

Gao Shou's expression fell. He didn't think Lin Yuzhen and Jiang Ning would be this aggressive!

"Change the name of the company?"

"I don't like how this name sounds. I want it changed," said Jiang Ning directly. "From now on, it'll be called Red Star Mining and will no longer be black."

Gao Shou's expression became even nastier.

It was clear that Jiang Ning was calling him black-hearted.

Changing the company's name was as good as erasing all the work they put into building this company. It was as though their mark on the company would be entirely removed in an instant!

It was too ruthless!

"Mr Jiang..."

"Do as he says," said Lin Yuzhen without allowing Gao Shou to finish his words. She went on, "My husband is in charge of Red Star Mining and represents Lin Group. Since Mr Gao is so cooperative about the handover, then we can't disappoint you either. So let's start with this."

Her swift action caught Gao Shou by surprise.

At first, he thought he could delay these two Lin Group representatives for at least a couple of days. After Zhao Quan was done negotiating with their leverage, he would return with highly skilled

fighters and Lin Group would have to back off obediently out of Xishan.

He didn't expect them to be so direct and eager to wipe out their presence immediately!

"Any questions, Mr Gao?" Jiang Ning narrowed his eyes and stared at Gao Shou. "Or do you not want to hand the company over?"

"Hoho, Mr Jiang, of course not." There was cruelty deep inside Gao Shou's eyes, but it disappeared instantly. "It's no problem. It's no problem. I'll get someone to work on it now."

"We don't need your help. I've already done it," said Jiang Ning. He clapped his hands and Brother Gou entered through the door with a signboard that had 'Red Star Mining' written on it.

He prepared it a long time ago!

Gao Shou was even angrier and his lips twitched. He had the impulse to curse but couldn't.

"Mr Gao, could you lend us a ladder?" said Jiang Ning as he looked at Gao Shou.

"Sure...sure." Gao Shou glanced at Jiang Ning then glanced again at the signboard. He really wanted to kill Jiang Ning now!

This prick had even prepared a new signboard, so why did Jiang Ning even bother asking him about it?

Lin Group had come prepared!

“Wonderful.” Jiang Ning waved his hand. Brother Gou immediately walked out with the signboard. Jiang Ning got up and asked, “Mr Gao, where’s your meeting room?”

“What do you want to do?” Gao Shou heart immediately became wary.

Jiang Ning was too unconventional and kept surprising him. This change in name had messed up his plans there and then.

He was always wary about Lin Yuzhen and felt this female head of the company was extraordinary. Although kindness was foolish to him, she had to be pretty formidable to be able to expand Lin Group in such a short time.

Gao Shou was not in the habit of underestimating others to begin with. It was better to be safe than sorry.

But he didn’t expect that the first blow he got was from this useless man who married into his wife’s family!

He wasn’t even able to react in time when Jiang Ning dealt him the second blow.

“Changes in personnel, of course,” said Jiang Ning calmly, “I saw the company reports and HR information. We need to make some adjustments.”

“But...”

“This company now belongs to Lin Group.” Jiang

Ning didn't give Gao Shou a chance to even say anything. "Mr Gao, I won't repeat myself again."



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Jiang Ning took Lin Yuzhen's hand and walked out of the office.

Miss Zeng was standing at the door and tried to eavesdrop on them. When Jiang Ning pulled the door open, she straightened up immediately.

"Old Zeng, take me to the meeting room. Also, notify the employees to stop what they are doing and come for an assessment today." Jiang Ning spoke sternly, "If they don't come for the assessment, then they'll be fired immediately!"

Miss Zeng shivered. She didn't expect Jiang Ning to start firing people ten minutes after he arrived in the office.

He was really too ruthless!

"Why are you still standing here?"

"Oh...Yes yes yes!" Miss Zeng didn't dare to say anymore. She went into a panic and hurried out to notify everyone.

Gao Shou's expression looked so terrible, he looked like he had eaten a dead rat. All his plans were foiled. What was Jiang Ning up to?

He followed Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen into the meeting room.

Lin Yuzhen sat on one side as she just drank water without saying a word.

Jiang Ning took the chairperson's seat and held all the employees' information in his hands.

“Mr Jiang,” said Gao Shou, “Isn’t it a little inappropriate to do an HR review now? We haven’t officially handed over the company, so the employees might feel unhappy about it.”

“We’ve even changed the name, so what do you mean by we haven’t taken over the company yet?” Jiang Ning looked up at him and said, “If they don’t like it, they can jolly well submit their resignation now. I’ll approve it on the spot!”

Gao Shou stopped talking. He started cursing Jiang Ning in his heart. Where on earth did this guy come from?

How could he do things like this? He was so unconventional and unreasonable!

Jiang Ning glanced at him and sneered inside. It was a waste of time to be reasonable with the likes of Gao Shou. Did Gao Shou think that Jiang Ning wouldn’t know about what sort of plans Gao Shou would have made?

Gao Shou wasn’t as capable as he thought!

“Deputy Chief of the marketing department, Wang Renyi.” Jiang Ning pulled out a document and read the name on it. Then he placed his finger on the resume and flicked it.

“Shall I invite him to come in?” asked Miss Zeng softly with a slightly pale face.

“No need. Tell him he’s fired.”

WOONG.

Wasn't this a bloody assessment?

Why didn't he ask anything? How could he fire someone without asking a thing?

Miss Zeng was stunned. What was Jiang Ning up to?

She didn't know but Gao Shou immediately figured it out. Jiang Ning was going to clean the company of all the people on Gao Shou's side.

But how could Jiang Ning tell that Wang Renyi was one of his?

Even Xie Zhen was unaware despite running the company all this while.

"Mr Jiang, I think you're a little hasty here," said Gao Shou hurriedly, "Wang Renyi is the backbone of the marketing department, so it'll probably affect the department greatly. It'll be a huge loss to fire him."

"Mr Gao, you're concerns are unnecessary. I can bear a tiny loss like this," smiled Jiang Ning. He took Wang Renyi's resume and tore it into shreds before tossing it into the trashcan.

"Secretary of the operations department, Liu Duo, is fired!"

Gao Shou's eyelids twitched again.

It was a coincidence!

It must have been a coincidence!

How could it be one of his again?

But even if it was just a coincidence, Jiang Ning was far too accurate.

Gao Shou was certain no one else knew about the people he inserted into the company other than himself. How did Jiang Ning figure it out?

Did he find out solely by looking at their resumes?

That was impossible!

Jiang Ning had to be incredible to figure out which ones they were simply by looking at their resumes. Just the sound of that was unbelievable!

GULP!

But when he heard Jiang Ning read the third name out, Gao Shou felt as though something rammed against his heart. How could he have caught a third one?

What...what was going on?



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Although Jiang Ning claimed it was an assessment, he didn't see the employees. He merely flipped through their resume and made a decision.

The craziest part was how Jiang Ning had actually fired all the employees Gao Shou had planted and promoted a bunch of people Gao Shou had never heard of before.

Gao Shou had never seen employee assessment done in this way before!

"Next!" Jiang Ning frowned after looking at the resume. He seemed a little uncertain as he read, "Xu Zhiming!"

Miss Zeng was a little restless by now.

When she saw Jiang Ning walking over, her heart sank. Was he going to fire her too?

"Get him to come in."

"Yes yes yes!" Miss Zeng quickly went out to see the long queue which had formed outside. Everyone was just as anxious. She inhaled deeply and said, "Xu Zhiming, you're next. Come in."

A middle-aged man came walking in. He looked furious and seemed very displeased with Jiang Ning's manner of assessment.

When he walked straight in, he stared at Jiang Ning and said rudely, "Are you the new boss? You've gone too far! What do you take us as? How can you fire the employees as you please? You

still have to compensate them!”

“They will be compensated accordingly. I’m not short of money,” said Jiang Ning calmly, “If I don’t like them, why should they stay?”

He waved his hand, “Are you Xu Zhiming?”

“Yes, that’s me!”

Xu Zhiming didn’t know how to respond to Jiang Ning’s words. He said he had plenty of money and would compensate accordingly. What else could he say now?

“Have you been with the company for eight years and remained a deputy chief?”

This fact made Xu Zhiming uncomfortable. He looked up at Gao Shou and said coldly, “There’s plenty of talent in the company, so it’s already not too bad for someone ordinary like me to become deputy chief.”

He clearly sounded a little resentful.

Gao Shou’s expression turned dark. Xu Zhiming said it like this because Gao Shou once refused his application for promotion.

And Xu Zhiming was bringing this up now?

“It’s a waste of your talent,” said Jiang Ning as he shook his head. He cut to the chase and said, “From tomorrow onwards, you’ll be Red Star Mining’s vice president. You’ll get 5% shares and be in charge of operation and development.

Just as Xu Zhiming was about to retort, he swallowed his words. He was suddenly stunned.

Did Jiang Ning just say he was vice president?

Did he just say he was vice president?

He was instantly in a daze. Jiang Ning must be nuts!

All it took was a couple of questions before he made him the vice president of this company. He even gave him 5% of shares?

He must be insane!

“Any problem?” asked Jiang Ning, “If you have any problems, then forget it. Next person is...”

“I have no problems at all!” Xu Zhiming immediately stood up and looked at Jiang Ning excitedly. He was annoyed just moments ago, but now he was looking at Jiang Ning like he was his family!

“Mr Jiang, I won’t disappoint you and I’ll definitely do my best!”

“That will do,” Jiang Ning didn’t say more. “If you do a good job, I’ll remove the ‘deputy’ in your title.”

Xu Zhiming almost went crazy. The ups and downs in life simply came far too quickly.

He was mentally prepared for Jiang Ning to fire him right away. After all, his performance wasn’t great. He attempted to revolutionize the

development of the mining zones several times, but Gao Shou disagreed. Then he became so mad that he even wanted to resign.

But Jiang Ning made him vice president out of the blue!

His salary increased many times over!

He even gave him shares!

It was completely unbelievable!



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Xu Zhiming bounced out happily. He looked so elated that the people in the long queue were caught by surprise.

When he first went in, Xu Zhiming looked ready to fight. Why did he look like that now?

“Xu, what do the fellows from Lin Group inside want from us?” asked someone softly.

“Watch your tongue!” said Xu Zhiming sternly as stiffened his face, “You shouldn’t be so offensive to Mr Jiang. If you continue being disrespectful, don’t blame me for not treating you as a friend. Humph!”

After he said this, Xu Zhiming’s colleague went into a shock as Xu Zhiming jumped about even more delightedly.

All morning, Jiang Ning sat there reading resumes.

Whenever he saw anyone he didn’t want, he told the secretary to inform them that they had been fired straight away. If he spotted anyone he liked, he would call them in for a look. The ones that seemed alright were retained and given raises even.

The employees standing outside almost went nuts after learning about this.

They had never seen anyone do employee assessment in this manner.

Many of the female employees fought against

time to put on makeup and tried to doll themselves up a little. The male employees furtively used their saliva to brighten their hair.

Gao Shou sat there feeling somewhat miserable.

All morning, Jiang Ning dug out all the associates he inserted into the company as his informants. Almost all of them had been singled out and fired without a shred of decency.

After observing Jiang Ning all morning, he couldn't understand how he blew his cover. It seemed impossible for Jiang Ning to know.

But Jiang Ning's actions were like a slap in Gao Shou's face, and Gao Shou could feel his face swelling up!

"Alright, that will be all," said Jiang Ning after going through all the employees in the records without leaving anyone out.

He turned to look at Gao Shou and gently smiled as he said, "Mr Gao, do you think I have a keen eye for people?"

Gao Shou twitched his lips and laughed awkwardly as he nodded. "Yes, you have a keen eye! Yes, you have a keen eye! A very sharp one!"

"Hahaha, I love it when others praise me, and I love praising others too." Jiang Ning stood up. "Mr Gao, you have a keen eye as well."

When he finished speaking, he took Lin Yuzhen and left straight away. Since there were people

her ears and hid to the side without daring to come close.

After Gao Shou vented his anger hard, he wanted to kill Jiang Ning. He had come up with so many strategies but didn't get to use a single one and even got thoroughly insulted by Jiang Ning!

“Jiang Ning...do you want this company? Dream on!”



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Jiang Ning brought Lin Yuzhen downstairs before she could figure out what just happened.

He fired those people and promoted some others. How did Jiang Ning know which employees were the one Gao Shou inserted to make trouble for Lin Group in the future?

Her mind was filled with questions.

After they got into the car, Lin Yuzhen looked at Jiang Ning with a very quizzical look on her face.

“Want to know how I did it?” asked Jiang Ning as he smiled.

“Yes.” Lin Yuzhen looked so curious.

She’d never seen anyone able to do something like that before. She really wanted to know how.

“As the saying goes, the more you try to hide something and cover your tracks, the more dubious it becomes,” said Jiang Ning calmly, “Those people’s resumes were too clean and too clearly detached from Gao Shou, so I thought there was something wrong about them.”

“Then what if some of them really have nothing to do with Gao Shou?” asked Lin Yuzhen quickly.

“Then it’s too bad for them.” Jiang Ning shrugged. “Sometimes, you just need a little luck in life.”

Lin Yuzhen went quiet. She felt there was something amiss with Jiang Ning’s words, but she couldn’t find any fault in them. This fellow

always seemed to be right. Had he brainwashed her?

Jiang Ning didn't elaborate further and drove the car straight to the eighth mining district.

Today was the day they were setting up the labor union officially. It would probably not go smoothly since Gao Shou was narrow-minded and wouldn't let it go.

Gao Shou had just suffered losses thanks to Jiang Ning, so he would do his utmost to secretly meddle with the labor union and prevent these workers from setting it up successfully.

At this moment in the eighth mining zone.

The eighth mining zone had now set an example for all of Xishan's mining zones. All eyes were on them as all the other people in the other mining zones swiftly followed in their example.

Today was the day that the eighth mining zone officially formed its labor union. Hua Sheng was in charge, so he ignored his partially recovered injuries and turned up.

If he didn't get this done right, he would be letting down Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen's trust and support.

More than a thousand workers were present.

Hua Sheng stood from the highest point and yelled into the loudhailer, "My brothers, today is the day we form a labor union and set up rules

that suit us. We are doing this so that everyone can have a better working environment and to protect our rights!”

“If we want better lives, if we want better lives for our families and if we want our children to have get the chance to study and not follow in our footsteps and end up in menial labor like us, then we must set up this labor union!”

He called upon the crowd, “I hope everyone can step forward for our career! Step forward for our future!”

“Yes!”

“We support the labor union!”

“Thank you, Lin Group! Thank you, CEO Lin and Mr Jiang!”

.....

The crowd below was ablaze with passion.

Everyone knew that Jiang Ning had given them this chance. If they worked hard on it, it was a huge benefit to them. Just the thought of it made them excited.

The mining zones would be a fair and just workplace in the future. Also, they could get more out of it!

“Good!” Hua Sheng raised a hand to quieten the crowd, “One moment please, everyone! Mr Jiang and CEO Lin will be here soon. We can start once

they are here!”

Based on the sequence of events, after setting up the labor union, a representative had to be elected to specially take care of all labor union matters. Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen had to decide on how the selection occurred, the standards, and whom to choose.

Jiang Ning soon drove in and the people immediately gave way to his car.



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“Mr Jiang and CEO Lin are here! Please give way everyone! Please give way!” Hua Sheng quickly ran down to welcome Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen excitedly.

If they successfully set up a labor union today, then good days were upon them!

“I see everyone’s here,” smiled Jiang Ning as he looked around and nodded gently. He then held Lin Yuzhen’s hand and walked up to the highest point in the conference hall.

Lin Yuzhen and Jiang Ning sat there and motioned for Hua Sheng to continue.

Hua Sheng coughed a couple of times before holding up the loudhailer and shouted, “Mr Jiang and Miss Lin are here, so let’s begin!”

“Wait a minute!” shouted someone from the crowd before Hua Sheng could continue.

Hua Sheng looked over and said, “Yes?”

“How do we go about deciding on the standards of the labor union and its representative? We know nothing since you haven’t told us about it. How does the election go?” said the voice so loudly that it rang through the conference hall. It was even louder than Hua Sheng’s loudhailer.

“The standards are being set while all details still need to be discussed. But since we have no time, we should set up the labor union first. The two matters don’t conflict with each other anyway,” said Hua Sheng directly.

In reality, most of the people had an idea whom they wanted to elect as the labor union leader. It had to be someone whose words held sway, someone who could control them and had a strong presence.

If he couldn't solve any issues on their behalf, then there was no point in getting this person to represent them.

"How doesn't it conflict with each other? What if you manipulate the election?" said the voice suddenly again. "We said it would be a fair fight and that everyone could be accepted as a candidate. But why are we setting up the labor union first now? Aren't we getting ahead of ourselves?"

"Also, the labor union leader will have access to a lot of benefits. Who would know if he took a little bit more for himself?"

This voice continued to go even more overboard as he said, "Everyone listened to you for the sake of fairness, but now you're starting to be unfair. You're setting up the labor union for your own benefit and reaping more profit, right?"

Hua Sheng was furious. Jiang Ning warned him there was bound to be trouble, but he didn't expect the crowd to get stirred up before they had even started.

The crowd became clamorous. Nobody wanted to be exploited. If the fairness they wanted was now gone and everything they agreed on would end up lining someone else's pockets, then what was the

point of getting so excited?

“Be quiet! Be quiet!” yelled Hua Sheng loudly, “It’s not what you think. Our labor union will be fair! The representative that gets selected will be someone impressive. He isn’t getting selected due to personal....”

“How can you prove it?” The person looked around and saw that the people were gradually incited. So he stood up to tilt his head up and shouted loudly, “Tell us then. Are you in the shortlist of candidates?”

Hua Sheng was never a good speaker. He felt as though someone had grabbed him by his Achilles’ heel since he was one of the candidates. But Jiang Ning was the one who nominated him even though he wanted to refuse it. Jiang Ning insisted he was eligible to be the labor union representative.

His face flushed red. For a moment, he was speechless.

“I was right, wasn’t I?” the man laughed loudly, “What bloody labor union? They are just using us for their own profit! I object to this labor union election!”

“Your objection means nothing!” said Jiang Ning suddenly before the rest of the crowd started creating a ruckus as well. Although his voice wasn’t loud, it was so shocking that all their eardrums trembled.

Jiang Ning sat there and looked up at the man who was loudly objecting as he said, "Your objection means nothing. You have no right to object."

"What are you saying?" The man's expression darkened. What did Jiang Ning mean by saying he had no right to object?

Jiang Ning seemed to instantly smother all the agitation that he just incited in the crowd with just these words. "Why can't I oppose? Didn't you claim to form the labor union for the sake of the workers? Why don't I have the right to disagree?"

"Or are you saying that it's just Lin Group's ploy to control and enslave us even more efficiently? How different are you from Black Star Mining?" shouted the man loudly as he made baseless accusations recklessly. He just wanted to blame Jiang Ning for everything.

Some of the people around them couldn't help but whisper to each other in hushed tones.

"That must be it!" said someone else. He chimed in with the person who was opposing, "If you're don't have a guilty conscience, then why can't we object? Why must it be decided internally? If you've got guts, then hold an open election!"

"That's right! If you've got guts, then hold an open election!"

A third person stepped out.

Hua Sheng's expression became even nastier. He

didn't expect such a good thing to face opposition.

Also, Lin Yuzhen and Jiang Ning genuinely decided on this for their benefit. And Lin Group was sacrificing a lot of profit in the process. How could someone be insane enough to oppose?

"What...what are you trying to do?" shouted Hua Sheng sternly as he pointed angrily at the three men, "You're going too far!"

Hua Sheng trembled. Some of his wounds split open slightly and he nearly fainted from the pain.

Jiang Ning waved his hand to tell Hua Sheng not to get angry.

He stood up at the highest point and looked down hard at the three men. A terrifying aura instantly engulfed them.

When Jiang Ning stared at them, they felt their hearts suddenly sink. It was as if a predator was watching them.

"Do you think you'd stand a chance if we held an open election?" laughed Jiang Ning out loud, "You overestimate yourselves. I'm telling you, I'm not here to negotiate with you today. I'm merely notifying you. If you accept it, we'll form a labor union. If you don't, then I'll cancel it straight away!"

When the people heard this, they got anxious instantly.

If Jiang Ning were to cancel it, they would have been happy for nothing.

It was a good thing in the first place!

Just based on what they heard about it, they knew it was highly beneficial to them. They weren't highly educated but they were no fools. They could still tell good from bad.

As for the position of the labor union leader, they were admittedly incapable of leading the labor union. Even if they were offered the position, they wouldn't have taken it.

"No! No, don't!"

"Mr Jiang, please don't!"

"We accept it all. We accept it all!"

.....

Many people shouted, especially those who were counting on improvements in the situation and for better lives. They yelled anxiously in support of Jiang Ning.

They were worried that Jiang Ning might call it off in a fit of anger.

But when those three men heard what Jiang Ning said, they instantly became even more excited. Making sure the labor union didn't happen was exactly what they wanted.

"Why should we accept it? They are just exploiting

and deceiving us!”

“So what if there isn’t a labor union? It’s not like we care!”

“If you have the guts, then go ahead and cancel it. Do you think we’re afraid of you?”

They continued to shout loudly and couldn’t wait for Jiang Ning to cancel the meeting.

They seemed like comical clowns leaping up and down to Jiang Ning.

As Jiang Ning watched them provoke him hard to cancel the labor union, his expression turned frosty. He suddenly reached his hand out and waved gently. In a second, the clamor from below halted.

It seemed like he was about to announce that the labor union was canceled!



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“Chen Du!” When Jiang Ning shouted a name, one of the three men had a change in expression and instinctively looked up.

“At Sanli Bridge, you took \$100,000 from someone to ruin the set-up of the labor union. If you succeed, you’ll receive a \$50,000 bonus, right?” The man Jiang Ning named instantly turned pale.

“Lu Feng, you were given a bag with \$100,000 in it at Shuangjin Street, right? That person told you to come up with something to incite the workers and refuse to form a labor union, right?”

The man named Lu Feng went equally pale.

Jiang Ning was completely accurate about the location they received the money, the amount of money involved, and the instructions they received!

How could he have known?

“Do I need to say more about you, Luo Zheng? You work for Black Star Mining. It must have been easy to send you out to mine somewhere and look you up there, right?” said Jiang Ning loudly as he stood there and looked around. “Is there anyone else who doesn’t want the labor union to exist? Step out now! All of you can get lost immediately!”

The crowd instantly blew up in furor!

No one could have guessed that the person who had yelled the fiercest had done it purposely to

ruin the labor union formation. How could they do such a thing?

They had taken bribes to harm their own people.

They were animals!

In an instant, the three of them were surrounded. Everyone glared at them furiously and almost felt like killing them!

“No! No! Don’t listen to his nonsense! Don’t believe him!” yelled Lu Feng. “He is slandering us! I said all that for everyone’s good!

“Yes yes, he’s just trying to sow discord! This is one of their plots! Don’t fall for it!” shouted the other two men loudly as well.

As the workers closed in on them, they felt as though their throats were dry from anxiety.

“Lu Feng!” The crowd suddenly parted. Hua Sheng ran over and charged towards him. Then he raised his hand and slapped him hard on the face. He yelled angrily, “This can’t be happening! You animal! You aren’t human!”

Hua Sheng was livid, “When you had nothing to eat, we brought you to the mining zone and fed you. How could you be such an ingrate? How could you ruin our dreams for money? You fucking animal! I’m going to beat the hell out of you!”

Hua Sheng could no longer bear it and starting punching and kicking them. No one stepped

forward to stop him and some couldn't resist hitting them too.

The three men were quickly buried by the crowd. Other than their shrieks of pain, nothing else could be heard from them...

It took a while before the crowd parted. The three men lay on the ground with their faces swollen as they howled in agony, but no one pitied them.

"Any other objections?" asked Jiang Ning calmly after he sat back down.

There was a sea of silence!

Who would dare to object?

This union was a good thing in the first place and they had Lin Group and Lin Yuzhen to thank for their compassion. If they turned them down, it was as good as being blind to their kind intentions.

They were infuriated that these evil men almost ruined everything!

"Since there are no objections, then I declare that the eighth mining zone has formed a labor union today," said Jiang Ning, "From now on, the eighth mining zone will be managed by the workers entirely. I'll select the first labor union representative. You'll select the candidates to follow based on recommendations. The representative will change every two years!"

He turned to look at Lin Yuzhen. Then she stood

up and looked at the workers with a glow in her eyes.

“I’ve decided to invest 30% of the eighth mining zone’s profits in bettering your lives!” When Lin Yuzhen finished speaking, the crowd beneath brimmed with tears. They were so touched that they were trembling.



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Some of them couldn't help bawling out loud. They had never met a boss like this!

30% of the profits!

It belonged to Lin Group to begin with. Lin Group was the one who gave them jobs, paid them, and gave them hope to survive. And now they even wanted to give them money to better their lives.

Lin Group was so kind that they didn't know what to say.

"I've allocated the money for a few purposes. A part of it will be given out as your bonuses. Another part will go to scholarships to help your children finish their studies!" When Lin Yuzhen finished speaking, everyone went into a frenzy.

They were so excited that they didn't know how to respond. Other than clenching their fists tightly, they couldn't come up with a word.

Lin Yuzhen was really a Good Samaritan!

She wanted to give them bonuses and scholarships to motivate their children too.

That was what they had truly hoped for.

"The third portion will be allocated to the workers for insurance. And last portion will be used to set up a night school and hire teachers to help raise your education level. In this society, you need more knowledge to survive," Lin Yuzhen spoke clearly and seriously.

Thump!

Some of them couldn't help but kneel and bawl out loud. Those who were much older ones already had tears welling in their eyes.

They knew it was the best that Lin Yuzhen could do for them.

Lin Group gave them not just an income, but hope!

"Thank you, Lin Group! Thank you, Lin Group!"

"Thank you, Miss Lin! Thank you!"

"Thank you!"

.....

The people couldn't hold back their gratitude. But other than thanking her, they couldn't come up with any other words to express their appreciation.

The rims of Lin Yuzhen's eyes turned red. She quickly ran down and helped the people that were kneeling to get up.

"Don't do that! There's really no need for that. I...I only want to help you. Every little bit counts," her voice cracked a little. "After our children grow up and finish studying, they can return to Xishan to build it and change it then. Wouldn't that be great? There'll be support for the elderly and the young. If everyone works hard, that day will come for sure!"

The people surrounded Lin Yuzhen like she was a benevolent goddess. She was worthy of respect and admiration.

Jiang Ning stood there, beaming as he watched everything.

“You’re my goddess as well,” he said softly in his heart.

Lin Yuzhen was unsure how she made it out of the eighth mining zone. Those people surrounded her even as they walked her to the door. Many of them thanked her and even more cried all the way there.

No one had ever treated them like this before.

Lin Yuzhen cried as she left too. She was sensitive to begin with, so she couldn’t control herself at all.

She sat in the car and used a lot of tissue to wipe her tears, but just couldn’t stop crying. “I... I did something on my own accord, but it made them so grateful. Am...am I worthy of it?”

“You’re worthy of it.” Jiang Ning reached his hand out to wipe the tears from the corners of her eyes. “Silly girl, this is a good thing, so why are all of you crying?”

“I...I just can’t control myself!” said Lin Yuzhen.

Of course, she knew it was a good deed. But she was overwhelmed by the touching atmosphere and couldn’t help crying.

What was wrong with crying?

It was a woman's right!

Jiang Ning burst out laughing loudly as he caressed Lin Yuzhen's hair. Then he drove them back to the hotel to rest without saying a word.

At this moment.

News that the eighth mining zone had successfully formed a labor union had spread to Gao Shou's ears.



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He was utterly livid. Who cared about being gentlemanliness or being refined now?!

He lifted the table in front of him and smashed the tea set on it in the process.

“Assholes! A bunch of good-for-nothings! All of you are useless!”

All the plans he made were completely destroyed!

Jiang Ning single-handedly obliterated all his so-called schemes! He didn't even have the strength to retaliate.

He lost the company and wasn't able to prevent the formation of the labor union in the eighth mining zone. Very quickly, all the other mining zones would follow suit and form labor unions.

Even if they managed to get the company back, those lowly workers probably wouldn't be as easy to control.

How could they go on oppressing them then?

They could dream on!

PAK!

Gao Shou shattered everything he could lay his hands on.

He was on the verge of blowing up in a fury!

“I can't believe it! This Jiang Ning is actually so formidable!” Gao Shou gritted his teeth and

gasped. If this went on, there was nothing he could do anymore. Xishan's mining industry would probably even fall out of his grasp.

Lin Group was really good at this.

It took him a long time before he could calm himself down. If he couldn't compose himself now, he would get into more trouble.

The usual ploys were probably completely ineffective when it came to the likes of Lin Group and Jiang Ning.

He raised his head and frowned slightly. Then he took out his mobile phone to dial Zhao Quan's phone number. But after calling several times, no one answered. "Damn, why can't I get in touch with him?"

Gao Shou was going insane from anxiety. He was like a toothless lion that couldn't wait to deal with Lin Group and Jiang Ning. But he couldn't do anything other than stomp his feet in fury!

At this moment.

Zhao Quan got a private room in a teahouse.

When he saw his phone lying on the table bouncing several times from the vibration, he didn't answer it. Instead, he hung up and ignored it.

The scent of tea wafted through the room, but Zhao Quan didn't drink any tea. He narrowed his eyes and looked at the man in front of him

instead, trying hard not to seem too nervous.

“Mr Guo, I told you about our conditions already. You can tell we aren’t asking for too much,” said Zhao Quan. “As compared to the value of that thing, it’s really nothing!”

Guo Meng sat across him with a cap pressed down low so that no one could see his face clearly. Only the well-defined edges of his face were visible while he exuded a razor-sharp aura.

“Are you certain the thing that I’m looking for is in there?” said Guo Meng in his baritone voice.

“I’m positive!” smiled Zhao Quan mysteriously as he nodded. “There are records indicating it’s what you’re looking for. Also, it was never unsealed, so its contents remain intact. I’ve sealed that place up since, so no one else knows about it.”

Zhao Quan went on, “If Mr Guo wants it, then we can discuss it slowly. I hope to become friends with Mr Guo too.”

Guo Meng didn’t say a word.

He slowly raised his head. His eyes were so sharp that it made Zhao Quan shiver a little.

It seemed like Guo Meng was about to make a move and kill him in an instant!

But Zhao Quan knew better that Guo Meng wouldn’t kill him without getting what he wanted.

Besides, he wasn’t asking for much in return at all.

To them...it was something they could give at random.

He didn't dare to be greedy, because greed could kill people!



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When it came to negotiations, leverage was everything. If one had what the other party desired, then he could lead the discussion.

Zhao Quan picked up the teacup and took a small sip as he waited for Guo Meng to reply.

“Are you the only person that knows about it?” said Guo Meng after a long time. His unfathomable eyes were so deep it could suck people in.

“Just me,” said Zhao Quan directly, “Other than me, no one else knows about it. Also, if I can help Mr Guo locate this one, I’m sure I can help you find the rest. What do you think?”

He wanted to deal with him not only this once but for the long term.

“Okay. Someone will get in touch with you tomorrow.” Guo Meng stood up. He still needed to report back as this was an all-important matter and it wasn’t up to him to make a decision, “But if you dare to lie to me...”

He didn’t need to finish his sentence for Zhao Quan to understand what he was driving at.

He was not the sort of person Zhao Quan could provoke. Otherwise Zhao Quan would have demanded for the sky and asked for way more.

“Don’t worry, Mr Guo. You know me. I’m sure this will be a pleasant partnership,” said Zhao Quan as he stood up and smiled gently.

Guo Meng didn't say more and left right away while Zhao Quan sat down instead to enjoy the flavorsome tea.

"It's done," said Zhao Quan as he chuckled smugly.

All his years in the mining industry didn't earn him as much as what someone else was offering him right now.

He was curious about that item too. What was so special about it that they were willing to pay such a high price to secure it?

Zhao Quan wasn't dumb. He knew that he could get into a lot of trouble for possessing something like that. Since it clearly wasn't something he could control, he was content to trade it for something he wanted.

Greedy people rarely lived long lives. But those who were contented stayed happy for a long time.

Zhao Quan took out his mobile phone and saw there were more than ten missed calls already.

"Hello?" Zhao Quan called Gao Shou, "Why were you so anxious? I just wrapped up."

"Did it work?" Gao Shou was clearly very anxious. When he heard what Zhao Quan said, his mood instantly lifted. "Have they agreed to it?"

"No, they haven't." Zhao Quan sounded determined, "But I'm sure they will agree."

“Good. Come back then. I have something very important to tell you!”

Zhao Quan hung up the phone. Then he finished the tea in his cup in a gulp before throwing down a wad of cash and leaving.

.....

At this moment.

Huang Yuming placed all the results of his investigation before Jiang Ning in the hotel.

“Did you get this from Zhao?”

“Yes. After combining all the information from Linglong Group, he came up with this conclusion,” said Huang Yuming as he nodded thoughtfully, “It is likely that one page of the boxing technique manual exists in Xishan.”

Jiang Ning’s eyes glinted a little.

Linglong Group's information showed that one page of the boxing technique manual might be in Xishan. That must be the reason they made plans to control the Xishan mining industry.

They weren’t in it for the money. They were doing it to control all information here!

“Are there any other clues?” asked Jiang Ning.

“No, there isn’t. That was as far as Zhao could figure it out. It was too well-concealed, and someone cut off the information so all we have

are partial records. It was already quite hard to confirm that it's in Xishan.”

Huang Yuming shook his head.

Just the fact that Zhao could get this far was a sign of how remarkable he was. But it wasn't enough to determine its actual location.

“Sure. That's fine. It's good enough that we have all this information. Get Zhao to continue investigating. Let me know once you hear back from him.”



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“Okay.” Huang Yuming rose to leave.

Lin Yuzhen had fallen asleep in the room.

She was exhausted from crying and Jiang Ning didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

This girl kept crying even though she had done a good deed. She was so touched that she cried to no end and wept herself to sleep.

Jiang Ning walked into the room to pick up the blanket that Lin Yuzhen had kicked off. He helped tuck her back in and sat by the bedside as he silently kept her company.

He gazed at Lin Yuzhen's face and deeply contemplated whether he omitted any issues during his time here.

Hidden Sect, His Lordship, and the Extreme Fist Technique Manual's problems were actually the same issue. But because so many people and incidents were involved, it became a tricky matter.

The deck had reshuffled in the north. His Lordship operated things in the north for years so that he could locate one page of the boxing technique manual that had been passed down the Jiang family and the other page that was on Pang Feiyan.

But in the end, Jiang Daoran had already made arrangements fifteen years ago for the page the Jiang family had to be given to him, a boy thrown out of his family and someone that nobody cared about.

Why didn't His Lordship come to snatch it from him?

"Given his abilities, he could have succeeded in taking the boxing technique manual away from me. But why didn't he?" Jiang Ning exchanged blows with His Lordship previously and he was certain that His Lordship was extremely powerful and rivaled even himself. But since they didn't fight to the death, Jiang Ning wasn't sure how powerful His Lordship truly was.

But His Lordship would never fight him to death over just one page.

But that couldn't be the main reason why His Lordship didn't attack him. His Lordship was someone who was willing to resort to anything in order to get what he wanted after all.

"No matter what you're up to, I'll always stop you," said Jiang Ning in his heart.

He reached out his hand and touched Lin Yuzhen's forehead with tenderness all over his face. "After we settle all these problems, we will never have to be apart again. We can be together every day."

"You had better not find me a bother then." Although Lin Yuzhen was sleeping deeply, she instinctively reached both hands out to embrace Jiang Ning's arm. The relaxed expression on her face revealed bliss and a sense of security.

On the other end.

When Zhao Quan arrived at the suburban villa, Gao Shou could no longer wait.

“Hurry up and tell me what he said. How do you know they’ll agree to it?” Gao Shou was aware that even though he had just lost the company, this was a chance for him to turn the tables around.

“I think they want it very badly. And how badly do they want it?” said Zhao Quan cautiously, “So badly that they’re willing to resort to anything!”

Gao Shou trembled.

“I suspect that the powerful families in the north disappeared, and even Linglong Group was finished off because of this thing!”

Gao Shou looked doubtful. How could that be?

Linglong Group was involved with this matter again.

“Gao, you might not believe me because I don’t have any evidence to prove myself. But I analyzed it and verified it today,” said Zhao Quan, “You didn’t see the look in his eyes. His eyes were shining when I told him about that thing. He was dying to eat me alive! It was so terrifying!”

Gao Shou didn’t say a word.

After saying silent for a long time, he finally composed himself and said hurriedly, “Then...then what about that thing? Where is it? I think we should move it somewhere else quickly. It might

not be safe to keep it with us.”

Zhao Quan was aware that he might attract trouble for possessing the object. Gao Shou knew this too.

“In the eighth mining zone.”

Zhao Quan’s words made Guo Shou’s face turn dark. The eighth mining zone?

They already lost it!



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“Where did you say it was?” said Gao Shou loudly as he stood up and stared at Zhao Quan. “Where did you say that thing was?”

“In the eighth mining zone. What’s wrong?” Zhao Quan was stunned. What was wrong with that?

The entire Xishan mining industry was entirely under their thumb. Since all of Xishan was theirs, it didn’t matter where it was.

Moreover, no one found out precisely because he hid it in a place like that.

If their miners hadn’t accidentally dug through a mining shaft, they wouldn’t have discovered a grave hidden in the depths of the mine.

When Zhao Quan first heard about this, he suppressed the news and didn’t allow it to spread.

It was perfectly normal to come across graves in the process of mining. So most people wouldn’t put much thought into it and merely chalked it up to bad fortune. He even attempted to forget about it, so as not to provoke any dead spirits.

Zhao Quan noticed that Gao Shou’s expression was becoming nastier and nastier, so he became anxious instantly. “Tell me. Did anything go wrong?”

“We’ve lost it,” said Gao Shou softly.

“What do you mean we’ve lost it?” asked Zhao Quan anxiously.

“We’ve lost the eighth mining zone,” said Gao Shou as his face turned pale, “And we’ve also lost Black Star Mining.”

“.....”

Zhao Quan stared at Gao Shou dumbstruck. He thought he was joking.

The entire company was gone?

He must be crazy!

“What did you just say? Do you know what you’re talking about?” bellowed Zhao Quan loudly, “Did that idiot Xie Zhen do this?”

Xie Zhen always took care of the company because it was the kind of task that required little brainwork. All he needed to do was to stay on top of the company and those employees.

He and Gao Shou would attend to all other matters. He hoped that asshole Xie Zhen didn’t bungle things up.

“Xie Zhen was jailed,” said Gao Shou, “Lin Group did it.”

“Lin Group?”

“The representatives from Lin Group are here. They took the company back and now the entire Black Star Mining belongs to them, including the eighth mining zone. I was fired too,” said Gao Shou. He then inhaled deeply and continued in a trembling voice, “Same goes for you. You were

fired. We've nothing to do with the eighth mining zone anymore. So we probably can't get in."

"Fuck!" cursed Zhao Quan as he stood up. "How on earth did you end up giving them the company?"

Gao Shou didn't feel like talking. He had gone in with ample preparation and planned on delaying Lin Group. So while Zhao Quan went to finish their business, he could hold on tightly to the reigns of the company.

But Jiang Ning was so unconventional in his methods and completely messed up his plans!

He was totally unable to control the situation when it turned out like this.

"We must take back the eighth mining zone!" said Zhao Quan, "We don't have to bother about the rest of the mines for the time being but we must take back the eighth one. If we don't win it back, then...we're doomed!"

Gao Shou suddenly shuddered violently.

"Don't you dare forget what kind of people we're working with! They are ruthless, like a pack of wolves! If we don't deliver on our promise, they'll kill us for sure!" A fierce look emerged on Zhao Quan's face. The happy news of their collaboration rapidly evolved into terror.

They couldn't afford to offend those people.

Before Guo Meng left, he especially said that if

they lied to them, they would...

Although he didn't specify the consequence, Zhao Quan knew for sure that only death awaited them.



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Gao Shou's face turned paler and paler until there was almost barely any color left. His legs couldn't help quivering as he stood. He was clearly aware of the gravity of the situation.

But things had come to this stage, and Jiang Ning from Lin Group wasn't easy to deal with.

"If Lin Group wants to have the eighth mining zone for themselves, the process probably won't get completed that quickly. Just the hand over alone will take some time. What's more, those miners aren't as easy to control as they look," Zhao Quan consoled himself.

"They formed a labor union and will manage themselves. Even Lin Group won't interfere, so we can..." Before Zhao Quan finished his sentence, he stared hard at Gao Shou. He wanted to punch the asshole hard badly.

He merely left for a couple of days and things had become like that?

How did he end up giving the workers the chance to form a labor union?

"Gao Shou..." bellowed Zhao Quan, "I really want to kill you!"

He was almost going breathless.

Gao Shou didn't say a word. He was truly responsible for things turning out like this. But it was too late to say anything now and it was more important to solve their problem instead. "Stop harping on it. How are we going to get the eighth

mining zone back?”

Once they reclaimed the eighth mining zone and got what they needed, they could turn things around. Otherwise...Lin Group and those people would want them dead!

The two of them immediately felt frustrated.

Zhao Quan calmed himself down. Even if he killed Gao Shou now, it wouldn't solve their problem.

They must get the eighth mining zone at all costs.

As long as they took back the eighth mining zone and held up their end of the deal, the Xishan mining industry would continue to be theirs. There was no way Lin Group could snatch it from them.

But what should they do now?

Zhao Quan raised his head and said, “If we want to take the eighth mining zone back, then we can only negotiate with Lin Group. At most we can buy it back from them and they can raise whatever demands they like. So I'm sure they'll agree.”

“Why do you say that?”

“We've worked in Xishan for so many years, so we are the ones who call the shots. Even if Lin Group takes the company, they won't be able to stand on their own two feet. They didn't set up a labor union to give in to the workers, but in hope of gaining their favor.”

Those lowly workers were not that easy to handle. If Lin Group was smart enough, they would know that trading these assets for money was a better deal. Otherwise, Xishan would become a burden, and Lin Group would suffer huge losses!

“Get in touch with Lin Group and tell them we are interested in buying the eighth mining zone. No, add a few others while you’re at it,” said Zhao Quan. “Don’t let them grow suspicious. Let them assume that we’re just used to working in the trade and can’t bear to leave it.”

Gao Shou nodded, “I know what to do.”

But would Lin Group agree?

Jiang Ning...felt extraordinary to him. He couldn’t try to comprehend him using a regular line of thought. If Jiang Ning found out what they were trying to do, things would get more complicated for them.

“We have only one day. Mr Guo will send someone over tomorrow. If we can’t get it back by then...” Zhao Quan glanced at Gao Shou and laughed bitterly. “Then you can find some place to kill yourself!”

He stopped talking at that point since Gao Shou knew what to do.

Gao Shou’s face turned pale. He immediately called Lin Yuzhen without wasting a second.

At this moment.

RIIIIIING!

Lin Yuzhen's ringing phone roused her from her dreams. She opened her eyes in a daze. Then she looked at her phone and reached out for it. But Jiang Ning turned it off immediately.

"Ignore it. You're tired, so have a good night's rest tonight and we can talk tomorrow instead."



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Jiang Ning shut the phone off and flung it onto the couch.

Lin Yuzhen looked at him, "But what if there's an important call?"

"Nothing is more important than you getting some rest," said Jiang Ning as he covered her under the blanket, "Be good and sleep."

"Okay." Lin Yuzhen pursed her lips and laughed inwardly. She grabbed Jiang Ning's hand to pull him under the blanket and said softly, "Sleep...with me."

When Jiang Ning looked at her, it made Lin Yuzhen blush. But she didn't release his hands and dragged him under the blanket.

On the other end.

Gao Shou was stunned. She actually hung up on him.

He called Lin Yuzhen, but she hung up on him!

"What does that mean?" Gao Shou felt somewhat anxious, so he immediately called again. This time, the phone was off, and his heart almost sank.

He had a bad feeling about this.

"Does Lin Group already know about it?" said Gao Shou anxiously as his face paled.

"That's impossible!" Zhao Quan shook his head.

Only Zhao Quan and a few miners knew about the situation with the eighth mining zone. To the miners, they had merely discovered a grave while mining and that was something that occurred quite frequently.

Furthermore, it was considered a danger zone since that section could collapse anytime. So even if they knew about it, there wouldn't dare to go in. It wouldn't even dawn on them that there was something amazing inside.

The Lin Group representatives were new in Xishan, so it was unlikely that they were aware of this matter.

“She didn't pick up?”

“She hung up. Now she's turned off her phone,” said Gao Shou. “She's probably purposely giving us a warning for what we did to her previously.”

“I guess so.” Zhao Quan didn't know if he was trying to comforting Gao Shou or himself.

“We must look for them first thing tomorrow morning and buy the eighth mining zone from them no matter what. Or else we're doomed!”

Now was not the time to pick a fight with Lin Group.

Those were merely mining zones to Lin Group and something they could profit from. But to Zhao Quan and Gao Shou, it meant something entirely different. It was something that could keep them alive!

Gao Shou only nodded.

He never expected things to turn out like this. He was standing before Lin Group loftily earlier, but now he had to humble himself and beg to have the eighth mining zone back.

They had a rough night.

Gao Shou and Zhao Quan couldn't sleep at all.

At first, they were excited, but now they were filled with uneasiness in their hearts.

In a couple of days, Guo Meng's men would come for this thing. If they couldn't hand it over, their deaths were sealed. Guo Meng would never give them a chance to explain.

The moment he acted, he would take their lives!

It was a difficult night alright. Jiang Ning was so surprised by Lin Yuzhen's change that he didn't want to sleep at all.

"Wifey, how many children should we have?" Jiang Ning caressed her tender skin with his fingertips. "Mom said we should have at least a boy and a girl. The boy should resemble me, and the girl...should be like me too."

"The girl has to look like me." Lin Yuzhen didn't want to move at all. As she yawned, her voice became softer and softer, and she said lazily, "Then you will love her more..."

She fell right back asleep as she spoke.

She couldn't even lift her hands.

“Wifey, aren't we going to try again?”

Jiang Ning held Lin Yuzhen and shook her gently. But Lin Yuzhen ignored him and fell asleep again so quickly that she made him laugh. Then he gently pulled her into his arms and went back to sleep.



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The two slept until it was 10:00 am before slowly opening their eyes.

The sun shone through the blinds and made them feel more energetic.

Jiang Ning pulled Lin Yuzhen out of bed to wash up and get changed before leaving the room.

The hotel staff had been waiting outside for a long time now.

“Mr Jiang, Miss Lin, two men have been waiting outside to see you both. They mentioned that they have something urgent to discuss with you. I didn’t dare to disturb you, so I made them wait outside.”

“Someone is looking for us?” Lin Yuzhen was shocked. “When did they arrive?”

“Three hours ago,” said the hotel staff with a sigh. “They were here since daybreak and looked like this was very urgent.”

But Jiang Ning gave orders not to disturb them and gave the hotel staff a wad of cash in tips as he said so. So she took it seriously and stopped the two from entering.

“What?” Lin Yuzhen was shocked when she heard this. They came so early?

Then it must be something urgent!

They were probably the ones who called her last night. She had actually kept them waiting for

three hours.

She immediately took her phone out and glanced at the number on it to see it was Gao Shou. She was stunned for a moment before she handed the phone to Jiang Ning. "It's them."

"Oh, then let them wait a while longer, we're going to get breakfast," said Jiang Ning casually. The hotel staff nodded instantly, "Yes, Mr Jiang. I'll let them know."

When he finished talking, Jiang Ning led Lin Yuzhen to the restaurant to eat as Zhao Quan and Gao Shou waited for them in the lobby.

They were completely restless and couldn't stay in their seats. Instead, they kept pacing up and down the lobby and looked up now and then to see if anyone was coming down.

It was already past nine. Shouldn't they be up by now?

Gao Shou saw the hotel staff coming down and walked over immediately to her and asked, "Are they up yet?"

"No, not yet," said the hotel staff, "They're busy at work and often burn the midnight oil. It's normal for them to sleep in. So please wait a little longer."

After she finished her words, she ignored the other questions they had for her and turned to leave.

Mr Jiang was so generous that even though she

was just doing her job, he gave her a \$10,000 tip. On the contrary, these two only asked for help without even offering a word of thanks. Who would let them go on asking questions?

Zhao Quan was getting anxious.

“Even if they are young, I don’t think they will sleep this late. It’s almost 10AM!” He glanced at the time angrily. “Mr Guo’s men might already be on their way. If we don’t reclaim the eighth mining zone, it will spell trouble!”

Gao Shou frowned. He was certain that Lin Yuzhen was purposely avoiding him.

Since they were clueless about the eighth mining zone’s situation, they were probably giving him a poor attitude for his insolence yesterday.

“Don’t worry. We can get the eighth mining zone back as long as they know nothing about its situation. All we need to do is to show them a better attitude,” said Gao Shou. “At a time like this, if you have to humble yourself, then do it. After the deed is done, we can get back at them!”

Zhao Quan nodded.

As they were mentally prepared, they were patient as they sat and waited in the lobby. The two of them firmly believed Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen would leave the room at some point in time.

They waited all the way until noon!

By now, they were famished, and their stomachs

kept growling nonstop. They were going to faint from their hunger and were about to have lunch before coming back to wait when the hotel staff came walking over.

“Sirs, Mr Jiang invites you to go upstairs. He said that he only has time for you now and will not be able to see you later.”

Zhao Quan and Gao Shou were stunned. They placed their hands over their bellies and cursed in their hearts. But they kept a grin on their faces and said, “We’ll be right there! We’ll be right there!”



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Zhao Quan and Gao Shou were terribly hungry but they didn't dare to delay any further.

Just what if Jiang Ning got mad and refused to sell the eighth mining zone to them? Then they were done for!

It was no longer a question of profit or status, but one of survival. The consequences of deceiving a man like Guo Meng was serious. Zhao Quan knew this well.

He had already checked on them before having any dealings with them. He even knew precisely why some powerful northern families disappeared into thin air overnight.

And so no matter how angry he was, he had to endure it!

Their stomachs kept growling as they made their way upstairs.

They came in such a massive hurry at 6AM and didn't bother to even eat breakfast. Now that it was noon, they were giddy from hunger.

But even if they were about to die of hunger, they didn't dare to take lunch.

Jiang Ning wasn't going to wait for them.

Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen sat together upstairs. There were some after meal snacks on the table, and he was feeding her.

"Miss Lin and Mr Jiang, how do you do?" When

Gao Shou walked in and saw at the snacks on the table, his eyes lit up instantly, “We’re so sorry for interrupting you.”

Zhao Quan didn’t say a word as he stood behind Gao Shou. Since it was his first meeting with Lin Yuzhen, it was inappropriate to talk too much as it might raise doubts in Jiang Ning.

Gao Shou already told him that Jiang Ning was unusual and unconventional. He warned him to be vigilant with him and not to fall for his ruses.

“Why come if you’re sorry for interrupting us?” said Jiang Ning calmly. Then he kept quiet and let the two sit down.

The atmosphere became awkward immediately.

Zhao Quan was a little annoyed. If he wasn’t here to beg them, he would have beat them up rather than let Jiang Ning go on talking!

“We had no choice. After thinking it over carefully, we decided to approach Mr Jiang and Miss Lin with a business proposal,” smiled Gao Shou uneasily. He didn’t seem as lofty as he used to be at all. There was even a shred of flattery in his laughter. Although he didn’t notice it himself, Jiang Ning detected it right away.

“Then have a seat. Never say no to business,” said Jiang Ning.

After the two sat down, their eyes never parted from the snacks on the table.

But Jiang Ning deliberately fed Lin Yuzhen with one more piece before throwing the whole thing into the trash.

“What business proposal does Mr Gao have for us?” Lin Yuzhen looked at Gao Shou, “I don’t think there’s anything else we can work on together anymore since Mr Gao was fired. Why don’t you take the compensation and use it for retirement? I think it sounds like a great idea.”

Jiang Ning already said that these two were up to no good for sure.

It was even possible that they were eyeing the mining company, so Lin Yuzhen was on her toes.

Red Star Mining was not just a company anymore. It was the workers’ hope and future. So no matter what, Lin Yuzhen wasn’t going to hand it over.

If they had any evil intentions, she would get Jiang Ning to take care of them!

“Hahaha, we’re still young, so it’s not the right time to retire,” continued Gao Shou when he looked at Zhao Quan and saw him nodding. “Here’s the thing.”

“This is my partner and one of the overseers of the company, Zhao Quan, Mr Zhao.” Zhao Quan nodded in acknowledgment.

Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen glanced at each other without saying a word. Of course, they knew who he was.

“When the three of us had nothing, the powerful families in the north invested in us and integrated Xishan’s mining industry to create Black Star Mining. It was considered our youth and a lifetime of memories!” Gao Shou sighed and lamented, “After the company was handed rightfully over to you, the two of us keep feeling a void in our hearts.”

So we wanted to talk to Lin Group about buying a portion of the company back from you as a memento. We are very flexible about the price, so long as you two are agreeable.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“The two of us can give you a lot of advice and help with the development of the company. We will definitely help you to the best of our abilities.” Gao Shou and Zhao Quan looked at Lin Yuzhen and Jiang Ning as they waited for their response.

Gao Shou’s reason was so good that even Lin Group would have trouble rejecting him.

Besides, no one was as familiar with Xishan as they were. They would prove to be useful here.

Anyone else would have agreed without any hesitation. After all, it wasn’t an unacceptable situation. If the price was right, it was still negotiable.

But Jiang Ning shook his head immediately, “No, we won’t sell it.”

“Why not?” asked Gao Shou and Zhao Quan at the same time anxiously.

“No reason in particular. I just don’t feel like selling it,” said Jiang Ning, “Lin Group only buys businesses. We won’t sell them even if we’re penniless and hungry. Furthermore, these mining zones are still profitable. Would you sell it if you were us?”

“We...” Gao Shou was anxious but didn’t know what to say.

“Mr Jiang,” said Zhao Quan with a dark expression on his face. “I’m sure you’re aware that it won’t be easy if Lin Group wants to swallow so many mining zones at one shot. We want to help Lin

Group lighten the burden, so why don't we be friends here?"

"No thanks," continued Jiang Ning bluntly, "That won't do at all.

"I never thought of being friends with you two, and the feeling is mutual, right? If you want a portion of the assets as a souvenir, it's your problem." He gave a meaningful smile and said, "Lin Group has no such obligation, I believe."

Gao Shou face flushed crimson. Zhao Quan stood up right away and said with a dark look on his face, "You..."

"Aren't you overreacting, Mr Zhao?" When he saw Zhao Quan's reaction, Jiang Ning remained calm, "Aren't you here for business? We have barely started, and your eyes are red. Does this mean you two are withholding some special information from us?"

Gao Shou instantly pulled Zhao Quan back down onto the chair.

"My apologies, Mr Zhao has a bad temper and is usually blunt. He just doesn't want to lose this memento. I hope you can understand," Gao Shou smoothed things over quickly. "How about this, Miss Lin and Mr Jiang? Why don't you tell us your conditions so that we can discuss them further? We don't want much, just two or three mining zones. As long as we can pay the price, we won't bargain!"

They were worried that Jiang Ning wouldn't allow

it. But from the sound of it now, Jiang Ning wanted to extort them for a huge sum of money!

He was a treacherous man!

The moment he saw that they were anxious to get it, he wanted to ask them for more. They didn't expect Lin Group to be like this.

Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen looked at each other. She remained quiet as she was certain that Jiang Ning knew what was going on.

"Oho, Mr Gao is starting to sound more sincere now," he said calmly. "Lin Group is open to helping you fulfill your dreams. Since I don't lack money, I don't really care about how much you're offering. I'm not interested in your paltry sum of money. But of all the mining zones, we will only sell one!"

When Gao Shou and Zhao Quan heard him, their faces looked even nastier.

Instead of feeling deeply thankful that Lin Group was at least willing to sell them one mining zone, they suddenly realized that Jiang Ning was testing them!

After working for so many years, they were no fools!

If they said they wanted the eighth mining zone, it was as good as telling Jiang Ning that it was special.

What a crafty man!

He was simply too crafty!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Gao Shou and Zhao Quan glanced at each other with resentment in their eyes but were too afraid to show it.

“Just one probably isn’t enough since there are the two of us,” said Gao Shou awkwardly. “Mr Jiang, what do you think about letting go of two mining zones? We can negotiate a good price.”

“Then we have come to the end of our discussion.” Jiang Ning stood up straight away and held Lin Yuzhen’s hand to walk away without hesitation, as if they were expecting this request already.

“Mr Jiang! Mr Jiang!” shouted Gao Shou hurriedly as he stood up. “Can we discuss a bit more?”

Jiang Ning ignored them and walked away without turning back. He waved his hand to indicate that those were his conditions, so it was up to Gao Shou and Zhao Quan to take it or leave it.

When he saw that Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen were leaving, Zhao Quan couldn’t hold back any longer.

“They are being big bullies!” he cursed. “Who do they think they are? When I retrieve that thing and exchange it for resources, Lin Group will be nothing to me. I’ll trample them to death!”

He was fuming in so much anger that he wanted to go up and bash Jiang Ning up.

They were only willing to sell one?

Did Jiang Ning think they were little kids who were new to the job and could be easily deceived?

All they wanted was the eighth mining zone while the rest were simply smokescreens. He didn't want anyone to find out that the eighth mining zone was very special. But Jiang Ning was clearly trying to force them to tell him which mining zone was the valuable one.

Did Jiang Ning really think they were dumb?

"Calm down!" yelled Gao Shou.

If he got into an argument with Jiang Ning, then they could forget about getting back the eighth mining zone.

The most important thing now was to take back the eighth mining zone. It didn't matter how much it cost them, since they would eventually earn it all back.

The two of them didn't linger any longer since Jiang Ning wasn't changing his mind.

They had to find a way to force Jiang Ning to sell the eighth mining zone to them!

"When will Guo Meng and the others be here?" Gao Shou was the most worried about this now. Lin Group was nothing since they were only here for business. Even if Jiang Ning was a little capable, how could he compare to Guo Meng?

Those people were truly vicious!

They had blood on their hands and dared to kill!

When one did business with them, it was like walking on a tightrope and particularly dangerous. So after some discussion, they decided not to set conditions that were too high in case they didn't live to enjoy it.

But if they couldn't get the promised item, that was as good as lying to Guo Meng and they would definitely die for it.

"They will reach tomorrow at the very latest, so we don't have much time. We must take back the eighth mining zone!" Zhao Quan's face became colder and colder, "If it doesn't work out..."

Murderous intent flashed across his eyes suddenly!

Gao Shou instantly understood what he meant.

"Are you sure?"

"Guo Meng only wants that one thing. But it doesn't matter who's holding onto it at all."

Zhao Quan's expression changed, "We can change our strategy and use Guo Meng's hand to destroy Lin Group. Then at least we can take back Xishan's resources!"

Gao Shou instantly understood what he meant.

He couldn't believe he wasn't smart enough to think of this.

Initially he thought that if Lin Group weren't greedy and handed over the eighth mining zone, there would be a way out for them and everyone would get what they wanted. But now...Lin Group was the one asking for it!

Once Guo Meng found out the item was with Lin Group, they would demand it from them. Based on Zhao Quan's understanding, Guo Meng and his men only cared about results and not how they achieved it.

They were determined to get what they wanted!

If Lin Group dared to oppose them, then only death awaited them!

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Gao Shou and Zhao Quan left the hotel immediately without saying much.

Jiang Ning stood upstairs and watched as the two left in a car and seemed to be in a great hurry.

“What are they up to?” asked Lin Yuzhen.

She didn't believe they would try to purchase a portion of the company assets because they missed the company. There must be some other reason. They should never underestimate conniving folks like them.

“We will know soon enough,” said Jiang Ning calmly.

He took out his mobile phone and gave Hua Sheng a call. He picked up the call very quickly.

“Let all the labor unions know that from this afternoon onwards, all mining zones will be undergoing safety inspection. We have to check every spot carefully and remove any safety hazards,” said Jiang Ning and then he hung up.

Lin Yuzhen didn't quite get it yet.

Why did Jiang Ning suddenly ask to conduct a safety inspection of the mining zones? Wasn't this already done routinely every month?

Safety was number one in the mining zones. It was the most important thing!

But Jiang Ning made a few guesses.

Zhao already analyzed the clues. There was a page of Extreme Fist Technique Manual here in Xishan, but he wasn't clear where it was. But judging from Gao Shou and Zhao Quan's reaction, Jiang Ning had a feeling it was in one of those mining zones.

Regardless of how crafty those foxes were, whenever there was profit to be made, their true nature would show.

If Jiang Ning could locate a page of Extreme Fist Technique Manual, then this trip to Xishan was deemed a bountiful one.

Jiang Ning's orders were soon spread to all the mining zones. This was the first task of the newly set up labor union, so they were determined to give it their all and get it done well.

"Please take this seriously, everyone. Mining zone safety is always number one. Mr Jiang said that no matter what, our lives are the most important!" Hua Sheng's voice came through the loudhailer and seemed loud enough to pass through a mountain. "Everyone should come to work in one piece and leave in one piece too!"

The labor unions arranged for inspection teams to fulfill their duties seriously. Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen were about to come by to survey them, so they had to perform well and show Jiang Ning their positive attitudes!

Although it was busy in the mining zones, they were orderly. Everyone took ownership of the matter and were particularly careful.

BEEP BEEP!

Jiang Ning's car was here.

Hua Sheng instantly ran over beaming. This was the labor union's first task, so he was both excited and nervous.

"Mr Jiang! Miss Lin!" Hua Sheng opened the door and greeted them respectfully.

"Is everyone cooperating well?" asked Jiang Ning with a smile.

"Yes, everyone is very cooperative! Everyone is taking ownership of this matter. Also, this was already a part of our responsibilities to begin with!" said Hua Sheng quickly.

They had to stay safe for their own sake. Everyone wanted to go home safely.

"Our mining zones undergo monthly safety inspections. We used to deal with them perfunctorily, but now we want to live long enough to see our beautiful futures. Nobody wants to get into an accident!"

When Lin Yuzhen heard him, she nodded, "That's good. Everyone should have stronger safety awareness."

"Then are there any safety hazards in our mining zones?" asked Jiang Ning casually.

"Just some minor problems. We investigated them one by one and rectified them. There

shouldn't be any major problems now," said Hua Sheng as he smiled. Then he suddenly recalled a matter and hesitated for a few moments before saying, "But there is a danger zone that is prone to mine collapses which we have not dealt with yet."



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“A mine collapsing?” When Jiang Ning heard this, he frowned. “That’s a major safety hazard. Why don’t you deal with it immediately? Would you rather wait for an accident to happen before you do?”

He looked displeased.

Hua Sheng quickly explained, “It’s an abandoned mine now, so no one is allowed to enter. When we discovered it, we reported it to Black Star Mining. They sent someone to investigate and then sealed the mine. No one is permitted to enter.”

“Don’t worry, Mr Jiang. Although our lives are cheap, we value them, so we won’t take any risks,” he laughed awkwardly. “No one wants to enter the section that is prone to collapse anyway.”

“It’s good that it got sealed. Let’s get it filled as soon as we can to avoid any mishaps,” said Lin Yuzhen.

“We wanted to get it filled for safety reasons, but Black Star Mining’s boss didn’t allow us to do it previously. So we just cordoned it off and disallowed people from entering,” said Hua Sheng somewhat helplessly.

There was already something wrong with this mine shaft. When they discovered the problem, it had already collapsed due to all the shaking and buried them alive!

They had the good fortune to make it out alive and reported it to their superiors. But in the end, after their boss came by to see it personally, he

refused to fill it and only sealed it off. Hua Sheng never understood why they insisted on keeping it around.

No one wanted to enter it and mine it.

When Lin Yuzhen heard this, she frowned angrily. But Jiang Ning noticed something amiss.

“Which one of your bosses was it?” he asked.

“I think it was Zhao Quan.”

Jiang Ning’s eyes glinted and swiftly put two and two together.

Zhao Quan and Gao Shou had come by in the morning to look for him and were willing to pay an exorbitant sum to buy some mining zones. But when he only let them choose one, they were furious and refused to accept the offer.

Now that he thought about it, there was only one mining zone that they truly wanted. The rest were all smokescreens to confuse others. They just didn’t want anyone to realize their true intention.

Jiang Ning raised his head to glance at the eighth mining zone’s signboard and smiled.

“Hua Sheng, can you spread the news that we discovered a mine shaft that was prone to collapse in the eighth mining zone, and we are getting ready to fill it?”

“Are we going to fill it? I will make arrangements.”

Jiang Ning shook his head, “There’s no need to actually do it now. Just put on a show and spread the news.”

Hua Sheng wasn’t as shrewd and didn’t understand what Jiang Ning meant. But he would do as Jiang Ning said and spread the news without actually filling it.

He went to get it done immediately. Jiang Ning’s words were like a royal edict!

Let’s go and take a look around.” Jiang Ning seemed nonchalant and didn’t care about it much. Once word was out, he could wait for Zhao Quan to react.

If they could continue to stay calm by then, then they were better than he thought.

Jiang Ning accompanied Lin Yuzhen to look around. There were bright red marketing slogans everywhere to remind the miners to be vigilant about safety.

The professional inspection teams checked everywhere for safety hazards and rectified them as and when they discovered them. This ensured a safe working environment.

Lin Yuzhen was very happy with the results.

“Hello, Miss Lin!”

“Hello, Mr Jiang!”

The workers greeted Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen

with smiles on their faces wherever they went. To them, Lin Yuzhen and Jiang Ning were exceptionally charitable people.

“Hello, hello! Stay safe,” smiled Lin Yuzhen.

When she saw them, she was delighted.

She was happy for them and herself. She hadn't done much, but it was enough to help so many people and could even change their lives.

This truly felt wonderful!



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“It’s very addictive to do good deeds,” teased Jiang Ning. “I’m afraid there’s no turning back for you.”

“How can that be? I will only work within my means,” said Lin Yuzhen, “I don’t want you to overwork.”

She looked at Jiang Ning, “Now that we are done here, shall we go back soon? We still have plenty of things to settle back at the company.”

This mining company in Xishan wasn’t the only company Lin Group took over from Linglong group.

There was simply too much work waiting for them. Also, for Lin Group to develop into a huge company that was involved in all kinds of businesses, they had to put in more effort.

So Lin Yuzhen was prepared to go back.

“There’s no hurry. Since we need to deal with the problems here, we should work on them properly. Otherwise, you’d still be worrying about this place after we leave.”

Jiang Ning wasn’t in a hurry at all. Those two devious foxes had yet to show their true colors, so how could he be in a hurry to leave?

He held Lin Yuzhen’s hand without saying anything and continued to walk around.

At this moment.

When Zhao Quan got wind of the safety inspections that were occurring throughout the Xishan mines, his expression darkened.

“All the mines are conducting safety inspections to root out safety hazards now,” said Gao Shou as he rapped the table continuously. “I just heard they discovered a mine shaft that was prone to collapsing in the eighth mining district, and they are preparing to fill it! Do you think Jiang Ning is up to something?”

He was going mad from fury!

Before they managed to take the eighth mining zone back, Jiang Ning made a move first. They would be in trouble if the mine shaft was filled.

How could they retrieve that thing and make the trade with Guo Meng?

Were they going to use their lives instead?!

There was a dark expression on Zhao Quan’s face.

“Isn’t it all your fault?” he cursed. “I wouldn’t be in all this trouble if not for your stupidity!”

If the shaft collapsed in the process of filling the mine shaft, then it would be challenging to locate the grave again.

Then when Guo Meng arrived, what would he use to make the trade?

That asshole of a Gao Shou was simply too

useless!

Gao Shou didn't dare to say a word as Zhao Quan wagged a finger at him. They were now in the same boat. If they were unable to reclaim the eighth mining zone, then they would both have to die. There was no point in saying anything now.

“Then what should we do now?” said Gao Shou, “Do you want to wait for Jiang Ning to fill the mine?”

They were not only filling a mine shaft or destroying a grave but killing them!

“I can't think so much anymore!”

Zhao Quan took out his mobile phone and dialed a number.

Someone answered very quickly after he got through, “Someone else has his eyes on that thing you want. I'm not his match, so if you don't come and get it soon, it will become his!”

When he finished his piece, there was a short silence from the other end before an intense murderous aura radiated through.

“Who dares to touch the thing that I want?”

“Our deal can be called off, and you don't have to give us anything. But please take the thing that you want on your own!” Zhao Quan gritted his teeth. It felt like there was blood dripping from his heart, but if he didn't give everything up, he might die sooner or later. “It's in Red Star Mining's eighth

mining zone and you can find it in a grave in one of the mining shafts!”

“Whether you can find it or not depends on your ability. But do it as soon as possible, or else it’ll be gone!”

When he finished speaking, he hung up right away. His face was completely livid.



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Now that things had come to this stage, it was out of Zhao Quan's control.

The only way to snatch the eighth mining zone from Lin Group was to allow Guo Meng to take action against Lin Group. Then they would all get what they wanted!

Lin Group was preventing Guo Meng from obtaining what he wanted, so Guo Meng wouldn't let them off easy. Once Lin Group was eradicated...Xishan would be theirs once more.

"Are you positive about doing that?" said Gao Shou feeling slightly worried.

"Do you have a better idea then?" said Zhao Quan unhappily. "We could have gotten so much more. But even in the best-case scenario now, we would return only to our starting point. The only good part is that Xie Zhen is in jail, so we only have to split two ways instead of three now!"

He had a vicious look on his face. It seemed unfamiliar and sent chills down Gao Shou's back.

They used to split their income three ways, but now it was just the two of them. Would Zhao Quan want it all for himself? Would Zhao Quan kill him for it?

Gao Shou's heart palpitated. He was instantly anxious when this thought hit him.

"Alright now, just do your job and don't make any mistakes. If things work out, we still have a chance!" said Zhao Quan coldly with a malicious

look in his eyes.

“Yes, I got it.” Gao Shou didn’t dare speak further. He was suddenly intimidated by Zhao Quan.

For now, he could only do as Zhao Quan asked. He couldn’t change anything else anyway.

“Jiang Ning...is really cunning!” smiled Zhao Quan coldly, “I underestimated you after all.”

If not for Jiang Ning, things wouldn’t have become so complicated. They could have traded for a lot more things in return and wouldn’t need to beg Guo Meng meekly for help now.

Shit!

Since Lin Group asked for trouble, then he wasn’t going easy on them!

After Zhao Quan made that call, he went to work on other matters.

He was positive that once Guo Meng took action, Lin Group would no longer be able to stay in Xishan. Jiang Ning might even lose his life.

Gao Shou was already prepared to start a new company. Once Lin Group got out of Xishan, those mining zones remained in their grasp and the only difference was their source of finances.

In the past, they could count on the powerful northern families for funds. Now they had to rely on themselves!

Zhao Quan had other plans for himself. Just Xishan alone was no longer enough to satisfy his insatiable appetite. He wanted to control the entire northwest district.

It was a perfect time now.

At the same time.

All the mines in Xishan were going through safety inspections. Everyone was far more serious than they had been before.

The eighth mining zone in particular, was now considered a benchmark for all the other zones. From the moment it formed its labor union, it became the starting point for everything.

Everything that the eighth mining zone did, the other zones followed suit.

Everyone mimicked the eighth mining zone's development and management style.

As the first labor union representative, Hua Sheng was very thoughtful and gave it his all.

That was because he was aware that the eighth mining zone was no longer merely a mining zone that served only to make a profit. It was something far more special!

He wasn't working hard only for this mining zone. It was for the sake of the entire Xishan mining industry. He was doing it for his co-workers, the city, and their future development!

Since Jiang Ning gave him a chance, he treasured it with his life. He wanted to repay Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen for their kindness.

In the eighth mining zone.

In front of the mining shaft that was prone to collapse.

Hua Sheng had dispersed the workers. No one dared to come close in case overcrowding caused it to collapse beneath their feet.

“Keep a distance, everyone!” yelled Hua Sheng through his loudhailer as he reminded the remaining handful of workers to be vigilant about their safety.



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Jiang Ning told him to put on an act, so he knew that he had to make it look as real as possible. He even got a few heavy transport vehicles to come by to prepare to fill the mining shaft with concrete.

“Mr Jiang, I ordered six heavy transport vehicles and about 50 cubic meters of concrete,” said Hua Sheng softly as he walked up to Jiang Ning. “If we’re filling it for real, it won’t be enough.”

He didn’t know whether Jiang Ning truly wanted to fill the shaft or not. But since he had gone this far with the acting, if they wanted it to be even more realistic, then they had to do it for real.

“Then get a few more vehicles to come over immediately,” said Jiang Ning calmly.

If they wanted to act, it had to be realistic. How could he deceive them if it wasn’t realistic enough?

“Okay!” replied Hua Sheng instantly.

“Wait,” Jiang Ning called him again. “Get some fruit while you’re on the way and send them to my wife. She has to keep talking, so she’ll get thirsty easily.”

“Sure thing!” said Hua Sheng with a smile as he nodded.

Was there anyone else in the world who pampered his wife more than Jiang Ning?

There probably wasn’t!

BOOOOOM!

A few heavy transport vehicles drove in slowly and the vibration from the trucks shook the whole place. A huge cement truck unloaded its pipe and gradually moved towards the mine shaft.

“Move aside, everyone!” shouted Hua Sheng. His throat was a little sore.

It seemed like Jiang Ning was doing for real now.

BOOOOOM!

The sound of the concrete turning was thunderous. It was aimed at the mine shaft and was about to fill it with concrete when suddenly...

The cement truck’s engine suddenly died with a dull thud!

Jiang Ning raised his head and narrowed his eyes.

“Stop! Fucking stop right now!”

Zhao Quan had come wielding a stick. He had disconnected the truck’s battery and was wearing a frosty expression on his face.

He brought a few dozen men with him behind while a masked man led them. The masked man wore his cap low so that no one was able to see his features clearly.

“Stop right now!” shouted Zhao Quan as he pointed at the workers. “If anyone proceeds with

the filling, I will bury you in there!”

He looked around before his eyes fell on Jiang Ning. Then he asked him coldly, “Mr Jiang, I know you’re concerned about the workers. But is there any need to fill this mining shaft? Why go through the hassle?”

“Mr Zhao, what do you mean?” said Jiang Ning, “This is my business and it has nothing to do with you, right? This mining shaft is at risk of collapsing, so I have to fill it. If an accident happens, will you be held responsible?”

Zhao Quan laughed, “Yes, I can be responsible for it. If you give me the eighth mining zone, then you don’t have to worry about it in the future, okay?”

He watched as Jiang Ning’s expression slowly darkened before he gritted his teeth and said, “Jiang Ning! Let me tell you. This eighth mining zone is no longer yours! The entire mining industry in Xishan is mine! Lin Group can dream on!

When Zhao Quan finished his piece, he walked up to the masked man. He bowed slightly and said respectfully, “Mr Guo, it's in this mining shaft. You just need to send someone down!”

He deliberately glanced at Jiang Ning. “No one here can stop Mr Guo!”

“Inside? How do I get to it?” Guo Meng’s eyes were beneath the mask but they looked sinister. He stared at the mining shaft without even looking at Jiang Ning.

Since it was likely to collapse, there was no way he would go in. But if he didn't, who else could enter it and safely retrieve it?

Zhao Quan smiled maliciously as his eyes fell on the workers behind Jiang Ning.

“Mr Guo, there are plenty of workers here! They are all highly experienced with this kind of mining shafts that are prone to collapse. There won't be a problem!”

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After working in the mining zones for so long, Zhao Quan was aware of the situation.

In the beginning, he was a miner himself.

For miners with experience, zones that were highly prone to collapse were dangerous. But some of them could find their way to safety by scrutinizing the rock pattern in the mine shaft.

In the past, when important mining development projects met with such problems, they would hire miners with these abilities at a high price to mine as far as they could.

Although it was a high-risk job, someone was always willing to take the risk if they offered enough money.

So in Zhao Quan's eyes, laborers' lives were always cheap and didn't mean anything at all.

He turned to look at Jiang Ning and Hua Sheng, then said respectfully to Guo Meng, "Mr Guo, this is Hua Sheng. He has a lot of experience and he was the one that discovered the grave!"

At the sound of that, Guo Meng stared at Hua Sheng so hard that it sent terrifying shivers down his back!

"Get those miners with experience to come over," he ordered. "Get them to go in together and retrieve it!"

"Yes!" When Zhao Quan heard him, he was exhilarated.

When someone as intimidating as Guo Meng gave orders, no one dared to disobey him.

If he had known this would happen, he would have told Guo Meng to get this thing done himself. Perhaps he would still be able to negotiate with Guo Meng and didn't have to stoop to begging Jiang Ning humbly.

Zhao Quan instantly walked towards Jiang Ning and the others.

Zhao Quan didn't give a damn about Jiang Ning now. After all, he was all too clear about what Guo Meng was like.

"Jiang Ning, it's not up to you now. Since you have no choice, I suggest you go with the flow and don't make any mistakes!" said Zhao Quan. Then he laughed smugly and pointed at Hua Sheng as he wiped the smile off his own face and it became filled with disdain. "Get those friends of yours to come over and enter the mine immediately!"

"If you hold Mr Guo up, your entire family will get into trouble!"

Hua Sheng's expression turned dark. But he continued standing there motionlessly.

Jiang Ning was around, so he had nothing to fear!

"What?"

When Zhao Quan saw that Hua Sheng refused to move, he became furious. He stepped forward

and raised his hand to slap Hua Sheng.

PAK!

It was crisp!

But this was a slap that Jiang Ning delivered hard onto Zhao Quan's face.

It sent Zhao Quan flying across the air. He crashed and rolled a few times on the ground before he could steady himself.

"You..." Zhao Quan was infuriated. He pointed his finger at Jiang Ning and said, "Do you want to die?"

"I think," said Jiang Ning calmly, "You're the one with a death wish. The eighth mining zone belongs to Lin Group. Since when did random strays like you have the right to meddle in our affairs?"

"You...you're too cocky!" bellowed Zhao Quan as he climbed to his feet. But he didn't dare to charge right toward Jiang Ning. He went to Guo Meng instead and said coldly, "Mr Guo, I think if we don't get rid of this man, there's probably no way we can go down for it today!"

If he wanted to make use of someone else, then he was going all out!

At first, he was worried that Jiang Ning was a coward and would hand over the eighth mining zone at the get-go. But now things turned out well!

Sure enough, Guo Meng's expression turned dusky.

He was a vicious man!

He was brutal!

He was like a ferocious wolf who had lost all his patience.

It was his mission to retrieve the item from the grave. In order to achieve this, he was willing to do anything, including committing murder!


"I'm giving you one last chance to get lost!" Guo Meng stepped forward and he didn't hide the murderous air around him.

As Hua Sheng was a normal person, he immediately trembled in fear. He even started growing breathless as he broke into a cold sweat!

Jiang Ning hummed gently. His voice was very soft, yet he instantly obliterated the terrifying pressure hanging over them. Hua Sheng and the others immediately felt more relaxed.

"But I don't want to give you any chances at all."

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“You’re asking for it!” yelled Guo Meng. The people behind him instantly charged forward and surrounded Jiang Ning immediately.

“I think you are the one who wants to die!”

Zhao Quan burst out laughing coldly as he gloated over Jiang Ning’s misfortune.

But before he managed to finish his sentence, the people who charged towards Jiang Ning came flying back even faster like they were shooting stars...

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

.....

After several dull thuds, Guo Meng and his men crashed to the ground. In an instant, they were immobile and weren't even able to scream before knocking out.

“That...that’s impossible!”

Zhao Quan felt as though someone was choking his throat!

It went dry instantly!

Why was Jiang Ning so powerful?

SWOOSH!

Guo Meng moved in on him without waiting for him to say a word.

He had to do this himself!

When he saw Jiang Ning's moves, Guo Meng knew he was a martial artist. But so what?

Anyone who prevented him from completing his mission had to die!

Guo Meng was extremely fast. When he suddenly took a step, circles of dust floated up.

With hands as fast as the wind, he hacked towards Jiang Ning's throat viciously. This was a fatal move!

"Grandmaster level?" laughed Jiang Ning suddenly in contempt.

He suddenly reached a strong and weighty fist out and struck Guo Meng's palm.

PAK!

Guo Meng's expression instantly changed as the fist came down on him like a heavy hammer.

He retreated several steps and a grim expression was on the face beneath the mask. But there was now fear in his eyes as they brimmed with disbelief.

How could there be anyone as powerful as this?

He was a grandmaster that was on the brink of

becoming an advanced grandmaster. But one punch from Jiang Ning was enough to send his blood rushing through his body!

Who was Jiang Ning?!

He wasn't alone. Zhao Quan was staring dumbfounded as well in disbelief.

Was Guo Meng... defeated?

He was Agent 10 from Hidden Sect!

He was so highly skilled and respected, so Zhao Quan didn't even dare to breathe out loud in front of Guo Meng. But Jiang Ning was totally unafraid of Guo Meng and even made Guo Meng retreat!

"That's all you have and you dare to snatch my things away from me?" Jiang Ning walked towards Guo Meng. "It looks like His Lordship looks down on me."

"Who are you?" shouted Guo Meng as his expression suddenly changed dramatically.

A look of terror and panic suddenly swept across his eyes as he asked, "Are you Jiang Ning?"

When he said this name, even his voice changed. Zhao Quan could clearly detect fear in it!

Was Guo Meng afraid?

Even just saying the words 'Jiang Ning' made him fearful!

“Not bad. You know who I am.”

Jiang Ning continued walking towards Guo Meng. As his aura increased, the fear in Guo Meng’s eyes intensified.

He was more worried that Jiang Ning might have gotten suspicious when he wanted to force the miners to enter the mining shaft in search of something.

His Lordship and the more powerful agents weren’t around. He was no match against Jiang Ning on his own!

Guo Meng stared at Jiang Ning before suddenly turning to run in the opposite direction.

He wanted to run!

He must run!

He knew that he didn’t have the power to fight Jiang Ning at all.

SWOOSH!

Guo Meng was extremely swift. With a tap of his foot, he shot out. But before he even took a few steps, a cold wind swept across his ear!

“Are you trying to run?” Jiang Ning’s voice sounded like muffled thunder as it exploded by his ears, “I think you have to leave something behind, don’t you?”

Jiang Ning then made an attack!

It was as strong as a gale!

BOOOOOM!

With a single punch, blasts filled the air. They were so thunderous that Guo Meng's eardrums ached.

He paled in fear and raised his fists to retaliate, but it was all too late. Jiang Ning simply hurled the punch onto his shoulder, and there was a cracking sound.

"AH!" yelled Guo Meng loudly. He didn't dare to continue fighting him and still wanted to run. But of course, there was no escape for him.

Jiang Ning reached his hand out and grabbed Guo Meng hard by the arm. With a strong tug, he yanked Guo Meng right back. Guo Meng's eyes were filled with agony!

BAM!

Guo Meng wasn't in time to escape. After Jiang Ning grabbed him, he lifted him right up and smashed him onto the ground hard. Blood swiftly oozed from the corners of his mouth.

"PFFFT!"

It felt as though all his organs were shattered!

After suffering the fall, Guo Meng felt as though every bone in his body was broken. When he

attempted to stand, Jiang Ning stepped on him. He pinned him completely to the ground.

“Where are you going?” Jiang Ning lowered his head as he looked at the red cloud on Guo Meng’s neck. “With these lousy abilities, you must be only a servant at Hidden Sect.”

Guo Meng’s mind went blank as he went breathless. The blood surging rapidly through his body was making his body swell.

“You...how dare you try to kill me?” shouted Guo Meng.

CRAACK!

Jiang Ning stepped harder and broke Guo Meng’s sternum.

“AHHH!”

He let out a bloodcurdling scream!

Zhao Quan stood there looking like his soul had departed from his body!

That was Guo Meng!

He was Agent 10 from Hidden Sect. How...how could Jiang Ning pin him under his feet?

Zhao Quan clearly witnessed Jiang Ning throwing Guo Meng to the ground with a single punch. Then he immobilized Guo Meng by stepping on him.

In front of Jiang Ning, the unsurpassable Guo Meng was worse than a dog!

“Kill you? You aren’t good enough.” Jiang Ning stepped harder this time. Guo Meng didn’t even have the time to scream before he fainted.

The air was deathly silent.

Hua Sheng and the others were dumbstruck by Jiang Ning’s potent skills. Zhao Quan trembled as all color was stripped from his face.

He brought Guo Meng along with more than a dozen highly skilled fighters here, but now...

All of them were lying on the ground motionlessly except for him!

Jiang Ning defeated them all!

How...how was this possible?

Wasn’t he afraid to die? Those men were from Hidden Sect.

But before Zhao Quan realized it, Jiang Ning had turned and was now looking at him.

In an instant, Zhao Quan felt as though he had plummeted into a bottomless ice pit and felt nothing but a biting cold through his entire body.

“What...what do you want?” asked Zhao Quan with a hoarse voice. It sounded as though his throat was filled with sand, and it was agonizing even to speak.

"Come over here," said Jiang Ning calmly.

Zhao Quan was too afraid to move.

"Come over," said Jiang Ning slightly more loudly. As it rang in Zhao Quan's ears, he almost wanted to pass out.

Zhao Quan was too afraid to say a word as he slowly walked up in front of Jiang Ning and said, "It's broad daylight, so you can't be....AH!"

Before he finished his sentence, Jiang Ning kicked him and made him kneel on the ground!

"Do you think these workers' lives are worthless? Then what about yours?" asked Jiang Ning, "Is it more worthless than theirs?"

Zhao Quan covered his face and didn't dare to say a word at all.

Jiang Ning might really just kill him on the spot!

Zhao Quan couldn't help shivering under this horrifying air of murder. His back was already soaking wet with sweat.

Guo Meng and the others lay on the ground not too far from him. It was impossible to tell if there were any survivors...

How could Jiang Ning be so scary?

Zhao Quan couldn't figure out what just happened at all. Wasn't Jiang Ning just someone who worked for Lin Group and merely a man who

married into Lin Yuzhen's family? So how could he be this powerful? It was as though...Guo Meng was petrified of him.

What was going on?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“What’s inside the mine?” asked Jiang Ning as he stared at Zhao Quan.

“There...there’s a grave,” said Zhao Quan with a trembling voice. He was afraid of withholding the truth from him.

“What’s in the grave?”

“There...there’s some boxing technique manual inside. Guo Meng has been looking for it all this time.”

Sure enough, it was in the eighth mining zone!

Jiang Ning didn’t expect to find a page from the Extreme Fist Technique Manual here in Xishan. But what was it doing in a grave?

Who invented this fist technique? And why was it hidden in such a far-flung place? Why was it even kept in a collapsing mine shaft? Someone clearly didn’t want it to be found.

“I told you everything. Now let me go! Let me go!” implored Zhao Quan.

But Jiang Ning ignored him.

He was nothing but an ant and unworthy for him to finish off personally. He didn't even fancy the likes of Guo Meng and liked Zhao Quan far less.

Since Jiang Ning didn't care about him, Zhao Quan quickly climbed up and dashed out of the mining zone. He kept looking back as he ran, worried that Jiang Ning might go back on his

word.

When he reached the entrance, there was no sign Jiang Ning chasing after him and it was impossible to catch up with him now. Zhao Quan heaved a sigh of relief.

“That was close...” But before he finished his words, he suddenly felt as though he walked into a wall. He bumped himself so hard that it left his ears ringing as he fell to the ground hard.

There were a few people standing in front of him with chilly looks on their faces!

“Mr Zhao? Do you remember us?”

The workers were holding shovels in their hands as they stared angrily at him and their stares left him shivering. “You broke my leg back then. I bet you never guessed that this day would come!”

“And us too! You bullied us for so many years. There's nowhere for you to run today!”

In a matter of moments, all of them dragged Zhao Quan away like a dead dog.

Jiang Ning couldn't be bothered.

He walked up to the mining shaft and frowned as he looked into the pitch black and deep shaft.

It was likely that there was a page from the Extreme Fist Technique Manual in there. But it was too dangerous to enter and there was no guarantee anyone could come out alive.

If the mining shaft collapsed, whoever was in there was bound to die!

Even he didn't have a chance at survival.

Who hid the Extreme Fist Technique Manual in such a dangerous place so well?

“Mr Jiang?” As Hua Sheng saw Jiang Ning standing there, he walked over and asked cautiously, “Is there anything important in the grave in the mining shaft?”

“Yes, there's something very important inside,” Jiang Ning nodded, “It's extremely important to me. But it was probably hidden there so that no one else can find it, so it must be impossible to retrieve it.”

He wasn't like those from Hidden Sect nor like His Lordship. He wouldn't resort to any means to get what he wanted like they did.

And now he no longer only lived for himself. What would become of Lin Yuzhen if he died?

“Mr Jiang, we can go in!” Hua Sheng's voice suddenly got louder.

Jiang Ning turned his head and saw a few people standing behind Hua Sheng already. They were looking at Jiang Ning with determination in their eyes.

“Mr Jiang, we can go in and help you get what you want!”

“Yes! We can go in since we've been inside before. We know the situation down there, so we can give it a try!”

“ Mr Jiang, you helped us so much. It is only right that we return you the favor! Let us go in!”

.....

Everyone kept going on one after another with their voices trembling slightly. They were clearly afraid of going into such a dangerous place, but they were still willing to do it.

“No way!” Jiang Ning shook his head right away, “Yuzhen and I didn't expect anything in return when we helped you. We're not going to let you risk your lives like this!”

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

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Jiang Ning rejected them sternly.

He would rather do without the fist technique manual than let Hua Sheng and the others risk their lives for it. Otherwise, he was no better than Hidden Sect.

Jiang Ning shook his head right away.

“Mr Jiang!”

“That’s enough. It is important to me, but not enough for me to gamble with your lives,” said Jiang Ning sternly. “Your families need you and so does the eighth mining zone. We are counting on you for Xishan’s future.”

“We should do more meaningful things while we’re alive. Things that are far more meaningful than the item inside.”

Hua Sheng’s eyes became red and he parted his mouth to speak, but Jiang Ning refused to let him go on.

“Fill that mining shaft up.”

The Extreme Fist Technique was important. But since he was unable to retrieve it, he had to prevent His Lordship from getting hold of it as well. So this was one way of doing that.

Jiang Ning knew how scary it was for a mining shaft to collapse. Someone could die.

Even the gods couldn’t escape a collapsing shaft.

If he allowed Hua Sheng and the others to take the risk, then Lin Yuzhen would think he was a heartless man and never talk to him again.

“Mr Jiang...”

The others got a little anxious after Jiang Ning refused them. They wanted to persuade him again, but Hua Sheng stopped them.

“Since Mr Jiang is worried about us, then let's do as he says,” he waved his hand and said, “Make plans to get the mining shaft filled tonight just in case.”

After Jiang Ning left, Hua Sheng looked at the others and made a gesture with his hand. All of them understood it immediately and didn't go on talking.

When Jiang Ning returned to the office, Lin Yuzhen was teaching some workers how to categorize documents to help improve efficiency.

On the table by the side, there were some seasonal fruits. They were already washed and cut, but Lin Yuzhen hadn't taken a single bite.

“It's important to improve efficiency. You'll end up spending half the time on the work instead. You can keep feeling around while you're at work and find better ways later on,” explained Lin Yuzhen patiently.

Her voice sounded a little hoarse. It was clear she had been talking for a long time, and her throat was dry.

“Also, there are some things I need to tell you.”

Lin Yuzhen had no intention of resting because she was more or less wrapping up things here today and she would return to Donghai with Jiang Ning. If she didn't say it today, she didn't know when she would be coming back to Xishan. “As for the rules and regulations at the office...”

“Take a break,” said Jiang Ning as he suddenly walked in, “Drink some water or take some fruit to moisten your throat.”

When the employees of the labor union saw Jiang Ning walking in, they immediately stood up and looked embarrassed.

They kept telling Lin Yuzhen to take a break, but she refused and it was hard for them to insist.

“Are you done on your end?” asked Lin Yuzhen as she turned to look at Jiang Ning.

“Yes, I'm done.” Jiang Ning poured Lin Yuzhen a glass of warm water and handed it to her. “Drink up.”

He wasn't taking no for an answer.

Lin Yuzhen stuck her tongue out before obediently finishing the water. She didn't dare oppose Jiang Ning as she knew it would make him angry.

Jiang Ning handed the plate of fruit to Lin Yuzhen and disallowed her from talking.

He turned to look at those employees from the labor union.

“When it comes to working, you need to be more hands-on. Since you are beginners, I will send someone to train you, but you have to be diligent, understand?”

“Yes, Mr Jiang!”

“We won’t disappoint you!”

“We will work hard and try not to embarrass Mr Jiang, Miss Lin, or Lin Group!”

Jiang Ning nodded, “I want you to know that you’re doing it for your own sakes. Work hard, and don’t let us down.”

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

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“Yes, Mr Jiang!”

Lin Yuzhen obediently ate the fruit while Jiang Ning spoke to the and didn't dare to interrupt him. When she was done, she continued teaching the employees.

They worked until almost 9:00 pm before the handover was completed. Jiang Ning then brought Lin Yuzhen back to the hotel to rest and got ready to leave the next day.

At this moment.

In the eighth mining zone!

In front of the mine shaft that was prone to collapse, Hua Sheng and the others had made preparations.

They had mining lights, rope, knives, shovels, and even dried food and water.

“Mr Jiang and Miss Lin have done so much for us, but there aren't a lot of things that we can do for them,” said Hua Sheng. “We have all gone down this mine shaft before. You probably remember the situation inside, right?”

“Yes, I remember! I definitely remember!”

“We are all seasoned miners. This is the one skill that I have, so of course, I don't see a problem.”

“If the thing inside the shaft means so much to Mr Jiang, then let's take it out for him!”

Hua Sheng nodded as he looked at them with a look of resolution.

“My brothers, let me remind you. It is dangerous to enter this mining shaft even if you are experienced. You have to think this through carefully,” he said as he inhaled deeply.

They were mentally prepared for the worst outcome, but this also made them even more determined.

Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen helped them so much by giving them hope. He couldn't forget how he went looking for Lin Group employees in Donghai and how they were treated back then.

Also, he couldn't forget how Lin Yuzhen cried like a little girl when she saw how much suffering and humiliation they had to go through.

They were merely normal miners. When had anyone ever cared so much for them?

Who would defend their dignity like this and give them hope?

Except for Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen, no one else would!

So they were willing to risk the potential danger and their lives. If it meant they could do a little something for Jiang Ning and the others, it was worth it!

“I've thought it through!”

“Me too!”

“Stop rambling. I'm not afraid, so let's go!”

They inhaled deeply and left two people outside for back up before wriggling into the mining shaft without hesitation.

The sky was dark. Among the stars that night, there was one particularly bright star that kept shining brilliantly.

Its light was incomparable to that of the vast Milky Way, but it kept shining brightly and lit up the darkness that surrounded it.

In the hotel.

Lin Yuzhen was honestly tired. So after taking a bath, she lunged onto the bed and fell asleep swiftly.

Jiang Ning sat on the bedside thinking about the single page from the Extreme Fist Technique Manual.

He didn't particularly covet such things. If he didn't have to pit himself against His Lordship and Hidden Sect to root out hidden dangers, Jiang Ning wouldn't be interested in the Extreme Fist Technique Manual at all.

“His Lordship, why are you so interested in the Extreme Fist Technique? Is there some secret to the manual just like what He Linbei said?” said Jiang Ning in his heart. “In that case, if we bury it in the mine, they will probably be unable to find

the complete manual. That way, whatever His Lordship is planning will still be ruined.”

When the thought crossed Jiang Ning’s mind, he shook his head.

“Even if they had to dig three feet underground, those crazy people will dig up the manual.”

After giving it some thought, he decided to give Hua Sheng a call. He wanted to tell him to fill the mine well. But before he made the call, his mobile phone rang.

Jiang Ning walked out of the room and gently closed the door behind him. Then he looked at the phone and realized it was Hua Sheng calling.

When he answered the phone, he heard an excited and trembling voice coming from the other end.

“Mr Jiang! We helped you retrieve that thing from the mine! We took it out!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Jiang Ning was stunned. "What were you talking about?"

"We retrieved that thing from the mine!" came Hua Sheng's trembling voice. He was clearly very excited.

Jiang Ning inhaled deeply. He didn't expect Hua Sheng actually to enter that mine.

That mine had a high chance of collapsing!

"I'm coming over right now!"

Jiang Ning didn't speak further. After hanging up the phone, he prepared to leave. But the room door opened, and Lin Yuzhen was standing there rubbing her eyes as she spoke in a daze, "Did something happen?"

"It's nothing. I'm going to the eighth mining zone and will be back very soon. Why don't you go to bed?"

Lin Yuzhen nodded obediently. Then she climbed back into bed and under the blanket.

Jiang Ning sped the entire way until he reached the eighth mining zone.

All the lights at the mine were on.

Hua Sheng and the others looked exhilarated. They were so excited that they were at a loss for words.

They helped Jiang Ning with something that was

within their power. It was immensely satisfying for them!

“We brought it out!”

“Since it was something that Mr Jiang wanted, we had to take it out.”

They were overwhelmed with joy.

It was a risky business to stay in a mine shaft that was prone to collapsing. Anyone in the same shoes would be unwilling to enter it unless they were paid a lot.

They were gambling with their lives!

Although Jiang Ning didn't want them to go, they secretly went anyway so that they could help Jiang Ning take what he wanted. Even if they died there, it wouldn't stop them.

Jiang Ning's car arrived.

Hua Sheng quickly called out, “Mr Jiang!”

When Jiang Ning got out of the car, he seemed displeased. His expression was grim and he looked angry.

“Are you insane?” he yelled sternly. “Who said you could go in there?”

Hua Sheng and the others were instantly stunned. They didn't expect Jiang Ning to throw such a temper.

"If any of you die, what's going to happen to your families? Don't you have any brains? How can a bunch of old men like you be so reckless?" yelled Jiang Ning furiously. "If any of you died, how am I supposed to answer to your families?"

He stared hard at Hua Sheng and the others with a cold expression on his face. At first they were in shock, but their eyes soon brimmed with tears after that.

They knew that Jiang Ning was just concerned for them and worried that something bad would happen to them.

That was why he disallowed them from entering right from the start and gave orders for it to be filled. It was because he didn't want anyone to go in and meet with an accident.

But they went in behind Jiang Ning's back.

"Mr Jiang..." Hua Sheng smiled awkwardly as he said good-naturedly, "Aren't we all fine now?"

"Fine?"

Jiang Ning got even louder, "If you bloody met with any accident, would you still be standing here?"

"I told you it might have been important, but it's not as important as your own lives. Why didn't you get it?"

He was really furious.

The Extreme Fist Technique Manual was so important that His Lordship even spent 20 years running Hidden Sect so that he could obtain the entire manual.

The importance of the fist technique manual was self-evident.

But in Jiang Ning's eyes, the most precious thing on earth was life.

Especially the lives of these ordinary and most innocent people. Each one supported their entire families and were someone's husband, father, and son!

If they died, their entire families would fall apart!

"Men don't only live for themselves. Remember that," said Jiang Ning in a serious tone as he looked at them.

"Yes, Mr Jiang, we understand and we'll remember it well," one of the piped up and smiled even though his eyes were turning red. "But you and Miss Lin helped us so much, so this was just one of the few things we could do for you."

Hua Sheng cautiously took a box out and said, "We've been inside before, and we discovered another connecting mine shaft that made it much safer to go around it. We went in only because we had the confidence to do so, you really didn't have to worry about us. We're all afraid of dying too!"

Jiang Ning looked all of them and exhaled deeply.

He knew there was no point in talking about it. As long as it was something he wanted, even if they weren't confident, they would go all out to get it for him somehow.

Was this a case of kindness being rewarded with kindness?

But he wasn't a good man and had merely done a few insignificant things.

Yet to Hua Sheng and the others, it was considered profound kindness!

"Don't worry, Mr Jiang, we won't do anything reckless from now on. We'll make the eighth mining zone great and help develop Xishan. We won't put our lives at risk anymore."

"That's right, Mr Jiang. Don't be angry. This is... yours."

Hua Sheng walked over, but he was worried that Jiang Ning was still angry.

Jiang Ning didn't know what else to say.

When Jiang Ning saw Hua Sheng's pure and sincere eyes, he felt that taking great risks to protect this country for the sake of these ordinary people all these years was worth it.

"Thank you, everyone," said Jiang Ning.

He didn't say anything else.

No matter how much he said, they couldn't make Hua Sheng and the others happier than hearing these three words.

When Hua Sheng and the others heard Jiang Ning thank them, they were overwhelmed with joy. They quickly waved their hands and said, "You're welcome!"

Jiang Ning accepted the box and took a look at it. The copper lock on it was already a little corroded. Hua Sheng took out a pair of pliers and pried it open effortlessly.

"Mr Jiang, this grave has been there for many years. We've seen a lot of them while mining. I'm guessing this one is at least 100 years old," said Hua Sheng. "This grave was empty, and there was no coffin inside at all. All it contained was this box and a stone tablet with some words on it. I tried everything I could, but didn't manage to take the tablet out."

Jiang Ning nodded, "As long as you managed to come out safely, the rest can wait."

He opened the box to discover a single page of the boxing technique manual inside!

Its yellowish parchment looked exactly the same as the one he had. Even the creases and lines matched completely.

Jiang Ning undid the string around it and unrolled the page. His eyes instantly lit up.

"It looks like He Linbei was right," he said to

himself in his heart, “There seems to be something about this boxing technique manual and the lines on the parchment.”

Since he only had two pages, it was hard to see what it was. But Jiang Ning had a feeling that the pattern on it was actually a map!

There was only one move on each page, yet there were thousands of ways of adapting it and it consisted of all the fist techniques in the world. Since Jiang Ning was already familiar with it, it was easy for him to learn this new page.

“What’s this, Mr Jiang?”

As Jiang Ning stayed quiet for a long time, Hua Sheng was worried that this wasn’t what Jiang Ning wanted.

“All of you were a big help to me,” said Jiang Ning as he raised his head to look at them. “You might even have saved a lot more lives because of this!”

At the sound of that, Hua Sheng and the others trembled in shock.

It was their honor to win praise from Jiang Ning!

They weren’t good with words, so even though they were feeling emotional, they could only clench their fists and their faces turned red. But the happiness and excitement in their eyes was unmistakable.

Jiang Ning looked at them and noticed that they were covered in dirt. There were also scratches

on their faces.

It was evident that it was exceptionally dangerous inside the mine.

No one would know for certain unless they went in themselves.

“Good job!” said Jiang Ning solemnly, “Now we must seal the mine to stop others from entering and avoid accidents. I’m going to stand here and watch all of you, so you can’t deceive me again.”

“Yes, Mr Jiang!” Hua Sheng and the others couldn’t help laughing.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Jiang Ning watched the mine get filled with concrete with his own eyes before feeling more at ease.

It was already very late at night, so he immediately told Hua Sheng and the rest to go back and sleep.

When Jiang Ning returned to the hotel, Lin Yuzhen was already awake. The moment she saw him step in, she immediately ran from the bed and into his arms.

“I don't dare to sleep without you.”

“Silly girl.” Jiang Ning tousled her hair. “I'm back now, so go to sleep.”

He carried Lin Yuzhen and made her blush instantly as she shrank into his embrace. She let Jiang Ning treat her like a child and carefully place her in bed before tucking her in gently.

After saying goodnight, she slowly closed her eyes again.

Jiang Ning didn't sleep.

He walked out to the balcony and took out that new page from the Extreme Fist Technique Manual to study its moves. In an instant, he experienced something strange!

There was only one move on the parchment, but in Jiang Ning's mind, there were hundreds of moves. They were running through his mind at this very moment as they rolled and jumped

ceaselessly!

He sat there quietly as he stared at the parchment all the way until dawn.

When Jiang Ning heard Lin Yuzhen's stretching sounds, he gathered his thoughts back.

There wasn't a shred of exhaustion in him. Instead, he was energetic while his eyes were as radiant as a lonely star in the night sky.

"This boxing technique manual sure is strange."

Jiang Ning rolled the parchment up before stuffing it back into his pocket and getting up to enter the room.

Lin Yuzhen had just opened her eyes and was still in a daze.

"Did you get enough sleep?"

"Yup."

Jiang Ning walked over and touched Lin Yuzhen on the nose. "You have to go back today. There are too many things in the company waiting for you to deal with. If you don't go back, Dad can't cope his own."

"Aren't you going back?"

Lin Yuzhen knew what Jiang Ning was driving at.

The two planned to go back together previously.

“There’s work waiting for me here,” said Jiang Ning, “I want to finish dealing with the stuff here and leave Hua Sheng and the others worry-free. I want to do a little bit more for them.”

Jiang Ning initially wanted them to deal with everything themselves. He wanted them to overcome difficulties and get a feel of things on their own. But now he felt they were too inexperienced in this area, so they might not be able to perform well.

Jiang Ning would much rather resolve these problems for them than spend unnecessary time. This would avoid any complications from arising and not let Lin Yuzhen’s efforts go to waste.

“Okay, I’ll go with whatever you’ve arranged,” Lin Yuzhen nodded obediently without asking further.

She was supportive of all decisions that Jiang Ning made.

“Alright now, get out of bed and wash up. Have some breakfast before I send you to the airport.”

Jiang Ning chased Lin Yuzhen out of bed like she was a little pig.

At the same time.

Gao Shou didn’t sleep a wink all night.

His eyes were both bloodshot and looked terrifying.

He and Zhao Quan had already discussed their

future. Zhao Quan was to take back a few mining zones while he registered for a new company. They wanted to rebuild Black Star Mining and control the Xishan mining industry once again.

But he didn't expect to hear news of Zhao Quan's death.

He had been beaten up half to death and tossed by the roadside, where he was bitten to death by stray dogs!

It was too horrifying to see.

Just the pictures alone made Gao Shou's hair stand.

The highly skilled fighter from Hidden Sect that Zhao Quan called along was a really vicious character according to what Gao Shou heard.

But Guo Meng had been maimed and tossed into a smelly ditch!

Was Jiang Ning a lunatic?

He even dared to attack a member of Hidden Sect!

"I don't think I can continue surviving in Xishan anymore. If I don't leave, then Jiang Ning won't let me off!"

Gao Shou gritted his teeth as his body quivered in anger.

How many years has he spent carving a career in Xishan?

He climbed his way up the ladder from the lowest rungs step by step. Now that he finally had this status, he lost it all in a matter of days.

He lost everything!

He even had to give up this villa.

Gao Shou raised his head and took a glance. It was now daybreak. If he didn't leave now, it would be too late.

He picked up his phone and dialed a number.

"There's still one wild mine hidden in Xishan. Are you interested?" Gao Shou narrowed his eyes. "If you want it, I can tell you about it."

After he hung up the phone, Gao Shou's expression had completely changed.

"If I can't get what I want, then Lin Group...can forget about it too! Humph!"

He immediately packed up some gold, jewelry, and credit cards before leaving hurriedly. He couldn't afford to waste a single second.

Just after Gao Shou left, a few masked men entered the villa and searched for a while but didn't find any traces of Gao Shou.

“He’s escaped.”

“Zhao Quan and Guo Meng are both dead, so Gao Shou is probably the only one who knows where the boxing technique manual is,” said the leader coldly as he looked more and more murderous. “Find him! We must locate the manual no matter what!”

“Got it!”

They moved swiftly and disappeared immediately.

At the same time.

The city of Tongshan in the northwest district was only 200 km away from Xishan.

The two cities weren't too far apart, and both made their riches out of mining. But Tongshan was even more advanced than Xishan.

It was because they didn't just have common ores like iron. They also had many rare-earth mines that gave the city extraordinary status.

The Mo family was one of the most powerful families in Tongshan.

More than 80% of the mining zones here belonged to the Mo family. There was even a rumor that the family owned a rare-earth mine that they kept out of sight.

When Gao Shou arrived worn and weary from his trip, he went straight to the top floor of Mo Corporation's head office.

Mo Bei had been waiting for him for some time now.

GULP GULP!

Gao Shou gulped his tea quickly. There was no sign of his previous refinement or gentlemanliness at all. He wasn't even bothered to tidy up his messy hair.

“Mr Gao, how did you end up in this state? It comes as quite a surprise.”

Mo Bei looked at the way Gao Shou appeared and narrowed his eyes.

He wasn't interested in the likes of Gao Shou. Xishan was renowned for producing coal and iron, but the Mo family already had plenty of that.

And Black Star Mining used a primitive approach. They continued to oppress miners and exploit the mines for profit. It was very outdated to the Mo family.

If Gao Shou didn't mention a wild mine tucked away in Xishan, Mo Bei wouldn't have taken any interest at all.

Wild mines was a slang term for rare-earth mines. Since they consisted of rare ores that were typically low in supply, just a small amount could fetch astronomical sums.

On top of that, these mines were not supposed to be privately owned, but the Mo family secretly owned two of such mines.

“Mr Mo must find me such a joke. It really is an embarrassment for me to turn out like this,” sighed Gao Shou somewhat unhappily. “But if Mr Mo isn’t interested in having this conversation with me, then I’ll leave.”

Then he prepared to stand up.

“Mr Gao has quite the temper and you haven’t changed all this time.”

Mo Bei didn’t stand up. He merely smiled and pointed at the office entrance as he said, “If Mr Gao wants to leave, I certainly can’t stop you. Please go ahead.”



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Gao Shou was immediately somewhat embarrassed.

He already got up halfway, so it didn't seem right for him to stand, but neither was it right for him to sit. He suddenly wasn't sure of what to do.

“Since you're already here, you're considered a friend, and we can certainly talk business. What do you think, Mr Gao?” said Mo Bei as he saved him from further embarrassment. Mr Gao then sat down with a face full of smiles and didn't seem awkward at all.

“Mr Mo, I am impressed by your broad-mindedness,” said Gao Shou as he sat down and looked at Mo Bei. “And that's why you were the first person that came to mind when I had this highly profitable deal. Given the big shot that you are, I think I can trust you.”

Mo Bei merely smiled without saying a word.

He adjusted his suit. There was a calm smile on his mature face as he waited for Gao Shou to go on.

Mo Bei had a lot of experience with business deals. Since someone had come knocking on his door, he ought to firmly control the way the deal went.

He already got wind of Xishan's situation. The loss of support from the powerful northern families must have a major impact on Gao Shou.

And since Gao Shou had already come looking for

him so quickly, something pretty bad must have happened.

The Mo family always believed in being in the top position. They didn't want to be connected to any of those powerful families in the north at all. Once they had ultimate control, even those powerful northern families had to give them a degree of respect!

Just like the Tan family in the northern mountains. They were very strong with many skilled fighters, so all the powerful families in the north had to be nice to them if they wanted anything from the Tan family.

"Mr Mo, you might not know this yet, but problems will brew in Tongshan soon!"

Wily foxes like Gao Shou knew how Mo Bei's mind worked.

When it came to business, it was particularly important to control the conversation.

"Oh, is that so? What kind of problems? Why am I unaware?" said Mo Bei calmly.

"There was a huge change in Xishan, so I'm certain it won't take long for this to affect Tongshan as well," said Gao Shou directly. "My mining company is now the property of Lin Group from Donghai, and this Lin Group is a black sheep!"

"What do you mean by that?"

Of course Mo Bei knew a little about what happened.

The powerful families that backed Gao Shou and the others lost some fight, so they had to hand over the mining company in Xishan to Lin Group.

He was unaware of the specifics, but it was unimportant.

Such things were common with the powerful northern families.

“Mr Mo, we both operate mines. The most important thing in the business is mining. How can we survive without the workers doing it? But now, it's impossible to just pay them peanuts and make them slave for us!”

Mo Bei furrowed his brows a little.

Low-level workers like the miners indeed formed the backbone of their business. How could the ores hidden deep within the mountains be obtained without miners?

All the mining and transport had to be done by miners.

If they couldn't be controlled, then the cost of production would rise significantly!

Cost and profit meant everything to businessmen.

“Now dozens of mines in Xishan have already formed labor unions. And Lin Group allowed self-management of mining zones. Also, they only

require 70% of the profit to be submitted. The remaining 30% now goes to bonuses, scholarships, and night schools to help educate their workers.”

There was a trace of disdain on Gao Shou’s face, “Lin Group has been operating honorable businesses for too long and now they think these miners are the same as those white-collar workers.”



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All this effort was wasted on those miners. Gao Shou didn't know whether to call Lin Yuzhen and Jiang Ning dumb or muddleheaded.

"Did Lin Group really do that?" There was a change in Mo Bei's tone.

They would never have thought about any of these things because workers were just tools to them. They shut them up with a paltry income each month, and it was inconceivable to spend so many resources on them.

"Yes, they did!" said Gao Shou as he leaned back against the couch. He narrowed his eyes and looked at Mo Bei, "And I'm afraid this news has probably already reached Tongshan."

Mo Bei's expression turned dark.

He immediately got up and called his secretary to check on the situation and told her to investigate.

Gao Shou laughed coldly inside as Mo Bei spoke to his secretary.

"Lin Group probably didn't expect their decisions to trickle down and cause such an impact on the mining trade! The Mo family won't accept this!"

And Gao Shou was the one who hired people to spread the news like wildfire in Tongshan.

By now, news had spread across all of Tongshan's mining zones. Everyone learned about the revolution in Xishan and the remuneration their miners received.

Many of them could no longer just sit and watch. They all started demanding the same remuneration from their own mining zones!

Even though they were all miners, Red Star Mining had given the miners in Xishan such excellent remuneration. They weren't treated as expendable ordinary workers but truly as part of the company.

It wasn't just perks they were offering; it was dignity!

In a short span of time, several of the Mo family's mining zones' managers sent their requests to the head office. Many of the workers demanded the same benefits as Lin Group and threatened to quit and go work in Xishan!

Mo Bei quickly got wind of this and it made him furious.

"They truly are a black sheep!" Mo Bei spat. "What is Lin Group doing? Don't they know anything about the rules of the trade?"

"Hoho, they really don't," said Gao Shou with his palms up in the air as he sighed. "But I'm certain that they have more initiatives hiding up their sleeves. I just hope it won't affect the Mo family business too badly."

He laughed somewhat gloatingly.

"Mr Mo, I'm no longer in the trade and I'm now all packed and looking for a place to retire. I only came today just to tell you about the location of a wild mine."

When Gao Shou looked at Mo Bei, he detected the light in Mo Bei's eyes. But he stopped and didn't go on talking.

Mo Bei didn't say a word. He immediately took out his checkbook and wrote a check for \$10 million before handing it to Gao Shou.

"This should be enough for your information."

"Mr Mo is so direct," said Gao Shou calmly as he kept the check. "That wild mine is in the depths of the eighth mining zone, in one of its mining shafts. After we excavated it, Zhao Quan and I sealed it so the news wouldn't get leaked."

"Mr Mo probably knows that such a mine can't go into the hands of a private owner. Once they are discovered, they have to be handed over. But the Mo family..." said Gao Shou as he smiled and stopped talking.

Gao Shou had an inkling that the Mo family secretly controlled two wild mines. They even exported the rare ore resources.

When Mo Bei heard him, his face fell as Gao Shou had expected.

"Mr Gao, you can put anything you like into your mouth, but you can't simply say what you like," said Mo Bei coldly. "Your big mouth might get you into trouble!"

“Hahaha. I don’t know anything about it.” Gao Shou stood up and patted his chest where the check was.

“I’ve already sold you the information, so this \$10 million check is now mine. I hope that I managed to help an old friend out, and you got what you desired.”

He spoke frankly, “But let me remind Mr Mo that Jiang Ning from Lin Group has a bad temper and is difficult to get along with. Once he gets wind of the wild mine, the Mo family won’t stand a chance against him.”

After Gao Shou finished his words, he bid Mo Bei farewell before getting up to leave.

Mo Bei watched as Gao Shou walked out. He steadily took out his phone and dialed a number with a cold expression on his face.

“Are you downstairs?” he said calmly. “I just lost a \$10 million check. Get it back.”

When he finished, he hung up the phone.

What information fee?

He didn’t intend to pay a single cent for it.

He heard about that wild mine in Xishan a long time ago, but no news about it surfaced ever since.

He even suspected Gao Shou and Zhao Quan both mined it without permission and secretly

profited from it even.

“Lin Group and Jiang Ning,” he muttered. “I haven’t even met the guy, and he’s already caused me such huge trouble. Lin Group must pay for this loss.”

There was no way he would take Jiang Ning’s lead and treat the workers humanely.

Did they want benefits?

They could dream on.

Mo Bei already gave orders to say that anyone with demanding unreasonable requests should be fired straight away and no mercy was to be shown. He even threatened that he would ensure none of these workers could find jobs in all of Tongshan.

Soon after, there were angry cries all around, but most of them couldn’t do anything about this.

They were just ordinary miners. How could they pit themselves against powerful families like the Mo family that had operated in Tongshan for generations?

At the same time.

Xishan’s transformation could easily be seen.

All the workers were now passionate about work and abided closely by the new rules. For one, their safety was ensured, and now they were also filled with hope for the future.

Everyone now knew that they were working for themselves and their families. They weren't merely working for Lin Group, Jiang Ning, and Lin Yuzhen.

They calculated that just the sum of money Lin Yuzhen offered for their bonuses was worth three months of their salaries!

It meant that they could receive 15 months of salary per year!

They were laborers and not white-collar workers. The prospect of such bonuses made them so delighted that they found it hard to sleep.

Not to mention Lin Yuzhen's initiatives to provide scholarships for their children, old-age pensions, and insurance...

If they didn't work hard to repay Lin Group for their kindness, they felt as though they didn't have the cheek to continue working in the mining zones.

"Mr Jiang said safety first!"

"Mr Jiang even said if our kids graduate with good results, Lin Group will give them priority when hiring!"

"Mr Jiang urged everyone that we can succeed if we have the determination. If we work hard, we'll be rewarded!"

Hua Sheng had been going around with a loudhailer and told everyone these words as if he felt that if it didn't get Jiang Ning's words

emblazoned on everyone's minds, then his work wasn't up to mark.

As the person in charge of the eighth mining zone, there was a great responsibility on his shoulders!

Jiang Ning sat in the office.

He had grapes on his left and bananas on his right.

Jiang Ning didn't manage the mining zones at all since he transferred professionals from Lin Group to help.

He was simply waiting.

He was waiting for some problems that would definitely surface in time.

"Brother Ning, many people have come to Xishan looking for work recently. All of them want to work in our mines. I got someone to make a tally, and it added up to over 500 applicants," reported his subordinate.

"How many can we hire?" asked Jiang Ning as he narrowed his eyes. "Hire as many as you can."



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“Okay.”

He tossed the banana peel into the trash can with great accuracy before dusting his hands off and going for another.

“What will come will come. Why can’t it come quickly?”

Jiang Ning was slightly displeased, “I want to go back and be with my wife.”

The moment he finished saying these words, Hua Sheng walked in briskly with a strange expression on his face as he said, “Mr Jiang!”

“What is it?”

Hua Sheng quickly walked up to Jiang Ning and said, “Some people from Tongshan are here!”

“They are with the Mo family. The Mo family controls almost the entire mining trade in Tongshan and are seriously powerful.”

Hua Sheng wasn’t dumb. The nearby cities must have heard about this huge commotion in Xishan.

Since everyone was in the mining trade and were all low-level miners, how could miners in the other cities take it lying down now that the workers in Xishan managed to turn the tables?

But not every company was like Lin Group. Not all bosses were like Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen!

He was worried that the Mo family were out to

make trouble for Jiang Ning!

“Really? It sounds like the Mo family are very influential. What could they possibly want from us?” said Jiang Ning nonchalantly. “Do they want to take a tour and learn from Xishan? You can go ahead and make arrangements then.”

“He...he demanded to see you, Mr Jiang.” Hua Sheng quietly reminded Jiang Ning, “Mr Jiang, no matter how powerful one gets, one shouldn’t mess with the prominent locals. Those in the mining trade in the northwest district are all very influential. We...”

“Then invite them in,” said Jiang Ning as he smiled at Hua Sheng without saying more.

Did he say no matter how powerful one gets, one shouldn’t mess with the prominent locals?

In Jiang Ning’s eyes, even if it were the boss of all bosses, he would pin him down. He would pin him down so hard that he couldn’t even raise his head!

A well-dressed man in a suit came walking into the office.

When he saw Jiang Ning sitting there, he didn’t smile at all. He didn’t even reach his hand out for a handshake.

“Are you Jiang Ning? Jiang Ning from Lin Group?”

Jiang Ning raised his head and glanced at him, “That’s me.”

“I didn’t expect Lin Group to diversify so far away from its usual trade. How could you dip into the mining trade?”

The man sounded rude, “I’m Cheng Fan, and I represent the Mo family. I came to send a message and offer a suggestion.”

He sounded completely disdainful. Perhaps even a little lofty.

Lin Group was just a cosmetics company, so what made them think they could pit themselves against profiteers from the mining industry? The two trades were too disparate. Also, when they rashly delved into the mining trade, the first step they took was right into the northwest district.

It was sheer suicide!

Those initiatives that they made especially affected the Mo family bottom line already.

“You...”

Just as Cheng Fan was about to speak, Jiang Ning waved his hand.

“Don’t bother. If someone out there wants to tell me something, then tell him to come here personally. I won’t entertain anyone else.”

“You’re too arrogant!”

Cheng Fan’s expression changed and he instantly laughed coldly, “Did you think that you are good enough to demand Mr Mo’s personal attention?”

“Since he isn’t coming, there’s no point talking. Send him out.”

Jiang Ning couldn’t be bothered to even look at Cheng Fan.

“You!”

Cheng Fan was furious. He pointed a finger at Jiang Ning and almost poked his face.

He yelled angrily, “Do you know who you’re offending?”

KA!

Jiang Ning suddenly reached a hand out and broke Cheng Fan’s finger instantly with a crack. Cheng Fan cried in agony, “AH!”

“I hate it when people point at me! Be it with guns or fingers!”



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