dress. You must be a goddess to be able to wear it. I’m so jealous...”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The astonishing news in Jiangling was being discussed to a great extent at the dining table.

A few girls were talking about it with full of envy and jealousy, and the atmosphere in the hall was bustling.

Sun Mingxuan seemed a little embarrassed. He was unhappy about the fact that the mysterious magnate stole the spotlight of his own wedding.

“Hmph, 400 million dollars for a dress? This guy must be insane,” he muttered out of jealousy. Regardless of his words, he still felt astonished and envious in his heart.

400 million was a huge amount of money! Who would be able to afford that in Jiangling and Jiangbei?

Zhou Ying was curious as she glanced at the photo of the Moonlight Goddess on the phone. It looked extremely elegant, magnificent and exclusive.

“It’s really beautiful.”

Women who could afford to wear this wedding dress should be princesses who were spoiled and superior to others. In summary, she could never qualify to be one of those women.

Zhou Ying smiled in self-mockery and sadness. During these few days, Tang’e and the rest of the members in the Sun Family never stopped talking nonsense to her; they ridiculed her from the top of their high horses about her being a Cinderella that

came from the lower levels of the society.

She should feel fortunate to be able to marry into the Sun Family, and she should behave herself and stay humble. It would be great if she could produce a few more sons for the Sun Family in order for the family line to carry on.

At this moment, a few of Sun Mingxuan's cousin sisters who were from wealthy families started to make fun of Zhou Ying.

"Have you heard the news? The Moonlight Goddess was a gift from the mysterious rich man to his sister. Coincidentally, her sister will be getting married on the same day as Zhou Ying."

"The same day? What a coincidence! It's a pity that not everyone could have the same life."

"She would definitely look spectacular in the Moonlight Goddess during her wedding. As for Zhou Ying, tsk tsk..."

A few girls from the Sun Family covered their lips as they laughed; the mockery and ridicule on their faces were clear beyond words.

Everyone from the Sun Family knew that Zhou Ying didn't have decent jewelleries for her wedding. Her diamond ring was bought second-hand and her wedding gown was rented. What a poor girl!

Zhou Ying bit his lips tightly in silence. She felt inferior and aggrieved.

She had the same wedding date as the mysterious rich man's sister, but they had totally different fates. How could one not feel depressed when the lives of the rich were compared directly to the lives of the poor?

The girls felt that they didn't have enough fun, hence they continued to ridicule Zhou Ying. "Hey, perhaps the Moonlight Goddess was purchased for Zhou Ying. What do you think?"

"It could be. I heard that Zhou Ying has an elder brother too. He could have bought it for her."

"Zhou Ying, why don't you call your elder brother to confirm this? We're curious to know too, hahaha!"

Zhou Ying was being treated like a toy in their hands. She lowered her head in grief like an ostrich trying to its head in a hole on the ground.

Tang'e observed everything without interfering. She was extremely satisfied with the actions of the girls in the Sun Family. In her opinion, they were 'setting the rules' for Zhou Ying and helping her to understand where she stood in the Sun Family. These would prevent her from behaving presumptuously without knowing her position in the family.

"That's right, Zhou Ying. Call your elder brother, Chu Feng and ask him about it," Tang'e chimed in sarcastically and laughed excitedly. "Although your brother had been a soldier in the army for ten years without any achievement, nothing is impossible. Perhaps he had saved up and spent

the 400 million dollars to get you the Moonlight Goddess. Miracles do happen.”

Everyone in the Sun Family laughed out loud, and they seemed extremely elated and cheerful.

Zhou Ying couldn't stand the humiliation anymore. She stood up from her seat and said gloomily, “I'm done, enjoy the rest of your dinner.”

Zhou Ying left the dining table in great sorrow. The girls from the Sun Family rolled their eyes in boredom, waved their goodbyes and continued staring at their phones.

“Hmph, what a girl. Did she really think that her status will improve after marrying to the Sun Family? A poor person will stay poor forever,” Tang'e sneered. She casted a glance at Zhou Ying's back as she swirled the red wine in her glass. “Look at how shameful she is. How could she still have extravagant hope for a brand new wedding dress? The wedding is just for show, and she'll have to throw it away after that anyway! How dare she throw a tantrum on me for renting her a wedding dress? Fortunately, I'm an elder that is forgiving enough not to argue with her.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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A girl with an oval-shaped face let out a snort. "Aunty Tang, maybe she still thinks that our family is going to buy her a Moonlight Goddess."

Tang'e let out a charming smile and said mockingly, "I wanted to buy it for her, but she doesn't have the right to wear it. I hired a fortune teller to tell me her fortune. She's fated to be poor for the rest of her life and she will never taste the riches. Therefore, what I'm doing is for her own good."

All the women of the Sun family laughed with joy and they all felt happy.

Creak! At this moment, the door of the private room swung wide open.

A group of well-groomed men in suits appeared; they surrounded an impressive-looking western hunk with blond hair and blue eyes. They carried large bouquets of flowers and an expensive and exquisite-looking gift box. They walked into the venue suddenly and attracted everybody's attention.

"Who are you people?" Tang'e unknowingly stood up.

"May I know which of you is Miss Zhou Ying?" The western hunk swept a glance around with a calm composure that radiated power. It was as if he had held a high rank for a long period of time, otherwise this temperament was impossible.

Tang'e and the rest of the Sun family members' faces were full of doubt and surprise. All their

eyes turned to Zhou Ying who had just come out of the bathroom.

“I-I am,” said Zhou Ying as she stood up, looking startled and puzzled.

“Dear Miss Zhou Ying, it is an honor to attend your wedding ceremony. Here, I represent all the employees of the group in wishing you happiness. May your marriage be full of joy.”

The western hunk had an elegant smile. He bowed politely and raised Zhou Ying’s fair hand to land a kiss.

“T-Thank you all.” Zhou Ying’s mind went blank. She looked dumbly at the people before her, a little confused.

As far as she could remember, she did not know this western hunk.

“Please, may I know who you are?”

The western hunk smiled brightly as he said, “I am Ryan, president of the VL Group’s Chinese branch. Today, under the wishes of Mr. Chu Feng, I brought you our group’s Moonlight Goddess wedding gown as your wedding gift. Miss, thank you for your trust. It is the pride of the VL Group.”

Suddenly, it was as if a bomb had gone off in the venue as heated discussions erupted all around.

The president of the VL Group?

The Moonlight Goddess!

“My god! That Moonlight Goddess that startled the entire Jiangling is actually here?!”

“I-It’s meant for Zhou Ying?”

“That Chu Feng really bought the Moonlight Goddess?!”

Tang’e and the other girls of the Sun family immediately stood up. Their eyes and jaws were wide opened and their expressions looked terrible, as if they had just swallowed two pounds’ worth of flies which made them feel awful.

They had mocked Zhou Ying and Chu Feng only moments ago. Right then, all their mockery turned into violent loud slaps across their own faces!

Sun Mingxuan and the surrounding members of the Sun family had all frozen, looking like sculptures rooted to their spots in disbelief.

Even the star of the moment, Zhou Ying, took a few steps back. She was in danger of fainting over from this earth-shattering surprise.

She widened her eyes. She couldn’t believe it as she took a sharp breath. “M-Moonlight Goddess? For me? Is this real? Are you lying to me?”

Ryan didn’t answer; all he did was snap his fingers and voila, behind him, somebody immediately opened an exquisite crystal gift box. In it lay a wedding gown that was as pure and elegant as the moonlight. It was enchanting like twinkling stars. Instantly, it stole the attention of everyone at the scene.

“This really is the Moonlight Goddess!”

Some people were surprised, some cheered, and others were touched; there were all sorts of emotions among them.

At this moment, Zhou Ying could no longer control the emotions inside of her. She covered her lips. With a trembling voice and her beautiful eyes full of tears, she said, “Brother...”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

NH

When everybody was mocking her, treating her like she was a joke, looking down on her, and even stepping all over her dignity, she had only Chu Feng, him and only him.

This big boy who used to wave a bamboo stick around to protect her had shown up as he did by giving her a big present to firmly secure her dignity!

It had turned out that he had always loved her, took care of her, and pampered her.

It didn't matter that she strayed from the path, nor that she was mean to him; it didn't even matter that she did not call him as her brother.

At the end of the day, he was the big brother that loved her.

“Brother!”

Zhou Ying wiped her tears and ran out from the crowd; her tears were flowing and she had no way of controlling them.

“Yingying!” Sun Mingxuan was stunned. He wanted to chase after her, but the Moonlight Goddess had caused a large commotion. People were pushing around and he couldn't even find the exit, so he could only helplessly wave his fists around.

Outside the hotel, Zhou Ying trembled as she took out her phone. Her eyes were red and tears were flowing down her cheeks. She dialed the numbers that she had not dialled in ten years.

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Very quickly, a magnetic yet gentle voice rang through the phone, saying, “Have you received the present? Do you like it?”

“Brother...”

Zhou Ying could no longer contain her flood of emotions and she cried so hard that she lost her voice. The flowing tears messed up her makeup.

“Boohoo, brother, I was wrong. I’m sorry, really sorry. All these years, I was blinded by what I could gain. As a result, I became mean and narrow-minded. I shouldn’t have treated you like that. I shouldn’t have joined Mingxuan to ridicule and oppose you. All that was my fault. Since we were young, you always doted over me and protected me. I should have realized this earlier. I really should’ve realized this earlier. Chu Feng, will you forgive me?” she said through her sobs.

Through the phone, there was only silence. Zhou Ying sobbed quietly; she was nervous and full of grievances.

After awhile, Chu Feng, who was on the other end of the line, laughed dotingly. “Silly little girl, since we were young, when have I ever blamed you?”

Instantly, Zhou Ying’s crying turned into a smile. Although her tears were flowing, her smile was especially bright.

At this moment, the invisible wall that had separated the two siblings finally melted away.

“Brother, I hope that you’ll be there for my

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wedding tomorrow,” Zhou Ying said emotionally as she wiped her tears. “I want you to personally help me don the Moonlight Goddess, watch me in my grandeur, as I happily get married.”

On the other end of the line, Chu Feng quickly replied with a hearty laugh. “Alright!”

Zhou Ying hung up the phone. She was so happy that she was crying and was beside herself.

Meanwhile at the Haitang Garden Mansion, Luo Gang stood up straight in his military uniform. His expression was serious as he walked forward. In his hands was a set of thick and honorable military uniforms. He approached Chu Feng and faced him.

“Dragon Head, your uniform of the General has arrived.”

Chu Feng’s palms trembled slightly when he touched that old friend of his that had accompanied him for ten years through rain and storm, as well as fighting from all quarters. Then, it was like his blood had started to boil.

“Old friend, long time no see,” Chu Feng whispered. Then, with one swift action, he put the uniform on.

There was a national emblem on his head, three stars on his shoulders, and a Blue-Point sword hanging from his waist. The bottle green Python Printed Robe [1] danced with the wind. On his chest were all kinds of military medals that were lined neaty and reflected the sunlight.

NH

He stood up straight and stepped outside. With this step, it was as if even the sky had changed its color.

He was Xi Ye's legendary general—Dragon Soul's God of War; who was unparalleled in the nation!

Chu Feng looked in the distance. On his resolute and handsome face, there was both gentleness and aggression. "Ying, little girl, I have your back."

[1] The Python Printed Robe is a type of official garment worn by nobilities and high-ranking government officers during the feudal periods in ancient China.



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DISCORD

NH

From now on, who would dare to disrespect Chu Feng's sister?

On this day, the Sun family's wedding was especially grand.

They occupied the entire New Century Hotel and the small garden at the back that was over five hundred square meters big. There were colorful lights and popping fireworks, and there was even a red carpet that led all the way to the parking lot, as if they wanted the whole world to know that it was a joyous event.

Although the Sun family was not considered the wealthiest in Jiangling, they were rich enough to be considered the wealthy. They had a few billions worth of assets. On top of that, Sun Jianye, who was a member of the family, had city-level leadership. Therefore, their family was among the top twenty percent and they were able to distinguish themselves from the rest.

Furthermore, according to the rumors, Sun Mingxuan's maternal grandfather was a former lieutenant governor of Jiangbei province. Since the powerful Tang Taisan would be there, the Sun Family attracted a lot of flattery from their close relatives and friends.

Outside the hotel, the guests all dressed very well. The Sun family's friends and relatives were draped in gold and silver and they all looked haughty, like proud peacocks.

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On the other hand, the Zhou family consisted of unsophisticated relatives from the village. They looked completely ordinary, thus when they stood together with the other rich guests, they looked out of place and were very awkward.

However, Zhou Lie and his wife didn't care what people thought. Holding a churchwarden pipe, he grinned as he warmly and candidly welcomed his friends and relatives, happy as can be.

It was his daughter's big day, so of course he had to put on a happy front, when actually, he felt unwilling and conflicted.

"A group of village folks and bums. Even from ten meters away, I can smell the poverty on them. So disgusting." Tang'e was dressed in red from head to toes and she had make-up on to look noble and festive. She frowned as she produced a fan and started fanning herself, annoyed.

She told Sun Mingxuan who was standing next to her, "Son, next time, you must stay away from these poor relatives. These poor folks are like dog skin plasters [1], once they stick to you, they won't come off."

Sun Mingxuan nodded. "I understand, mum."

"Uh, also, the Moonlight Goddess that Zhou Ying is wearing? After the wedding ceremony, you must think of a way to snag it so that I can get hold of it," Tang'e said, with a greedy look in her eyes.

"That rare treasure costs four hundred million, and

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there are only twenty pieces in the whole world. This can definitely become the Sun family's heirloom. In a hundred years, it'd become a national treasure, you know."

Zhou Ying, that wild girl, had no right to own this kind of rare treasure. It should be kept within the Sun family.

The edge of Sun Mingxuan's mouth twitched; he felt quite embarrassed. "Mum, t-that's not right. This Moonlight Goddess is Yingying's wedding gown. Wedding gifts carry memories and they mean a lot to women. We..."

"Idiot, what memories? At the end of the day, is it not just a thing of formality? After marrying into the Sun family, every part of her belongs to the Sun family. Therefore, is it too much to ask for her wedding gown? Furthermore, this wedding gown would end up with your children and grandchildren, so what is there for her to be dissatisfied about?" Tang'e had a matter-of-fact look on her face. Happy and satisfied, she played with the diamond necklace around her neck that was worth five hundred and eighty thousand. Full of vanity, she said, "If you are worried about her brother Chu Feng's retaliation, don't. He gave Zhou Ying more than ten pieces of jewelry and I've taken them all. At the end of the day, he's done nothing. You have your grandfather and I behind you, so what are you worried about?"

Only then did Sun Mingxuan realize that yes, indeed, his grandfather was the retired Lieutenant

NH

Governor of Jiangbei. With his grandfather backing him up, what could Chu Feng do?

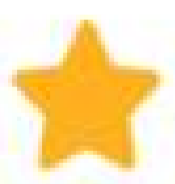
Thinking of this, Sun Mingxuan was confident and he agreed by saying, "Okay, mum. I'll listen to you."

Tang'e was satisfied. "Alright, son. Come, let's greet your uncle and aunty."

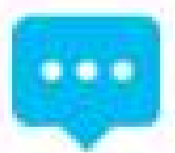
The relatives of the Sun family were glamorous and harmonious.

As for Zhou Lie, after entertaining some friends of the Zhou family, he put his hands behind his back and went to the door of the hotel. With the pipe at the corner of his mouth, he squinted his eyes and looked in the distance as he exhaled a cloud of smoke; it was as if he was waiting for somebody.

[1] Gou Pi Gao , or literally dog skin plasters, is a medicinal herbal plaster that is often used in traditional Chinese medicine to treat primarily muscle and tendon pains, caused by muscle sprains, tears, rheumatism, tendinitis and various other conditions.



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DISCORD

“Look, all of you! Huh, dear in-laws, look at this group of people. Somebody who doesn't know better would think that we have an event to help those in need.”

The Sun family relatives held their heads up high and laughed proudly.

As for Liu Minglan and the Zhou family relatives, they lowered their heads out of embarrassment and low self-esteem. They were mostly just ordinary people and they had never seen so many big shots before.

Zhou Lie kept the pipe in his mouth and snorted. “Our family has always been pragmatic and simple. We don't engage in all those pointless games. We don't bother dressing up ourselves but still act like dreadful people, because that would be what I call, truly embarrassing.”

Tang'e suddenly had her expression darkened. The surrounding atmosphere also became awkward. What this old man said was simply infuriating.

“This is really unbelievable. I can't communicate with him.” Tang'e was defeated, so she snorted unhappily and left.

Just then, Sun Mingxuan walked over and said worriedly, “Mum, it's already ten-thirty in the morning. The ceremony is starting really soon, but why is grandfather not here yet?”

“Son, don't worry. Grandfather will definitely be here to support you. He will make a grand

entrance.” Tang’e was extremely confident.

Honk honk honk! Just then, the loud honking of a car could be heard. The guests frowned; this was the hotel’s garden, not the parking lot. Who was so bold as to drive here?

Some people raised their heads to look. Suddenly, they were stunned and very surprised.

The car was an ordinary black Audi A6; any of the Sun family’s guests there could easily buy ten or eight of those.

However, what was important was the car number plate—’Jiang A00001’!

This was the car of the Mayor of Jiangling City. Was the Mayor of Jiangling City here?

Everybody there was stunned. An elegant man who was wearing simple office wear and gold-rimmed glasses stepped out of the car.

He respectfully opened the door of the back seat and helped the person inside to come out.

One of the Sun family’s relatives immediately recognized the man with the glasses. “That is Secretary Wang, the Mayor’s most trusted secretary. He is someone who could represent the Mayor on occasions. Even a bigshot like him came?”

“Secretary Wang is personally opening the car door, so who could it be inside? Such a big shot?”

Everybody was full of anticipation, as they looked on excitedly. Next, an old man with snowy white hair and a fit body stepped out of the car. He looked friendly, and yet he exuded a powerful demeanor.

“Hehe, you’re all here. It’s crowded!”

Tang’e was instantly very surprised. She rushed over. “Dad!”

Gasp! The people in the crowd all inhaled sharply —this was Tang Taishan!

He was a retired Lieutenant Governor of Jiangbei, a Second Ranked Statesman. He was the highly respected Tang Taishan who had disciples everywhere; no wonder there was such grandeur at the event.

“Mr. Tang!”

“How are you, Mr. Tang?”

The surrounding crowd all stood up straight and parted ways for him to pass. They all had respectful expressions on their faces; they didn’t even dare to breathe too loudly.

Sun Mingxuan and Tang’e, mother and son, helped the old man as they walked, looking haughty with their heads held high, as if the old man was a new emperor ascending the throne; there was unspeakable pride and prestige.

How many years had it been since the Sun family had this kind of prestige.

It was really exciting.

Under the respectful gaze of the crowd, Sun Mingxuan helped to support Tang Taishan. His heart fluttered; he felt as if he was dreaming.

To ride in Jiangling City's Number One car, to have Secretary Wang personally open the car door for him, and to have even all the powerful people at the event had to get up and nervously greet him; this was such unrivalled prestige and pride!

At this moment, Sun Mingxuan finally experienced real power, and it felt really good.

“Hehe, sit. Please sit.” Tang Taishan smiled and waved his hand. He seemed to have naturally assumed that he was the owner of the event as he patted Sun Mingxuan's hand and said, “Today is my grandson, Mingxuan's wedding ceremony. It's a joyous occasion. Thank you all, friends and family, for your wishes. I am touched.”



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“Dear, let’s not wait any longer. As Feng said, he’s on his way here soon, to put on the wedding dress for her and to see her off,” Liu Minglan, who stood behind, suggested cheerfully. Her wrinkled face was full of joy and happiness. “Seeing both of them finally getting along together really makes my day! And oh, did you see Yingying’s wedding dress? Oh my god, it costs 400 million! Feng is really awesome! I wonder how he is able to earn so much!”

“Ha! Of course he is able to do so! He is my son after all!” Zhou Lie laughed. He continued proudly, “Like father, like son. That kid got a temper the same as mine when I was young. Ha!”

“Oh, you shameless old fool!” Liu Minglan remarked crossly. She began to contemplate seriously, “By the way, the kid is old enough to get married himself, am I right?”

Zhou Lie glared at Liu Minglan. “What a busybody old lady you are!”

“Well, yes, I am! What do you care about anyway?” Liu Minglan put her hands on her hips. With a pair of lively rotating eyes, she glanced at almost all the girls within the suitable age range around the place. She then began to consider them one-by-one carefully in her mind.

Indeed, it was normal for old women like Liu Minglan to be interested in matchmaking. After all, the joy of marrying her daughter off to someone was very different from the joy of her son getting married himself. Liu Minglan preferred having grandchildren from his son over

having grandchildren from her daughter.

“Zhou Lie, Liu Minglan, what are you doing outside on such a merry wedding day?” Suddenly, the proud Tang’e walked toward Zhou Lie and Liu Minglan in an annoyingly pretentious and arrogant manner. She stopped about three meters away while frowning and fanning her hand in front of her nose, as if she smelled something obnoxious from Zhou Lie and Liu Minglan.

“Are you waiting for some VIP relatives? Oh, of course, today is Mingxuan and Zhou Ying’s wedding day, certainly you need to invite some notable relatives so that you don’t feel humiliated, am I right? Look at all the guests of our Sun Family, they are mostly businessmen, entrepreneurs, lecturers, corporate leaders and other notables. All of them are prominent figures in the society,” Tang’e sighed and remarked disdainfully.

“Mr. Tang, don’t say that. You’re being too kind.”

“That’s right. Mr. Tang, it’s our honor to be able to attend your grandson’s wedding today.”

“Mr. Tang, if you need my assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to ask. I’ll try my best to assist you.”

The surrounding guests were busy buttering Tang Taishan up with flatteries. They were happy and honored to be invited to the wedding.

Meanwhile, Sun Mingxuan and Tang’e were on cloud nine to be flattered by their guests. They felt

excited and were extremely proud of themselves.

Sun Jianye too, came and shook Secretary Wang's hand excitedly. "Secretary Wang, I'm truly sorry to bother you to come all the way here by yourself. You're too kind," Sun Jianye said.

Although Sun Jianye was the third-in-command of Jiangling City, he still treated Secretary Wang, the Chief Secretary of the Mayor with respect.

"You're welcome. It's an honor for a younger generation like me to be of service to an honorable senior politician like Mr. Tang, who serves the citizens earnestly. I'm certainly lucky to witness Mr. Tang's graceful demeanor and to have such a golden opportunity to learn from the great man," Secretary Wang said with much sincerity in his voice. Then, he turned to Sun Mingxuan and smiled. "You must be Mingxuan. Initially, Mayor Yan planned to come in person and congratulate you on your wedding, but unfortunately, he had to attend to some important businesses, so he asked me to come on behalf of him and send his best wishes to you instead. Here is the calligraphy written by Mayor Yan himself, as a wedding gift for you, Mingxuan."

As he finished, Secretary Wang passed Sun Mingxuan a large piece of Chinese calligraphy. There were four Chinese characters 'Bai Nian He Hao' written on the calligraphy piece, which carried the meaning of 'live together in harmony forever'. The calligraphy looked graceful and magnificent.

Sun Mingxuan's excitement was beyond

description. He bowed and thanked Secretary Wang repeatedly, “Thank you Mayor Yan. Thank you Secretary Wang. I-I really appreciate it!”

The guests were envious of Sun Mingxuan. Those were calligraphy written by the mayor of Jiangling City himself. The calligraphy would bring glory and repel any bad omen—even demons and monsters would be frightened away—if it was hung in the lobby of the Sun Group, not to mention its commercial and artistic value. The calligraphy was a solid proof which showed that the Sun Family was completely under the protection of the mayor of Jiangling City. Who would be daring enough to harm the Sun Family? Weren’t they afraid of losing their lives for doing so?

Tang Taishan laughed heartily. Putting on a façade of seniority, he said, “Wang, continue your hard work. You’re a bright young man. You’ll achieve greatness in future.” There was an obvious trace of pride and arrogance in his words. “Years ago, Yan used to be my secretary who helped with some ordinary daily chores like serving tea and running errands. I often scolded him back then, but look at him now, he became the mayor of a city! I’m sure you’ll be more successful than him.”

“Mr. Tang, it is all because of your guidance. I still have a lot to learn from you and will certainly listen to your teachings in future.” Secretary Wang nodded with a smile. He left in a hurry after exchanging some greetings with Tang Taishan.

Suddenly, the wedding became merrier following

Tang Taishan's arrival and the discussion revolved around him.

The guests were surprised by the Sun Family's ability to invite a prominent figure like Tang Taishan, even the Mayor of Jiangling previously worked under him. The old man was truly incredible!

Tang Taishan smiled and nodded at the relatives of the Sun Family while exchanging brief greetings with them. He also greeted the poor relatives from the Zhou Family with a simple nod and grin, pretending to treat his beloved citizens with equality in order to show off his noble act of egalitarianism. However, like Tang'e, Tang Taishan kept his distance of at least three meters away from the Zhou Family, while keeping himself closer to the notables and other powerful and influential guests.

The guests were orderly divided into different cliques according to their social status. This put Zhou Lie and his family ill at ease. Since his arrival, Tang Taishan behaved like an orchestra conductor and became the center of attention as the guests were busy acquainting themselves to him. It was as if he was the Sun and the Earth would have to revolve around him.

It was not long before Tang Taishan smiled and looked at Zhou Ying. "You must be the bride, such a beautiful and virtuous lady. You mustn't forget to behave yourself and to be obedient after you're married into the Sun Family, alright?"



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Although Tang Taishan's words were casual, it sounded like a strict command in which the listener must follow obediently. Being at the top of the social hierarchy for a long time, Tang Taishan got the impression that his words were the supreme order which everyone must follow.

As he waved, Tang Taishan commented decisively, "It's getting late now, let the wedding begin!"

Following his order, Tang'e and the Sun Family quickened their wedding preparations and arrangements with joy.

Suddenly, Zhou Ying bit her red lips and with her determined face, she protested, "No, I want to wait for my elder brother first. After he comes and helps me put on my wedding dress, then we'll begin the wedding."

Members of the Sun Family were so shocked by Zhou Ying's words that their facial expression changed abruptly. How dare the little girl disobey Tang Taishan's order?

"How rude you are!" Sun Jianye bellowed while putting on an authoritative look. "Who is your older brother, Chu Feng, to keep our honorable guest, Mr. Tang, here waiting for him? How ridiculous that is? Listen to me, let the wedding begin! We need not wait for him!"

With a smile and holding her head high up in the air, Zhou Ying insisted with a determined voice, "Uncle Jianye, it's my wedding today and I don't

NH

need other people telling me what to do on my wedding day. Today, I must wait for my elder brother before we start the wedding, or else, I'm not going to get married!"

Zhou Ying was tired of compromising with the Sun Family. This time, she wanted to have it her own way without caring about other people's opinions. Her words were a real slap in the face of Tang Taishan and members of the Sun Family. Tang Taishan's eyes flickered with an uneasy look.

"You—how inappropriately you behave—" Sun Jianye's lips quivered with anger.

Sun Mingxuan frowned while he advised anxiously, "Yingying, what nonsense you're talking about? Quick, apologize to grandpa!"

"You heard that? What kind of nonsense is that? She certainly doesn't look like an obedient wife!" Infuriated, Tang'e pointed at Zhou Lie and his wife and shouted, "Zhou Lie, Liu Minglan, is this the kind of daughter you raised in your family? Aren't you going to teach her some lessons right now?"

The hot-tempered Zhou Lie, who had had enough of the Sun Family's arrogant disposition, snorted gruffly while smoking on his pipe. "I think my daughter has a point. I respect her decision. We can't begin the wedding leaving behind any members of our Zhou Family."

"You—" Tang'e was angered by Zhou Lie.

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“Now, now, everything’s alright. It’s reasonable that young people like Zhou Ying have their own opinion.” Suddenly, Tang Taishan chuckled, fully expressing his generosity as a highly respected senior politician.” He casually blew into the tea inside his teacup while smiling faintly. “Very well, then, we shall wait for our little friend named Chu Feng. I am curious myself too—exactly what kind of prominent person is this Chu Feng—to keep his fellow friends, families and notable guests waiting so long for him? Ha! Even when I served as a Lieutenant Governor, a Second Ranked Statesman fully in charge of Jiangbei, I was not nearly as arrogant as he is. Well, I suppose this little Chu Feng guy here is way more powerful and noble than I am. So, I will certainly wait for his arrival.”

Tang Taishan chuckled. Although his tone was light and casual, the meaning behind his words made the guests shiver. The guests were not fools; they fully understood Tang Taishan’s meaning. They knew Tang Taishan was unhappy with Chu Feng being late and haughty. They knew he wanted to teach an ignorant young man like Chu Feng a lesson.

Tang’e and Sun Mingxuan smiled maliciously in victory. They agreed, “Okay, we’ll wait for him.” They hoped to get even with Chu Feng using Tang Taishan’s influence.

On the other hand, Zhou Ying’s pretty face turned pale. She regretted her decision. She became worried and wondered whether what she did would cause trouble for Chu Feng.

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Suddenly, the wedding became silent as the atmosphere tensed up. The guests waited patiently and looked at the drama between the Sun Family and Zhou Family. They anticipated the terrible consequences Chu Feng would face for being ignorant and arrogant.

A few girls from the Sun Family began their gossiping in low voices.

“This Chu Feng guy really thinks he is some big shot, huh? How dare he keep Mr. Tang waiting for him? Who does he think he is?”

“Ha! All of us know who Mr. Tang is. Chu Feng will be helpless and at his mercy.”

“Oh well, some people are just shallow. They just need to show off when they have some capabilities. They are so full of themselves when they can buy a wedding dress which costs a few hundreds million. How dare he keep us waiting for him? What is he hoping to do anyway? To be in the limelight?”

“He doesn’t even qualify for that! Does he even have that kind of ability? To be frank, I think his mere ability is insignificant compared to Mr. Tang’s.”



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Although their voices were low, it could still be heard clearly by the guests at the wedding.

The Zhou Family grew embarrassed, whereas the Sun Family smiled in victory while proudly holding their heads up high.

Vroom—! As the girls finished gossiping, a sound of engine revving up was heard as a Lincoln luxury car drove slowly and steadily into the wedding venue.

Rustle! All the guests turned and gazed at the car slowly entering the venue.

Chu Feng has arrived!

“Grandpa, the one in the car is Chu Feng,” Sun Mingxuan said through his gritted teeth while staring at the slow-moving Lincoln luxury car.

Sun Mingxuan still remembered clearly that he was humiliated by Chu Feng when the latter showed up at his engagement party a few months ago with that Lincoln luxury car.

“Hmph! How ignorant he is to show off himself with such little capability!” Sun Jianye, Sun Mingxuan’s uncle, who was one of the leading politicians in Jiangling City, snorted with a proud look on his face.

The relatives of the Sun Family also sneered at the car. So, this was the so-called VIP whom they had been waiting for?

In fact, almost every guest at the wedding had a

fortune worth a few hundreds of millions, so who among them could not afford to own a twenty million luxury car?

As for Tang Taishan, who simply closed his eyes, did not even bother to look at the car.

When he served as the Lieutenant Governor of Jiangbei, every grant request he approved and signed was worth at least one billion each. Besides, each of those businessmen and billionaires under his control had assets worth over a ten billion. A twenty million luxury car? Ha, what a joke!

Suddenly, the car door sprang open and Luo Gang, in his solemn and striking military uniform, came out of his driver seat. Then, he opened the car door at the back with respect.

“Hmph! I wonder what kind of VIP he is. He is just a common soldier. I—”

Folding her arms across her chest and a smirk crossed her face, Tang'e was about to continue her insult when the striking mark on Luo Gang's shoulder suddenly caught her attention. Tang'e was stunned by Luo Gang's identity.

“I-Is he a Lieutenant Colonel?” Tang'e's heart skipped a beat. Somehow, she had a bad feeling about this. Since the Chu Feng guy has a Lieutenant Colonel who drove him around, then he must be a Colonel or perhaps even a Senior Colonel!

Sun Jianye grew nervous too. He knew that even

the Commander of Jiangling's military theater was just a Senior Colonel.

"Oh, not bad." Tang Taishan, who initially had his eyes shut, finally opened his eyes and showed some interest in Chu Feng. Still in his seniority façade, he remarked plainly, "Becoming a senior field officer at such a young age, it's indeed amazing."

A mere senior field officer might indeed look impressive on the outside, but it was nothing before him! During special occasions around the year, those powerful mayors and military commanders would line up in front of his doorstep and pay respect to Tang Taishan. Those people were way more powerful than Chu Feng!

"It's a shame though, he's too arrogant and full of himself. He can't be anywhere near success in the future." Tang Taishan shook his head and sighed. While sipping his tea and with a simple wave of his hand, Tang Taishan sealed Chu Feng's fate. "Give an old friend from the military department a call to let him have this Chu Feng feed the horses for a few years as part of his training."

Sun Mingxuan suddenly jolted from his trance of shock, looking extremely excited and joyful. Indeed, a senior field officer like Chu Feng was insignificant compared to a prominent senior politician like his grandfather, Tang Taishan. As long as Tang Taishan was here, he need not have to be afraid of Chu Feng. Sun Mingxuan regained his confidence as he held his head up high in the air.

Clomp! Suddenly, heavy footsteps of military boots walking on the ground was heard; the sound was clear and loud.

All the guests kept their eyes on the back seat of the Lincoln luxury car. They grew nervous as they held their breath and anticipated the VIP who would come out of the car at any minute.

With her arms folded across her chest, Tang's sneered at the car. "Such a pretentious freak! What a joke! Hmph! He's just a field officer, how dare he be so arrogant?"

Luo Gang was waiting politely in front of the car door at the back seat of the luxury car. The man in there then stomped on the ground in his military boots with his strong and straight legs.

Moments later, a muscular figure came out of the limousine. It was Chu Feng. He wore a military peaked cap with a national emblem and a long sword hung around his waist. His eyes were sharp and intelligent. His Qilin [1] embroidered uniform, with a fierce python print painted across his chest, swayed in the breeze. He looked charming and striking in his uniform.

His entrance was so magnificent that the nature's charms faded in his presence.


"What the heck!"

"A Python Printed Robe and Blue-Point sword, it's a General's uniform! The guy is a General!"

[1] Qilin is a mythical hooved chimerical creature

notable in the Chinese culture. It is a common embroidery design on uniforms of government officers from the military department in ancient China.

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NH

With a roar, the crowd erupted in chaos. Tang'e and the women from the Sun Family went wide-eyed, their limbs becoming cold and their voices becoming hoarse as if someone had seized them by the throat.

Another commotion ensued as Sun Jianye and the other guests of the Sun Family scrambled to their feet, overwhelmed to the point of being speechless. The atmosphere was now dead silent. Officers and general officers were two ranks that sounded similar, but they couldn't be more different. Even a Major General was considered to be on the same level as a Second Ranked position just like Tang Taishan, the Lieutenant Governor of Jiangbei.

Tang Taishan's teacup shattered with a crash as he gaped at the intimidating, fully-dressed Chu Feng before him, his heart pounding so hard he gasped for air. "G-General? How?" His wrinkled fingers trembled when he counted the stars on Chu Feng's shoulder. "One, two, three, four! A four-star General! Bloody hell!" Despite being known for his composure and eloquence, Tang Taishan swore out loud before slumping into his chair with a pale face and a pounding heart. In fact, he'd nearly slumped onto the floor entirely.

Everyone in the Sun family took a few steps backwards, already feeling weak in the knees. Sun Mingxuan himself was already on the ground, shaking badly.

A four-star General! It was almost impossible to process the concept of Chu Feng being just one step away from becoming the Lord Chu who

NH

commanded the nation's army. He could rule above all, and even select a handful in the nation as the Provincial Governor or other top level positions, and his influence was powerful enough to easily rank among the top five of Donghua!

More importantly, Chu Feng was only in his twenties. A four-star General, in his twenties! One could only imagine the glory that came with this achievement, and the prestige that it brought him. Chu Feng seemed to be aware of this when he scanned the crowd, then proudly strode toward Zhou Lie's family in the corner.

"Mum, Dad, I'm here." The moment these words left Chu Feng's lips, the crowd parted like the Red Sea despite being full of the rich and influential, clearing a path for this man in full military uniform. Even as he walked, Chu Feng seemed like the sun itself was shining behind him, giving him an inexplicable aura of intimidation and greatness.

Liu Minglan was already overwhelmed to the point of tears, shouting, "Are you seeing this, old man? My son! That's my son!"

Zhou Lie did not reply, but he barked out three laughs with tears in his tiger-like eyes, tears of vindication and pride. Who said their family couldn't produce a mighty dragon? Who dared accuse them of being unfit for the spotlight? This was their own son, a one-of-a-kind general, their pride and joy!

Chu Feng strode to the surprised and emotional Zhou Ying, then fondly stroked her hair with a

smile. "I'm back, silly. How did you like my entrance just now?"

Zhou Ying stood up abruptly. She was already in tears as well, but she started sobbing as she leaned straight into Chu Feng's arms. "Brother!" This was the brother who'd loved and protected her since they were children, the brother who'd become the one and only General. Her tears of joy continued to flow, wetting Chu Feng's chest as she sobbed.

Chu Feng wiped the tears from her face and said gently, "What are you crying for on your big day? Your brother's here now, and he's here to make things right." He scanned the Sun family, all of whom suddenly felt their hearts skip a beat and their limbs turn cold. "Hmm." he said.



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NH

Zhou Ying meekly nodded, pressing her head against Chu Feng's chest without a second thought as if she wanted nothing more than to tell him all of her troubles. Chu Feng lifted his head and scanned the crowd, his handsomely chiseled features and uniquely masculine face forming a fatally attractive look in combination with his general's uniform. This level of handsomeness was likely on par with the most popular male celebrity of the era!

Practically every woman in attendance squealed in envy. An insanely powerful, yet devilishly handsome man? Who wouldn't want a brother like him?

Meanwhile, Tang'e and the girls from the Sun family were already deathly pale and drenched in cold sweat.

Previously, they'd committed their fair share of bullying and boycotting against the peasant girl Zhou Ying, even stealing her dowry and jewelry under the guise of 'showing her who's boss'.

They thought a girl like her, with neither power nor authority, could be walked all over like a helpless doormat.

How were they supposed to know her equally helpless parents had raised such a powerful son? A son who'd become a general in his twenties, no less!

With his youth and position, Chu Feng easily

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ranked among the most powerful in the nation; he probably could turn Jiangbei upside down on a whim. No one could protect them from him, not even Tang Taishan.

Tang'e and the others could feel the cold sweat soaking through their formal wear, the bile rising in their throats.

In a desperate gamble, Tang'e shot a helpless glance at her father Tang Taishan, the former Lieutenant Governor of Jiangbei.

Tang Taishan may have been thoroughly shocked by the turn of events, but he was no inexperienced fool either.

With a resigned sigh, he contemplated the situation. He'd planned to lend his grandson some face by personally attending this event, but now he'd offended the godlike Chu Feng!

After coughing to relieve the atmospheric tension, he smiled. "Since Ying Ying's brother is here, let the wedding commence! I say, I never knew your brother was such a high-ranking General! Truly, it is an honor to the Sun family and of course, an honor to me." Tang Taishan stood and put on a display of submission, then growled at the petrified Sun Mingxuan for good measure, saying, "What are you standing there for? Offer a toast to your brother-in-law!"

Tang'e and Sun Jianye also hurriedly ushered him, "Quick, thank your brother-in-law."

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Their plan now was to strike the iron while it's hot and get the wedding over with to avoid any more unexpected turn of events.

Once Zhou Ying was married into their family, there would be nothing much Chu Feng could do without also upsetting Zhou Ying.

Perhaps they'd even secure their own future by riding on Chu Feng's coattails; a four-star General was not to be trifled with, after all.

Sun Mingxuan shakily poured a glass of wine and walked toward Chu Feng, then stuttered, "B-Brother, a toast—"

"Isn't it a bit early to call me 'brother-in-law' before the wedding's even begun?" Chu Feng said dismissively, his gaze not even meeting Sun Mingxuan's eyes. "After all, I still need to assess you people from the Sun Family and see if you're worthy of my sister."

Tang Taishan, Tang'e and the others could feel their facial muscles twitching; it seemed that Chu Feng was hell bent on avenging Zhou Ying.

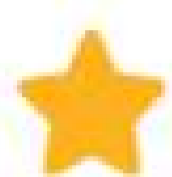
"Tell me, Ying. Have they been bullying you?" Chu Feng's tone was gentle, but the murderous intent in his words were enough to bring the room's temperature several degrees lower.

Zhou Ying looked to Sun Mingxuan beside them, still hesitant due to their shared bond.

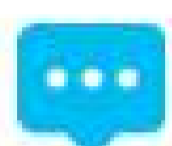
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Just then, Tang'e spoke up, "Chu Feng, we'd never do such a thing. Our family has treated Ying Ying like one of our own daughters."

"Yes, yes. We really do love her."



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DISCORD

“Zhou Ying is the fiance of our family’s heir, our future matriarch. Why would we bully her when we can get in her good books?” the women from the Sun Family said in agreement with straight faces.

“Is that so?” Chu Feng’s lip curled as he casually glanced at Tang’e’s neck, where a glittering diamond necklace hung. “Then tell me, why is my wedding gift to her hanging on your neck?”

Tang’e yelped and tore the necklace from her neck, avoiding his gaze like the plague.

Chu Feng, though, tore the cheap resin necklace from Zhou Ying’s neck and questioned in a frigid tone, “Why is my sister wearing a ten-dollar piece of crap on her wedding day? Where’s the jewelry I bought her that’s worth millions? This is how you treat the young matriarch of your Sun Family? The girl you call your own daughter?!”

Zhou Ying bit her lip and hid behind Chu Feng, full of pity and sadness. Meanwhile, the Sun Family were speechless and trembling harder than ever.

“T-This is a misunderstanding! I didn’t take her jewelry, I was just, um... safekeeping it! Yes, she gave it to me for safekeeping, as she and I had discussed!” Tang’e continued to make excuses, then finally cried out, “Ying Ying, please vouch for me and tell him!” Tang’e was nearly in tears. Chu Feng was so high-ranking, she couldn’t possibly survive his wrath if she’d admitted her misdeeds.

“Tell the truth. I’ll handle it,” Chu Feng said firmly but fondly.

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Zhou Ying was kind by nature, so she couldn't bear to see Tang'e this close to tears. But she couldn't bear to simply forgive what the Sun family did, either.

Just as she was hesitating, Sun Mingxuan suddenly called out, "What are you standing there for, Ying Ying? Look at what you did to Mom." His face became grim, as if he was giving an ultimatum. "Apologize to her."

Tang'e and Tang Taishan's faces fell immediately. Suddenly, they wanted nothing more than to smack Sun Mingxuan, the brainless bastard. Did he have a death wish, provoking Zhou Ying at a time like this? When a single word from her could doom all seventy-odd members of the Sun Family?

As expected, Sun Mingxuan's words made Zhou Ying snap. For the past few days, he'd demanded her apologies in every conflict involving the family even if she was in the right, then left her to endure the mockery and ridicule alone. Now, he dared demand yet another apology? Truly, she'd lose what was left of her dignity if she continued to pity the Sun family.

Putting on a sad look, Zhou Ying pointed at Tang'e, "Brother, she's the one who took all the jewelry you gave me! Their family took our father's three-million dowry and even the thousand-acre deed you took back from the Chamber of the Four Seas!" Zhou Ying screamed out her indignance in one shot, then started sobbing in earnest. "S-She'd even demanded I give her the Moonlight Goddess you gifted me

NH

after the wedding, to be used as their family heirloom. She said I was a cheap slut, doomed to poverty for life and that's why I didn't deserve these things. S=She slapped me too! Not even Mom and Dad hit me, so why does she get to do that?"

The crowd was now in an uproar. Tang'e fell to her knees out of fear, while the Zhou couple were practically seeing red; they'd only just found out the extent of their daughter's suffering, and wanted to wipe out the Sun Family more than anything.

The guests too were shocked and quickly began cursing the Sun Family. The shamelessness of it all! What kind of despicable monsters were part of this family?

"Good girl. I'm here, I'll make things right for you." Chu Feng comforted the wailing Zhou Ying. He'd already known what Tang'e was doing to her, but hearing about it from Zhou Ying's own lips still made his blood boil. "Now go, pay her back for that slap she gave you." Chu Feng pointed to Tang'e and said determinedly, "Whatever you do to her, I've got your back."



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Zhou Ying wiped away her tears. Then, she quickened her footsteps toward Tang'e. The latter looked terrified and fearful. Zhou Ying didn't hesitate as she raised her arm.

Slap! Slap!

Zhou Ying's smack was hard and she used a lot of strength. Tang'e staggered, and there was a clear handprint on her face; blood flowed out of the corner of her mouth.

The crowd sighed.

Tang Taishan and the Sun Family members' faces were ashen and their expressions were blank.

They never ever thought that this Chu Feng was actually so arrogant and outrageous that he would instruct Zhou Ying to hit her future mother-in-law.

This was so disrespectful.

Even Zhou Ying, who had an astonished expression on her face, couldn't believe that she had the courage to slap Tang'e across the face.

"Y-You dare to hit me?" Tang'e shrieked. She felt like she had lost her dignity when someone from a younger generation had slapped her in public.

As the matriarch of the Sun family, she had always felt superior and esteemed. It was she who hit others. Who would dare to hit her?

"You lowly woman. How dare you hit me? I'll fight

NH

you!”

Tang'e was reaching her boiling point with anger and humiliation, so she didn't think of Chu Feng as a deterrence as she yelled.

Holding her swollen face, she lunged at Zhou Ying like a vixen.

Even without Chu Feng's instruction, Luo Gang stood in front of Zhou Ying to protect her. He kicked Tang'e's stomach with one leg and the latter flew backward and landed against a table, resulting in a loud crash. Wine and dishes spilled all over her and drenched her from head to toe. She looked a complete mess.

“Keep hitting.” Chu Feng frowned and told Zhou Ying, “I didn't ask you to stop.”

The corners of the mouths of the people in the crowd twitched.

What? It wasn't over yet?

Zhou Ying immediately found the courage and yanked Tang'e off the ground. Her palm swung left and right as she landed more than ten more slaps.

Slap slap slap! Her smacks resulted in continuous loud slaps that could be heard throughout the venue.

The skin where Tang'e had been slapped was starting to break and she was begging for mercy. Only then did Zhou Ying retract her tingling little

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hands. She was so tired that she was panting, but she felt very satisfied.

It was as if all the grief and mocking that she had endured had evaporated with those slaps.

It was the first time that her weak self felt the exhilaration of using violence; it was so therapeutic!

Who said violence couldn't solve problems?

That was just an excuse the weak gave themselves for their incompetence and timidity. To quench hate, kill the enemy—this was a thousand-year-old law that had not changed.

The crowd looked at the lofty matriarch of the Sun Family with their jaws dropped. She looked pathetic with the blood and her red skin as she felt astounded and sorrowful on the inside.

Although Tang Taishan, Sun Mingxuan, and the rest had dark faces and were angry, they didn't dare to oppose Chu Feng, who was a four-star General. They bowed their heads and kept quiet.

“Feeling better?” Chu Feng completely ignored the crowd as he looked at Zhou Ying and asked softly.

What he meant was that if there were someone who dared to disagree, he would join in the fight himself for his sister's sake.

Zhou Ying subconsciously nodded, then she shook her head. Her beautiful eyes looked at the

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few younger girls from the Sun Family who were standing among the crowd.

“T-Them too.”

Some days, this group of girls and Tang’e worked together to bully her. If Tang’e was Hades, then they were the demons and they were even more vicious and cruel than Tang’e.

Naturally, Chu Feng could see the anger inside of Zhou Ying. He pointed with his finger and said nonchalantly, “Hit!”



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Among the crowd, the few girls from the Sun Family were already pale with fright. Some of the more cowardly ones even screamed and started to beg for mercy.

They saw very clearly what had happened to Tang'e and they didn't want to be publicly hit so hard that their skin broke; that would be really humiliating.

From the Sun Family members quickly came mournful howls and the sound of slapping could be heard. Today, the Sun Family was completely humiliated. They would not be able to show their faces in public anymore.

"Sir, you've gone a little too far." Just then, the silent Tang Taisan could not remain sitting. He stood up and with an embarrassed look, he told Chu Feng, "About this, it really was the fault of my daughter and the Sun Family. But now, they've received their punishment, and your sister has had a chance to vent her anger. Since they've been beaten up, can we wrap this up?" Tang Taishan walked forward to face Chu Feng. He subconsciously bent forward, and with much difficulty, said softly, "We admit to this fault. Mr. Chu. Please, on account of my old age, could we cancel this debt?"

The guests at the venue were all stunned and their jaws dropped, as if they had seen a ghost.

Tang Taishan was actually begging Chu Feng!

One must know that this was the former Lieutenant Governor of Jiangbei. His influence

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was everywhere and he was very well respected. Even the acting Mayor of Jiangling City had great respect for him. Tang Taishan was a formidable presence in Jiangbei; a simple word from him could bring about significant consequences.

However, despite being such a powerful figure, he had to humble himself and admit defeat to Chu Feng.

At the end of the day, this four-star General was powerful and terrifying.

The crowd sighed emotionally.

However, Chu Feng's reaction the next second was even more shocking.

He shook his wrist and shot daggers at Tang Taishan. With a nonchalant attitude, he asked, "Give you face? Who are you to ask for that?"

Tang Taishan was speechless.

The crowd was speechless too.

D*mn, that was way too arrogant!

Even a ferocious dragon was no match for a snake in its old haunts; even Tang Taishan, who was a hero of Jiangbei, had thrown away his dignity to beg for forgiveness from Chu Feng, and yet Chu Feng still couldn't be bothered to answer his request!

"Sir, you don't have to be so arrogant and presumptuous." Tang Taishan was deeply

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affected. His elderly face flushed red as he straightened his spine. "I am the retired Lieutenant Governor of Jiangbei, and a court-appointed Second Ranked Statesman. In Jiangbei..."

"It's good that you are aware that you are a retired officer," Chu Feng interrupted him. His eyes were cold and domineering. "Since you are retired, sit at home quietly. There is no need to come out and boss people around, showing off." He patted the Blue-Point sword hanging from his waist.

"Otherwise, don't blame me if I act first and ask questions later, and take your head as a trophy."

Tang Taishan took a few steps back. He was so angry that he could barely breathe.

There was uproar and panic in the crowd.

Right then, Chu Feng was not just hitting Tang Taishan on the face anymore; he was practically stepping on Tang Taishan's face and pushing him into a mud pit!

That was so arrogant and overbearing!

"As*hole! Such an as*hole!"

Right then, an old man who was around ninety years old stood up. He had a goatee and was wearing a traditional costume, holding a walking stick in his hand. With a trembling finger, he pointed at Chu Feng and said angrily, "You, as the country's soldier, instead of protecting the country, you have used your power to terrorize civilians. You're really vicious! Mr. Tang's hard

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work and dedication was for the country and her citizens. However, you angered him, this country's veteran and national hero. That is barbaric, arrogant, and domineering. How different are you from a common criminal? How different are you from the bullies?"

The old man quivered as he held the walking stick. With self-righteous pride, he said, "What right do you have to wear the uniform of a General? You don't have the right to refer to yourself as a soldier! How dare you stand among us and show off your prestige and abuse your power?! You are the shame of the military. You are the scum of society. You are not worthy to be human! You're a beast, a bastard! You are even worse than farm livestock!"



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At this moment, the Sun Family members' perception of the old man's skinny frame suddenly became big and strong, and shining with grandeur.

Right then, it was as if he was Qu Yuan [1], or Wen Tiangxiang [2] reborn!

Tang Taishan was full of admiration for the old sir—he was a true hero!

He was Jiangbei's famous Saint Han!

He was a true warrior that had dared to live a tragic life, dared to face dripping blood, and dared to face evil forces with his chest puffed and head held high.

Han Yongwen's opinion of himself was that he was a true warrior and an unquestionable hero.

He struck a pose of valor. Pointing at Chu Feng, he scolded loudly, "Motherf*cker, if you have the guts, then just kill me. History will remember your act as the misdeeds of a thug. But as for me, my name will be engraved on a monument forever!"

As soon as this guy made an appearance, he immediately put himself on the higher moral ground and made Chu Feng out to be worthless, as if Chu Feng was a long-time criminal and a retard.

However, he had forgotten that it was the Sun Family who had committed despicable acts. As for Chu Feng, he was only claiming justice for his sister.

Chu Feng frowned and glanced at the old man as he wondered who the latter was.

“Brother, this old man is named Han Yongwen. He has a lot of influence in the national literary circles. It was said that he could even resurrect the dead with his words. According to rumors, he is very proud and stubborn. In Jiangbei, people refer to him as Saint Han.” Zhou Ying’s expression darkened; she never thought that Chu Feng would actually offend this old man, Han Yongwen. This old man was known to be like a dog skin plaster and was a very difficult person. “Every year during the democratic election, many high-ranking officers and political leaders would get so badly scolded by him that they have nothing to retort. According to rumors, even some First Ranked Statesmen got scolded so badly that even they were speechless.

This old guy was a truly difficult opponent.

Chu Feng nodded with an understanding smile. Saint Han? He sure had a solid background.

“Good that you know how capable I am. Why aren’t you speaking? Do you feel remorse? Embarrassed? After getting scolded, have you finally come to your senses?” When he saw the expression on Chu Feng’s face, Han Yongwen felt pleased. He thought that he had bent Chu Feng into submission with his sharp words. As he stroked his goatee, he said with great panache, “Huh, it is great that you know your mistake and are willing to change. Bitter tribulations have no escape. The only solution for one to amend one’s mistakes is to turn over a new leaf and mend

one's ways. You're still young and you don't know the rules, but that's okay, as I'm willing to give you a chance to turn over a new leaf." He waved his hand and pointed at Chu Feng, thinking that he had given Chu Feng a great gift. "Go, apologize and make amends with Mr. Tang and the Sun Family. And then, become my book-boy for a few years. Pour tea for me everyday and listen to some teachings in order to wash away your sins and turn over a new leaf. Do you understand?"

Han Yongwen was very pleased; he squinted his eyes, which held a look of eagerness and pride.

Having a four-star General—unparalleled in the nation—being enlightened by him, and was willing to become his book-boy was something that no one else, in the past five thousand years of history, have had such an ability and honor to achieve!

Without a doubt, he, Han Yongwen, as a living saint, was the first man to achieve this through the ages.

Right then, Chu Feng finally opened his eyes and said nonchalantly, "Teaching me to behave? Are you even worthy?"

Slap! He smacked Han Yongwen so heavily that the latter fell over. "Who are you to be so presumptuous in front of me, a General?"

The crowd was surprised and full of disbelief.

This Chu Feng dared to hit even Saint Han? Wasn't that too presumptuous?

“Y-You...”

Before the old man could continue to spout more nonsense, Chu Feng tapped his finger against his waist and drew the Blue-Point sword. He pointed it at Han Yongwen’s neck; the shiny sword was a killing machine. “You think you’re sacrificing yourself for the sake of justice? I’ve killed seven stubborn old men like you. Would you like to be the next one?”

[1] Qu Yuan (c. 340–278 BC) was a Chinese poet and politician who lived during the Warring States period. He is known for his patriotism and contributions to classical poetry and verses, especially through the poems of the Chu Ci anthology (also known as The Songs of the South or Songs of Chu).

[2] Wen Tianxiang (June 6, 1236 – January 9, 1283 AD), Duke of Xinguo, was a Chinese poet and politician in the last years of the Southern Song Dynasty. For his resistance to Kublai Khan's invasion of the Song Dynasty, and for his refusal to yield to the Yuan Dynasty despite being captured and tortured, he is a popular symbol of patriotism and righteousness in China.



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He smiled nonchalantly and without a care in the world. However, Han Yongwen was properly frightened; the old man's face was pale and his legs were trembling. Soon, a patch of yellow appeared in between his legs—the old man was so scared that he had actually peed on himself!

“M-Mercy!”

People like him were only good with their mouths. He had never been in a situation like this before. When he saw Chu Feng being ruthless, it was like his soul had left his body. He was far from firm and unyielding, and definitely not ready to give up his life.

“Old fart.” Chu Feng laughed coldly and with disdain. With one kick, he kicked the old man far away and couldn't be bothered with him anymore.

“Han? Han, are you alright?”

Tang Taishan quickly helped Han Yongwen up. His expression was dark as he pointed at Chu Feng and scolded, “Chu Feng, you are too arrogant. Way too arrogant. Both Han and I work for the people. We sacrificed our blood and tears, and belong to the older generation that has achieved great things.” Tang Taishan was very angry as he pointed at Chu Feng, saying, “When it comes to rights, service, and abilities, we do not fall short of you. Even if you are a General, even if you rank higher than we do, you cannot humiliate us like that. We are from an older generation.”

Tang Taishan knew that he could not top Chu Feng in terms of power and background.

Therefore, he changed strategy and used his age and seniority to gain advantage, standing on superior moral ground to defeat Chu Feng.

At the end of the day, big shots like these cared most about their dignity and respect. That was what mattered the most to them.

Tang Taishan straightened his back and faced Chu Feng with pride. He said coldly, "The progress that we have today came from small achievements, and the efforts of the citizens, unlike you who used connections and family background to become a General. That's why you don't have the ability to convince the people!"

Chu Feng was unruffled. He almost laughed out loud. "You think that I depended on connections to become a General?"

Luo Gang kept smiling coldly and scolded, "Idiot."

As a four-star General, he was at the top of the hierarchy, when thousands of men had to answer to him, he was unique to the world. How could his rank possibly be obtained through connections?

Tang Taishan snorted. He was already grasping at straws as he retorted, "Otherwise? You're barely twenty years old and already a four-star General. Even if you enlisted while you were still in the womb, you wouldn't have climbed the hierarchy so quickly. You yourself know full well how you got this General's uniform!"

The surrounding guests all whispered to each other as they discussed this.

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The truth was that in the whole country, every General, including Major Generals, were about forty years old. That position required qualification and accumulated military work.

He was only twenty years old, and yet he was already a four-star General? It was never heard of before. Even the famous ones in history like Huo Qubing [1], Wei Qing [2], and Han Xin [3], had to go through a lot to reach their ranks!

“Hahaha, okay. Alright.” Chu Feng laughed out loud. He pointed at Tang Taishan. “Then open your eyes wider. I’ll show you how I obtained this uniform.”

He shook the Python Printed Robe that he was wearing. Tang Taishan was so frightened that he retreated. He was worried that Chu Feng would produce a gun and shoot him dead.

Chu Feng smiled with disdain. He moved slowly as he removed one button after another.

As soon as the final button was undone, he reached out his arms and the Python Printed Robe fell off his body. The faces of everyone present instantly changed.

Chu Feng was dressed smartly in his General’s uniform. On his chest, very close to each other, were countless military medals. They covered nearly his entire upper body. They were a soldier’s pride, the marks of a military man’s service.

Forget the first-class medals, even the special-grade ones were plentiful.

“T-This is...”

Tang Taishan and Han Yongwen were suddenly stunned and their whole bodies trembled.

The crowd was dead silent.

He was like endless glory combined into one.

Under the sun, he dazzled the crowd with a bright light.

At that moment, Chu Feng looked like the God of War!

Gasp! Chu Feng—who was standing amidst the crowd with his chest full of military medals—looked magnificent. The crowd collectively gasped as they were shocked and felt their blood boiling.

Tang Taishan was stunned, staying rooted to the spot.

He must have done countless military work and fought in countless battles to earn so many military medals.

For some people, even after a lifetime of military service, they had not earned even a single medal.

From the crowd, a sense of admiration rose spontaneously and they couldn't help but tear up.

This was definitely not somebody who had depended on connections. This was a man who fought on actual battle grounds with his blood

and effort, a true warrior of the country, an actual God of War who had earned his status with pure hard work!.

[1] Huo Qubing (140 BC – 117 BC) was a distinguished military general of the Western Han dynasty during the reign of Emperor Wu of Han. He was the nephew of the general Wei Qing and Empress Wei Zifu (Emperor Wu's wife), and the half-brother of the statesman Huo Guang. Along with Wei Qing, he led a campaign into the Gobi Desert of what is now Mongolia to defeat the Xiongnu nomadic confederation, winning decisive victories such as the Battle of Mobei in 119 BC.

[2] Han Xin (died 196 BC) was a military general who served Liu Bang during the Chu–Han Contention and contributed greatly to the founding of the Han dynasty. Han Xin was named as one of the "Three Heroes of the early Han dynasty", along with Zhang Liang and Xiao He.

[3] Wei Qing (died 106 BC), courtesy name Zhongqing, born Zheng Qing in Linfen, Shanxi, was a famous Western Han military general acclaimed for his campaigns against the Xiongnu, and his rags to riches life. He was also the maternal uncle of Huo Qubing, another decorated Han general who participated in the war against the Xiongnu.



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When Han Yongwei thought of all he had just said about Chu Feng not being worthy as a soldier, he blushed and wished the ground would swallow him whole.

Zhou Lie and Liu Minglan, who were not far away, cried painful tears. "My son has been through a lot of pain. He went through hell to win so many medals."

Chu Feng glanced around. He edged toward Tang Taishan and snapped, "Open your eyes and look. What did I depend on to get this position?"

Tang Taisan kept walking backward. His face was as pale as a sheet of paper and he could find no retort.

Chu Feng's gaze was as sharp as a knife. With a cold voice, he said, "I joined the military when I was fifteen years old. I've been through grasslands, climbed snowy mountains, swam in the northern sea, and did active duty in Xi Ye. While I was patrolling every inch of our land and protecting our country, where were you?"

Tang Taishan's lips trembled and he averted his eye.

Chu Feng continued sharply, "At nineteen years old, I commanded thirty thousand soldiers, stabbed the enemies in their hearts, and wound through seven layers of enemy defences. I had over a hundred wounds on my body. Out of thirty thousand comrades, we fought till only seven of

us were left. Then, we took the enemy commander alive and defeated the enemy's hundred and thirty thousand men. At that time, where were you?"

Tang Taishan was sweating profusely. He was so scared that he didn't dare to utter a word.

Chu Feng took another step forward. "When I was twenty-three years old, I led a hundred and eighty thousand cavalry on warhorses and thirty thousand Xi Ye soldiers at the border to conquer sixteen countries. We have conquered Xi Xia, stopped the revolt of the Three Feudatories and gained control of the Central Plains, expanding the land of Donghua for an additional one hundred and twenty million square meters. Where were you then?"

Tang Taishan was stunned. With a loud thump, he fell to the floor, shocked.

"Disgraceful old man!" Chu Feng pointed at Tang Taishan. Mercilessly, he scolded, "Firstly, you have done no contribution to the people. Secondly, you have no achievements. You only depend on your seniority. You're a scum that does not know right from wrong, a lost dog, a cheat and an old fart! What rights do you have to bark at me, a General, and tell me what to do? How dare you claim that you've done your best for our country and her citizens? What rights do you have to even live in this world?"

"Y-Y-You..." Tang Taishan's face was red from the scolding. His finger trembled and he could feel his

blood rising from within; his eyes grew bloodshot and his expression was completely twisted. Then suddenly, Tang Taishan spat out a fountain of blood and hit the ground with a thud as he fell unconscious.

“Dad!”

“Grandfather!”

“Tang, what happened to you?”

Sun Mingxuan and his mother, as well as the Sun Family members hurriedly ran over to help the half-dead Tang Taishan up; they were scared.

And, at that moment, all the guests were dead silent.

Nobody bothered with the unconscious Tang Taishan who was spitting blood. Instead, they turned their attention to Chu Feng who was standing amidst the crowd on a cloud of glory, the young hero who talked about his exploits; his booming voice still echoed in their ears.

Everything this unparalleled God of War did was for the country and her people. It was a rare occurrence.

If he wasn't worthy to wear the General's robe, then who was? No one else was worthy at all!

Han Yongwei stood up as he trembled. He was ashamed as he sighed non-stop. “General Chu, I

am ashamed. I've spent a lifetime reading the books of the sages. I've lived ninety years, and yet I've been ignorant, small-minded, and myopic. I didn't recognize talent although it was right in front of me. General Chu, please accept my apologies and allow me to make amends."

Han Yongwen, who was known for his 'iron mouth' in the literary world, and was a living saint of the present age, bowed to Chu Feng.

"General Chu, please forgive us," said the surrounding guests who all looked very guilty as they bowed.

The scene was quite spectacular.

Chu Feng looked calm as he nodded and said, "Dear all, I'm only here today to claim justice for my sister."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

“Now, my grievance with the Sun Family had been settled. I will not involve those who are unrelated to the matter. What happened today would be the end of it.”

The crowd breathed a long sigh of relief. As they were reassured, Chu Feng patted Zhou Ying’s little hand and said, “At the end of the day, you have to solve the problem yourself. As far as the relationship goes, it is up to you. No matter what decision you make, I will always respect you. The car is outside. I’ll take dad and mom over first. We’ll wait for you.”

After Chu Feng said this, he took Zhou Lie and his wife and left. Touched, Zhou Ying nodded and she teared up.

Brother, don’t worry. I won’t disappoint you anymore. From now on, I’ll always listen to you!

Zhou Ying wiped the tears from the corner of her eyes and with a confident look, she walked over to Sun Mingxuan who was looking down and terrified. Without hesitation, she declared, “Sun Mingxuan, let’s break up. We’re over.”

Sun Mingxuan panicked. He fell onto the floor. What Zhou Ying said was the straw that broke the camel’s back. He was in complete despair.

Tang’e, Sun Jianye, and the rest of the Sun family looked nervously at Zhou Ying. They felt regretful. “Yingying, although the Sun Family has wronged you, we know our mistakes now. I hope that you will forget about it. Please give us a hand, and give the Sun Family some space to recover!

NH

Today, the Sun Family has lost dignity and suffered a big loss. If you were to break up with Mingxuan now, then the Sun Family is finished.”

Zhou Ying smiled suddenly. She mocked, “Forget about it? It’s really amazing how shameless the Sun Family can be. You all are mean, shameless, and greedy. You all really are quite something. Previously, you people treated me like I was worthless, stepping on me over and over again. And now, you want me to do you a favor? Have you got no shame?”

Tang’e and the rest of the family looked embarrassed; they were silent and didn’t say a thing.

“Yinging, d-don’t leave me. I have nothing else left with me now, so I can’t lose you too.”

Sun Mingxuan forfeited all his manly dignity and knelt on the floor. He grabbed Zhou Ying’s thigh and howled, “I was wrong. Please give me another chance. I really love you. Please, I’m begging you...”

The guests all pointed at Sun Mingxuan and criticized him non-stop.

This time, Zhou Ying didn’t give in. She pushed Sun Mingxuan away and retorted, “Sun Mingxuan, save it. Previously, when the Sun family bullied me and looked down on me, did you ever stand up for me? Did you ever say anything on my behalf? Did you even try to comfort me? No. You did nothing. You are a shameless and useless loser. What rights do you have to say that you love me?” Zhou

NH

Ying angrily threw the wedding gown, ring, flower bouquet, and other things at Sun Mingxuan. She scolded, "Here is everything I owe the Sun Family. I'm returning it all back to you. From now on, there is no more relationship between us, and we will not communicate anymore for the rest of our lives!"

Zhou Ying kicked Sun Minxuan away. She ignored the Sun Family's attempt to make her stay, nor the judgement of the guests. With her head held high and a face full of dignity, she took large strides as she ran out.

From this day onward, she was free!

"No, no! This isn't real! This isn't..."

When he saw Zhou Ying leave without turning back, Sun Mingxuan wrapped his head with his arms and cried painfully and loudly; he sounded extremely miserable.

Originally, the Sun Family could've had a four-star General on their side, and have the chance to climb the ladder and join the high society.

But now, in the blink of an eye, his dream was shattered. Now, Tang Taishan had vomited blood and was unconscious, and the Sun Family had lost dignity; it looked like within this lifetime, the next lifetime, and the lifetime after that, he would be unable to recover from the setback. He would never have the opportunity to become a member of the elite.

His family was in shambles, and his wife had left

NH

him.


When the surrounding guests saw this, they sighed.


He had really reaped what he had sown.

It was all the Sun Family's own doing that they were in that state on this day. They had nobody to blame but themselves.

Han Yongwen shook his head and sighed. Holding on to his walking stick, he said, "Young Master Sun, being too angry and emotional would only cause you more harm. I have something to do now, so I'll take my leave first."

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

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“I still have a meeting later. I should go now.”

“Me too. I should leave too.”

All guests left the wedding quietly. All of a sudden, the merry and majestic wedding of the Sun Family was reduced to miserable ruins with only a few old and weak members of the family left behind at the scene. The wedding’s grandeur vanished without a trace, along with their notable guests who left the scene in haste.

Meanwhile, Zhou Ying ran out of the hotel to find Chu Feng’s car parked beside the road. She saw her family was waiting for her beside the car.

“Brother!” Wiping away her tears, Zhou Ying threw herself into Chu Feng’s arms. Sobbing, she lamented, “I’m through with Sun Mingxuan. From now on, I’ll listen to you and dare not disobey you ever again.”

“Okay. Let’s go home!” Chu Feng caressed Zhou Ying’s head. He left the hotel with Zhou Lie and the others.

On this unusual occasion where Chu Feng and his family gathered together happily, Liu Minglan showed off her impressive cooking skills and prepared the whole family with a table full of delicious dishes. After the meal, Chu Feng and Zhou Lie were enjoying themselves with the mellow and richly flavored Xi Feng Liquor.

Zhou Ying was drinking too. She could not hold back her sorrow and bitterness anymore after a few glasses of liquor and she burst into tears.

NH

She felt ashamed of herself because she only managed to see her boyfriend's true colors after five years of dating. She had wasted five years of her youth investing in a failed relationship which came to an end today. She was just an ordinary girl; it was impossible for her to remain calm in such a situation.

Tormented by her daughter's sorrow, Liu Minglan held Zhou Ying in her arms and comforted her, "Oh, my dear girl, don't cry, please don't cry anymore. You're still young and beautiful, I'm sure you have a bright future ahead of you and there are other nice young men waiting for you out there. Scumbags like Sun Mingxuan and people of the Sun Family are not worth shedding your tears for."

Chu Feng said with his serious voice, "You still have me. I'll always stay by your side and protect you!"

"You lied! You're lying again!" Wiping the tears off her face, Zhou Ying was finally able to get the long buried resentment off her chest with the help of alcohol. "You said the same thing ten years ago. And? You just left without saying goodbye! You went straight into the army. You were gone for ten years! Ten years without any news!" She sobbed, "How can you do this to me? How can you be so cruel to leave me when I needed you the most?"

This was the main reason for Zhou Ying's resentment toward Chu Feng. Her older brother, who cared deeply for her and who always protected her, left her suddenly. She felt as if she

was an abandoned child, alone and helpless. This resulted in her resentment toward Chu Feng.

“I need the washroom.” Chu Feng remained silent for a moment before leaving the room.

There was an awkward atmosphere in the room. After sipping his liquor, Zhou Lie explained, “Zhou Ying, back then, the reason Chu Feng left home in silence to join the army was because of you—”

Zhou Ying goggled at Zhou Lie in surprise and disbelief. It was because of me?

Zhou Lie continued seriously, “Do you still remember the incident with Li Dafu?”

Zhou Ying shivered as fear and helplessness flashed through her beautiful eyes. Although the incident happened ten years ago, it remained fresh in her memory. It was a nightmare for Zhou Ying!

Li Dafu was a Deputy Director of the Moral Education Office at her middle school. The man was rich and rather influential, as his family owned a coal mining business, so he bought a Teachers’ Qualification Certificate and was assigned to teach at Zhou Ying’s school.

However, Li Dafu was a scumbag who had indecent thoughts on female students in the school. One day, under the pretext of giving the students a lesson, Li Dafu locked Zhou Ying and other female students in his office, intending to molest the girls to satisfy his twisted needs!

The girls resisted aggressively. They managed to escape after crashing through the door, but the incident became a horrible nightmare for the girls.

Infuriated, the parents of the students had lodged several complaints regarding the incident but to no avail. In the end, Li Dafu was released unpunished due to a lack of evidence and his powerful family influence.

At that time, Zhou Ying was frightened out of her wits, so much so that she could neither eat nor sleep properly for consecutive days. She often had nightmares of the incident and always woke up from her sleep, screaming for help. As a result, she lost over ten kilograms within a week.

Even until now, Zhou Ying could not forget the nightmare!

“Do you know why it didn’t take long before the police finally arrested Li Dafu for investigation and he was imprisoned for over ten years?” Zhou Lie asked.

Zhou Ying’s eyes flickered with confusion. “Wasn’t it the police who managed to obtain enough evidence through thorough investigation and solved the case?”

Because of this, several parents of the students presented the police department a pennant to show their appreciation.

“Rubbish! It was all because of Chu Feng!” Zhou Lie snarled. Half-drunk, Zhou Lie recalled the story by saying, “That day, after Chu Feng found out

that you almost got molested by Li Dafu, in a rage, he took a kitchen knife with him and stormed into Li Dafu's house. He went mental and waved the knife at Li Dafu hysterically, which scared Li Dafu out of his wits.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Zhou Lie smiled with a pipe in his mouth. "Chu Feng pointed at Li Dafu and threatened to kill him if he refused to write down his crimes, surrender himself to the police to return you your dignity. Chu Feng even asked Li Dafu to bet on whether a juvenile like him would be charged with murder if he did kill him."

With her hands under her chin, Zhou Ying's eyes reddened with tears of gratitude when she heard this.

She was deeply moved by what Chu Feng did for her. Suddenly, she burst into laughter when she thought of Li Dafu, who stood over 190 centimeters tall and weighed over 200 pounds, got scared out of his wits by the weak and skinny Chu Feng holding a kitchen knife in his hand.

She realized that her older brother, Chu Feng, had always protected and cared for her.

"So, what happened next?"

Zhou Lie continued, "Later, Li Dafu had no choice but to admit his crime and surrender himself to the police. That's why the police could easily solve the case. But the rich and powerful Li Family would not simply let Chu Feng off the hook. Using their connections, they accused Chu Feng of robbery and murder. To avoid prosecution, I had to send Chu Feng away into the army at night under careful arrangement, which was why he left quietly. In order to keep the matter a secret, I never told anyone about this before. So, now you know

why he left in silence ten years ago without leaving any note.”

As Zhou Ying stared in shock with her mouth opened, Zhou Lie sighed and continued, “Before he joined the army, he promised me that he would achieve great success so as not to disappoint me and his family; and that he would be able to protect his family with his own power. And he did it!” Zhou Lie’s voice trembled as tears rolled down his cheek.

Now, his son, Chu Feng, became a mighty General who wore a Python Printed Robe with four stars on his shoulder. The honor and power Chu Feng possessed was exceptional within the country; few people could even hope to rival that!

Realizing the truth, Zhou Ying could not hold back her tears and it rolled down her cheeks quietly. So, this is the truth! Chu Feng had done so much and sacrificed so much for me! All these years, he hasn't changed one bit!

Suddenly, Zhou Ying pushed the door open and ran outside. Outside of the house, Chu Feng gazed at the stars in the sky while sitting on the door sill with a wine bottle in his hand.

Touched, Zhou Ying threw herself into Chu Feng’s arms without second thoughts. Like a little kitten, she remained in Chu Feng’s warm embrace.

“What are you doing? Are you drunk?” Slightly puzzled, Chu Feng said helplessly, “You are an

adult now, quit acting like a spoiled kid and let go of me.”

“I won’t let go.” Zhou Ying pouted her lips. Her eyes reddened as she held Chu Feng tightly. A smile of happiness crossed her pretty face.

Chu Feng smiled faintly. He realized Zhou Lie had told Zhou Ying about the real reason he joined the army ten years ago.

He grinned. “Who would marry you if someone sees you like this?”

“Then, I’ll remain single for the rest of my life!” Zhou Ying blushed while enjoying being in Chu Feng’s embrace. “I’m going to stay with you forever!”

Chu Feng chuckled. “You silly girl.”

The moonlight shone brightly in the sky, casting a radiant light on Chu Feng and Zhou Ying, covering them like a piece of luminous white chiffon; they looked happy and harmonized together.

Zhou Lie and his wife were observing the duo quietly from a place not far from them. Both of them were very glad and happy that Chu Feng and Zhou Ying finally opened up to each other and got along well.

“Oh look, they look great together, like a nice couple.” Liu Minglan’s eyes flickered with excitement. She suggested, “Hey old man, do you

think it's possible that Chu Feng and our daughter will—”

“Nope, it's impossible. You should forget about it. Like I said before, Feng likes Yingying as his younger sibling, not as a lover. He doesn't love Yingying. Don't simply match our daughter up with Feng!” Smoking his pipe, Zhou Lie continued, “Besides, our daughter is not good enough for Feng anymore, based on his current status and identity.”

Reality saddened Liu Minglan. Indeed, Chu Feng was currently a mighty General, of course her daughter would not be good enough for such a prominent figure!

Then, Liu Minglan pursed her lips and snorted, “He is a General. So what? He is still my son. I want him to get married as soon as possible and give me some grandchildren!”

Liu Minglan was upset by Zhou Ying's failed marriage, so she turned her attention and hope to Chu Feng instead.

“Even if Feng and Yingying can't be together, there's still a lot of nice girls in Jiangling! Tomorrow, I'll arrange some blind dates for him and then we can choose among the girls.”

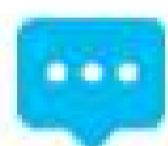
Excitement flashed through Liu Minglan's eyes as she was contemplating which girl was gentle and kind with a healthy physique that would help in producing a grandson for the family.

After spending a night at the house with the Zhou Family, Chu Feng woke up really early in the morning next day as part of his usual habit and routine. He went jogging around the Plum Blossom Village. While practicing martial arts, Chu Feng quietly observed the small village and reminisced about his happy childhood moments. He could feel the development and changes around the small village.

It had been ten years since he left the village and a lot had changed since his departure. The only thing that remained unchanged was the love of his parents. Since the beginning, they treated him nicely as if he was their own son. Father, mother, your son had returned all grown up. I'll respect you and repay your kindness for taking care of me all these twenty years.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chu Feng had made up his mind secretly. After he finished his training, he went back to the Zhou Family. Zhou Lie and his wife had gone to do their farming. The two of them had been busy throughout their life and they just could not stay put; even though they did not need to worry about food and clothings any longer, and had a huge amount of fortune, their diligence and modest attitude that were instilled in them still remained.

“Time to eat, brother.”

The fragrance of the dishes wafted across the kitchen as Zhou Ying carried two bowls of plain noodles out from the kitchen. He served them to Chu Feng and asked, “Brother, our village is damp and there are alot of mosquitoes. Did you have a good sleep?”

Chu Feng was wolfing down the bowl of noodles. He merely chuckled and answered, “What do you mean? I am at my own home, so why wouldn’t I have a good sleep? Last night was the best sleep I have had for the past ten years.”

As he lay in his small bed and listened to the sounds of the crickets outside of the window, Chu Feng fell asleep in no time like back when he was a kid. It was as if he was back in his childhood days when he had nothing to worry about.

Zhou Ying stuck her tongue out and was joyful as well. She was smiling from ear to ear as she said, “That’s not accurate. You are a reputable General now, so how could a small house like ours

accommodate such an esteemed figure like you?”

“Even if I've become the Emperor, I'm still your brother.”

Chu Feng gave a rub on Zhou Ying's nose and said softly, “Eat up, after you're done eating, I'll bring you to my house and after that, I will help you to look for a job. Since you've broken up with Sun Mingxuan, you might as well cut off all ties with him. Quit your job at the Sun Family's company. My sister does not need to depend on anyone else.”

Zhou Ying quickly ate the dishes and as she hung her head, her eyes were brimming with tears. She felt so touched and happy at the same time.

She nodded her head firmly and replied, “All right, brother. I'll listen to you.”

“You're so silly.” Chu Feng just smiled in a loving manner.

After they finished eating, Chu Feng handed his General's uniform back to Luo Gang and changed to a sports attire before going out with Zhou Ying.

They went to the Sun family's company to handle the resigning procedures and to cut off all ties with Sun Mingxuan. After that, Chu Feng brought Zhou Ying to the Haitang Garden Mansion.

“Brother, what are we doing here?”

NH

As soon as Zhou Ying stepped out of the car, she gazed at the different types of luxurious mansions of Mount Haitang and the divine view that was like paradise on Earth. Her gaze was filled with astonishment and confusion.

This was Mount Haitang's Mansion Area, the place where the richest of the richest stayed. Even the cheapest mansion at the foothill cost tens of millions. It was a place where Zhou Ying would never dare to dream of staying at.

She tugged at Chu Feng's sleeves and she was getting slightly anxious as she pleaded softly, "Brother, I think we'd better leave this place. I think the security guard over there already has his eyes on us..."

Chu Feng just smiled and continued walking in a relaxed way as he said, "You fool, my house is here. If you want me to leave, then where are we going to go?"

"Y-Your house is here?" Zhou Ying's mouth went wide and she had a look of shock and disbelief.

"The mountain top, Haitang Garden Mansion." Chu Feng pointed to the peak of Mount Haitang that was among the misty clouds. He just smiled lightly and flicked Zhou Ying's forehead. "You fool, are you not awake yet? The wedding dress I bought for you was the Moonlight Goddess that was worth four hundred million. It shouldn't come as a surprise if I own a mansion here."

Zhou Ying just scratched her head and stuck her tongue out.

She came from a dirt poor family and thus had a low self-esteem; even if she had suddenly acquired an amount of wealth, she would still think that she was not worthy to have it. Thus, she still needed time to adapt to everything.

“I almost forgot, my brother is the one and only great General, hehe!” Zhou Ying wrapped her hands around Chu Feng’s arms and her face was filled with pride.

Chu Feng could only let out a smile helplessly as he walked with Zhou Ying leisurely along the mountain path. He introduced the environment and scenery to her while walking and Zhou Ying’s eyes glistened as she was in joy.

“Chu Feng? Are you Chu Feng of the Zhou family, from the Plum Blossom Village?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

At that moment, a greasy-haired young man who wore a security guard's uniform and looked street-smart called out to Chu Feng and jogged over. After that, he looked at him and Zhou Ying up and down in shock.

"Zhou Ying? It really is you two! Tsk tsk, ten years flew by. You've gotten quite strong." The man grinned before assessing Chu Feng with his almond-shaped eyes, then scoffing internally when he realized Chu Feng's entire outfit wasn't even worth two hundred in total.

Dressing like this after ten years? Useless! He was about to clap Chu Feng on the shoulder when the latter simply sidestepped him.

"And you are?" Chu Feng asked the slightly annoyed man before him.

"I'm Wang Erzhu. We're childhood friends and neighbors!" The man cried out, "We were in the army together ten years ago, remember? We're childhood friends and brothers in arms! We entrusted our lives to one another!"

After some thinking, Chu Feng remembered who Wang Erzhu was and he let out a snort.

Wang Erzhu did sign up for the army with him, but he was too weak-willed and cunning for the job. He'd barely lasted the three-month recruit training period before he deserted, and that got him kicked out of the army.

NH

Childhood friends? Technically, yes. But to call him brother in arms? He did nothing to deserve the title. But judging by his looks, he turned out fine.

Chu Feng glanced at the head guard's nametag on Wang Erzhu's uniform.

After all, Mount Haitang's Villa Area was the most luxurious residential neighborhood in all of Jiangling and that luxury extended to its estate department as well; even the lowliest security guard there had a monthly salary of twenty to thirty thousand, let alone the head guard with over two dozen men under his command. As the head guard and part of the estate management, Wang Erzhu must have an annual salary of at least a million. That would easily make him a gold-collar worker.

Zhou Ying exclaimed happily upon recognizing him, "Zhu! You're Zhu!"

"Oh ho, you remember now? Chu Feng, how is it that you're still this incompetent after so many years, but your arrogance has somehow skyrocketed? Have you forgotten your own brother in arms? How will you ever find a place in society with this ignorance of social networking?" Wang Erzhu lectured him, then smugly handed over a cigarette with a deliberate flick of his wrist to show off the ten-thousand-dollar gold Rolex he wore. "Soft pack Chunghwa cigarettes. Never tried it, I assume? Come on, don't be shy. I've got plenty for us both," he bragged.

NH

Chu Feng clasped his hands behind his back and simply glanced at him, "I'm afraid you're mistaken. I have no deserter friends."

Wang Erzhu's hand that was passing Chu Feng the cigarette froze in midair, his previously glowing face turning red with embarrassment. There was a saying that went as such, 'Hit the man, but avoid his face; curse the man, but avoid his flaws.' It was an unspoken rule in socializing, one that most people followed to the letter. It was especially true for Wang Erzhu, who was still in the middle of boasting his status and wealth in front of a poor man like Chu Feng and showing off in front of the beautiful Zhou Ying.

Chu Feng, apparently, was not like most people. The word 'deserter', which he'd used to unmask Wang Erzhu so mercilessly, felt like a loud slap to his face. That was basically like hitting his face and exposing his flaw at the same time! Wang Erzhu's hand remained frozen in mid-air, his expression a mix of embarrassment and anger.

"Don't say that, Chu Feng." Wang Erzhu rubbed his hands together. He snorted, then with an annoyed look on his face, said, "I was just physically unfit for the recruits' training at the time and got an early discharge. 'Deserter' is such a harsh word. Besides," he ranted, "the training conditions were hell! We were supposed to wake earlier than the rooster, sleep later than the dogs, eat like pigs and work like bulls! Who the heck trains like this? That life was not fit to be lived at all? No one could have survived that hellish training, am I wrong?"

Chu Feng smiled amusedly. "All three hundred recruits in our company survived it. You're the only one who deserted."

The way Wang Erzhu put it made the recruit's training seem like hell on earth. A person like him would only retreat every time there was trouble, then blame someone else without any self-reflection.

Wang Erzhu's lips twitched, then he threw his hands up and shouted, "That's because they're all inflexible and too stupid to look for shortcuts!" He patted the Rolex on his arm and the BMW car keys on his waist arrogantly. "Look at this! Is a single one of those three hundred making a better living than I am? Chu Feng, your fatal flaw is being so inflexible, you'd walk off a cliff if the path led you there. Alas, life doesn't work that way."

Wang Erzhu tapped his own forehead, lit another cigarette and continued to brag, "Even if I stayed in the army, I'd amount to nothing more than an officer with neither money nor influence. The very next day after I left, I met this girl from a powerful family, then married her. After that, I used her father's influence to get a desk job at the police force, then rose through the ranks to become a deputy. Then, I used this position to transfer here as head guard of the Mount Haitang's Villa Area. Now that I have more than twenty men under my command and a million-dollar salary at this young age, and also access to entrepreneurs worth billions each? The status! The level I'm on!" Wang Erzhu lectured Chu Feng pridefully, "This is how

you make a living in this world. This is how you network. You, my boy, have much to learn.”

Chu Feng simply smiled in reply, but did not answer; some things were beyond comprehension to the wilfully ignorant, so Chu Feng didn't even bother defending himself.

Zhou Ying too was speechless; this man waxed poetic for so long, only to come to the conclusion that he'd basically married into the job? Spinning this as an inspirational tale certainly took talent too.

Wang Erzhu shook his Rolex, then looked at Chu Feng as if he knew everything under the sun. “What, have you finally exhausted your talents in the army, Chu Feng? A guy who has neither education nor competence and background like you must find it so hard to get a job, right? Uncle Zhou Lie must have sent you here to get a job from me, I think.” He grinned and waved his hand in a gesture of generosity. “Fear not, I will not turn you away since you've come so far to see me. Once you become my underling, you'll have to pull your weight and do your duty—”

Zhou Ying was now agape with disbelief and could only stare at Wang Erzhu like an idiot. Since when did they say anything about looking for a job? Where did he get the confidence and guts to make such an assumption?

Chu Feng was a four-star General, the nation's one and only hero! Him, an underling to Wang Erzhu?

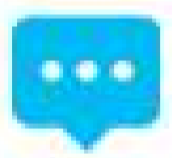
What was he thinking?

Wang Erzhu, meanwhile, was still lost in his delusions of grandeur and the belief that he was doing Chu Feng a huge favor. Squinting with a cigarette in his hand, he said, "Don't look this gift horse in the mouth. I'm doing this for old times' sake, and plenty of others would kill for this chance I'm giving you. I, Wang Erzhu, am the only one who's got both the means and the will to help you. So long as you stay sharp and keep your head down when needed, I'll be sure to give you another hand when I'm rich and successful."

Patter patter.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

At that moment, seven or eight men in uniform were walking in a formation around a charismatic-looking, middle-aged man in a suit and leather shoes, as they hurried down from the hilltop office. Wang Erzhu immediately stood to attention and saluted. “Good day, Manager Wu!”

This middle-aged man was the manager of Mount Haitang’s estate department and Wang Erzhu’s superior, so he immediately handed Manager Wu a cigarette in an attempt to flatter him. “Manager Wu, I was just about to report something to you, and I hope you’d allow it. This man is a childhood friend of mine called Chu Feng, and he’d like a job on our security force so I need your sign for that.” He pointed to Chu Feng, then thumped his chest. “No worries, I’ve assessed his character and competence, and he’s completely reliable. So just place him under my command as a little guard, and he’ll do anything you say. Odd errands, pouring tea and suchlike—”

Manager Wu and the others suddenly held their breaths and their faces paled.

Wang Erzhu frowned, then pointed at Chu Feng with an annoyed look. “What are you standing there for? Bow and thank Manager Wu now. I swear, you’re the most socially inept, ignorant fool I’ve—”

Before he could finish, Manager Wu shoved Wang Erzhu aside and made a beeline for Chu Feng before performing a ninety-degree bow and saying shakily, “Forgive me, Mr. Chu. I’ve been an

NH

incompetent leader!”

Behind him, the men all bowed and apologized with the utmost fear and respect as they chorused, “Forgive us, Mr. Chu!”

Chu Feng’s hands remained clasped behind his straight back. His expression was mysteriously calm, just like Mount Haitang itself as he spoke casually, “Be at ease. I can’t punish you for unknowingly doing wrong. This has nothing to do with you all, and so you should not feel guilty.”

Manager Wu and the others immediately thanked him, overjoyed at their pardoning.

Wang Erzhu, though, let out a startled yelp as his cigarette burned a blister in his thumb and he stumbled several steps back. Staring at Chu Feng in disbelief, he stuttered, “M-Mr. Chu?!” His superior, Manager Wu of the Estate Department, was bowing down to Chu Feng in apology? Wang Erzhu looked around with a feeling of surrealness, pinched his thigh to make sure he wasn’t dreaming, then sputtered at Manager Wu, “M-Manager Wu, why are you apologizing to him? Chu Feng is just a regular joe in the army, we’d even signed up together, I—”

Smack! Manager Wu snapped and brought his hand down on Wang Erzhu’s face, sending him stumbling with a single slap. “You blind imbecile! This is Mr. Chu, owner of Haitang Garden Mansion and the most esteemed client of the Mount Haitang Villa Area!” Manager Wu roared,

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practically seeing red as he raged at the disoriented Wang Erzhu. “Who gave you the nerve to disrespect him like this? Do you have a death wish or something?”

Wang Erzhu gasped audibly, clearly shocked and terrified as he put a hand to his stinging face.

The Haitang Garden Mansion was the most luxurious and expensive house in all of Mount Haitang, and each one could easily sell for half a billion!

The Haitang Garden Mansion was officially owned by Yun Muqing, but everyone knew she only owned it because her husband, a mysterious rich man called ‘Mr. Chu’, had bought it for her as a gift. Alas, this Mr. Chu kept a profile so low that most people had only ever heard of him, but never seen him with their own eyes.

Never in his wildest dreams had Wang Erzhu imagined that his own ‘poor neighbor’, Chu Feng was the same Mr. Chu who owned the Haitang Garden Mansion. When he looked to the still-calm Chu Feng, he found himself speechless and felt like the earth itself was spinning.

“What are you gawking at? Apologize to Mr. Chu now!” Manager Wu yelled at Wang Erzhu with a grim look. “I’m warning you, if you botch the apology, I’ll sack you at once!”

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The management crew in the back also looked furious, as if they were fighting the urge to strangle Wang Erzhu. Haitang Garden Mansion's annual management fee cost at least ten million, and they all depended on that to feed their own families. Chu Feng was almost like a god of prosperity to them, and this bastard Wang Erzhu dared to offend him by making the man his own underling? Even if the idiot had a death wish, the least he could do is keep them out of this!

As foolish as Wang Erzhu was, he understood things clearly now—Chu Feng was no regular joe. In fact, he was the superior of his own superior, and that meant he had to submit to him.

So, in a stark contrast to his previously arrogant and boastful attitude, Wang Erzhu bowed down to Chu Feng in fear and respect. "Chu Feng—no, Mr. Chu. Forgive me. I was condescending to you, and I was too blind to see that. Please don't punish me, for old times' sake. All I ask is your forgiveness, just this once."

Wang Erzhu was full on sobbing now, terrified that he'd lose his well-paying job.

Meanwhile, Zhou Ying was holding her head up high and scoffed with vindication. Now who's the one with bragging rights, you arrogant prick?

Chu Feng simply waved dismissively at the whole fiasco, a sign that he didn't take it to heart. After all, he was a figure as legendary as Kun Peng the mythical beast, so he'd never concern himself with the matters of a lowly ant like Wang Erzhu. The only reason he entertained the man was

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because they'd known each other as children. Otherwise, men like Wang Erzhu wouldn't even get to meet him in their lifetime.

“Erzhu, I've been listening to you the whole time. You're smart for being so resourceful and finding 'shortcuts' to success, I'll give you that.” He looked Wang Erzhu in the eye, then continued firmly, “However, any 'shortcuts' to life are illegitimate paths that may seem beneficial at first glance, but will eventually lead to a dead end. The only true path to success is one where you must take one step at a time, and one where you are the only one in control of your life.”

In his ten years as a soldier, Chu Feng had encountered numerous temptations in the form of promotions, wealth and women. If he'd wavered even once during those ten years, he would have sunken into the depths of evil and corruption. And if he'd done that, then how would he have become the undisputed legend he was today? His glory was earned bit by bit through blood, sweat and tears.

Manager Wu raised his eyebrow and barked, “Thank Mr. Chu for his kindness. It is a privilege to be on the receiving end of it.”

Wang Erzhu immediately nodded, without a hint of disrespect, he said, “Yes, yes. I know, got it.”

Chu Feng smiled; he'd only advised Wang Erzhu because they were childhood friends, but whether that advice would change his life was completely up to him.

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“For old times’ sake, here’s a little knick-knack as a souvenir.” With a wave, Chu Feng tossed him a heavy plaque made of black metal before walking away with Zhou Ying, leaving them nothing but the sight of his awe-inspiring silhouette.

“Thank you, Mr. Chu! Goodbye.” Manager Wu sent him off with a flattering attitude.

In the background, Wang Erzhu sighed with mixed feelings. He still couldn’t accept that he and Chu Feng were so different now. How did a poor regular joe turn into the mysterious and rich ‘Mr. Chu’? Did he secure the aid of a benefactor, or experience a miracle during those ten years?

While Wang Erzhu was contemplating his fate, he subconsciously glanced at Chu Feng’s plaque and immediately felt his heart rate speed up. With a drastic change in expression, he exclaimed, “This is... the General’s Plaque!”



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The General's Plaque is forged by the military and functions like a business card with the owner's name, rank and position carved onto it. It was not just a symbol of the soldier's identity, but also of their honor.

Wang Erzhu's hands trembled when he held the plaque in both hands. The unique metal alloy felt rustic, yet awe-inspiring to the touch. An intimidating Qilin beast and the army's official seal was carved on the front, while the back contained Chu Feng's name, carved in deep and bold strokes. Below that, the words were framed by the engravings of two strands of golden wheat and four blinding, equally bright golden stars.

"Oh my god!" Wang Erzhu stumbled several steps back, nearly flinging the plaque away out of shock. As he spoke, his voice was shaky enough to go up a full octave in pitch, "A-A four-star general! H-He's the God of War!"

Wang Erzhu was now completely pale and drenched in sweat; the young man he'd known was now a full-blown General, a fighter second to none in the entire nation. Chu Feng didn't need aid from anyone at all, because he was his own benefactor! By the time Wang Erzhu finally looked up at Chu Feng's retreating figure, his expression had become one of total respect.

Wang Erzhu's incident was just a minor bump in the road and after the repeated apologies from Manager Wu and his crew, Chu Feng and Zhou Ying finally arrived home at Haitang Garden

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Mansion. When Zhou Ying met the cousins, Yun Muqing and Yun Muyu, and Duo Duo, who was doing homework at the side, she was a little scared and nervous. "H-Hi, everyone," she said.

"Oh no, sis! Your husband has brought his mistress home!" Yun Muyu waved her hands about and made wild exaggerations, smearing Chu Feng's name with glee. "That's her! I saw Chu Feng buy her a dozen pieces of jewelry worth several million in total! Oh, the audacity of this man!" She rolled up her sleeves in the same excited manner. "What say you, sis? Shall he be punished by kneeling on thorny durians or the washboard? I'll get either immediately."

M-Mistress? Zhou Ying immediately flushed and Chu Feng's face immediately looked awkward; this aunt of Duo Duo's is a real handful.

"Scram! Off with you! How are you so childish at such a big age?" Yun Muqing gently shoved her hyperactive cousin aside and walked straight toward Zhou Ying with open arms, in a show of generosity as her hostess. "Hello. Zhou Ying, right? Chu Feng's sister? I believe we've met."

"Hi, Muqing." Zhou Ying nodded her head, still slightly embarrassed.

Because of Sun Mingxuan's antics in the Golden Sands Nightclub the other day, the two women didn't leave a good impression on each other and Zhou Ying blamed herself for that.

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Luckily, Yun Muqing was the generous sort and she immediately took Zhou Ying's hand happily. "I've heard so much about you from Chu Feng. Do come over more often, since we're family now. That's Yun Muyu, my sister-like cousin. She's just like that all the time, loud-mouthed and immature. Please excuse that prank she just played on you." Yun Muqing pointed to Yun Muyu, who waved her hand in greeting with a sunny smile. "And that's my daughter, Duo Duo." Yun Muqing waved her over, while Chu Feng picked her up and instructed, "Duo Duo, greet your aunt."

"Hi, aunty." Duo Duo greeted her with cute, expressive big eyes.

"This is your daughter, Chu Feng? She's so big already." Zhou Ying was slightly surprised, then pouted in protest. "Why didn't you tell us about something so important?"

Yun Muqing blushed in embarrassment; she couldn't exactly tell her that she and Chu Feng were putting on the 'fake couple' act. Luckily, Chu Feng settled the matter with a simple 'It's a long story'.

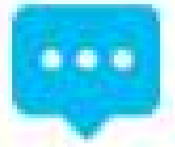
"Our Duo Duo is so pretty. She'll surely grow up to be a gorgeous lady." Zhou Ying stooped down and cheerfully pinched Duo Duo on the cheek, full of love and happiness. She'd just met this little girl, but she had only love for her and no hate.

"Mm hmm. When I grow up, I want to be a beautiful lady like you, aunty." Duo Duo smiled

sweetly, looking as cute as she could be.



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Zhou Ying was grinning from ear to ear. “Wow, you’re really smart. You’re already a smooth talker, how adorable.”

She carried Duo Duo in her arms with joy and love.

Yun Muyu, who was standing at the side, just covered her laughter with her hands and rolled her eyes. Just wait till this ungrateful kid deceives you and we’ll see if you still think that she’s adorable.

“Brother, Duo Duo and you look so much alike. Look, her eyes and mouth look just like yours when you were little,” said Zhou Ying with a smile on her face as she blinked her eyes.

Chu Feng just chuckled; he was proud of himself. “Of course, don’t you know she is my daughter?”

“But Duo Duo is much kinder and more innocent compared to you.” Zhou Ying snorted and without any mercy, she exposed Chu Feng’s embarrassing moments when he was little. “She’s not like you, who could only think of ways to cheat my pocket money to buy yourself junk food and toys. You were really naughty.”

“Hmph, bad Daddy!” Duo Duo pouted her lips and followed suit as she started nagging Chu Feng. “Aunty is so beautiful, how could you have the heart to cheat her pocket money?”

Chu Feng burst into laughter and the girls in the room also started guffawing; the atmosphere in the room was lively.

Yun Muqing took a peek at Chu Feng and suddenly, she came to realize that the resemblance between Duo Duo and Chu Feng was just uncanny. Was this really just a coincidence?

Chu Feng poured a few cups of tea and then washed some fruits for them to eat. Zhou Ying and Yun Muqing were kind-hearted girls and they had outgoing personalities. Thus, the both of them clicked with each other easily and had grown close to one another.

When she heard about all those evil things which the Sun family had done and that Zhou Ying had broken up with Sun Mingxuan on their wedding day, the two of them slumped in sadness and compassion. Zhou Ying's eyes were also bloodshot and she was feeling a hint of dejection.

"Aunty, don't be sad anymore." Duo Duo brushed her small hands across Zhou Ying's face sensibly and as she blinked her eyes, she said, "I'll buy you milk tea, all right? You will forget everything after drinking a hot cup of milk tea."

Zhou Ying felt so touched and she carried Duo Duo in her arms. She then said in an affectionate tone, "You're really a good kid. Come, I'll bring you to do some shopping and I'll buy you some toys. I'll accompany you today and we'll play to our heart's content."

"Really? Yay, I love you, Aunty!"

Duo Duo then leaped for joy and gave Zhou Ying a

few kisses on the cheek. Zhou Ying was overwhelmed with happiness and she just felt extremely happy.

When the two of them were about to leave, Chu Feng noticed Duo Duo squinting her eyes and there was a cunning look in her eyes like a sly fox.

Ugh... Chu Feng could only give Zhou Ying a gaze of sympathy in hopes that she had brought enough money out with her and would not get cheated too badly by that little girl.

“Brother, is Zhou Ying also going to move in with us soon?” asked Yun Muyu half-heartedly as she curled her body up while munching on Duo Duo’s potato chips.

Yun Muqing became serious as well and she secretly eavesdropped on their conversation. She was starting to get anxious.

Although she felt sorry for Zhou Ying, she did not want Chu Feng and Zhou Ying to get too close to each other. The two of them were childhood sweethearts and this made her feel a little uncomfortable on the inside.

Chu Feng thought for a moment and replied, “No, I just brought her over today to hang around for a bit. She will still be returning to her old Zhou Family’s residence.”

Yun Muqing breathed a sigh of relief and said, “Then you should hurry and help her find a job. I’ll

help you as well and try to get in touch with some people, otherwise your parents will worry about her.”

“All right, thank you,” said Chu Feng; Yun Muqing had warmed his heart.

He finally had some spare time to accompany Yun Muqing to watch the television and have some talk. However, Chu Feng could not help but to feel awkward with Yun Muyu just lingering beside them being a third-wheel.

After that, Chu Feng returned to his room and focused on studying the ‘Collection of Mystical Healing’, which the Great Dharma Monk had left behind. This Dharma Monk had achieved a surreal level of medical knowledge and had reached a stage where people were just left in awe; even Bian Que [1] and Hua Tuo [2] were just average physicians compared to him.

It was a pity that the Great Dharma Monk was indifferent to fame and fortune. Moreover, he was involved in a political conflict and his teachings came to an end. This was why he had been long forgotten in the books of history.

All Chu Feng could do now was to pass down this Great Dharma Monk’s medical skills and use his techniques to heal more people. Perhaps the Great Dharma Monk’s soul in Heaven would be grateful to him.

Soon, four or five hours had passed and the sky

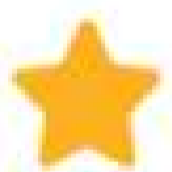
had gotten dark.

Chu Feng was at the dining table and seemed a little worried. “Where did Zhou Ying bring Duo Duo? It’s already so late but why are they not back yet?”

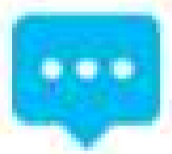
Yun Muqing also had a look of worry on her face.

[1] Bian Que is widely considered to be one of the most important figures in the history and development of Chinese Medicine and the earliest known Chinese physician. Bian Que lived in about the same period as Confucius during the Spring and Autumn Period

[2] Hua Tuo is a Chinese physician and surgeon who is best known for his surgical operations and the use of mafeisan, a herbal anesthetic formulation made from hemp.



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